

**NATIONAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN  
TO COMBAT  
SEXUAL ABUSE  
AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN  
AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

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**A. EXPLANATION**

**FOREWORD**

The National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography ("NS") constitutes the basic policy text and guides the actions and initiatives of the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus for the next three years.

It is a coherent and comprehensive strategy which sets the policy directions and coordinates the implementation of actions and initiatives to combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography at the local level.

The NS embraces the philosophy and guidance of the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007), known as the Lanzarote Convention, which has been ratified by the House of Representatives and is being implemented in Cyprus as from 1 June 2015. Worldwide, the Lanzarote Convention is the most comprehensive legal instrument addressing the phenomenon, aiming at the implementation of policies, measures, actions and interventions based on scientifically documented practices which at the same time utilise to the fullest degree the human and financial resources of the whole society, with the involvement of all stakeholders.

The elaboration of the NS was decided by the Council of Ministers on 13/7/2015 and for this purpose an Inter-ministerial Committee has been established, comprising the Ministers of Education and Culture, Labour, Welfare and Social Security, Justice and Public Order and Health.

This NS is the result of a number of meetings of the Inter-ministerial Committee and the services involved as well as of its meetings with agencies and organisations of the society as a whole which expressed their willingness to be involved in the design and implementation of the NS.

## INTRODUCTION

The National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography 2016-2019, seeks to recognise the scope and scale of this social problem, to identify the priorities for addressing it properly and to determine the necessary actions and policies in order to achieve the primary goal which can be described as follows:

"All children should have the opportunity to grow up in conditions of security, equipped with all the tools that would allow them to develop healthy relationships, without having to face any form of sexual exploitation or abuse, free from all forms of sexual injury"

Sexual abuse is a phenomenon which, as evidenced by relevant data and research, is growing both in Cyprus and around the world. Studies made across Europe have documented that one in five children will suffer some form of sexual abuse or exploitation before coming of age.

Based on these findings, the Council of Europe drew up the Lanzarote Convention, recognising that the phenomenon of sexual abuse and exploitation of children cannot be treated simply as a matter of "crime and punishment", but should be treated as a social phenomenon that affects and necessarily has to involve the whole spectrum of society. So far, the Lanzarote Convention has been ratified by 39 Member States of the Council of Europe, including Cyprus, where it came into force on 1 June 2015.

To promote the philosophy of the Lanzarote Convention the Council of Europe organised the pan-European campaign "One in Five", which was also carried out in Cyprus.

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children affects childhood, sometimes irreparably, influencing negatively the sound emotional and psychological development of children. The negative effects of sexual abuse and exploitation of children may include the development of strong feelings, such as betrayal, weakness, stigmatisation, guilt and also harm the sexuality of victims with the result that they face great difficulties in the course of their life in regard, inter alia, to creating and / or maintaining balanced relations, precisely due to the disruption of their mental health and / or because of other problems associated with the abuse they have suffered.

For many victims, the impact of these crimes may prove decisively destructive, scarring them, sometimes even for the rest of their lives. A child, who has grown up experiencing sexual abuse and / or exploitation, is expected to face intense psychosomatic and other difficulties, before it can ultimately succeed and grow into a healthy adult.

Sexual abuse and exploitation of children are rightly considered as some of the most heinous crimes that may occur in a society. Therefore, the actual "bet" for a society to win is how to protect or better shield its children so that they do not fall victims of such crimes.

Certainly, society has the moral responsibility and the obligation to do everything possible so as strike at the roots of this heinous phenomenon and also to ensure that all children grow up in conditions of confidence and security.

For the preparation of the National Strategy the following were taken into consideration:

The size of the problem

Its huge impact on a personal, social and economic level

The ease of preventing it and preventing abuse compared to the difficulty to undo its effects

## CURRENT SITUATION

In the context of carrying out the campaign "One in Five" in Cyprus, the University of Cyprus embarked on a scientific survey to record the Cypriot reality. This research showed that the picture in Cyprus is the same or even worse than the rest of the world, as in our country the rate of sexual abuse or exploitation of children is closer to one in four.

Additionally, it should be mentioned that out of the children who took part in the above survey, only a percentage of 15% of those who said that they had been abused, admitted that they requested any kind of assistance to deal with the incident, something which demonstrates the absence of correct information and an adequate support mechanism.

Furthermore, in 2013 thirty-seven criminal files of sexual abuse and exploitation of children were investigated by the Police and recorded in the Criminal Case Records, fifty – six in 2014 and seventy seven in 2015. It should be noted that these figures do not include other related complaints, which for various reasons the Police did not proceed to investigate and / or create a criminal record file (e.g. due to lack of evidence, unwillingness of the victim to proceed, etc.).

Many of the criminal files concerned incidents that had taken place years ago, but the victim needed special support, treatment and prompting to make a complaint.

Studying the judicial decisions and the conclusions of the afore-mentioned survey by the University of Cyprus, it is obvious that the phenomenon of sexual abuse and exploitation of children is not something which was created recently, but rather a phenomenon which is simply now revealed. The above reported data show that the apparent increase in criminal cases, at least in terms of sexual abuse and exploitation, can be attributed more to increased complaints and not necessarily to increased incidents. That is it is attributed to the fact that many children and adults now break the silence and finally make a complaint.

A dramatic increase was noted in criminal files for child pornography cases. More specifically, in 2014 seventy-six criminal files were registered, while in 2015 one hundred thirty-five criminal files.

It should be noted also that during these two years, the above mentioned criminal files on child pornography included eighteen cases each year involving a relatively new phenomenon, i.e. of children invited to participate in child pornography and child pornographic performances.

Moreover, again based on data of the Cyprus Police, until the end of the year 2015 the Registry of Persons Convicted for Sexual Offences against Children, provided for in the law, included one hundred thirty-seven people.

## **EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

In July 2014 the Cyprus House of Cyprus Representatives passed The Prevention and Combating of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography Law 91 (I) / 2014 (the "Law"), the provisions of which in essence harmonised Cypriot law with European Directive 2011/93 / EU and the Lanzarote Convention.

Also, the Lanzarote Convention was formally ratified by the House of Representatives and is being implemented in Cyprus as from 1 June 2015.

In addition to increasing the penalties allowed for offences of a sexual nature against children, the Law provides, inter alia, for the following:

Whoever promotes or conceals potential abuse shall be guilty of an offence, while professional secrecy shall not be a defence. In the imposition of the sentence it shall be an aggravating factor if the offender is a teacher or health professional.

The legal requirement for corroboration to make possible the conviction is abolished and expert testimony shall be deemed to be adequate testimony.

The defence of ignorance of the victim's age or the victim's consent shall be expressly ruled out.

Additional penalties are provided for, such as termination of employment or an employment ban in places frequented by children, prohibition of commercial activities, exclusion from public benefits and tenders, ban on residence in specific areas if they are adjacent to the residence of the victim or organised areas where there are children.

The Police keep a registry of convicted persons with data (including the DNA) both of Cypriots and foreigners, and exchange of information with sources abroad, while a conviction for such an offence shall never be expunged from the criminal record.

An employer whose work entails frequent contact with children (schools, sports clubs etc.) shall require the employees' clear criminal record certificate in respect of these offences, and shall not be able to employ a person who will not produce such a certificate.

The Court may refer a convicted person to the Supervisory Authority for Sentenced Persons established for the monitoring and handling of convicted persons after they are discharged from prison.

From the beginning of the case procedures are laid down for the protection of the victim, that is how statements shall be taken from a child (by experts, by

persons of the same sex, and for fewer interviews as possible which shall be held in a child-friendly place)

It is envisaged that for taking statements and for the cross-examination of child victims / witnesses in Court, the use of audio-visual media is mandatory (unless a decision to the contrary is adequately justified).

The competent services shall create and offer programmes to suspects and convicted persons.

The competent services shall train their staff to identify and properly treat the victims of abuse.

The Ministry of Education shall proceed to education programmes in the primary and secondary education and the state shall carry out various campaigns to inform the public about the issue and ways of prevention.

In addition to the above, criminal offences of a sexual nature against children are included in the following laws:

Criminal Code Cap 154,

The Convention on Cybercrime (Ratification) Law of 2004 (22 (III) / 2004)

The Trafficking in Persons and the Exploitation and Protection of Victims Law of 2007 (N. 87 (I) / 2007), as they have been amended.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child with its Optional Protocols, adopted on 20.11.1989 by the United Nations

## **WHY THE NATIONAL STRATEGY IS NECESSARY**

Both the above laws and the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention have created increased responsibilities for the State for the prevention and addressing of sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

Additionally, through the relevant provisions, the legislation essentially requires the mobilisation of many groups of civil society as well as the organisation of an information campaign covering the whole society.

The increase in complaints and incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and child pornography inevitably leads to a comprehensive review of the whole process, both for preventing and more generally for tackling such incidents by the competent government services.

The cost of sexual crimes against children is important, particularly if one takes into account the medical treatment, the legal procedures, the involvement of social services, the long-term imprisonment of convicted persons and their supervision once they are released from prison and in the long-term the provision of support to victims and their families.

