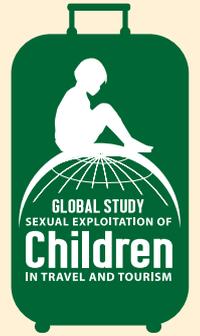


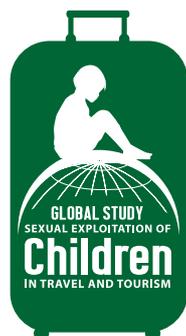
GLOBAL STUDY ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

REGIONAL REPORT

EUROPE

2016





SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

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MAY 2016

The regional report on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism Europe was conducted and written by Alessia Altamura and edited by Alison Raphael.

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ECPAT International
328/1 Phayathai Road
Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400
Thailand
Tel: +66 2 215 3388
Fax: +66 2 215 8272
Email: info@ecpat.net
Website: www.ecpat.net

Design by: QUO, Bangkok

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Netherlands



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FOREWORD

More children than ever are at risk of being sexually exploited by travellers and tourists and no country is immune. Since the early 1990s when evidence came to light that European nationals were sexually abusing and exploiting children in developing countries, sharp increases in travel and tourism have multiplied the opportunities and venues available to travelling child sex offenders worldwide.

Europe welcomed over half of the world's international tourists in 2014 with 588 million visitors, and is still the number one tourism destination in the world, especially for ever-increasing number of Chinese travellers which reached 109 million worldwide in 2014 compared to just 10 million in 2000.

The explosion of the internet and mobile technology has afforded perpetrators anonymity and hidden pathways to groom children and seduce them via social media and internet games. Likewise, new travel and tourism services like home-stays, voluntourism and the shareconomy have increased this anonymity and heightened children's vulnerability.

However, progress has been made since the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm in 1996. Twenty years later, world leaders from nearly every country in the world have approved global targets to end the sexual exploitation of children in the Sustainable Development Goals, which replace the Millennium Development Goals from 2016 onwards. The world has recognised that we cannot allow children to fall victim to this devastating experience, which has life-long consequences on their mental and physical well-being.

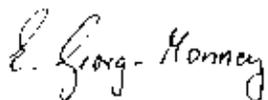
This report provides an updated picture of the environment in which SECTT persists in Europe and proposes a set of recommendations to improve government, non-government and private sector responses to prevent and combat this crime. As such, it will assist in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to children's right to live free from sexual exploitation.

After twenty five years of working on the issue, ECPAT cannot emphasise enough how important it is to join efforts and take advantage of multi-sector cooperation to fight this deplorable trend. This report is an open invitation to work with ECPAT and its partners and join the fight against sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism because together we can eliminate this crime and make childhood safe again.



Ms. Maia Rusakova

ECPAT Regional Representative for
Eastern Europe and Central Asia



Ms. Erika Georg-Monney

ECPAT Regional Representative
for Western Europe

ACRONYMS

APLE	Action Pour Les Enfants	LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Union
ACPE	Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants	MSE	major sport event
ACRO	Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Records Office	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CAM	Child Abuse Material	OHCHR	United Nations Human Rights Office of the Commissioner on Human Rights
CEFM	Child, Early and Forced Marriage	OPSC	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre	OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States	PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
CoE	Council of Europe	RAVEN	“Recording Europeans Abusing Victims in Every Nation” project
CPA	Child Protection Alliance	RSO	Registered Sex Offenders
CRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	SEC	Sexual Exploitation of children
CRIN	Child Rights International Network	SECTT	Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism
CSEC	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	SIS	Information and Security Service
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	TCSO	Travelling Child Sex Offender
CST	Child Sex Tourism	TIP	Trafficking in Persons
CYP	Child and Youth participation	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
EC	European Commission	UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee	UNMIK	UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
EIS	Europol Information System	UN Special Rapporteur	UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking
ETC	European Travel Commission	UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation
EU	European Union	VGT	Virtual Global Task Force
Eurojust	the EU Judicial Cooperation Unit	WHO	World Health Organisation
FAPMI	Federación de Asociaciones para la Prevención del Maltrato Infantil	YPP	Youth Partnership Program for Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation
GNCRC	Ghanaian NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child		
HAVEN	Halting Europeans Abusing Victims in every Nation		
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative		
ICAID	Interpol Child Abuse Image Database.		
ICSE DB	Interpol Child Sexual Exploitation image database		
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies		
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation		
JIT	Joint investigation team		
LCCs	Low-Cost Carriers		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT) is an intolerable and pressing issue that came into public debate in the early 1990s, when evidence that European nationals were sexually abusing and exploiting children in developing countries came to light. Almost 20 years after the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Europe is still both a sending and receiving region for travelling child sex offenders (TCSOs) in spite of abundant commitments and efforts. SECTT is one element of the larger phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), referring specifically to the sexual exploitation of children by domestic and international tourists and travellers and short- and long-term visitors or foreign residents.

The nature of SECTT and the context in which it takes place are constantly evolving, requiring refined responses and deeper understanding and awareness. Based on an extensive literature review and consultation with ECPAT groups in the region, this desk review offers a snapshot of the status of SECTT in Europe, with a view to identifying the latest developments and providing a foundation upon which to devise strategies to respond to recurring and emerging trends.

