

## GLOBAL ALLIANCE AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ONLINE

Romania

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

<b>Operational Goal:</b>	Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly
<b>Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN</b>	
<b>Description of the actions already undertaken</b>	<p>The Countering Organized Criminality Directorate (COCD) within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) works together with prosecutors specialized in investigating cyber crimes from the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism of the Romanian Public Prosecutor's Office. There are also specialized panels and court in cases concerning minors.</p> <p>Also, access to Interpol ICSE database for Countering Computer Crimes Service (CCCS) was ensured (2010).</p> <p>Moreover, the CCCS is using tools developed by US and Canadian LEA for the investigation of Child Pornography Computer (CPC) cases.</p>
<b>Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN</b>	
<b>Description of the actions that will be undertaken and timeframe</b>	The COCD will improve the procedures for investigating CPC cases and victim/suspect ID - on a regular basis
<b>Operational Goal:</b>	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
<b>Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN</b>	
<b>Description of the actions already undertaken</b>	
<b>Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN</b>	
<b>Description of the actions that will be undertaken and timeframe</b>	

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

**Operational Goal:** Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online

**Actions ALREADY UNDERTAKEN**

**Description of the actions already undertaken**

As far as the criminalization of conducts is concerned, the Romanian legislative framework is in line with international and European requirements in the field of online child sexual abuse and possession of child pornography. Moreover, according to the provisions of the law which protects the interests of the child, the offenders shall be banned from working with children.

As far as the services provided to the victims of sexual abuse are concerned, Law no. 211/2004 on certain measures to protect victims of crimes provides for such measures. Nevertheless, action needs to be taken in order to simplify the procedures due to the fact that in granting assistance to the victims there are three institutions involved: the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly.

Also, concerning the setting up of different structures involved in fighting child pornography, the Child Pornography Bureau was created in 2012.

Training and logistical assistance was also provided.

Moreover, procedures and specialized police officers for investigating cases of child pornography by use of computers (CPC) and victim/suspect ID were developed. The unit responsible for investigation of CPC case is the (SCCC).

Another initiative at international level is the involvement of Romania through the SCCC-MIA in the FBI's International Innocent Images Task Force

At European level, Romania represented by the Ministry for Information Society, participates in the Safer Internet Programme Committee in Brussels. At the national level, the Ministry for Information Society (MIS) is member of the Safer Internet Romania Advisory Board, in order to identify and support the best actions for developing public awareness campaigns or other measures

In terms of services provided to the children victims, at the level of each county there is a General Directorate for Child Protection and Social Assistance (GDCPSA), which is the local competent authority within the child protection field.

Within this institutions, a whole range of services are provided to children depending on their particular needs. Thus, if necessary, special protection can be provided. For instance, the child could be protected within a residential type institution or family placement, depending on the case. At the same time, given the trauma usually associated with this kind of situation, specialized counselling shall be offered to the child and/or his/her family by the specialists within the local authority. All the aforementioned services are free of charge and will be granted as long as the situation of the child requires such a measure.

**The main types of specialized services offered by the GDCPSA to all children, victims of any kind of violence (including that on the Internet) are as follows:**

- Child's Helpline - which may be used in order to report any situation of abuse, violence against children; a Special Mobile Intervention Team for emergency

	<p>situations works within this service, whose obligation is to verify on the spot the situation reported;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Emergency Centres for the children victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking;</i></li> <li>• <i>Transit centres for the protection and assistance granted to children returned from other countries and/or victims of trafficking (6 centres with a total capacity of 76 places).</i></li> <li>• <i>Counselling centres for children victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and trafficking;</i></li> </ul> <p>At the same time, within each GDCPSA a special Compartment for intervention in cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation, child trafficking, migration and repatriated children functions.</p>
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**Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN**