Although in Cyprus there are no studies demonstrating the relationship between victimisation due to child sexual abuse with a wide range of long and short term physical and mental health problems, taking into account the costs of the necessary short and long-term psychological support to victims as well as the need for immediate medical treatment in many cases, it would be safe to conclude that one of the effects of the trauma of sexual abuse and exploitation is the creation of a public health issue.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children «NSPCC») of the United Kingdom, recognising the impact of the phenomenon in economic terms, classified it as a public health issue. It is characteristic that in a study made in 2012, it estimated the cost of child abuse in the UK between £ 1.6 billion and £ 3.2 billion.

Taking all the above into consideration and the fact that the sexual abuse and exploitation of children demonstrably affects the very foundations of our society, it is extremely necessary to involve not only the government, but also the entire civil society both in combating this phenomenon and in developing a preventive policy focusing on children.

This involvement can only be achieved through a national strategy, as well as through a clear action plan that will cover both the legal and moral obligations of all of us and will aim at the charting of a coherent course of action that will delve in a targeted way into this multidimensional problem by proposing concrete measures, actions and their implementation.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY**

The purpose of charting a National Strategy is to provide protection, support and every assistance, in every way and at every stage to children as vulnerable members of the civil society.

The objectives of the NS may be defined as the following:

### **Pillar 1- PRIMARY PREVENTION**

A) Reducing abuse and exploitation incidents through prevention strengthening, informing and educating children. Educating and informing professionals who have contact with children (teachers, sports agents, health professionals, civil servants and officials, functionaries of voluntary, charitable and non-governmental organisations)  
Educating and informing parents / guardians of children. Educating and informing professionals in the handling of perpetrators or suspects or people who seek help so that they may not become perpetrators, with the aim of avoiding repeat offences or not committing offences  
Carrying out interventions and campaigns in the wider community for awareness-raising and information.

#### **B) Internet Security**

Educating and informing children on the dangers of the internet,  
Educating and informing parents / guardians on the dangers of the internet,  
Tackling demand for child pornography  
Changing the way the image of children is presented in the society,

### **Pillar 2 - SECONDARY PREVENTION**

Responding swiftly and timely to the initial problems before they get worse  
Training public officers and professionals who have contact with children in order to identify children who are at an increased risk of becoming victims or to identify vulnerable "high risk groups"  
Coordinating the services concerned

### **Pillar 3 - TERTIARY PREVENTION**

Tackling incidents after they have occurred

Coordinating the services concerned

Creating multidisciplinary teams,

Training public servants and professionals who have contact with children to identify victims,

Specialising public officials to investigate and respond to incidents (Police, social services, mental health services, lawyers)

Specialising public and private health professionals in the long-term support and treatment of victims and perpetrators,

### **Pilar 4 RESEARCH**

(I) Implementing a system to record incidents,

Conducting scientific research

### **Pilar 5- EVALUATION**

Quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the effectiveness and the attainment of the objectives of specific actions.

## **MONITORING COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NS - 'VOICE'**

The design of the National Strategy is a key step in addressing the phenomenon. Its implementation and the effectiveness of its actions are based on the commitment, coordination and cooperation of all services / bodies and all partners concerned.

Additionally, the correct and effective implementation of the strategy will depend on the continued and constructive monitoring and evaluation of actions and programmes and on taking immediately corrective action where the evaluation requires it.

Therefore, it is necessary to set up a Committee which will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the strategy, providing support to the institutions and designing concrete actions.

The above Committee shall be established by amending the Law and its responsibilities shall be the following:

- (a) to monitor and control the implementation of the NS
- (b) to coordinate the activities of various government services or agencies of the private or voluntary sector or the broader civil society
- (c) to disseminate valid and timely information and education in the society through various means, including campaigns through the mass media, special conferences, educational programmes and seminars.
- (d) to create and approve the material to be used in the activities of the strategy either by the private or the public sector,
- (e) to conduct scientific research
- (f) to evaluate the effectiveness of the actions of each partner in the strategy.
- (g) to develop guidelines and best practices
- (h) to conduct fundraisers or accept contributions for the financing of actions
- (i) to develop cooperation with corresponding European bodies and international organisations.

The Committee shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers and shall be made up of persons who have both knowledge of and experience on the subject. The appointments shall be made both from the public and the private sector. Its members should not be more than eleven and their term shall be for three years.

The members to be appointed from the public sector shall be selected from:

- The Ministry of Health
- The Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- The Ministry of Education and Culture
- The Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance
- The Law Office
- The Police
- The Advisory Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence

With regard to persons who will be appointed from the private sector, they should be selected either in their personal capacity because of their involvement and training in child protection issues or from members of Organisations or Associations or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in the protection of children's rights and / or education and training on children's rights.

A member of the Committee shall be appointed by the Council of Ministers as Chairman and, inter alia, shall have the responsibility to convene meetings, while another member shall be appointed as his replacement.

The committee shall:

- (a) meet at least once a month,
- (b) have an office with permanent staff,
- (c) enter into partnerships with scientific collaborators ,
- (d) may enter into partnerships with other agencies for the better performance of its duties.

The Committee shall be named the "Voice". '

## **PREVENTION**

The NS is essentially an appeal for increased action to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children before they occur.

Prevention is probably the most important goal of the NS. No matter how successfully the effects of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children may be tackled, they will be never completely erased. Therefore, the primary purpose of the NS is to reduce the number of incidents.

Prevention can be divided into the following categories:

Primary prevention - the tackling of the problem by the whole population in order to reduce the incidents

Secondary prevention - the immediate tackling of the first stages of the relevant problems before they get worse.

The proposed objectives of the national strategy for the prevention of sexual abuse of children include:

- Increasing the actions of specific groups for the prevention of sexual abuse of children.
- Making everybody understand the scope, extent and consequences that child abuse may take.
- Increasing the knowledge and skills of children, parents / guardians, professionals and members of the public at large concerning the protection of children from sexual abuse.
- Increasing the knowledge and skills of parents, professionals and members of public at large to identify indications of abuse and increased risk factors that may induce a child to become a victim.

The achievement of the above objectives will require a multi-level, coordinated and determined effort and action by the whole of civil society. This includes parents, children, experts and professionals, members of local communities – that is each one of us separately and all together.

## **II. FIRST PILLAR - PRIMARY PREVENTION**

### **1.1 Education**

The Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC), recognising its responsibility and influence in the field of primary prevention, has proceeded to the setting up and operation of a Coordinating Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children with representatives of all MOEC departments and services. The Committee coordinates all matters concerning the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography relating to the actions of the Ministry.

Four sub-groups operate in the framework of this Committee:

- A. Working group on Developing Procedures
- B. Working group on Developing an Information Campaign
- C. Working Group on Educating and Training
- D. Implementation Committee of the National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

The Coordinating Committee of the Ministry has proposed a specific Action Plan which is incorporated in the NS.

#### **1.1.1 Sexual Education Children**

The most important action for primary prevention concerns the education and awareness-raising among children from an early age. This education should take place both at school and at home, focusing on the promotion of healthy relationships and managing negative emotions. This education which is based also on the World Health Organisation ("WHO") guidelines is called on "Sexuality Education".

As mentioned in the 1st Information Policy Note of the Federal Centre for Health Education of Germany, which cooperates with WHO:

"Good quality sexuality education has a positive impact on attitudes and values, and can balance the dynamics of imposition of power in intimate relations, thus contributing to the prevention of abuse and encourage the creation of consensual partnerships based on mutual respect."

The same thing is mentioned also in the 2nd Information Policy Note of the same organisations:

"Studies in several European countries have shown that the introduction of long-term national sexuality education programmes has led to" measurable results "as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Measurable results of good sexuality education

- Reduction in teenage pregnancies and abortions
- Reduction of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among young people aged 15-24
- Reduction of HIV infections among young people aged 15-24
- Reduction of sexual abuse"

The sexuality education lessons are included in the curriculum of the Health Education Course of the Ministry of Education and Culture ( "MOEC"), the objective of which is to foster attitudes, behaviours and skills with the aim of enhancing the self-esteem of the individual, developing personal and social skills, building values and attitudes, as well choosing goals and decision making. Additionally, this type of education should begin at an early age (pre-primary) as many studies have shown that even very young children can learn and understand the basic skills of self-protection mechanisms.

Furthermore, sexuality education must address the often false images and perceptions which young people acquire through their exposure to pornography either in printed form or online.

According to a survey conducted in 2015, it has been established that exposure to pornography is associated with increased incitement on the Internet to sexual violence. The investigation revealed that in Cyprus, young men are regularly exposed to pornography at a rate of 59%. Sexuality education must address the exposure of young people to pornography and to encourage critical thinking that distinguishes the behaviour which stems from pornography and behaviour which characterises positive and close relationships.