SECTT has been fuelled by vastly increased travel and tourism in recent decades. Globally, tourism has experienced continued expansion, becoming one of the most lucrative and fastest-growing economic sectors in the world. Europe welcomed 563 million visitors in 2013 and, despite increasing global competition, is still the number one tourism destination— as well as the region producing one of the largest numbers of tourists and travellers who exploit children sexually.

This desk review was prepared as a contribution to the Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism conducted by ECPAT International in collaboration with numerous partners.

Scale and scope of SECTT in Europe

A dearth of research, combined with the clandestine nature of SECTT, a general lack of standardised data collection systems and under-reporting of the crime, make it impossible to measure with precision the actual scope of SECTT in Europe. Some estimates of the number of European TCSOs have, however, been developed in a few Western European countries, and are used mainly by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to raise awareness of and highlight the severity of this crime. Ranging from few hundred in Norway to tens of thousands in Italy, the estimates are generally not the product of empirical studies and should be regarded with caution.

Yet available evidence underlines that SECTT is a significant and widespread problem in the region, resulting from an increasingly complex combination of political, economic and socio-cultural factors that influence both supply (of children) and demand (by perpetrators). Persistent poverty, increased inequality, economic crises and migration have undoubtedly heightened children's vulnerability. At the same time, the ever-expanding availability of cheap travel, the opening up of EU borders within the Schengen Area and prevailing impunity all contribute to multiplying opportunities for sexually exploiting vulnerable children. In addition, the expansion of the Internet and other related communication technologies presents a range of new modalities for use by TCSOs and organised criminal networks, making countermeasures more difficult.

The extensive mapping of countries of origin and destination conducted as part of this desk study suggests alarming trends. Whilst 20 years ago Western Europe and Nordic countries were notorious as a source of the demand for sex with children in South-East Asia and Latin America, today the role played by the whole region has changed dramatically. Many other European nations face an actual or potential threat from SECTT, either as sending countries, destination countries or both. Russia and Turkey, in particular, have increasingly emerged as a source country for TCSOs. Eastern European countries such as Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine have become major hotspots for SECTT, and Southern European countries such as Portugal and Spain are progressively becoming preferred destinations. Children are also increasingly at risk in some countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans that are experiencing tourism growth. Western Europe, while never a major destination for SECTT, has recorded a limited number of incidents of nationals and foreigners, including long-term residents, who travel within countries and/or use the tourism infrastructure to access children for sex. Europeans also continue to fuel the demand for sex with children in traditional and emerging destinations in other world regions, particularly South and East Asia, the Americas (USA, Central and South America) and Africa.

Sexual exploitation of children by travellers and tourists in the region occurs in multiple venues, from brothels and clubs to beaches, hotels and guesthouses, and urban, rural and coastal settings. While some perpetrators continue to gain access to vulnerable children on the streets, SECTT has generally become more invisible, shifting to indoor locations. Pimps and traffickers play a crucial role in the chain of exploitation, though some children act independently, usually to access products they cannot otherwise afford.

Supply, demand and modalities of offending: critical emerging trends in the region

Across the region, perpetrators tend to target the most vulnerable children and young people. Research from several countries suggests that child victims are predominantly adolescent girls, but there is increasing evidence that boys are also highly vulnerable to SECTT. Among the children most at-risk for SECTT are those from ethnic minorities (especially Roma children) and immigrant families, children from dysfunctional families (especially victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse), children left behind by migrating parents or who migrate alone, children with a disability, children of sex workers, trafficked children, children in institutions and working children, including those employed in the tourism and hospitality sector. However, research into these groups and their vulnerability to and/or exposure to SECTT, as well as how different vulnerability factors influence and perpetuate each other, is largely lacking.

In relation to demand, the desk study found that although the vast majority of perpetrators from Europe are men, there is evidence that some European women engage in SECTT, and there are also preliminary, still unconfirmed, indications that the age of abusers may be declining; some isolated cases involve young offenders who exploit their peers.

SECTT may also be committed by travelling perpetrators within their own countries. Although data is scanty, the problem of domestic tourists and travellers, including business travellers, has been observed in several countries. More research into the scope and nature of SECTT amongst these groups is required, with a view to understanding the nexus between domestic and international demand for SECTT and devising tailored preventive and counteracting strategies.

TCSOs who opt for discretion are less likely to be part of organised tours or to use registered facilities than ordinary tourists. But there are still instances of collective and organised SECTT in Europe, particularly, for example, among networks of child sex offenders. Though less common than in the past, segments of the travel and the tourism industry (e.g. travel agencies, hotels, taxi drivers, etc.) may still be implicated in the organisation of SECTT, for example, through the offer of thinly veiled child sex tours. Phony modelling agencies are also used in some European destinations to entrap children into sexual exploitation.

Expatriates and long-stay residents constitute a proportion of the offender population involved in the sexual exploitation of children in destinations in Europe. To gain greater proximity or access to potential child victims, perpetrators seek employment in professions

that offer contact with children, or take advantage of the newly emerging phenomenon of “volun-tourism” to place themselves near vulnerable children, such as in orphanages. These predators then use myriad strategies to gain children’s cooperation □ from providing candy to offering financial support for their families. Informal adoption and temporary “marriages” with children are other strategies used by sexual exploiters of children. The ubiquitous use of the latest Internet and communications technologies has facilitated the proliferation of sexual crimes against children by, for example, facilitating communication among those who travel for purposes of exploitation, allowing offenders to contact children online and to use web-cams that record acts of sexual exploitation that can be shared with others.

