

Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online

Italy

Policy target No. 1: Enhancing efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection

Operational Goal:	Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly
Operational Goal:	Establish the necessary framework for the criminalization of child sexual abuse online and the effective prosecution of offenders, with the objective of enhancing efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders
Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN	
<u>Description of the actions already undertaken</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop , improve, or support protocols and standard procedures to identify victims, and dedicate resources to the identification of victims.</i> <p>Postal and Communication Police Service, a special branch of Italian National Police in the area of Child Sexual Abuse Online, has developed protocols of understanding and standardized procedures aimed at identifying child sexual abuse victims, through the use of specialized human resources and advanced technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure cooperation and coordination between law enforcement authorities of different States on victim identification.</i> • <i>Participate in Interpol's victim identification efforts, including by contributing with images to the ICSE database</i> <p>Postal and Communication Police Service, through its specialized National Centre Against Online Child Sexual Abuse (CNCPO), for about two years has been directly connected with ICSE (International Child Sexual Exploitation image) database to enhance and improve investigative techniques allowing to identify perpetrators and victims of online child sexual exploitation offences.</p> <p>However, already before this for contributing to victim identification, a proprietary database had been set up within the same Police agency, containing thousands child exploitation images being detected on the Internet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop, improve, or support policy and procedures regarding the provision of services to identified victims.</i> <p>Specialized Italian Police - committed in investigative activities for the identification of child sexual abuse victims - participates in relevant projects funded by EU to share processes aimed at supporting the victims with Judicial Authorities, NGOs, other organizations dedicated to child protection and with social-health entities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure that law enforcement authorities have access to the ICSE database.</i> <p>All Italian Law Enforcement have the opportunity to access the ICSE database through the above-mentioned specialized National Police Service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify shortcomings in legislation and adopt the necessary legislative</i>

amendments, including criminalization of all forms of online child sexual abuse offences in line with international standards including, for instance, the possession of child pornography and the disqualification of offenders from working with children.

Italian relevant legislation, having recently ratified the Lanzarote Convention, in line with international standards since 1998 provided for criminal sanctions not only in cases of production, dissemination and commercialization, but also in case of simple possession of CAM. Most recent law provisions introduced criminalization of child sexual solicitation and advocacy of child sex offences.

Additionally, Italian legislation provide for specific ancillary sanctions for child sex offenders to be interdicted in case of conviction from professional activities involving contact with children (e.g. teachers, educators, etc.).

- *Set up, where appropriate, specialized police units, prosecutors and judges.*

Prevention and counteraction of online child sexual exploitation have been exclusively conducted by Postal and Communication Police operating through a central Service and 20 District Field Units located throughout national territory. Whereas investigations resulted in prosecutions they have been coordinated by 26 specialized Public Prosecutors offices throughout the country (within District Prosecutor's Offices). No specialized judges are provided for in this matter.

- *Support law enforcement by establishing or enhancing means of cooperation among domestic and international law enforcement agencies, and by ensuring adequate training and funding.*

Italian legislation has already entrusted the above-mentioned specialized Police Service with counteraction of such crimes.

Investigations in this field - coordinated at central level by the exclusively competent Police Agency - have been conducted in close coordination with all International Law Enforcement agencies and multi-jurisdictional organizations concerned.

The specialized Police Agency personnel - being already adequately trained during the selection process - participate on a regular basis to intensive update training courses.

Additionally, Italian Police has provided for the specific deployment of psychologists for continual support and care of police officers dedicated to investigations in the area of online child sexual exploitation,

Furthermore, according to law provisions, the above-mentioned specialized Police organizations, shall be provided with adequate funding on regular basis in order to enhance their staff training and to achieve the most effective state-of-art technological resources as appropriate.

- *Ensure that effective investigatory tools are made available to those responsible for the investigation and prosecution of cases of child sexual abuse online, including by allowing, where appropriate, for the possibility of covert operations in the investigation of online child sexual abuse offences, under circumstances and procedural guarantees defined by national legislation.*

	<p>Italian National Police specialized units are extensively empowered to conduct any kind of covert activity in the area of child sexual offending online, with full prosecution safeguards as provided for in the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitate and support close cooperation between investigators and prosecutors in cases of child sexual abuse online, both domestically and internationally.</i> <p>Italian specialized Police organization has since many years established effective international cooperation channels with the main European agencies, Europol and Eurojust, as well as at global level with Interpol.</p> <p>Furthermore, for many years it has been member of the "Virtual Global TaskForce" and of C.I.R.C.A.M.P., international organizations in the area of child sexual exploitation online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve cooperation between law enforcement authorities and private sector actor, whose infrastructure and services may be used for the trade in child sexual abuse material, to facilitate effective investigations into these crimes, including all financial aspects.</i> <p>Italian specialized Police agency in this area has for many years undertaken a close cooperation undersigning specific protocols of understanding not only with major ISPs but also with International key players, such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook etc. in order to enhance investigations.</p> <p>Furthermore, this specialized Italian Police organization is a member of the "European Financial Coalition" and under specific legislation - through the Bank of Italy - it cooperates in monitoring financial flows deemed to be associated to online child sexual exploitation trade.</p>
Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	
<p><i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i></p>	