While, as mentioned above, sexuality education is part of the curriculum in the context of the Health Education course, it has been observed that many educationists are reluctant to touch on the chapter of family planning and sexual and reproductive health. One of the reasons for this is the absence of suitable educational material and proper training of teachers for the correct teaching of such material.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has undertaken the obligation to take the following actions:

ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIME	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Implementation of the Health Education Curriculum and interdisciplinary approach through other relevant cognitive topics,	Every school year starting in September 2016 for pre-primary and E'-F grade classes,	All the Departments and Services of MOEC

which include matters relating to sexual education of students in all three levels of education.	From September 2017 for other classes of the primary school	
The sub-unit of the Health Education Curriculum 3.1: Family Planning, Sexual and Reproductive Health, will be taught in approximately 10% for the school year 2016-17, with a gradual increase to 15% by school year 2018- 19, in relation to the Health Education Curriculum.		
Better Integration of sexual and reproductive health issues into the curriculum of Gymnasias and Lyceums. Study on the introduction of a special lesson in the curriculum of Lyceums.	September 2018	All the Departments and Services of MOEC
Information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Kindergarten -Lyceum / Technical Schools) in collaboration with external partners through its integration in the Health Education Curriculum.	Every school year Starting as from September 2016	School Health Services Career Counselling and Educational Services Educational Psychology Service NGOs "Voice"
Linking the second goal of the Ministry for the school year 2015-2016, "Awareness-raising among students against racism and intolerance and promoting equality and respect, in the context of the campaign of the Council of Europe against hate speech", with the issue of the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography.	Under development 2015 -2016	Coordination by the Pedagogical Institute
Making known by sending a circular to all schools before the beginning of each school year as well as through the education of teachers in the training seminars they attend, of the existence and use of manuals which were sent to		

schools and are posted on the website of the Ministry of Education and Culture, specifically on the website for the educational material of the Health Education course (HYPERLINK "http://www.MOEC.gov.cy/agogygeias/enimerosi.html" http://www.MOEC.gov.cy/agogygeias/enimerosi.html )		
Creation of additional and / or new educational material to be made in co-operation with the "Voice". Basic concepts such as ownership of one's body, saying no, being positive, trusting your intuition, using support systems, good and bad secrets, good and bad contact.	2015-2016	Coordinating Committee on Health Education and Citizenship Pedagogical Institute Curricula Working Teams "Voice"

### 1. 1.2. Sexual Education of Children with Disabilities

Both the messages and the information on protection from sexual abuse should be made in such a way so as to be understood by all children. Therefore, special emphasis should be given to children and young people with disabilities, given that often they are more likely to fall victims of sexual abuse.

Schools should also ensure that their programmes are accessible to children with disabilities or learning difficulties, because the relevant information material / information often is not available in accessible formats to people with disabilities. The teaching methods that will be used will also vary depending on the needs of children with disabilities and it is the responsibility of the schools to ensure that all children will be able to understand the content of the courses on the prevention of sexual abuse.

#### **ACTIONS**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION TIME**

#### **IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Mandatory training of teachers and professionals employed in special schools and liaison officers working in special units of the Primary, Secondary General and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education to strengthen young people with	2016-2019	Special Education Coordinating Committee on Health Education and Citizenship Cyprus Family Planning Association

learning disabilities or mental disabilities, so they can protect themselves from sexual abuse and violence. Training materials and the «Keep me safe» programme.		
Adoption of the proposal of the Cyprus Family Planning Association (CFPA) for cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture regarding the design and implementation of prevention of sexual abuse programmes in Special Education	2016-2019	Special Education Coordinating Committee on Health Education and Citizenship Cyprus Family Planning Association

It is also of vital importance that actions directed towards children be taken with special caution so as not to give the impression to the children that all the responsibility for preventing sexual abuse is left exclusively to them. At the same time there is need for the provision of commensurate support / guidance to professionals on the tackling of all aspects of child abuse, including prevention.

### 1.1.3 Education and teacher training

The correct transmission of information and education for children depends on the educationists. As already mentioned, many educationists are reluctant to approach and / or teach the topic of sexual education, for various reasons, including the lack of their own proper education and training on the material and the way of teaching it. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Culture has undertaken to provide "Professional Learning" to educationists and Ministry officers in order to promote the goal of Child Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography, through the following actions:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
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<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Mandatory Training of all educationists at all levels, involved in matters of sexual education, aimed at strengthening educationists to implement the curriculum of health education and related disciplines.	2016-2019	Pedagogical Institute Inspectors at all levels NGOs "Voice"
Mandatory information, training and awareness-raising of all	2016-2019	Pedagogical Institute University of Cyprus

<p>educationists at all levels (Primary / Secondary-Technical Education), Educational Psychologists, counsellors of the Career Counselling and Education Services, Inspectors of Primary Education, Secondary Education and Technical Education during the three-year plan of national strategy, on the characteristics and the impact of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography, on the procedures for the handling of such incidents and on the legal framework, through training on handling techniques of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography</p>		<p>Other Universities NGOs</p>
<p>School –based seminars (optional for teachers) on the following: Sexual education through the Health Education Curriculum Sexual Education and Prevention of Sexual Abuse Diversity in every-day school-life. Antiracist policy and actions Teaching contentious / controversial issues in the context of education for human rights Different identities in a school environment Students’ awareness –raising against racism and intolerance Sexual and reproductive health of adolescents Legislation and incident management</p>	<p>2016-2019</p>	<p>Pedagogical Institute Counsellors of the Educational Psychology Service Career Counselling and Education Services NGOs “Voice”</p>
<p>Participation in additional EU programmes which promote education on human, social and cultural rights and change in children’s cultural and social models</p>	<p>2017-2019</p>	<p>Pedagogical Institute</p>

The teachers' unions POED, OELMEK and OELMEK have been informed about the actions proposed by the Ministry and have expressed their support to them as well as their willingness to contribute in any way they can to the correct design of the aforementioned actions and any other actions for the promotion and implementation of the National Strategy.

## 1.2 Training parents / guardians

In order to achieve the desired results, the education of children cannot be confined to the school. It is very important to be extended to the hours when children are not in the school, whether that is in the House or at extra-curricular activities.

Parents and guardians are, by and large, the first source of information for children when it comes to their body, their security and their sexual contact. Because of their close relationship and their impact on their children's lives, parents / guardians should play a key role in the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Interventions that will be addressed to parents / guardians should include information and increase their skills in the various ways through which they can participate in the prevention of sexual abuse.

These programmes should include:

- Awareness-raising seminars on prevention with the parents / guardians of children
- Basic information on the sexual abuse of children, including the type or form that abuse can take
- Suggestions on how to talk with their children about sexuality and the personal boundaries that should be set for their safety.
- How to increase children's trust and confidence
- How the house can become a safe environment for children
- How to ensure the security of children when they are in public places and / or at other people's houses
- Give advice on how to talk to their children about possible sexual abuse, which could be committed by persons the child knows.
- Information on how to respond to the disclosure of abuse.

Various methods of diffusion and transmission of information must also be used so that all parents can have access to relevant important information, such as in education and information through the Internet or an efficient way of distributing printed information.

The Ministry of Education and Culture has proposed the following actions:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Information meetings with organised parents, at least twice a year (Federations, Confederations) at all levels	2016-2019	MOEC School Boards Parent's Federations- Confederations "Voice"

<p>Training / informing parents and children  Conducting lectures and workshops at least twice a year on the issue of the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Child Pornography</p>	<p>Every school year</p>	<p>Pedagogical Institute  Educational Psychology Service  Observatory on Violence  Parents' Federations - Confederations  NGOs  "Voice"</p>
<p>Seminars for parents: Sexual Education and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Sexual and Reproductive Health of adolescents  Training in parenting - positive parenting  Information given by school headmasters about helplines where pupils can report sexual abuse over the Internet and by posting the relevant circular in a prominent and permanent place</p>	<p>2016-2019</p>	<p>Pedagogical Institute  Educational Psychology Service  Observatory on Violence  Parents' Federations- Confederations  NGOs  "Voice"</p>
<p>Information material for parents on the topic of identifying sexual abuse and / or exploitation of children as well as on ways of dealing with such incidents.</p>	<p>2016-2017</p>	<p>Parents' Federations- Confederations  School Boards  NGOs  "Voice"</p>
<p>Utilisation of the Network Against Violence, which is coordinated by the "Observatory on Violence in the School" of the MOEC for planning at least two actions annually for parents on the topic of sexual education and protection of children against sexual abuse.</p>	<p>2016-2019</p>	<p>Observatory on Violence in the School  School Boards</p>

Organised parents, represented by the Pancyprian Confederation of Parents of Children in Primary Education , the Pancyprian Confederation of Federations of Associations of Parents and Guardians of Children in Public Schools of Secondary and Technical Education, the Pancyprian Federation of Associations of Parents and Guardians of Children in Private Schools and the Pancyprian Confederation of Federations of Parents' Associations and Guardians of Children in Public and Community Kindergartens have already been informed on the proposed actions by the Ministry and have expressed their support for them and their willingness to contribute by all means to the correct planning of the above-mentioned actions and any other actions that may arise along in the way for the promotion and implementation of the National Strategy.