Actions to address SECTT in the region

Across Europe, significant efforts have been spearheaded by a range of actors to tackle SECTT. At the regional level, European institutions such as the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE) and Organisation for Safety and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have adopted numerous legal, preventive and counteracting measures to enhance child protection from sexual exploitation through travel and tourism. At the national level, the commitment of governments against SECTT has varied, as evidenced by the abundance of initiatives in some countries of origin in Western Europe and the dearth of programmes in many destinations in Central and Eastern Europe (some of which have not yet acknowledged the occurrence of this problem). Strategies adopted to stop SECTT have involved the development of National Plans of Action; establishment of coordination and cooperation mechanisms and actions; development, revision and application of legal frameworks; implementation of prevention programmes; provision of support services to victims; and the promotion of participation by children and young people in actions against the problem. While civil society organisations have played a key role in such interventions, collaboration among sectors has increasingly emerged as pivotal to the fight against SECTT in the region.

The desk study shows that most interventions to date have focused on stopping SECTT rather than preventing it. The failure to focus on primary prevention is a persistent gap that must be urgently addressed, along with other outstanding challenges identified throughout this report. These gaps include: limited international cooperation and information exchange; insufficient law enforcement and weak legislation; scarce private sector engagement and adherence to corporate social responsibility; lack of specialised care and child-friendly justice for children and adolescents affected by SECTT; and limited involvement by local communities in programmes to tackle the problem.

Recommendations

Despite the many actions promoted, it appears that European countries are failing to prevent and respond to this crime, and thus to protect vulnerable and affected children. The alarming scope of SECTT in the region and its increasing and evolving complexity demand more appropriate and fine-tuned responses at all levels. Several recommendations are therefore proposed to revitalise and strengthen efforts against this scourge. The recommendations acknowledge that SECTT cannot be tackled by governments alone but requires engagement by all sectors, including civil society, the private sector and children and young people.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The origins of SECTT can be traced to Asia during the Vietnam War period, when the military presence in the region fuelled a high demand for prostitution services. However it was only in the early 1990s that the issue was brought to the world's attention.¹ The First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, inspired and co-organised by ECPAT International in 1996, was the pioneering global effort toward eradicating this crime. In Europe, public awareness of what is commonly known as “child sex tourism” was first assessed in 1998 by an EU-wide Eurobarometer survey commissioned by the European Commission. Capturing the views of people from the EU-15, the survey revealed that most European citizens were aware of the problem and strongly condemned it.² Yet nearly two decades later, perpetrators are increasingly using the tourism and travel industry and infrastructure as a gateway to child sexual exploitation. Europe continues to be involved in SECTT, both as a region of origin and a destination for travelling child sex offenders, despite declared commitments and efforts.³

SECTT has evolved significantly in recent years. The countries of origin and destination in the region are shifting and in some instances overlapping; the modalities of offending have reached an unprecedented level of sophistication, greatly facilitated by the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs); the profile of the perpetrators has become more complex; while children's vulnerability has increased due to multiple factors. The various linkages that connect SECTT with other forms of CSEC are now more obvious: some children and adolescents abused by TCSOs are used to produce pornography or forced into marriage, and many others are trafficked internally or across borders for prostitution, often to service travellers and tourists. The connection between these different

crimes adds further complexity to the scenario, showing that SECTT cannot be addressed in isolation.

Despite a variety of responses by governments and others, progress has remained slow due to numerous persistent challenges, particularly a chronic lack of robust evidence and data.⁴ The evolving face of SECTT deserves analytical research and investigation aimed at providing a solid basis upon which to design preventive, counteracting and curative responses to current and emerging issues, presenting new strategies for action.

THE CHANGING FACE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN EUROPE

The European region has undergone dramatic changes since the 1990s. Dissolution of the Soviet Union and expansion of the EU to 28 members altered the regional landscape, leading to the creation of regional organisations to guide policy development and renew and revitalise national structures. In Central and Eastern Europe, millions of people had to adapt to a transformed political, economic and social context, moving from centrally planned to market economies. These and other transformations had a significant impact on the situation of children and their protection from and exposure to sexual exploitation, including via tourism.

European tourism has both expanded and diversified, becoming one of the largest and fastest-growing industries in the region. Today more than 10% of the EU's gross domestic product comes from tourism, which employs nearly 20 million people. Non-European tourists spend some €400 billion in Europe each year.⁵ Europe remains the number one tourist destination worldwide, welcoming some 563 million visitors in 2013

¹ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para14.

² INRA, European Coordination Office, (1998) “Europeans and their VIEW on CST” (survey, April-May 1998), accessed 3 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_118_en.pdf; European Commission, “Combating child sex tourism: results of a Euro-barometer survey Preliminary indications of public opinion in Europe”, accessed 19 October 2015, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-98-760_en.htm

³ Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly (2013), “Fighting child sex tourism”, 27 March 2013, accessed 3 May 2015, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=19535&lang=en>

⁴ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para. 20.