Policy target No. 2: Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders

<p>Operational Goal:</p>	<p>Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online</p>
<p>Operational Goal:</p>	<p>Develop, improve, or support appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures which educate parents, children, and others responsible for children regarding the risks that children's online conduct poses and the steps they can take to minimize those risks</p>
<p>Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN</p>	
<p><u>Description of the actions already undertaken</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify issues involved in international child sex abuse investigations, such as difficulties in determining which as-yet-identified offenders involved in online trafficking groups are the most serious, which hinder the effective and quick sharing of key investigative information among law enforcement authorities in Global Alliance countries and propose solutions.</i> <p>The same observations as under item 4 below concerning anonymization systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Participate in and support existing international law enforcement efforts such as the Virtual Global Task Force.</i> <p>Italian Postal and Communication Police Sendee is Member agency of the Virtual Global Task Force (VGT) as well as of other international relevant organizations as described above, with which it actively cooperates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop, improve, or support age-appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures to educate children on how to be safe online.</i> • <i>Develop, improve, or support public awareness campaigns or other measures to educate parents, teachers, and others responsible for children regarding the problems of grooming and of online, self exploitative conduct and methods to prevent such conduct.</i> <p>In order to counteract child sexual abuse online some initiatives are crucial aimed at raising awareness in a safer use of the Internet by general public, and above-all young people and schools.</p> <p>In this perspective it may result very useful the valuable experience of Italian specialized Police agency which since many years has undertaken awareness raising projects in classes for young children for a safer use of Internet.</p> <p>Such initiatives which in the last year involved over 500 thousands students in Italy revealed vital for counteracting new forms of abuse such as bullying, cyberstalking, in addition to frequent cases of solicitation and abuse perpetrated online. Even in this case the pilot experience of Italian specialized Police agency may be a crucial contribution within the Global Alliance.</p>

Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN

Description of the actions that will be undertaken and timeframe

- *Identify legal or practical issues, such as the requirements of domestic law or in the formal mutual legal assistance process, which hinder the sharing of key investigative information in certain circumstance among law enforcement authorities in Global Alliance countries, and propose solutions.*

In addition to the general remarks as described above, we consider as vital starting point, in order to enhance international cooperation, including within the framework of Global Alliance, ratification of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime by all concerned countries and the associated harmonization of criteria for recording, retention and processing of electronic data.

- *Identify technological issues that make it difficult to investigate child sexual abuse online, and propose solutions.*

Today new frontiers of the fight against child sexual exploitation online consist in the use of anonymization systems (among which the most widespread are those associated to the so called Tor platforms), adopted by the main child sex offenders networks worldwide to trade and share CAM.

Italian specialized Police is launching the most innovative experimentations in this area, with the assistance of major University institutions in the country, and including through undercover activities.

We deem crucial to improve and consider in depth such research issues and new investigative techniques which already involved Italian Police within the EU, at working tables of Europol' AWF-Twins.

- *Promote, facilitate and support international law enforcement investigations among Global Alliance countries that dismantle networks of child sex offenders online, including, where appropriate, the setting up and use of joint Investigation Teams.*

New investigative techniques, the appropriate use of most advanced knowledge, should be aimed at establishing and using joint investigation teams, within the Global Alliance member countries, to share best initiatives in this field. Global Alliance in this regard offers a useful Opportunity to include a wide and different range of countries concerned, and will provide a crucial opportunity for a marked specialization in a single criminal area..

- *Increase training, both within Global Alliance countries and jointly among Global Alliance countries, of investigators and prosecutors handling child sexual abuse online cases.*

It appears crucial that investigators in this area have been since the beginning educated according to joint training criteria.

Global Alliance may, in this context, play a pilot coordinating role as well as of unification of basic training standards, including through effective sharing of concrete operational knowledge.

In this regard the valuable instructions of Europol's AWF-TWINS training courses held in Selm (Germany) and dedicated to both investigators and public prosecutors, as well as joint training courses of Italian specialized Police with the U.S. F.B.I.