### **1.3 Cyprus Sports Organisation**

The Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO), as the Higher Sports Authority in Cyprus, provides services through its National Schemes, to sports federations, sports clubs and citizens, aiming to promote extra-curricular physical education and healthy living as well as all sports in Cyprus. Some 16,800 children, boys and girls, participate in these schemes, either at the level of mass sports (4-18 years - "Sport for All" Programme with of total of 8,200 minors), or at the level of competitive sports (12 to 18 years; "National Sport Development Support Scheme "and the "Talent Scheme" with a total of 8,600 minors).

Clearly, the inclusion of the CSO in the National Strategy for the protection of children from sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and child pornography is not only deemed necessary, but is of added importance as various studies show that, unfortunately, there are cases of sexual violence in sport, both at European and global level.

Undoubtedly, Sport is a means of intrapersonal and interpersonal development and empowerment for children and young people. As a result, any form of experiences in this field, acquire particularly positive and / or negative connotations, especially if these have to do with emotional, physical and sexual violence and / or harassment, which can undoubtedly play a key role in the proper psycho-physical development of children and can sometimes even lead to long-term unpleasant consequences for the victims.

The CSO has indicated its willingness to be included in the NS and in particular has undertaken to do the following:

#

ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIME	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
<p>To prepare a manual that will be distributed to employees and those supervised by the Cyprus Sports Organisation on identifying incidents of abuse and exploitation, identifying children who are likely to be at increased risk of suffering some form of sexual abuse and exploitation and the procedure of tackling these incidents</p>	<p>2016- 17</p>	<p>Cyprus Sports Organisation "Voice"</p>
<p>To cooperate with the "Voice" for the design and promotion of programmes / training seminars for adults dealing with children through the sports, focusing on coaches who usually have a more close relationship with the children</p>	<p>2016-2019</p>	<p>Cyprus Sports Organisation "Voice"</p>
<p>To send an information circular to the Sports Federations on their legal obligations, for example, on the need for federal and association coaches to produce a clear criminal record certificate in respect of sexual offences against children and the obligation of any person concerned to report to the competent authorities when he has been informed, or was a witness in an incident of causing 'harm' to a child</p>	<p>2016</p>	<p>Cyprus Sports Organisation</p>

## 1.4 Health Professionals

Health professionals and personnel working in places where medical services are provided often play a key role in detecting the abuse.

Professionals in the health sector could play an even bigger role in the prevention of sexual abuse. Furthermore, paediatricians could be described as an "untapped mine" for the education of children and their parents on a range of issues, such as how to talk about sexual issues, provide guidance in handling sexual behaviour among young people, encourage parents to provide guidance for the personal security of their children, but also to enhance parents' awareness about situations that may increase the risk of abuse of their children. It is also accepted that young people are usually more willing to discuss "sensitive" sexual issues with health professionals with whom they are associated.

Many professionals do an excellent job in keeping children safe. Nevertheless, there are many who can benefit even more by getting additional and more specialised knowledge as to how to address the issue of child sexual abuse. Therefore, relevant education, information and specialisation programmes should be made available to them.

The programmes for professionals should aim:

to improve the understanding of the nature and dynamics of child sexual abuse, including prevention.

to include in their education the early spotting of indications and symptoms for those running the highest risk and / or those who have already experienced some form of abuse.

to cover a wide range of information on what to do if there is a suspicion that sexual abuse of a child may be committed and / or has already been committed.

to ensure the efficient cooperation of multiple stakeholders and the exchange of information.

The Cyprus Medical Association, the Cyprus Paediatric Association, the Child Psychiatrists Society and the Psychologists Society have already been informed about the NS and have expressed their willingness to contribute to the proper design and implementation of actions.

Furthermore, the above scientific societies / associations have expressed their willingness to undertake the following actions in cooperation with the Ministry of Health:

### **ACTIONS**

### **IMPLEMENTATION TIME**

### **IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Creation of a new protocol for the examination of children for which there is suspicion of	2016	Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies

abuse and its implementation in public hospitals		Ministry of Health
Preparation of a new manual for identifying and handling incidents and for the skills required to identify factors that make some children vulnerable to become victims	2016	Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies Ministry of Health
Distribution of the new manual to health professionals	2016-2017	Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies Ministry of Health
Cooperation with the "voice" in order to conduct information meetings and specialisation and training seminars for health professionals.	2016-2019	Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies Ministry of Health "Voice"
Mandatory participation of health professionals who are employed by the Ministry of Health in the training and specialisation seminars, depending on the capacity of each health professional.	2016-2019	Ministry of Health
Participation in the programmes of recording incidents (analysed below in Section E)	2016-2019	Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies Ministry of Health
Designating the person responsible for its implementation and participation in the programme of recording incidents	2016-2019	Ministry of Health

### 1.5 Municipalities and Communities

The participation of the municipalities / local and regional authorities is also vital for achieving the goal of prevention.

Many Municipalities and Local Authorities operate sites for children activities and / or child care, outside school hours, through camps, provision of afternoon care, operating summer schools etc.

Moreover, municipalities are also deemed to be among the most direct means of communication between citizens and the administration. Consequently, the municipalities usually have immediate and frequent access to both parents and professionals.

The Union of Municipalities has also expressed its willingness to participate in the National Strategy and to this end has set up a four-member committee for making contacts with the "Voice" for the design of appropriate actions.

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Recording programmes which municipalities operate for children activities / entertainment / child care	2016	Union of Municipalities
Cooperating with the "Voice" for the conduct of meetings and seminars for parents and professionals	2016-2019	Union of Municipalities Municipalities "Voice"
Sending an information circular to municipalities concerning their legal obligations, for example, on the need to require a clear criminal record certificate for sexual offences against children from persons employed in programmes involving children and the obligation of any person concerned to report to the competent authorities, when he has been informed, or when he finds or witnesses 'harm' done to a child.	2016	Union of Municipalities

Study for the adoption of a proposal made by the Nicosia Municipality to establish a Partnership Programme for Prevention and Awareness- raising on the subject of Sexual abuse of children	2016	Union of Municipalities Nicosia Municipality
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In the context of the implementation of the NS, the “Voice” will undertake also to promote the cooperation and the design of actions with the Union of Cyprus Communities.

### **1.6 Perpetrators-suspects-persons at risk of committing the offence**

According to studies, people who have committed an act of paedophilia are more likely to repeat the offence, if given the chance. Therefore, it is the duty of the state to take action for crime prevention or programmes for the provision of help to and treatment of wrongdoers both during their imprisonment and after their release.

The Law has already provided for the establishment by the Cyprus Police of an Archive of Persons convicted of sex offences against children, which records all those who have already been convicted of such offences in the past under any legislation. Additionally, the Law requires that anyone who intends to employ a person for professional or organised activities or voluntary activities that include regular contacts with children shall not proceed to his employment, unless this person presents a certificate of non-inclusion in this special archive.

Moreover relevant data show that there are adults who, despite having such tendencies, have not yet committed a paedophile act. However, it would have been too late if they were not given, in advance, the required support to prevent the commission of the offence.

The Law has already established the Supervisory Authority for Convicted Persons, to which all those convicted of sexual offences against children are referred by the Court on their release. The supervision includes, inter alia, restrictions on the work and stay of the convicted person and the provision of psychological support, treatment and evaluation of convicted persons as to the likelihood of repeating the offence.

Also, the Law provides that the state has the responsibility / or obligation to provide psychological and / or psychiatric treatment to convicted persons, while they serve their sentence in the central prisons, as well as to crime suspects who have requested this, and to any other person who may apply asking for help in order to refrain from committing such offences.

Although the Supervisory Authority has been established and has been operating since 2014, there are problems in the performance of its functions, but also in carrying out effective supervision of persons who have been referred to it. The main difficulties relate to the lack of human resources with expertise in monitoring and evaluating the convicted persons and to the absence, so far, of the necessary psychological treatment programmes.

The competent departments and agencies will undertake the following actions

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Design of a specialisation and training programme for officers of the Mental Health Services and	2016	Ministry of Health

<p>coroners, who deal with suspects and perpetrators of offences of sexual abuse who were released from prison.</p> <p>The relevant programme will be implemented for the first time in the first half of 2016, with fifteen participants.</p> <p>Priority will be given to psychologists, employed permanently in the prisons</p>		
<p>Repetition of the specialisation and training programme or a similar programme twice a year. In these programmes one third of the places will be available for the participation of health professionals (doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists) from the private sector on payment of a fee.</p>	2017-2019	<p>Ministry of Health Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies</p>
<p>Study of the establishment of a support line with the aim to become operational as from 2017. This line will provide support to people who realise that they have a tendency to commit a sexual offence, so that, where possible, every effort would be made to halt such acts.</p>	2017-2019	Ministry of Health
<p>Informing all the staff of the Ministry of Health dealing in recruitment or outsourcing on the need for the production, in addition to a clear criminal record certificate, of a relevant certificate that the candidate for employment "is not included in the Special Archive of Persons convicted of sex offences</p>	2016	Ministry of Health

against children.		
Sending an information circular to Municipalities on the legal obligation for the production of a clear criminal record certificate concerning sexual offences against children, by persons who are employed in programmes involving children.	2016	Union of Municipalities
Sending an information circular to Sports Federations on the legal obligation for the production of a clear criminal record certificate concerning sexual offences against children, by federal and club coaches and/or others	2016	Cyprus Sports Organisation
Sending an information circular to voluntary or charitable organisations on the legal obligation for the production of a clear criminal record certificate concerning sexual offences against children, by persons employed in programmes involving children	2016	Volunteerism Commissioner

The involvement of health professionals also of the private sector is expected to result in the spread of expertise and specialisation to a wider range of civil society. In addition, the specialisation of private sector professionals would be expected to provide additional solutions and options to the Supervisory Authority for Convicted Persons for the more effective supervision of persons referred to it.

