

Preliminary findings of the study
DATA ON MISSING CHILDREN IN EU-27



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Policy context

EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child - 15 February 2011

- significant lack of reliable, comparable, and official data on children in MS
- obstacle to develop evidence-based policies, particularly in protecting children in vulnerable situations e.g. when a child goes missing

116 000 - hotlines

- Reserved in all MS - hotline report missing children (Universal Service Directive).
- Operational in 22 countries
- EU-funding to set up and/run hotlines 2013-2014 (€ 4.5 million)

CHILD ABDUCTION ALERT

- most extreme cases of children going "missing", requiring a particularly quick response.
- SWD - Best practices for abduction alert SEC(2008)2912 final
- EU- funding (2008 EP – pilot project, 2012, 2013 EU-funding Daphne III)

EU study

Data on missing children EU -27

CONTEXT:

European Parliament - Pilot Project – Europe – wide methodology for developing evidence based policies for children's rights. 3 studies:

- Mapping, data collection and statistics on missing children in the European Union
- Data on children's involvement in judicial proceedings in the EU.
- Legislation, policy and practice on child participation in the EU

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- to build on existing data and indicators to obtain sustainable, comparable data and indicators for 2008-2010 (and 2011 where available).
- to analyse data towards improving the mechanisms involved when children go missing in the EU.

STATE OF PLAY:

Phase I – mapping:

- Existing definitions, mechanisms, policy responses and measures triggered by the disappearance of a child
- Validation of findings and data sources by MS -> 12 December 2012

Phase II – data collection:

- Official sources, police records, national statistics
- Identifying alternative, complementary sources of information
- Mid-term report, raw database, preliminary findings -> 22 March 2013

MAPPING OF DEFINITIONS, PROTOCOLS, DATA AVAILABILITY:

Definitions

- Diverse picture across MS (runaways, abductions, age groups, etc.)

Protocols

- Records and statistics - different focus according to approach:
 - Child welfare model: More focus on child protection, higher priority
 - Criminological model (most MS): no distinction with adults, focus on gravity of related crime.

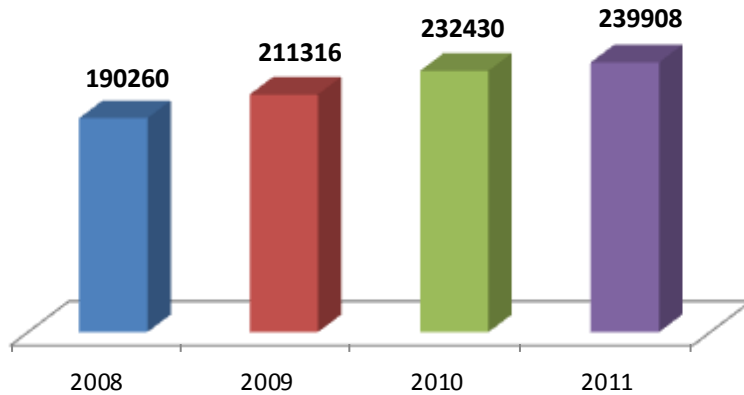
Data availability

- 25 MS able to extract overall numbers of missing children
 - Primary (police) databases or dedicated secondary data bases (e.g. Missing Persons bureau UK)
 - Breakdown by gender, age (groups) obtainable in most cases
- Little or no publication of statistics
- Little to no information on any follow-up measures
- Numbers reflect the cases (repeat runaways counted each time)

PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS

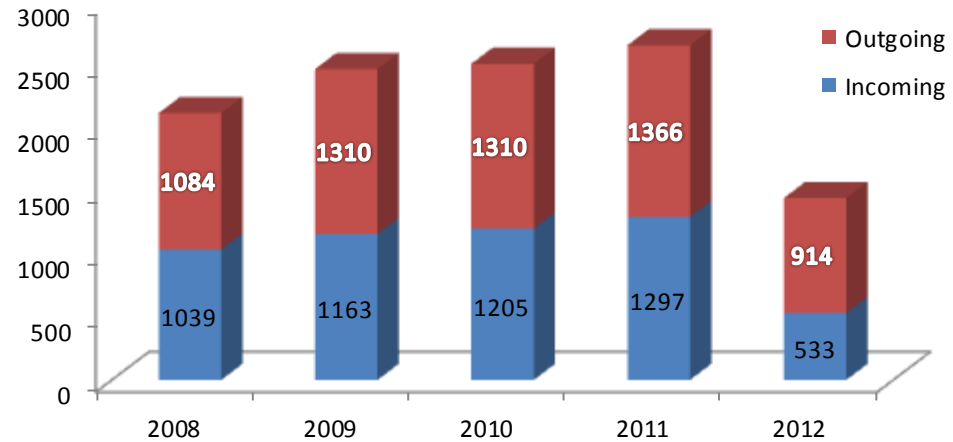
OVERALL NUMBERS:

Number of children reported missing in EU*



* 25 MS (AT, SE)

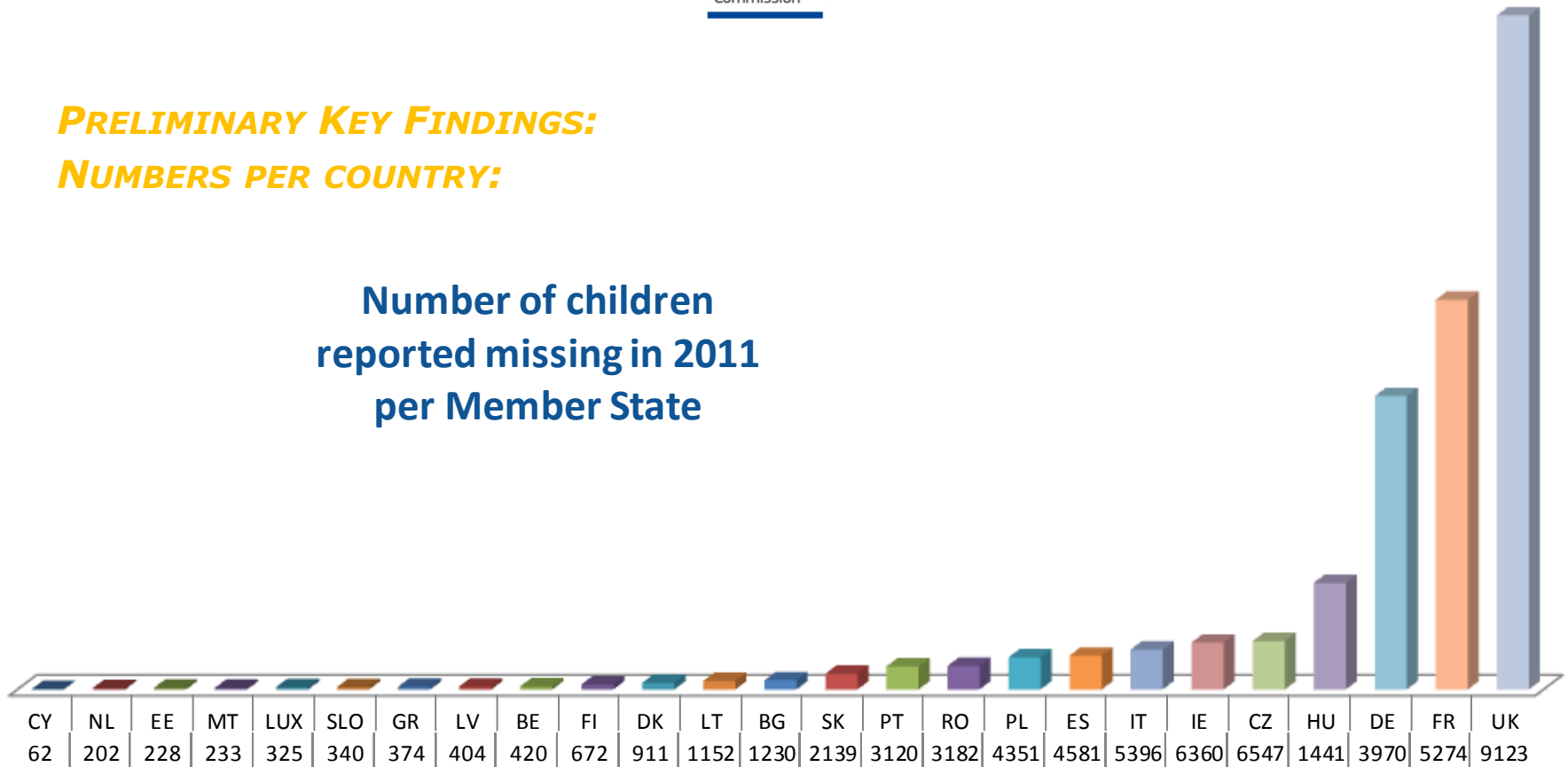
Number of international child abduction cases EU*



*24 MS (GR, LT, PT)

**PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS:
NUMBERS PER COUNTRY:**

**Number of children
reported missing in 2011
per Member State**

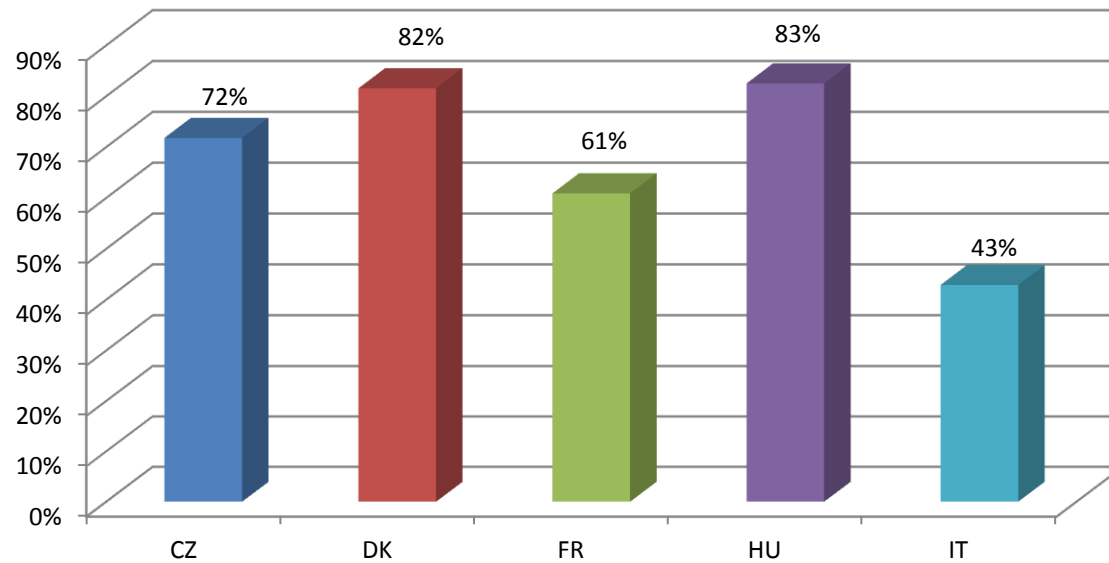


Factors contributing to number variations in relation to population size:

- Recording practices by authorities
- Overall capacity of care institutions and their reporting practices;
- Relative size of the illegal immigrant population and;
- Some countries mainly transit countries for UAMM;

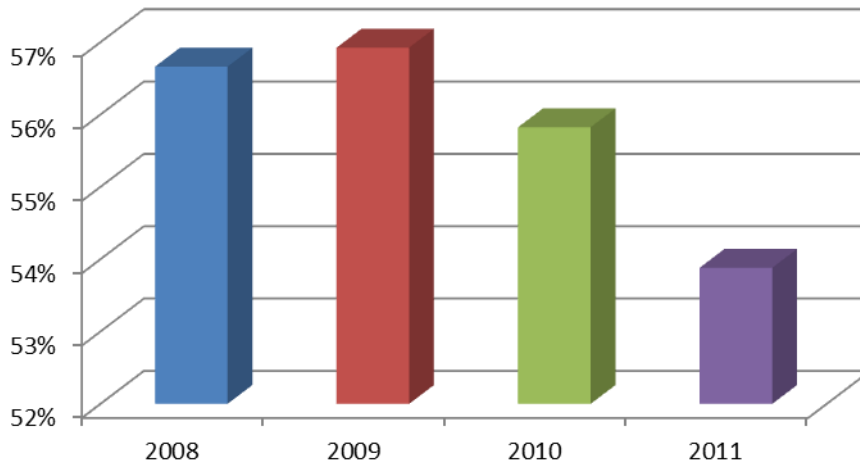
PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS
NUMBERS FROM CARE INSTITUTIONS:

**Disappearances from care as % total numbers -
2011**



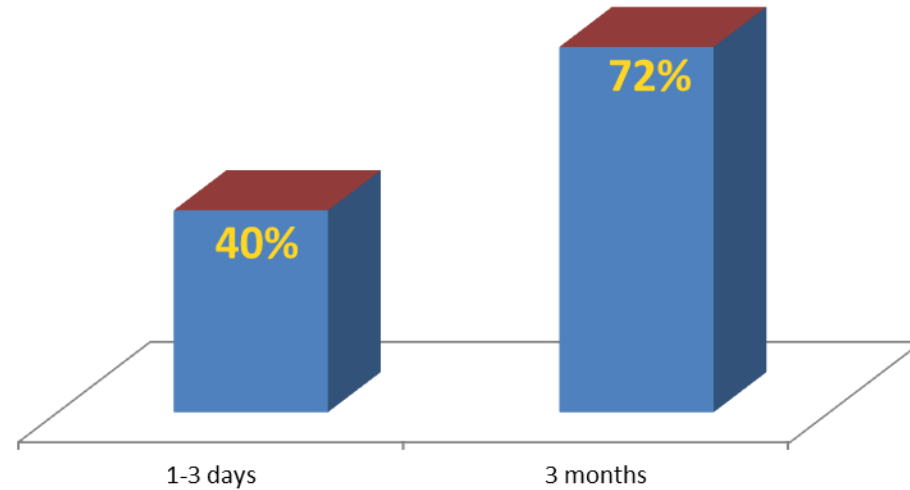
PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS

Girls % of missing children*



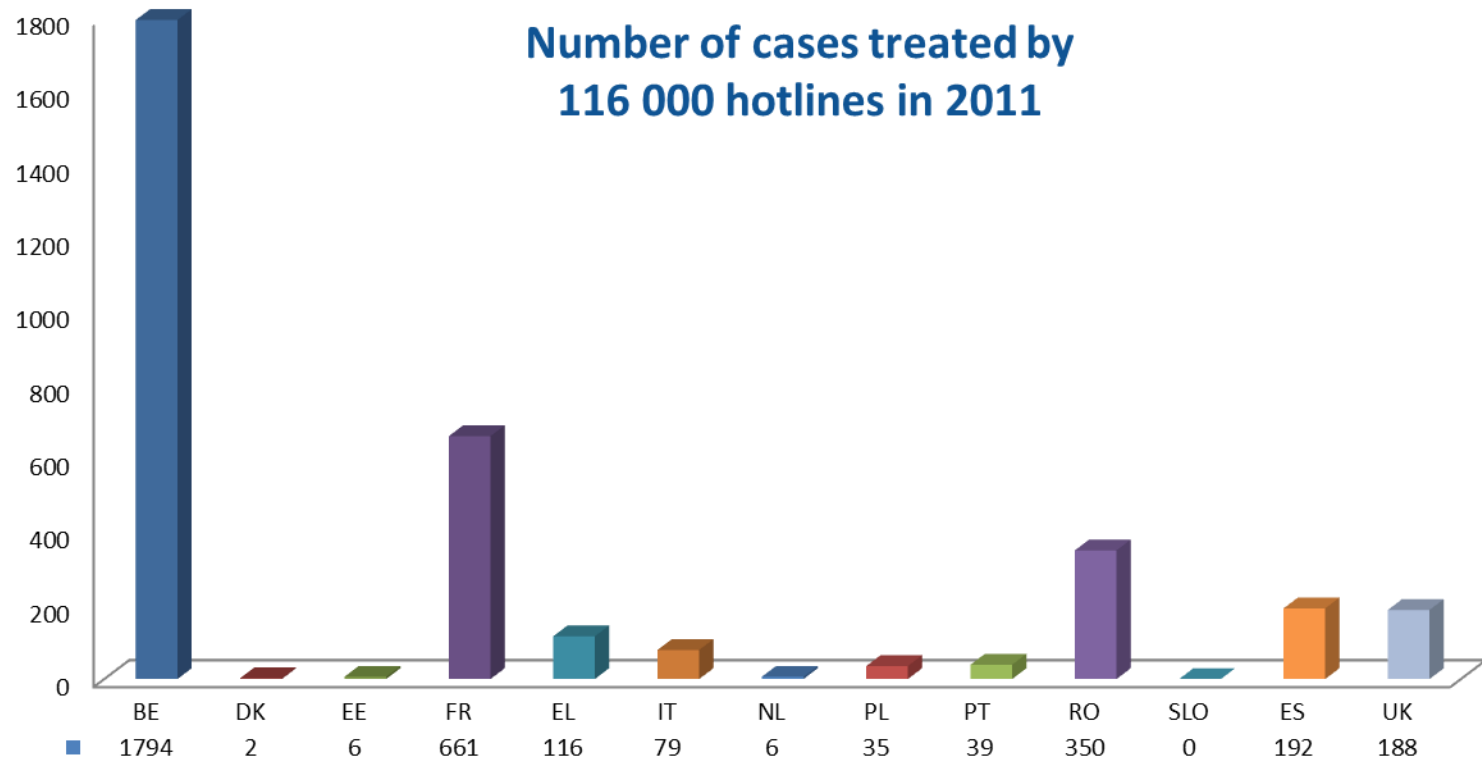
*percentage based on data from 18 MS where gender is recorded

Duration of disappearance 2011*



* based on data from 8 MS (DE, EE, IT, LU, HU, MT, NL, UK)

**PRELIMINARY KEY FINDINGS DATA:
116 000:**



WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE:

By June 2013:

Phase III - compiling comparable data:

- Comparative database with representative key indicators
 - **Fully annotated**
 - **Explanations for inconsistencies and divergences in data**
- Identification of good practices
 - **For data collection, identification and addressing underlying phenomena**
- Develop recommendations
 - **Suggested model for data collection, core information to be collected**