<p><b><i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i></b></p>	<p>As already known, Romania has undertaken an extensive legislative reform, especially in the field of the criminal law. Hence, the criminal code (Law no. 286/2009), the criminal procedure code (Law no. 135/2010) and the law for the implementation of the new criminal code (Law no. 187/2012) were adopted and the law for the implementation of the new criminal procedure code is now under parliamentary debate. An important measure to be mentioned is the criminalization of the grooming in the new criminal code.</p> <p>The new criminal code and the law for the implementation thereof amend the current legislative framework on child sexual abuse and child pornography. Moreover, a novelty should be emphasized in the field of statute of limitations: according to the provisions of art. 154 para. 4 of Law no. 286/2009, in case of criminal offences committed against sexual liberty and integrity of a person, if such offences had been committed against a child, the statute of limitations term starts running from the date the child reaches the age of adulthood. If the child died before reaching 18, the statute of limitations runs from the date of his/her death.</p> <p>The two codes as well as the laws for the implementation thereof are due to enter into force on February 1st, 2014.</p> <p>An analysis is undertaken in order to identify the best solution in amending <i>Law no. 211/2004 on certain measures to protect victims of crimes</i></p> <p>Also in order to help achieving a better protection of the child, a number of legislative measures have been adopted by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and Elderly (MLFSPE). Thus, Law no. 252/2010 for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, signed at Lanzarote in 2007 was approved.</p> <p>Also, two methodologies were approved by Government <b>Decision no.49/2011:</b></p> <p><b>Annex 1</b> - Framework methodology for the prevention and intervention in multidisciplinary team and network for situations of violence against children and domestic violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It promotes the complex concept of violence against children by integrating all forms of violence against children, including violence on internet, based on a UN Study on violence against children Pinhero 2006</li> <li>• It promotes integrated procedures on reporting, intervention and prevention of</li> </ul>
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violence against children and domestic violence in order to prevent parallel efforts and waste of resources

- It promotes inter-institutional cooperation by establishing Inter- sector County Teams through decisions of local authorities
- It promotes case management and multidisciplinary teams for intervention in each case
- It identifies sanctions in the Criminal and Civil Code and special laws for each form of violence

**Annex 2** - Methodology of multidisciplinary and inter-institutional intervention against child labor, trafficking in children, other forms of violence against Romanian migrant children on the territory of other states. According to the aforementioned methodology, the following could be mentioned:

- child pornography is one of the worst forms of child labor, but the methodology doesn't include special procedures for child pornography on internet, the general framework procedures being also used in this type of cases

**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**

<b>Operational Goal</b>	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
<b>Operational Goal</b>	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**