⁵ “Inertia by Governments is putting Europe's tourism industry at risk”, etoa.org, accessed 3 May 2015, <http://www.etoa.org/media/all-news/news-item/inertia-by-governments-is-putting-europe-s-tourism-industry-at-risk>

(52% of the world total). According to the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), tourism grew most rapidly in Central and Eastern Europe that year. Other emerging destinations showing consistent growth over the past decade include Turkey and the Russian Federation. About 14% of visits are for business or professional purposes; most are for holidays/leisure.⁶

Europe is also the world's largest source of tourists, generating over half of the world's international arrivals. The Russian Federation has become the fourth largest outbound market, following a 25% increase over 2012.⁷ According to the European Travel Commission,⁸ the majority of international travel and tourism in Europe is intraregional, and the economies of European destinations have become highly dependent on this demand.⁹ Eurostat's publication "Tourism Trips of Europeans" confirms that in 2012 around 75% of trips by Europeans were domestic, 24% were to a foreign country (18% to another EU member state and 6% outside the region). Domestic trips clearly constitute the greatest proportion of the tourism market in the EU.¹⁰ Like other tourism flows, these trips generate demand for services, representing an economic opportunity for destinations, while presenting a range of risks to local communities – including the potential for SECTT.

Increasing use of the Internet and availability of low-cost carriers (LCCs) have played a key role in expanding

tourism in the region. European Travel Commission reports for 2005, 2006 and 2007 identified low-cost airlines as the main drivers of growth in travel and tourism demand in the region.¹¹ While contributing to a radical expansion in the number of travellers and destinations, including rural areas and small cities, LCCs have also led to an increase in weekend, city or short-break travel and, more generally, to increased frequency of leisure travel.¹² New routes between Western Europe and East and Central Europe have opened up due to expanded liberalisation of the European skies, including in new EU member states. The creation of the border-free Schengen area (including 22 of the 28 EU member states plus four non-EU member states) further facilitated the movement of people across borders.¹³ New rules permitting free circulation with an identity card, combined with low airfares, inexpensive tourism services at destination, the introduction of a visa-free regime in a number of non-EU countries in the region (e.g., Moldova,¹⁴ Ukraine,¹⁵ Turkey,¹⁶ and Armenia¹⁷) – along with a growing middle class and a positive change in the image of formerly Communist countries – all facilitated tourist travel to the east. Such enhanced mobility has allowed an increasing number of tourists, particularly from within the region, to discover Central and Eastern Europe "either for its rich heritage...or more particularly in the context of medical, festive or even alcoholic and/or sexual tourism."¹⁸

⁶ UNWTO, Tourism Highlights 2014, 15, accessed 3 May 2015, http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/unwto_highlights14_en_hr_0.pdf

⁷ Ibid, 12.

⁸ The European Travel Commission is an international non-profit organisation responsible for the promotion of Europe as a tourist destination. Its members are the national tourism organisations of thirty-three Members, including EU member states, as well as, Iceland, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey. The European Travel Commission is neither part of the European Commission nor an institution of the European Union. See <http://www.etc-corporate.org/>, accessed 3 May 2015.

⁹ European Travel Outlook, December 2013, 7, etoa.org, accessed 3 May 2015, <http://www.etoa.org/docs/default-source/Reports/other-reports/2013-december-european-travel-outlook-bytourism-economics.pdf?sfvrsn=0>.

¹⁰ Eurostat (2015), "Tourism statistics - top destinations", accessed 17 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Tourism_statistics_-_top_destinations#Further_Eurostat_information

¹¹ Dobruszkes, Frédéric (2009) "New Europe, new low-cost air services", *Journal of Transport Geography* 17 (2009), 423–432, accessed 3 May 2015, <http://geography.upol.cz/soubory/lide/hercik/SEDOP/%C4%8C%C3%A1nky%20Journal%20of%20Transport%20Geography/New%20Europe,%20new%20low-cost%20air%20services.pdf>

¹² Graham, Anne et al. (Eds) (2008), *Aviation and Tourism: Implications for Leisure Travel*, 233.

¹³ European Commission, Migration and Home Affairs, "Schengen Area", accessed 15 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/borders-and-visas/schengen/index_en.htm

¹⁴ Moldova, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, "Visas to Moldova", accessed 20 October 2015, <http://www.mfa.gov.md/entry-visas-moldova/citizens-additional-checks/#link>

¹⁵ "Ukraine Visa Information", learn4good.com, accessed 15 May 2015, http://www.learn4good.com/travel/ukraine_visas.htm#req

¹⁶ Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Visa Information For Foreigners", accessed 15 May 2015, <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

¹⁷ The list of countries that do not need a visa to access Armenia can be found at: http://www.mfa.am/u_files/file/consulate/Visa/visafreelisteng2.pdf

¹⁸ Dobruszkes, "New Europe, new low-cost air services", 426.