Also, the extension of specialisation to the private sector will provide options to people who may have the tendency to commit the relevant offence but, for various reasons, do not want to turn to public hospitals for support.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order has undertaken to carry out a study on the possibility of cooperation with the Parole Board and the Social Welfare Services in order to educate the staff of these bodies for better and more efficient performance of their duties as regards the supervision of persons released from prison.

## **1.7 Interventions by bystanders**

Everyone must play an important role in the prevention of sexual abuse of children. Many times, people are directly or indirectly confronted with the sexual abuse of children but do not react, either due to ignorance or fear. These persons are called the “bystanders” and may come from every spectrum of society.

Most of these "bystanders" are not aware of the consequences of their inaction, which may have a tragic impact on the life of the victim. It could also be said that this inertia may result in encouraging offenders to continue their actions.

As the "bystanders" come from every walk of life, actions in regard to this matter, should focus on informing society on the following:

that everyone has a substantial role to play in the prevention of sexual violence,  
the provision of information about the extent of sexual violence towards children,  
the skills on how one can intervene in situations that could lead to sexual violence,  
where they can seek advice and support in the handling such situations  
internet security  
skills to make informed choices as to how to report sexual abuse or exploitation of a  
minor.

### 1.7.1 Information and Awareness Campaign

Therefore, it appears that the most effective way to approach "bystanders" is through a broad information and awareness-raising campaign.

Additionally, we know that there is a rich 'pool' of knowledge and skills in NGOs, voluntary and charitable organisations in terms of primary prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. However, these organisations often do not have the capacity for the broad dissemination of this information to those who could benefit from it. It is also observed that in many cases there is no optimal cooperation and exchange of information and expertise between them.

Consequently the NS shall include the following actions:

ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIME	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
Design of a campaign which will be addressed to every member of the society and will be promoted through the internet and other Communications media (e.g. television and print media, and social networking media).	2016	"Voice"
Creating suitable material (printed or other) which will be targeted at different age groups and distributed to the public.	2016 - 2019	"Voice"
Preparation of an informative and orientation manual in connection with the identification of possible cases of sexual abuse and exploitation and the proper handling of these.	2016	Office of the Volunteerism Commissioner Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) "Voice"
Coordination of NGOs for the education and activation of volunteers to intervene in the wider community (community centres, places of entertainment, etc.) for the purpose of informing and awareness raising about sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children	2016-2019	Office of the Volunteerism Commissioner PVCC "Voice"
Coordination of NGOs for more effective cooperation and exchange of information among them	2016	Office of the Volunteerism Commissioner PVCC "Voice"

Sending a circular to all NGOs and charitable organisations, dealing with the care of children or with children activities on their legal obligations under the law	2016	Office of the Volunteerism Commissioner PVCC "Voice
Participation of NGOs and charitable organisations in the incident recording system (as analysed below in Section E)	2016	Office of Volunteerism Commissioner PVCC "Voice

### **1.7.2 Internet Security - Informing Children and Parents / Guardians**

As reported, child pornography offences, including inviting children through Internet to participate in the production of child pornography and child pornographic performances, have shown a dramatic increase. Therefore, it is evident that there is an urgent need to address this phenomenon.

Dangers are not limited to unprovoked approaches and to exposure to inappropriate online material for the age of the child who is exposed to it, but also to the projection of opinions and attitudes concerning interpersonal relations, which do not promote the development of healthy relationships. It has already been mentioned in Section B.2.1.1 above that frequent exposure to pornographic material has been associated with causing violence.

For the prevention of offences of a sexual nature against children through the Internet, it is extremely important that these actions target children, their parents / guardians, and their abusers or potential abusers.

Children should be educated from an early age on various subjects, such as the safe use of the Internet and the respect of the rights of others. This means that children need to learn about the consequences of the negative actions on the Internet, such as harassment and the display of their photos without their consent.

A survey carried out in Cyprus for the year 2013 has shown that in terms of exposure to sexual content one quarter (24%) of children aged 9-16 were exposed to online sexual images in the past 12 months. When this percentage is analysed further by age, the findings show that 13% of children aged 9-10 years will be exposed to online sexual content and this percentage will increase to 39% for children aged 15-16 years.

Moreover, the same survey shows that 13% of the children surveyed had direct contact with someone, whom they did not know and had never met, while 6% of the surveyed children had gone to a meeting with someone with whom they got acquainted through the internet.

Provided of course that the education of children shall be balanced, so that children and young people, while still having access to the internet and exploiting its positive aspects, at the same time will develop appropriate defences against the potential risks it entails.

Parents or guardians should also continue to monitor the Internet use of their children and to insist on informing / educating children about online safety and correct online behaviour. In addition, due to the fact that most parents / guardians did not have not similar experiences in their own childhood, it becomes necessary to train them so that they can support and further enhance the information which children will receive from the school.

Informing parents / guardians should also include the supply of detailed information in respect of the dangers and the various safeguards which they can implement, depending on the age of children.

Consequently, the NS shall include the following actions

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Developing awareness-raising actions aimed at children on the topic of safe use of the Internet and mandatory inclusion of these actions in the annual school planning.	Every school year starting from September 2016	Pedagogical Institute Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations CYTA
Including in the curricula and particularly in IT lessons, the teaching of skills for the safe use of the Internet.	Every school year starting from September 2016	Pedagogical Institute Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations CYTA
Developing actions aimed at parents Utilising the Network Against Violence, which is coordinated by the Observatory Against Violence in the School of the MOEC, in planning at least one annual action for parents on the issue of online safety	Every school year starting from September 2016	Observatory Against Violence in the School and Non-Governmental governmental Organisations CYTA

The Cyprus Telecommunications Authority has approved to offer the following actions.

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Giving at least one lecture annually to children on online safety in each school and each grade	Every school year starting from September 2016	MOEC CYTA
Organising by school units or school boards of lectures for parents or educationists on the safe use of internet for children	Every school year starting from September 2016	MOEC CYTA School Boards

Promoting in cooperation with the "Voice" the relevant lectures either by the CYTA, or NGOs which receive education by Cyta	2016-2019	CYTA NGOs "Voice"
Access to CYTA programmes on Parental Control of Internet in the House from the website of the National Strategy Implementation Committee	2016-2019	CYTA NGOs "Voice"

### **Internet Safety - Child pornography**

As is the law stands today, a condition for a paedophile to be brought to justice, is for the child to fall victim on the internet, before the Police and the criminal justice system can intervene, because a key component of the commission of the crime is to approach the minor. Based on proposed amendment to the Law, the Police could now act preventively, even using fake profiles or "avatars" on the internet, in order to identify paedophiles, as anyone who makes an approach through the Internet or other media, to a child or person who believes that is child, with a view to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, can be charged, since such action shall be considered a criminal act.

At the suggestion of the Cyprus Police the following actions are also promoted:

#### **ACTIONS**

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **IMPLEMENTING**

#### **TIME**

#### **AGENCY**

	<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>
Amendment of section 9 of the Law by adding the phrase "a child or person he believes to be a child "	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Law Office of the Republic
Amendment of section 33 of the Law so as to give more time to remove the suspect from his house in order to protect children who also reside there when a case of possession of child pornography is investigated	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Law Office of the Republic

Cooperation Protocol between the non-governmental organisation «Hope for Children UNCRC Police Center »with the Cyber Crime Office for the creation of a website where anonymous reports can be made for the tracking of child pornography	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Hope for Children
Cooperation of Hope for Children with the Belgian organisation Child Focus for providing free internet access to all in respect of the application «StopChildPorno Filter» which has the ability to automatically detect and remove from the internet sexual abuse imagery of children, while the user is browsing.	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Hope for Children

The necessity and usefulness of the above-mentioned amendment to the Law is documented also by a recent programme carried out by the French non-governmental organisation "Terre des Hommes" the well-known programme called «Sweetie». In a period of one month in which the programmes ran, it identified 1,000 persons who approached an "avatar" of a child for an invitation to participate in child pornography.

One finding of the programme was that a large number of those who are looking for child pornography on the internet are likely to do it out of curiosity and / or occasionally without ever displaying any other harmful behaviour and only one in four of them is expected to proceed to an act of paedophilia in the future.

Inevitably, any strategy designed to fight child pornography should target at those three of the four possible "clients" and stop them before anything happens "out of curiosity " or from the occasional online surfing. Therefore, the only effective way to address the phenomenon of child pornography on the internet is to combat demand for it.