<p><b><u>Description of the actions already undertaken</u></b></p>	<p>The SAFERNET.RO Hotline is a civil contact point, which receives and processes reports related to illegal or harmful materials for children on the internet, particularly child sexual abuse materials.</p> <p>The hotline is operational since 2010 and represents the on-line reporting facility developed by FOCUS - Romanian Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children within the project „Sigur.info”, financed by the European Commission.</p> <p>Operational 24/7, the Romanian hotline can be accessed at <a href="http://www.safernet.ro">www.safernet.ro</a>, providing several means for the public to report any illegal material regarding children from the internet: an online form on the website, by email/phone/fax/direct mail or via the Safernet.ro Mobile Web App.</p> <p>For the last three years, the Hotline team has constantly developed public awareness campaigns targeting not only children but also parents, teachers, authorities and other stakeholders. During these campaigns, many informative sessions and age-appropriate materials have been disseminated.</p> <p>Briefly, for the last year, the actions undertaken by the Hotline can be divided into two groups, as follows:</p> <p><b>1. Offline actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organisation of a series of informative sessions in primary and high schools regarding the safe use of the internet by children. The target group: over 1120 children informed on the benefits and dangers of the internet and the role of the Hotline in their on-line safety;</li> <li>• production of 3 types of brochures (targeting teenagers, parents and authorities) and a poster, that are ready to be distributed during informative sessions conducted by the hotline in cooperation with the police officers (the Institute for Research and Crime Prevention within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police and their colleagues from the County Police Inspectorates);</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Online actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the hotline is present on all the major social networks: Facebook (389 friends, 1751 likes), YouTube (9 subscribers, 3.136 views), Twitter (110 followers), Hi5 (4.781 profile views), Netlog (39 unique visitors), Causes.com (82 members). However, the focus is on the Facebook page, as it is generally recognized as one of the most prolific and efficient way to reach the public. Thus, the hotline weekly updates its profile, informing its followers on the most recent activities or any other related on-line child protection content (studies, prevention &amp; reporting tips etc.).</li> <li>• on the occasion of Safer Internet Day, the Hotline also launched a contest on the official Facebook page inviting the public to answer, on a weekly basis, to a question regarding the safety of children on the Internet. The contest lasted until March 3rd and the prizes awarded weekly consisted in books and DVDs for teenagers,</li> <li>• noticing the increasingly higher number of internet users from the mobile phones, the Hotline team developed a mobile web application designed to facilitate and make friendlier the reporting process of illegal or harmful content identified while using the internet on the mobile phones. For iOS and Android devices, the Safernet Mobile Web app can be installed on the phone by using the Add to Home Screen button. Since March 2012 the Safernet.ro app is also available as a native app for iOS devices such as iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch and can be downloaded free of charge from the Apple App Store;</li> </ul>
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- the Hotline website ([www.safernet.ro](http://www.safernet.ro)) is constantly updated with news and prevention resources that can be downloaded. For example, all the brochures and posters produced for the 2013 campaign are also available online. Moreover, there are also other useful and educational tools that can be downloaded by parents, teachers, authorities or anyone who wants to understand better or promote the work of the hotline (national and international studies, presentations of the hotline, a reporting kit, online banners). Also, the Resources section includes educational tools specially tailored for children: lessons in the form of cartoon strips and 3 Flash games.

The multiannual Sigur.Info program, co-financed by the European commission and coordinated on a national level by Save the Children Romania in collaboration with FOCUS and Positive Media has been raising awareness about children's internet safety ever since September 2008.

The main target groups are parents, teachers, children and also, guardians or professionals working with children. The two main ways in which Sigur.Info has done this in Romania is by a media and television campaign and peer-to-peer informative sessions in schools all over Romania. One of the television spots, part of our campaign that aired on national television, approaches the theme of grooming. Also, the informative sessions that are currently taking place in schools in 14 major cities across Romania, approach the topics of personal data misuse, sexting, contact with unknown people. The total number of persons reached since the beginning of the program is 980.541.

Sigur.Info program also includes the Helpline, a counselling line, intended to offer support and guidance for children, teenagers, parents or teachers who are dealing with issues regarding internet safety. The Helpline component collaborates both with Child Protection Services and Police.

Besides the Awareness and Helpline, the program has a third component, the Hotline. This line receives reports and deals with removing illegal or harmful content, such as child pornography.

The program offers the public an online portal in which interested parties can find relevant information, advice, news articles and resources tailored to every target group. All materials developed within the Sigur.Info program can be found on the website ([www.sigur.info](http://www.sigur.info)).

In 2011 - 2013 Save the Children also developed a program, Interact, which targeted children in care facilities. Preliminary studies have shown that these children, lacking parental supervision or guidance, may be more at risk of grooming or trafficking. Consultations and informative sessions regarding internet safety were held with children and professionals in five centres, located in 3 large cities in Romania: Bucharest, Iasi and Targoviste.

The Ministry of National Education, the school inspectorates and the schools have the role to prevent any kind of violence. MNE is member of the Safer Internet Romania Advisory Board and has participated in the activities in which the partners have been involved since 2008.

