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 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*:
  - 2008: 190,260
  - 2009: 211,316
  - 2010: 232,430
  - 2011: 239,908

- Number of international child abduction cases EU*:
  - Outgoing:
    - 2008: 1,084
    - 2009: 1,310
    - 2010: 1,310
    - 2011: 1,366
    - 2012: 914
  - Incoming:
    - 2008: 1,039
    - 2009: 1,163
    - 2010: 1,205
    - 2011: 1,297
    - 2012: 533

* 25 MS (AT, SE)

* 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentage based on data from 18 MS where gender is recorded.

### Duration of disappearance 2011*

- 1-3 days: 40%
- 3 months: 72%

*Based on data from 8 MS (DE, EE, IT, LU, HU, MT, NL, UK).
Preliminary Key Findings Data:

116 000:

Number of cases treated by 116 000 hotlines in 2011
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