Child pornography can be described as a final outcome of child trafficking and sexual abuse and exploitation. Child pornography cannot be created unless a child becomes a victim of sexual abuse and exploitation. Demand can only be fought when the ultimate "user" of child pornography and especially the "curious" or "occasional user",

as is mentioned above, realises that what he watches is the result of abuse and exploitation of a child.

Therefore, an important way to combat the demand for child pornography is to inform the society about this very fact exactly.

The NS will include the following action:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Campaign to inform the public " on the effects of child pornography on children victims (trafficking, abuse and exploitation of children)	2016-2019	"Voice

#### **1.7.4 Internet Security - Mass Media**

A big factor in boosting demand for child pornography is presenting to society false images of children. Specifically, the mass media, though unwittingly, promote images of children which do not correspond to their age or are sexualising their appearance in information and / or entertainment programmes to an extent appropriate for adults only.

Additionally, a lot of such inappropriate images of children, which promote misperceptions as to their facing, appear in commercial advertisements.

Inevitably, the sexualisation of children leads to conscious or subconscious impression that children can be considered sexual objects.

Therefore, it is necessary to eliminate these images, photos and / or messages. Consequently the NS shall include the following actions:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Development or creation of a new Code of Conduct for the media with information on the proper presentation of images of children	2016	"Voice"
Cooperation with the Cyprus Radio Television Authority, the Cyprus Media Complaints Commission, the Cyprus Publishers Association and the Electronic Media	2016	"Voice" Cyprus Radio Television Authority, Cyprus Media Complaints Committee, Cyprus Publishers

Association for the adoption and implementation of the new Code of Conduct		Association, the Electronic Media Association
Cooperation with the Cyprus Radio Television Authority, the Cyprus Media Complaints Commission, the Cyprus Publishers' Association and the Electronic Media Association on the training and information of journalists and for raising their awareness concerning the way children are presented in the media.	2016-2019	"Voice" Cyprus Radio Television Authority, Cyprus Media Complaints Commission, Cyprus Publishers Association, the Electronic Media Association
Designating "ambassadors" from the mass media to promote the campaign to the public	2016-2019	"Voice" Cyprus Publishers Association, Electronic Media Association
Cooperation with the Media Control Agency for the preparation of a new code of conduct on the presentation of children in commercials	2016	"Voice" Media Control Agency

### **III. SECOND PILLAR - SECONDARY PREVENTION**

#### **1.1 Goal of Secondary Prevention**

The aim of secondary prevention is the immediate and timely response to the initial problems before they get worse.

Secondary prevention aims to identify among the general population, those vulnerable groups, families or individuals who are more likely to develop dangerous behaviours ("high risk") relating to child abuse. These groups have one or more "risk factors", which, as empirical studies show, are more likely to predispose to abuse-neglect.

Of course in no way secondary prevention should be interpreted as a way of characterising a parent or a family as a "risk for abuse" but as "a high priority for assistance" through the indicated services. The provision of early support to these groups can significantly prevent most forms of child abuse. The goal is to identify them, in order to give them as much as possible early support so as not exhibit any tendency to abuse.

The actions for secondary prevention are directed to redesigning the structure of some services so that they may focus on early intervention, including the development of family support nodes at all levels relating, for example, to health and social care issues.

##### **1.1.1 Guidance Manuals**

Among the above-mentioned actions in relation to primary prevention, already some actions have been identified which would also act as secondary prevention activities. These are the manuals which will be created and which will provide guidance in identifying children who, for various reasons, face an increased risk of becoming victims.

As part of the NS and in cooperation with the "Voice" the following bodies will create and distribute the relevant manuals:

- (A) Ministry of Education and Culture for educationists
- (B) Ministry of Education and Culture for parents / guardians
- (C) Cyprus Sports Organisation
- (D) Union of Municipalities
- (E) Office of the Volunteerism Commissioner
- (F) Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordinative Council
- (H) Cyprus Medical Association and Societies

### 1.1.2 Education of Professionals

Professionals who have frequent contact with children and vulnerable social groups, families or individuals, which may be deemed to be "high risk" for abusing children should be educated so as to:

(a) Be able to identify vulnerable families and / or high risk individuals and / or notice the risk factors

(b) know how to behave and what procedures to follow when they identify vulnerable groups and / or "high risk" individuals.

The professionals targeted by the actions of secondary prevention are the teachers, the health professionals and the officers of the Social Welfare Services(SWS)

Consequently, the NS shall include the following actions:

ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION	IMPLEMENTING
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	TIME	AGENCY
Designing a scientific special tool for the application of criteria and indicators for identifying families or individuals already under supervision of the the SWS, which can be defined as "high risk" groups (See. Section E below CAN tool (MDS)	2016-17	Social Welfare Services "Voice"
Designing and promoting on an island-wide basis a specialised scientific intervention programme for high risk families aiming at strengthening the ties and relations between family members (parenting skills)	2016-2019	Social Welfare Services "Voice"
Specialised group training of SWS officers to recognise and identify vulnerable groups with a high risk of abuse-neglect and sexual violation of children	2016-19	Social Welfare Services Voice"
Supporting young couples so that they can cope with the everyday stress of raising a child.	2016-19	Social Welfare Services

Continuing and expanding the existing visits' programmes by professionals to young mothers and mothers of new-born babies	2016-19	Ministry of Health
Specialised training of health professionals to recognise and identify vulnerable groups running a high risk for abuse-neglect and sexual violation of children	2016-19	Ministry of Health Cyprus Medical Association Medical Societies "Voice"
Specialised group training of educationists and / or educational psychologists to recognise and identify vulnerable groups running a high risk for abuse-neglect and sexual violation of children	2016-19	Ministry of Education and Culture "Voice"
Specialised training of police officers and especially neighbourhood policemen to recognise and identify vulnerable groups running a high risk for abuse-neglect and sexual violation of children		Ministry of Justice and Public Order "Voice"

### 1.1.3 Coordination of Services

In addition to the above-mentioned information and training / specialisation in identifying potential victims, secondary prevention is directed mainly to "redesigning" the competent services, which are the main recipients of such reports in order to focus on early intervention, including development of family support nodes in all health related issues and social care.

The department responsible for the coordination of these actions / interventions will be the Social Welfare Services.

This coordination will include the following actions:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Designating the liaison person / persons between the Social Welfare Services and other services	2016	Social Welfare Services
Creating the report form for the identification of 'high risk' individuals or families	2016	Social Welfare Services
Creating the tool for recording and analysing reports identifying 'high risk' individuals or families and the proposed interventions (See. CAN tool (MDS) in Section E below )	2016-17	Social Welfare Services "Voice"
Distributing the report form to specialised educationists and educational psychologists	2017-2019	Ministry of Education and Culture
Distributing the report form to specialised police officers	2017-2019	Ministry of Justice and Public Order
Distributing the report form to specialised health professionals	2017-2019	Cyprus Medical Association

## **D. THIRD PILLAR - TERTIARY PREVENTION (INCIDENT RESPONSE)**

### **Primary Prevention Objective**

Tertiary prevention aims to remedy the problem when abuse has already occurred and includes interventions to reduce the negative consequences of this incident and especially the re-victimisation of the victim.

The aim is to prevent further harm to the victim.

In the short term tertiary prevention includes all measures for the protection of the child, such as the legal intervention in order to ensure his safety, the care of the child and the support of his family as a whole. This is where a multidisciplinary response has beneficial effects.

In the long term, tertiary prevention includes addressing the long-term effects of victimisation (e.g. by providing continuous support to the victims) until their final rehabilitation according to their individual needs and best interests.

In addition, tertiary prevention involves tackling the perpetrator by providing specialised treatment and management to minimise the chance of recurrence. (See Section B above).

Tertiary prevention should include measures to help victims reveal any abuse so to ensure their access to services that can help them face the abuse they have suffered.

The competent authorities must have in place procedures for the support of possible victims, as well as procedures and services for the rehabilitation of victims.

### **1.2 Existing Procedures**

In any procedure, i.e. from the start of a report or complaint until the judicial procedure, the child / victim will come into contact with at least five different services that are represented by at least one person and sometimes more than one.

#### **1.2.1 Example of a procedure:**

If the report is made to the Social Welfare Services, the following procedure will be activated: the officer who received the report will notify the head of the office, through the coordinator. The head of the office will give instructions to the coordinator so that the officer or the coordinator or a second officer visit the house of the victim. After the visit, the officer will inform the coordinator and the coordinator will then refer the handling of the case to another officer.

At the same time the criminal case may be investigated by the competent CID and in exceptional cases by the Police Headquarters CID and specially trained officers to investigate. A qualified police officer will take the video recorded statement which is

provided for in the Law. The video recorded statement will be preceded by an oral interview of the victim and his close relatives. If there is need for victim protection orders, the Law Office will be involved. Usually, the Law Office is not involved at this stage, but only if and when an indictment is filed at the competent Court. During the preparation of the case before the hearing, the competent counsel of the Republic will contact all the above and the victim in order to prepare the testimony in the case.