-- In **Latvia**, the sex tourism industry blossomed in May 2004 when European Union membership and the introduction of low cost airlines at Riga airport made the country more accessible than ever before.¹⁹

-- In **Estonia**, the eastern enlargement led to the country becoming a popular destination for sex tourism, which in turn has led to an increased level of violence on the local prostitution scene and a growth in internal trafficking of women and girls.²⁰

-- In **Ukraine**, the first wave of “sex tourism” was recorded soon after 2005, following the introduction of a visa-free regime for citizens from several countries.²¹

The latest figures provided by Eurobarometer on tourism trends in 2014 underline the increasing importance of the Web in travel arrangements made by European citizens. On average, 58% of the (enlarged) EU population uses the Internet to plan vacations,²² with a peak of 80% in Norway (European but not an EU country) compared to marginal use in less developed European countries (e.g., 19% in Montenegro). About 22% of Europeans plan trips using traditional travel agencies.²³

The technological evolution of the tourism market has had an adverse impact on the sexual exploitation of children. As in other world regions, tourist services in Europe can now be anonymously bought through a computer or a mobile telephone, thus multiplying the opportunities for travellers to access sex services, whether legal or not.

The Internet has also become a highly effective tool for marketing commercial sex services, contacting and grooming children prior to travel and exchanging information on places where it is easier to approach them or how contacts can be initiated. The ubiquity of camera-equipped mobile phones and devices also allows offenders to take, disseminate and sell images of abuse or even to stream it live, encouraging more tourism that exploits children and making large profits for its distributors.²⁴ As described in more detail in Chapter

3, the use of ICTs to support and facilitate SECTT has been reported in many European countries.

Other significant changes have also taken place in European travel over the last two decades. New tourist products and services have evolved in the region, often supported by EU programmes and funds (focusing, for example, on: eco-tourism, sports, gastronomic tourism, health and wellbeing, protected or historical sites, nature, religion, rural areas, etc.).²⁵ Many European travellers are in search of authenticity and wish to learn about new cultures while doing good for local communities or the environment. The resulting development of new forms of community-based tourism, such as “homestays”, and the increase in new products such as “volun-tourism” – particularly in destinations outside the region – while intended to benefit communities, can represent new risks for local children to be sexually abused and exploited, especially where child protection measures are not in place and financial gain is the sole purpose of tourism development.

Today, individuals who travel across borders or within a country may include businessmen and other workers whose profession involves high mobility (e.g., bus, truck and train drivers, tour guides, seasonal workers, miners and construction workers). Many developing economies in Europe and other regions are also witnessing an increase

¹⁹ Dean, Laura A. (2011), “Advocacy Coalitions in East European Sex Tourism: The Case of Latvia” (Master thesis, University of Kansas), 36, accessed 15 May 2015, https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/bitstream/handle/1808/9775/Dean_ku_0099M_11796_DATA_1.pdf?sequence=1

²⁰ Buchholz, Eva (2006), “Trafficking of Women and Girls into Sexual Exploitation in EU-25: The Impact of the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union on Trafficking and Counter-Trafficking Measures in the Baltic States” (Master thesis, Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, Germany), 98, accessed 15 May 2015, <http://www.childcentre.info/projects/traffickin/dbaFile14961.pdf>

²¹ Levchenko, Kateryna et al. (2012), Дитячий секс-туризм в Україні: спроба ситуаційного аналізу (Child sex tourism in Ukraine: attempt situational analysis), (Kiev, Ukraine: La Strada Ukraine), 29, accessed 15 May 2015, “http://www.la-strada.org.ua/ucp_mod_library_view_179.html”; “Ukraine is not a bordello”, Rt.com, 26 December 2009, accessed 15 May 2015, <http://rt.com/news/ukraine-femen-sex-tourism/>

²² European Commission, Directorate General for Communication (2014), “Preferences of Europeans towards tourism” (survey, January 2014), 6, accessed 3 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_392_sum_en.pdf

²³ Ibid., 6.

²⁴ O’Brian, Muireann, Grillo, Milena, Barbosa, Helia (2008) “Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescent in Tourism, (a contribution to World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 November 2008), (Bangkok, Thailand: ECPAT International), 15.

²⁵ European Commission, “Sustainable Tourism”, accessed on 17 June 2015 http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/tourism/sustainable-tourism/index_en.htm

in the presence of short- and long-term expatriates. The increasing globalisation of the labour market, combined with government policies aimed at stimulating foreign investments and economic growth, has resulted in unprecedented movement of workers across countries. Attracted by more affordable housing and a lower overall cost of living, many people, including retirees, are relocating abroad. Business travellers and short- and long-term expats constitute, together with tourists, a significant source of the demand fuelling SECTT.

Another phenomenon that is generating transformation in the tourism sector is the rise of the sharing economy. Based on the notion of free sharing of goods and services, the sharing economy allows clients to connect directly with suppliers through the use of social media and mobile technology. Thanks to online platforms provided by companies such as Airbnb and Uber, individuals can now share their homes or private cars paying only a minimal fee to the intermediary. Originally conceived as a non-profit activity, the sharing economy has become a lucrative business. According to recent data, “Airbnb has exceeded 10 million guest-stays since its launch and... Uber has said that it is doubling its revenue every six months”.²⁶ Individuals who provide short-term rentals or transportation services using Airbnb or Uber’s apps are usually not professionals and therefore are not required to comply with the same professional standards or codes of conduct applying to providers of similar services (e.g. hotel staff and taxi drivers). Although the impact that this dynamically evolving and relatively new phenomenon is having on SECTT is yet to be investigated, there is increasing concern that in the absence of child protection measures such business models and services may be used by offenders as another channel to perpetrate sex crimes against vulnerable children.²⁷

STUDY RATIONALE

Stopping SECTT has been at the heart of ECPAT’s work since its inception as a campaign to end child prostitution in Asian tourism. Thirty years after the publication of its first studies on the phenomenon in South-East Asia, ECPAT, now a global network of civil society organisations dedicated to combating all forms of CSEC, believes that the time has come to revitalise global collective action against a crime that seriously harms countless children around the world.