Policy target No. 3: Enhancing efforts to increase public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online, including grooming and self-production of images that results in the production of new child pornography that may be distributed online

Operational Goal:	Share best practices among Global Alliance countries for effective strategies to inform the public about the risks posed by online, self-exploitative conduct in order to reduce the production of new child pornography
Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN	
<i>Description of the actions <u>already undertaken</u></i>	
Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	
<i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken and timeframe</u></i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop public awareness material in commonly-used languages that can be tailored for use in Global Alliance countries, thereby reducing costs</i> <p>The same considerations provided in Policy target 2 under items 7/8</p>

Policy target No. 4: Reducing as much as possible the availability of child pornography online and reducing as much as possible the re-victimization of children whose sexual abuse is depicted

Operational Goal:	Encourage participation by the private sector in identifying and removing known child pornography material located in the relevant State, including increasing as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.
Operational Goal:	Increase the speed of notice and takedown procedures as much as possible without jeopardizing criminal investigation
Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN	
<i>Description of the actions already undertaken</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitate the setting up of Public-Private Partnership focused on identifying and eliminating child pornography material.</i> <p>Italian specialized Police agency has since many years undertaken a system which, due to a close cooperation with private sector stakeholders resulted in the identification of huge amounts of child sexual exploitation images.</p> <p>This is the result of a continuous monitoring of the web conducted by Police and with the contribution of several NGOs reporting directly to the same Police.</p> <p>As a result, Police officers complete a Black List allowing to obscure contents where these are hosted on Italian websites, or - where contents are hosted on international servers to require ISPs abroad to block the access to illegal contents from Italy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evaluate whether, according to domestic law, there are any impediments to the participation by the private sector to identify and eliminate known child pornography images, and adopt the necessary legislative amendments.</i> <p>As concerns removal of child sexual exploitation images, Italian legislation requires domestic ISPs to notify the "country specialized Police Agency" child sexual exploitation material identified and making it available for 45 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve international cooperation on child pornography elimination strategies, with a view towards developing consistent approaches and information exchange between countries.</i> <p>Italian specialized Police agency has already undertaken "Black List" sharing of child sexual exploitation websites with other countries, cooperating with other organizations, such as IN-HOPE (International Association of Internet Hot-lines) in the frame work of European Financial Coalition and it is founding member of the CIRCAMP</p>
Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN	
<i>Description of the actions that will be undertaken and timeframe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Set out guidelines for cooperation between the private sector and law enforcement authorities on such strategies.</i> <p>It is crucial to establish a set of shared guidelines concerning cooperation between Law Enforcement and private sector, to be implemented at</p>

international level, and namely in the Global Alliance.

It may be crucial to compare best practices put in place in different concerned countries.

Currently it would be useful a harmonization project already undertaken by Italian specialized Police agency together with private sector.

- *Facilitate, the development and the use of technologies to identify and remove known child pornography images uploaded into, downloaded from or hosted in servers under each country 's jurisdiction.*

Italian specialized Police agency has already initiated cooperation with private . research companies and technological University faculties, in order to identify child sexual exploitation images and tracing those who produce, share or host them on their web servers. In this case we believe it is also crucial a discussion with other countries involved within the Global Alliance

- *Facilitate the setting up of Public-Private Partnerships in this field. & Set up standardized interfaces between hotlines and ISPs/ESP s.*
- *Develop, improve or support easier reporting mechanism.*
- *Ensure follow-up by law enforcement authorities to reports on child sexual abuse online.*

In recalling all considerations above, concerning initiatives implemented in Italy, it would be desirable to have in future a steady and regular discussion on operational experiences already undertaken and ongoing, between Law Enforcement agencies and other stakeholders in this area.

Such discussion should be necessarily held in an effective feasibility environment, taking into account the different legislative frameworks in countries concerned, and aiming at setting any position failing to comply with a global framework providing for sharing aims and objectives.

- *Provide model Memoranda of Understanding between law enforcement authorities and hotlines and between law enforcement authorities/hotlines and ISPs/ESPs avoiding gaps and bottlenecks, and ensuring effective investigations and preservation of evidence.*
- *Ensure and support the trust of law enforcement authorities in hotlines (e.g. requirements on personnel, procedures or vetting of staff)*
- *Ensure that the necessary conditions are in place for hotlines and ISPs/ESPs to play an effective role in notice and takedown procedures, including by removing legal or administrative obstacles for hotline staff to analyze child abuse images and to take appropriate action.*

Italian Law does not provide for the analysis of child sexual exploitation material by Hotlines, this task shall be exclusively carried out by Law Enforcement officers.

Nevertheless, the role played by Hotlines may be crucial in relation to the activity of social and cultural mediation for prevention and counteraction of such phenomena, including concerning the specific Global Alliance objectives.