The victim, depending on his condition, will be transferred to a medical centre with a police escort and the officer of the Social Welfare Services. If the child needs immediate treatment, this is something to be decided by the competent doctors and then the coroner will examine the victim in the presence a paediatric surgeon in order to detect the sexual abuse.

The Mental Health Services are involved only after written referral from police and after a video recorded statement has been taken and after the victim is examined by a coroner.

### **1.2.2 Observations**

Under the existing procedure at least 8-9 people are involved and this happens only if the same persons are always involved and excluding any other persons who may be present, e.g. more than one policemen or assistants, nurses, etc., something which does not happen in most of the cases.

The victim will tell his story at least 6 times, without counting the first persons to whom the child has already talked, such as a parent or person of trust or a teacher.

In schools, the procedure so far envisaged that a child who revealed his abuse had to repeat his story to the school headmaster, to the educational psychologist, and sometimes even to the competent school inspector.

The competent services themselves mentioned the following as the main problems they are facing:

- Lack of coordination and structures for joint management by the relevant services
- Lack of a communications mechanism between ministries and services
- Lack of training / specialisation of the officers involved
- Inability to monitor the incident
- Lack of a multidisciplinary approach
- Inadequate staffing,
- Lack of specially designated areas for the reception, hospitality and handling of children, except the areas for taking the video recorded statement.

### **1.3 Children's House**

While there are various models of dealing with these incidents all over the world, it has become apparent that there is a common conclusion as to the most appropriate way to respond to incidents, and that is through the cooperation of all services and the creation of multidisciplinary teams. Also a common component of all models is that there is a need for specialisation in these specific matters either for interview purposes or investigation or the provision of support and treatment.

The Council of Ministers, recognising the above mentioned problems and on the recommendation of the Inter-ministerial Committee has already taken decision dated. .../2015 for the creation and operation of the Children's House.

## **CHILDREN'S HOUSE**

- The House will be the place where the child will be immediately transferred for the further investigation of the incident.
- The referral will be made only by the Police or the Social Welfare Services when the examination of the complaint begins.
- The House will be staffed by a director / coordinator, two social welfare officers, two clinical psychologists and the person who will take the video-taped statement. All the staff will have specific and continuing training and specialisation.
- The House will have rooms for reception, treatment, taking video recorded statements, a clinic and offices.
- The staff will be permanently employed in the House. The House opening hours will be 9 am- 5pm, but these hours will be extended if this is deemed necessary.
- The video recorded statement will be taken by a specialised police officer who has received special training for this purpose and will be monitored through video media by the multidisciplinary team made up of the officers mentioned above.
- The first stage of incident response will concern the evaluation of the child, his family, his condition, the need to support him and his family as well as the evaluation of his story for the purpose of bringing the case to the courts.
- In cases where it is not necessary to carry out the forensic examination of the child to gather evidence (if the incident has occurred usually within 72 hours) then a medical, non-invasive examination by a paediatrician will be held in the House.

There will be no permanent employment of medical personnel, but a list of specialised paediatricians from the private sector will be prepared in collaboration with the Cyprus Medical Association, who will carry out the examination by appointment.

- If the child is accompanied by an innocent family member or other children, such as brothers, group support to all of them will be provided in the House. Additionally, the Police will be able to conduct in the House the necessary interviews with these witnesses, if this is deemed feasible.
- The House will offer also the second response phase of the incident, which concerns the support and treatment of the child and his family until they overcome the first trauma. This step includes the preparation of the child for the hearing.
- If and when it is deemed that the child has overcome the first trauma, then where necessary the child will be referred accordingly to other people for further support.
- During the evaluation and support of the child, the multidisciplinary group shall communicate with the environment of the child, such as the school he attends.

The House and mainly the welfare workers will undertake this information and coordination with the child's environment.

The Social Welfare Services will conclude an agreement with another organisation (NGO) for the management of the House and the employment of the necessary staff (of course ensuring the legal and moral necessity of confidentiality through a special agreement).

- All staff at the House will be subject to regular external evaluation and support as it is generally acknowledged that the permanent preoccupation with these issues is an extremely soul-destroying procedure.
- The Coordinator will be the person responsible for the House, with the authorisation of the Social Welfare Services, for operation of the CAN (MDS) incident recording system (See. Section E ).
- The building to host the Children’s House has been found due to the kind contribution of the “Union- Greek Ladies’ Association”. Furthermore, the Union has undertaken to proceed with the renovation of the building at a cost of € 300.000 before its handed over for use by the State.
- Moreover, the State has been in contact with Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson, General Director, Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland, and Chairman of the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe to study the collaboration between the two States on child protection issues. Mr. Gudbradsson, has accepted the request of Government for him and his team, who operate a similar Children’s House in Iceland, to offer consultative services and expertise.

#### **1.4 Law Enforcement Services and Judicial System**

The prerequisite for the effective functioning of the House and the successful investigation and prosecution of offences is the contribution of the law enforcement authorities and the judicial system.

Therefore, the Ministry of Justice and Public Order shall undertake the following actions:

<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION TIME</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING AGENCY</b>
Specialising a specific team of police officers to take video recorded statements. This team shall not be made up of more than four persons in order to ensure continued training and acquiring experience in their participation in the multi-thematic team which will	2016-19	Ministry of Justice and Public Order

operate the Children's House		
Specialising officers in every District CID to investigate offences of sexual violence against children	2016-19	Ministry of Justice and Public Order
Awareness raising in issues of sexual violence against children and familiarising police officers of all grades and Police Prosecutors with the legal framework and the incident handling procedures by strengthening the teaching of the subject in pre-service and intra-service training	2016-19	Ministry of Justice and Public Order
The possibility will be studied, in Agreement with the Supreme Court, so that the special interview room is used also as the place where the child shall go during the cross- examination hearing. As today the child is not in the Court room, there is no reason to be in a nearby room, if the child can be in a specially designed environment, provided that the area where the child will be, will be under the control of the Court.	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Supreme Court
Study in cooperation with Supreme Court the issuing of instructions to the District Courts and the Assizes Courts to give priority to the hearing of cases of sexual violence against children	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Supreme Court
Study in cooperation with Supreme Court the issuing of instructions and/or amending the Criminal Procedure Law in connection with the cross examination of children - witnesses	2016	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Supreme Court
Mandatory training and education of judges of all grades in carrying out hearings in connection with crimes of a sexual nature against children	2016-19	Ministry of Justice and Public Order Supreme Court
Mandatory training and education of counsels of the Republic in the handling of cases	2016-19	Ministry of Justice and Law Office of the Republic

of offences of sexual nature against children		
Training and education of lawyers in the handling of cases in connection with crimes of a sexual nature against children	2016-19	Cyprus Bar Association District Bar Associations "Voice"
Drawing up a list of lawyers who will be willing to offer advice to victims and their families	2016-19	Cyprus Bar Association District Bar Associations "Voice"
Training and education of the mass media on the proper reporting of news relating to revelations about the sexual offences of abuse and exploitation of children and giving guidance on good reporting in the Codes of Conduct or operation of all the mass media	2016-19	"Voice" Cyprus Radio Television Authority, Cyprus Media Complaints Commission, Cyprus Publishers Association Electronic Media Association

It should be noted that in the framework of cooperation with the CYTA and its willingness to contribute actively to the NS, Cyacom has examined and approved the development of a VideoConference System worth € 15.310 that will allow the connection of the Children's House with the competent courts for the purpose of cross-examination of children victims / witnesses.

## 11.5 Reporting / complaint procedures to prosecution authorities

In order to activate the incident investigation procedure by the multi-disciplinary group in the Children's House it is necessary to establish procedures in the first incident detection point so as to avoid any re-victimisation of the child or influencing the testimony of the case. Such first reference points are the schools, the Social Welfare Services and other places frequented by children, or where care is provided to children, which have been mentioned in Section B above.

The preparation of a circular on the procedures for reporting and handling incidents to be sent to the Cyprus Sports Organisation, municipalities, charitable or non-governmental organisations has been mentioned in Section B above.