With this ambitious goal in mind and in collaboration with global partners, a Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of children in Travel and Tourism was launched in November 2014, with financial support from Dutch Cooperation. The study was designed to provide robust evidence-based knowledge to guide effective decision-making and to mobilise concerted and coordinated efforts from governments, the tourist industry and civil society organisations. Regional reports (such as the present study) constitute an important source of information for the Global Study, along with information from other stakeholders and actors, including children. The Global Study will provide a global, up-to-date picture of SECTT, highlighting emerging trends. It will also assess the progress made and identify remaining challenges since the last World Congress on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2008, in Rio de Janeiro. Finally, it will propose a set of concrete recommendations to improve inter-sectoral responses to protect all children, without discrimination, from this crime.

This desk study on SECTT in Europe is one component of the Global Study, aimed at expanding and deepening knowledge on SECTT in the region and suggesting effective measures to improve the response of governments, civil society and the private sector.

²⁶ Penn, Joanna and Wihbey, John, “Uber, Airbnb and consequences of the sharing economy: Research roundup”, last updated 19 October 2015, accessed 9 November 2015, <http://journalistsresource.org/studies/economics/business/airbnb-lyft-uber-bike-share-sharing-economy-research-roundup#sthash.hMHojjop.dpuf>

²⁷ Input received by Mechtild Maurer from ECPAT Germany at the “Consultation on SECTT in Europe and Central Asia” that took place in Paris on 13 October 2015. The Consultation was held in the framework of the Experts’ Meeting on the Protection of Children against SECTT organized by ECPAT France.



SCOPE, DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

For the purpose of this study, Europe includes 54 internationally recognised sovereign states, plus Kosovo. With the exception of Israel, this definition of Europe corresponds to that adopted by the UNWTO.²⁸

Despite growing recognition of the global significance of CSEC, there is still a lack of consensus regarding the most appropriate terminology to be used to describe this crime. Disagreement and inconsistency regarding terminology and associated definitions pose tremendous challenges for policy development and programming, legal reform and data collection, leading to flawed responses and limited and ineffectual methods of measuring impact.

Sexual exploitation of children (SEC): this study adopts the definition of SEC spelled out in the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse. The Lanzarote Convention refers to both the ‘sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children’, stating that they “shall include the behaviour as referred to in Articles 18 to 23 of this Convention”.²⁹ This encompasses sexual abuse, offences concerning child prostitution, child pornography, the participation of a child in pornographic performances, corruption of children, and solicitation of children for sexual purposes. The Preamble makes a reference to SECTT, specifying that “all forms of sexual abuse of children, including acts which are committed abroad, are destructive to children’s health and psycho-social development”.³⁰

As noted by the UK National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People, “sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.”³¹ In accordance with this definition, it is assumed that all sexual acts involving a person under 18 in exchange for any kinds of favours, and with and without consent of the exploited individual, should be regarded as SEC.

The term ‘child sexual exploitation’ is used here as a synonym to the term ‘commercial sexual exploitation of children’ (CSEC).

SECTT: This desk review focuses on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. In the absence of an internationally agreed definition of this phenomenon, this study adopts the terminology and definition initially proposed by ECPAT International and recently reviewed based on recommendations by an expert Taskforce:

*The sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their home district, geographical region or country to have sexual contact with children. Offenders may be domestic travellers or international tourists. SECTT often involves the use of accommodation, transportation and other tourism-related services that facilitate contact with children and enable the perpetrator to remain fairly inconspicuous in the surrounding population and environment.*³²

²⁸ See the list of countries in UNWTO (2014), “Tourism Highlights: 2014 Edition”, accessed 21 November 2015, http://dtxtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/unwto_highlights14_en_hr_0.pdf<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416226>. See also <http://europe.unwto.org/en/members/europe?op=2>

²⁹ Lanzarote Convention, Article 3(b).

³⁰ Lanzarote Convention, Preamble.

³¹ The definition of child sexual exploitation created by the UK National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People (NWG) is used in statutory guidance for England. Available at: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/>

³² ECPAT International (2008), “Combating Child Sex Tourism: Questions and Answers” (Bangkok, Thailand: ECPAT International), 6, accessed 31 March 2015, http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/cst_faq_eng.pdf.

The term SECTT replaces earlier terminology referring to “child sex tourism”, in part because the latter fails to capture the ever-evolving nature of this problem and the broad spectrum of offenders who seek to sexually exploit children - particularly international and domestic travellers, who constitute a significant segment of demand. The term SECTT reflects the criminal character of the phenomenon, underlining that it is a serious violation of children’s rights and a form of sexual exploitation which can be in no way condoned.