The Ministry of National Education (MNE) has undertaken the following activities after the EU integration:

- partnership with the MIS -2007;
- national conference with all general inspectors of the 42 counties - 2008;

- partnership with the MIA in February 2013 regarding the prevention of violence in schools and in the school areas;
- The MATRA project *Preventing Juvenile Delinquency in the Area of Scholar Facilities in Romania*, financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been implemented by the Ministry of Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior between 2008-2010. The 'Flandbook on the toolkit for school-police cooperation' and the 'Guide of promising practices on school safety' are some of the practical results of the 2008-2010 MATRA project. There is a good practice in the Guide with the title: **Computer and the Internet in our lives; teachers/students/parents; the Netiquette; how to avoid the online harassment;**
- presentations have taken place in schools with children, teachers, parents regarding Internet safety;
- MNE has participated in the official launch of the project Sigur.Info on the 10th of February 2009 and participated yearly in the contests
- it has actively cooperated with the partners to make presentations in schools, on TV, in newspapers, summer camps, elaborate and distribute materials, organize contests, campaigns, national meetings, press conferences, has authorized the access of the volunteers to schools;
- it has authorized the online guidelines ' e-learning' (tests for parents, children, teachers), and adapted the program 'Microsoft Partners for Education"; the guidelines and the description of the project sigur.info are on the ministry' s site ([www.edu.ro](http://www.edu.ro))
- it has checked translations and authorized materials to be distributed in schools, summer camps, instructed school teachers to get actively involved in any activity, online safety.

**Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN**

<p><b>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</b></p>	<p>Concrete action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the near future, the Hotline will launch 3 video-tutorials aimed to help children/teenagers recognize dangerous on-line situations or to identify Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and report it. The tutorials target different types of audience: authorities, parents and teenagers (aged 15-18). These will have different scripts, adapted to the audience. The endorsers of the tutorials will be people popular among the public targeted</li> <li>• the Hotline will continue to update on a regular basis its Facebook page. A second FB contest is to be organized and implemented in February-March 2014;</li> <li>• by the end of this year/beginning of 2014, the hotline will launch a TV spot, a radio spot and a viral campaign. All these 3 tools are to be launched around the 2014 Safer Internet Day, in order to create a buzz around the event and to draw more efficiently the public's attention</li> </ul> <p>The Hotline will develop a strategy for a viral campaign to draw attention on the dangers children encounter on the Internet and to generate public debates on this topic around the Safer Internet Day. The viral campaign is to be launched 1-2 weeks before the 2014 Safer Internet Day.</p> <p>Save the Children will develop a Resource guide for schools to be used in classrooms and will also organize meetings with authorities for regulating internet access and commerce according to child rights. The MLFSPE will undertake the following legislative measures in order to help accomplishing this goal:</p> <p><b>Digital Agenda 2020 - Pillar 3 proposals from Child Protection Department sent to CERT-RO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• including harmful content on internet in legislation (definition, procedures for identification, reporting, child protection and sanctions)</li> <li>• national campaigns on harmful content on internet</li> <li>• monitoring the observance of child rights on internet</li> </ul> <p><b>Draft of Government Decision</b> for the extension of National Steering Committee on prevention and combat of child labour to include all forms of violence against children and domestic exploitation. National Steering Committee is an inter-ministerial and inter-institutional group, under the MLFSPE, which coordinates the activity in this field.</p> <p>Elaboration and approval of an Order of the MLFSPE for the approval of a unitary set of instruments for monitoring the cases of violence against children and domestic violence, which will include also aspects related to the harmful context on the Internet.</p> <p>The MNE will continue to make efforts regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of risks;</li> <li>• Number of parents and teachers involved;</li> <li>• Number of schools approached at national level;</li> <li>• Educational activities at school level;</li> <li>• Feedback and data analysis ;</li> <li>• Management plans of student assessment;</li> </ul>
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- Will cooperate with other institutions and NGO s.

According to Government Decision no 12/2009, in performing its functions, the MIS meets also the following tasks: promotion and development of electronic communications services via Internet and supervision and enforcement of legal provisions in the field of electronic commerce, as regulatory and supervisory authority in accordance with Law no. 365/2002 on electronic commerce.

In this capacity, the MIS will support any initiative in order 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

**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**

**Description of the actions already undertaken**

In order to improve the notice and takedown procedures for CSAM, an **on-line reporting mechanism (Hotline)** is currently in place in Romania mechanism developed through a **public-private partnership between the Romanian National police and the NGO "Romanian Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children-FOCUS"**. The Hotline has been operational since 2010 and was developed by FOCUS within the project „Sigur.info”, financed by the European Commission.