The NS shall include the following actions:

ACTIONS	IMPLEMENTATION TIME	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY
<p>Preparing a Circular which will inform the teaching staff of all Public or Private Schools of Primary (Kindergarten, Primary, Special School) Education, General Secondary and Secondary Technical and Vocational Education on the obligation, under the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography Law (91 (I) / 2014), to identify incidents and make a relevant complaint to the competent authorities, in cases where there is reasonable suspicion that children are subject to sexual abuse and / or exploitation.</p> <p>Formulating procedures for reporting incidents of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>Clear Action Protocol prepared following MOEC consultations with various authorities.</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>Making a relevant mention every school year in the initial circular and amending the circular where necessary before the beginning of every schoolyear</p>	<p>All Departments and Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture</p> <p>Department of Primary Education</p> <p>Department of Secondary Education</p> <p>Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education</p> <p>Pedagogical Institute</p> <p>Educational Psychology Service</p> <p>Career Counselling and Educational Services</p>
<p>Preparing a Circular that will inform the Social Welfare Services staff on the procedures for reporting and handling incidents of child sexual abuse</p>		

<p>Implementing a pilot programme of securing the services of 7 specialised persons from the private sector as Family Counsellors so as to act as advisors or representatives of the victims and their families in cases of sexual abuse or exploitation of children or as otherwise specified by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (On condition that the pilot Programmes is positively evaluated)</p>	<p>2016-17</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance “Voice”</p>
<p>Expanding the programme of securing the services of specialised persons from the private sector as Family Counsellors so as to act as advisors or representatives of the victims and their families in cases of sexual abuse or exploitation of children or as otherwise specified by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare (On condition that the pilot Programme is positively evaluated)</p>		<p>Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance “Voice”</p>

## **E. FOURTH PILLAR - RESEARCH**

### **1.1 The importance of research in prevention policy**

In-depth research will contribute to understanding the scope of the problem and the motives of perpetrators as well reveal the various methods of committing such offences. Promoting the use of existing research and conducting new research will guide the practice of prevention and will act as a catalyst for social understanding and change.

The collection of data is essential for planning procedures such as the prevention, identification, reporting, referral, investigation, treatment, judicial intervention, monitoring of cases and prevention of re-victimisation.

Aggregated data is needed to identify trends, measure the response to the problem and design policies. In this context, the development of tools that facilitate coordination and speed up cooperation among professionals is strengthened. The collection of adequate data is of vital importance to make the problem of violence against children visible, to understand the causes and to strengthen the protection of children against the risk. Such data is vital for supporting government policies, planning and budgeting of comprehensive and effective child protection services, but also in the evidence-based development of legislation, policies and procedures.

### **1.2 Incident Recording Tool CAN (MDS)**

The relevant UN study in 2006 recommended that governments recognise the critical importance of building powerful data collection systems and sufficient evidence for the prevention and treatment of violence against children and develop tools and monitoring indicators capable of collecting information on the exposure of children to violence.

The most effective way to promote research is the creation of a central archive of recording the incidents.

One such tool is the programmes "Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) through a "Minimum Data Set" which was created under the coordination of the Institute of Child Health- Greece- and was co-funded by the DAPHNE programmes of the European Commission. This programme was created to prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women.

This software is ready for immediate application with the introduction of specific parameters in relation to the Cyprus data and the assistance and help of the Scientific Manager of the CAN Programme, Dr. George Nicolaides, has been already secured.

The main features of CAN-MDS Epidemiological Surveillance System are summarised in the object of the epidemiological surveillance, which is recording the abuse-neglect of children on the basis of incidents and the basic principles of the philosophy and the procedures of the system.

The main benefits of the CAN-MDS Epidemiological Surveillance System are:

- the implementation of periodic measurements of the impact of child abuse-neglect based on the response of Services per case, overall, per sector, per service, per type of abuse and / or neglect, per child characteristic, per care-givers and per family environment
- monitoring the trends of the phenomenon including early identification of prevailing or new or emerging abuse-neglect models and / or identifying the high-risk populations nationally and by district
- monitoring indicators on the basis of the CAN-MDS data analyses to assess the needs of the services regarding the management of abuse-neglect cases (prioritisation on the basis of which available resources are allocated to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of abuse-neglect), the effectiveness of the prevention and intervention practices (recognition of non-effective and of best practices), the effectiveness of prevention policies and the management (guidance for the design of policies and / or improving the existing legislation) and description of practices for the handling of cases (for monitoring changes in case management practices and the effects of these changes).

Additionally, the CAN-MDS System aims to :

- serve as a channel of communication between professionals from different sectors involved in the management of children abuse-neglect cases
- be a ready-to-use-tool for reporting, investigating and evaluating (possible) new cases by certified authorities

- provide feedback for already known cases to authorised services and professionals and facilitate the monitoring of the progress and outcome of individual cases.

The programme is a decentralised system with which the various authorised professionals may be connected with centralised coordination by the competent authority. It is divided into different levels of access depending on the authorisation to be given to each participant.

The system can be used to record all forms of violence against children in the future, but the recommendation is for its pilot implementation in relation to the recording of incidents of sexual abuse of children with the participation of the competent first line services and partners handling the incidents, who have already expressed their willingness to participate in the national strategy and then to be extended accordingly.

The implementation and use of the programmes shall be coordinated by the Social Welfare Services, as the body which has the legal authority to maintain and manage sensitive data. Only authorised representatives of this service will be allowed to have full access and manage the data.

All other professionals (including NGOs and private health professionals) shall have different access levels (classified access levels) for the protection of personal data.

Every professional can be an operator, provided that he has been trained to follow the protocol and the guidelines (there are eligibility criteria).

In addition, the recommendation is for the central operation of the system to take place in the Children's House (Section D). The House lends itself for this purpose for the following reasons:

It will be under the control of the Social Welfare Services

It will be staffed by specially qualified permanent staff

All first line government services (Police, Social Welfare Services, Mental Health Services) which deal with incidents of sexual abuse of children shall be coordinated there.

### **1.3 Carrying out new scientific research**

The "Voice" in the context of the performance of its tasks may enter into partnerships with academic institutions or other organisations or bodies in Cyprus or abroad for the conduct of new scientific or epidemiological research on sexual abuse issues, exploitation of children and child pornography.



Designing the control and evaluation system for the implementation of all success indicators of the Health Education Programme with the involvement of children and young people themselves in the process of planning and evaluation of activities and programmes	2016	Ministry of Education and Culture "Voice"
Applying the control and evaluation system for the implementation of all success indicators of the Health Education Programmes	2017-2019	Ministry of Education and Culture
Designing the control and evaluation system for the implementation of the success indicators for the "Keep me Safe" programme	2016	Ministry of Education and Culture Cyprus Family Planning Association "Voice"
Applying the control and evaluation system for the implementation of the success indicators for the "Keep me Safe" programme	2017-2019	Ministry of Education and Culture Cyprus Family Planning Association "Voice"
Designing the control and evaluation system for the education programmes for educationists at all grades	2016	Ministry of Education and Culture Trade Unions "Voice"
Applying the control and evaluation system for the education programmes for educationists at all grades	2017-2019	Ministry of Education and Culture Trade Unions
Evaluation of specialisation and education programmes for health professionals	2016-2019	Ministry of Health "Voice"
Evaluation of public campaigns	2019	"Voice"

In addition to the programmes and forms of evaluation of the various actions as above, it is noted that the CAN (MDS) tool (see Section E above) lends itself for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the actions.

## **H. COOPERATION WITH ORGANISATIONS ABROAD**

The phenomenon of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography is a global phenomenon which is not limited by any geographical boundaries. As the Lanzarote Convention points out, international cooperation is an integral part of an effective strategy, taking into account that the problem is a global and complex phenomenon that cannot be tackled at national level only.

There is need for regional, international and multilateral approaches for the effective tackling of the phenomenon, for the promotion of legislative and other measures that are harmonised with the European and international policies and the development of cooperation with European bodies and international organisations as well as the adoption of best practices which have been already proven to be effective in other countries.

Therefore, in the context of the design and implementation of the NS, the following partnerships have already been achieved:

Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland  
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)  
Institute of Child Health, Department of Mental Health and Social Security, Greece

## **I. CREATION OF WEBSITE**

All the material mentioned in the NS actions (circulars, manuals, campaigns, etc.) will be available through a new website that will be created under the supervision of the "Voice".

It should be noted that in the framework of cooperation with CYTA and its willingness to contribute actively to the NS, Cytacom has approved to support the website that will be created for the promotion of the NS. Cytacom has also approved the creation of the website at a cost of

€ 5.300 and a yearly amount of € 1.080 for the maintenance of the site, plus an amount of € 1460 for other expenses associated with the website.

#### ABBREVIATIONS:

MLWSI: Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance

MJPO: Ministry of Justice and Public Order

MOH: Ministry of Health

MOEC: Ministry of Education and Culture

SWS: Social Welfare Services

CSO: Cyprus Sports Organisation

PPE: Department of Primary Education

DSE: Department of Secondary Education

DSTVE: Department of Secondary Technical and Vocational Education

IPE: Inspector of Primary Education

ISE: Inspector of Secondary Education

ITE: Inspector of Technical Education

PE: Pedagogical Institute

EPS: Educational Psychology Service

CCES: Career Counselling and Educational Services

CCHEC: Coordinating Committee for Health Education and Citizenship

IIG: Immediate Intervention Group

CCC: Coordinating Committee for Curricula

NGOs: Non-governmental Organisations

Cyta: Cyprus Telecommunications Authority

CFPA: Cyprus Family Planning Association

(Meadows et al, 2011)

"Strengthening national policy principles to eradicate sexual violence against children: A Council of Europe project which includes pilot initiatives in Cyprus "

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## NSPCC Report

We wish to express our thanks to the Ashley World Group advertising agency for their selfless contribution in devising and creating the name and slogan of "VOICE"

Published by: Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), Cologne, Germany

["http://www.bzga.de/home"](http://www.bzga.de/home)www.bzga.de/home

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