Tourists and travellers: This study covers several categories of child sex offenders, mainly: domestic and international tourists and travellers and short- and long-term visitors or foreign residents. According to UNWTO, a tourist is an individual whose trip includes an overnight stay, while a traveller is defined as someone who moves between different geographic locations for any purpose and any duration.³³ Short- and long-term visitors or residents refers, for example, to those who extend their stay beyond a brief trip or who go abroad for purposes of work (such as teachers, NGO workers, care workers, migrant workers, diplomats or members of the armed forces).

In line with the terminology proposed by the Taskforce, law enforcement agencies such as Interpol have recommended replacing the term “child sex tourist” with “traveling child sex offender” (TCSO).³⁴ The latter term is used in this study.

Offenders: ECPAT International distinguishes between situational offenders and preferential abusers, including paedophiles. Situational offenders are those who sexually abuse children because they are made available to them, most commonly through prostitution. They usually have no special sexual interest in children and commit their crimes when the opportunity arises, generally targeting children who have already reached puberty.³⁵ Situational offenders are indiscriminate and tend to justify their behaviour through a rationalisation process that mentally situates children so far from their own human experience

that exploitation becomes “acceptable” (using arguments such as “the child is poor and I am helping him/her”, “here girls reach sexuality maturity earlier than in my country”, “it is normal for parents to sell their children for sex in this country”, etc.).

In contrast, preferential perpetrators are individuals who travel with the deliberate purpose of having sexual contact with children. A proportion of preferential abusers are paedophiles. According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), paedophilia refers to “recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 years or younger).”³⁶ The DSM does not consider hebephilia – i.e. sexual attraction to pubescent children, a paraphilic disorder³⁷ while the World Health Organisation incorporates hebephilia in its definition of paedophilia: “A sexual preference for children, boys or girls or both, usually of prepubertal or early pubertal age.”³⁸ From a law enforcement perspective, a paedophile is defined as an adult who acts upon their sexual preference for children.³⁹

Although the categorisation proposed by ECPAT is used in this study, its validity has been recently questioned as it appears to oversimplify the profiles of perpetrators (who may not easily fit into one category) and does not capture the complexity which characterises offenders’ behaviours and situations in which they offend.⁴⁰

Child Pornography: The term “child pornography” has been progressively replaced by other more appropriate definitions, such as “child abuse images” or “child abuse materials” (CAM). Interpol notes that “pornography is a term used for adults engaging in consensual sexual acts distributed (mostly) legally to the general public for their sexual pleasure. Child abuse images are not. They involve children who cannot and would not consent and who are victims of a crime. The child abuse images are documented evidence of a crime in progress – a child being sexually abused.”⁴¹ This study uses both terms.

³³ UNWTO, “Understanding Tourism: Basic Glossary”, accessed 17 June 2015, <http://media.unwto.org/en/content/understanding-tourism-basic-glossary>

³⁴ Interpol, “Sex Offenders”, accessed on 4 June 2015, <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Crimes-against-children/Sex-offenders>

³⁵ ECPAT International, “Combating child sex tourism: questions and answers”, 6.

³⁶ “DSM IV - TR (Revised). Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders”, accessed 14 November 2015, <http://www.helping-people.info/articles/dsm.htm>

³⁷ Seto, Michael C. (2009), “Pedophilia”, *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, vol. 5, 394.

³⁸ World Health Organisation (1993), “The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders: Diagnostic criteria for research”, Geneva, accessed 13 June 2015, <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/GRNBOOK.pdf>

³⁹ Miller, Kylie (1997), “Paedophilia: Policy and Prevention: Detection and Reporting of Paedophilia: A Law Enforcement Perspective.”, 2, accessed 12 June 2015, http://www.aic.gov.au/media_library/conferences/paedophilia/miller.pdf

⁴⁰ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maal Jaafar”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para. 6.

⁴¹ Interpol, “Appropriate terminology”, accessed 12 June 2015, <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Crimes-against-children/Appropriate-terminology>

Child Marriage: Child marriage becomes a form of sexual exploitation when the married child is used as an object of sexual gratification in exchange for money or another form of payment.⁴² In this study, the term “child, early and forced marriage” (CEFM) proposed in a 2013 resolution by the Human Rights Council will be used, as it is broad and inclusive, encompassing all types of harmful marriages, regardless of age, culture and traditions.⁴³

METHODOLOGY

No study has systematically reviewed the literature on SECTT in Europe. To bridge this gap, this desk study collected and examined secondary data and materials published since the First World Congress against CSEC (1996), focusing in particular on documents produced in the last decade. Including both peer-reviewed and ‘grey’ literature, this study analysed hundreds of sources, including research reports, government and NGO alternative reports, documents produced by the United Nations and regional mechanisms, journal articles, programme evaluations, dissertations, presentations and situation analyses, among others. A search for online news reports was also undertaken, after identifying the main online newspapers in each country under review (see <http://www.w3newspapers.com/europe/>). Along with documents and media reports in English, sources in local languages were consulted and translated using online translation tools (mainly “Lexicool”).