The SAFERNET.RO Hotline is set-up as a civil contact point, which receives and processes reports related to illegal or harmful materials for children on the internet. The operational activity of the Hotline regarding the CSAM is established through a **signed agreement - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Romanian National Police. The MoU is defining the role of the Hotline in receiving and assessing reports from the public regarding online child pornography.

**Written agreements** (beside the law enforcement) are in force with the **National Authority for Communication** (for reports on adult pornography available for children) and with the **GDCPSA within the MLFSPE** (for reports on harmful content for children). Any report regarding children within the scope of the Hotline is investigated and forwarded to the competent authorities; any other report regarding children (even if it is not investigated by the Hotline) is forwarded to the competent authorities (central or local, depending on the case).

Also, the Hotline has the support of the **National Association of Internet Service Providers in Romania**, in dealing with online reports about child pornography.

The Hotline can be accessed at **www.safernet.ro** and offers here 5 ways (online form, email, fax, phone and post mail) to report child pornography. Also, noticing the increasingly higher number of users accessing the Internet from the mobile phones, the Hotline team developed a mobile website application and an iOS app for iPhones and iPads, both designed to facilitate and make friendlier the reporting process of illegal or harmful content identified while using the internet on the mobile phones.

The Hotline also contributes and receives reports from other INHOPE members through the INHOPE database, facilitating efficient removal of CSAM hosted in Romania.

According to the Romanian legislation, **the notice and take down procedure for CSA content** in place for content hosted in Romania, is involving the police and the ISPs, specifically, the ISPs should remove the illegal content when they are notified about by the law enforcement. As for the Hotline's role, the police specifically requested the Hotline not to notify the ISPs at the same time with the Police, in order to avoid any interference with the police enquiry.

	<p>Over the last three years of Hotline operational work, an <b>effective and trustful working relationship</b> was developed with the Cybercrime Unit of the National Police and constant cooperation and participation in each other's events is in place. For instance, during 2012, the most significant events were the following:</p> <p>In January 2012, INHOPE organized a regional <b>Tracking and Tracing Training in Romania</b> with support from the Romanian Hotline. Participants to the training were hotline analysts from Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Italy, Russia and Romania. The Head of the Romanian Cybercrime Police Unit was part in the training and gave a comprehensive presentation on the Hotline's work in cooperation with the Cybercrime Department of the Romanian National Police.</p> <p>The Romanian National Police, with support from the US Embassy in Bucharest, held <b>the Seventh Conference for Experts in the Field of Prevention And Combating Cybercrime</b> in Bucharest, 22-25 May 2012. The Romanian Hotline represented by Mrs Gabriela Coman, Executive Director of FOCUS, together with Mr Adrian Dwyer, Executive Director of INHOPE participated to the section regarding the "Implications of technological advances upon child abuse" by presenting the national role of Safernet Hotline for Romania and the INHOPE international contribution in combating child sexually abused materials on the Internet. The COCD is partner in a protocol with the Romanian Centre for Missing and Sexually Abused Children (RCMSAC - FOCUS) for developing a hotline (safernet.ro) in order to identify and remove known child pornography images on the Internet. The Hotline became operational in 2010.</p>
<b>Actions that WILL BE UNDERTAKEN</b>	
<p><b><i>Description of the actions that <u>will be undertaken</u> and timeframe</i></b></p>	<p>A <b>workshop for the public and private stakeholders</b> will be organized by the Hotline in the near future in order to debate on the need to increase the reporting process of CSAM identified on the internet and the specific role of each partner in this process.</p> <p>Also, a <b>national conference</b> will be organized at the end of the project (February/March 2014), in order to summarize the achievements during the project and raise once more the issue of each stakeholder's role in making the Internet safer for our children.</p> <p>The MIS, as regulatory and supervisory authority in accordance with Law no. 365/2002 on electronic commerce, will support any legal initiative to facilitate the reduction as much as possible of the availability of child pornography online.</p>