In addition, a questionnaire was designed to gather additional country information and obtain the views and recommendations of 27 ECPAT groups in the region. (See Annex 1). Responses were received from ECPAT member organisations in: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and Ukraine. This exercise provided important primary information on the various SECTT-related topics analysed, and was particularly helpful in mapping countries of origin and destination in Europe.

LIMITATIONS

Though this desk study has sought to cover the whole European region, more attention has been placed on EU countries because more information is available on them, as is also true of countries where ECPAT has member groups. The lack of documentation on SECTT led to a need to gather information through news reports, which are often unreliable and tend to sensationalise problems. Language barriers and limited access to certain sources constitute other limitations of this study. When documents in local languages were examined, on-line translations were often not sufficiently accurate. In light of the breadth of the region, it is possible that some documents were overlooked. Another very important limitation in this study arises from the lack of scientific research and data. The bulk of literature published over the last decade was produced outside peer-reviewed academic circles, and is therefore unscientific or not subjected to quality checks. Furthermore, the author had limited access to the few peer-reviewed research studies that are available.

ORGANISATION

This desk study is organised into five chapters. This introduction is followed by: Chapter 2, which describes the scale and scope of SECTT in Europe; Chapter 3, which explores current trends and developments as well as the structural causes of SECTT and characteristics of perpetrators, victims and modalities of offending. Chapter 4 analyses actions taken to address SECTT by different stakeholders, highlighting good practices and remaining challenges. The study concludes with recommendations for future actions in Chapter 5.

⁴² ECPAT International (2008), “Questions & Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children”, IV edition, 16, accessed on 21 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/faq_eng_2008.pdf

⁴³ UN Human Rights Council (2013), “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps”, A/HRC/24/L.34/Rev.1.

CHAPTER 2

THE SCALE AND SCOPE OF SECTT IN EUROPE

MEASUREMENT

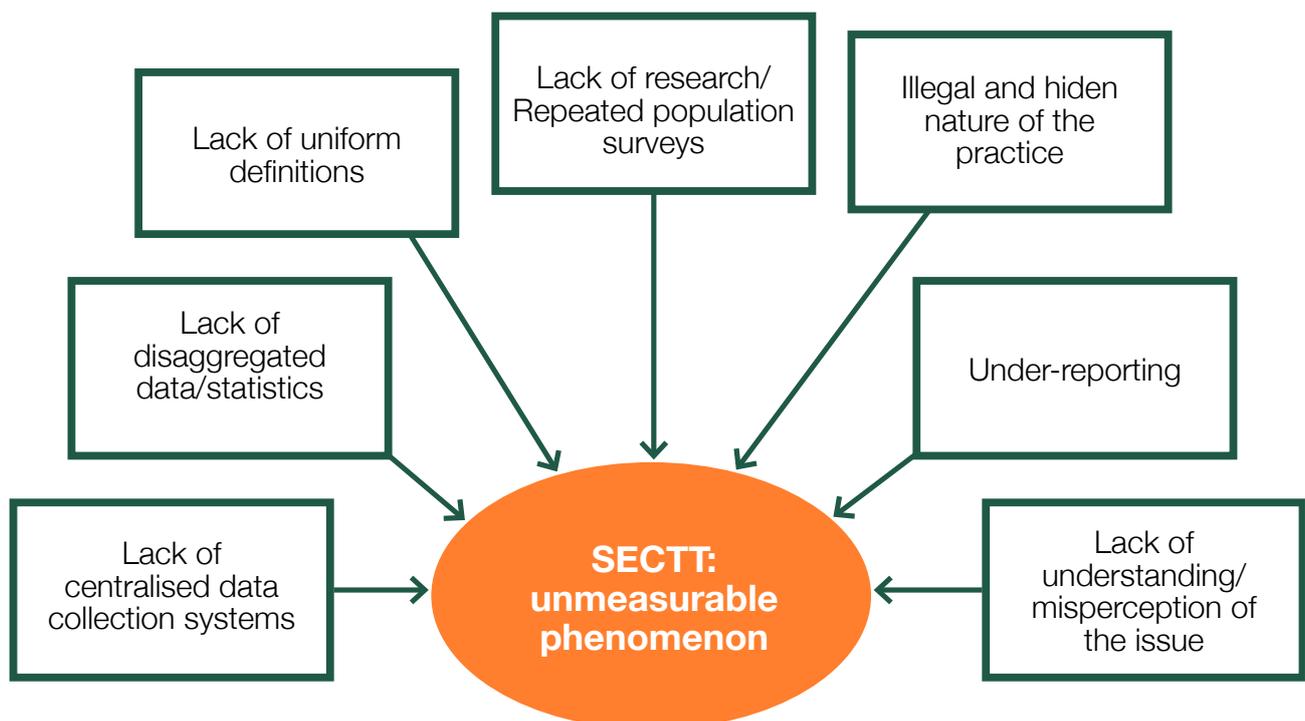
Since the First World Congress against CSEC in 1996, there has been increasing recognition that reliable data on all forms of child sexual exploitation are of crucial importance for planning effective responses. In addition to facilitating measurement of the scope of the problem, accurate figures are also important for developing effective, evidence-based programmes and interventions and measuring their impact.

Factors hindering quantitative analysis of SECTT in Europe

Regrettably, this desk study was not able to identify reports or other sources containing rigorous and accurate figures. Responses from ECPAT groups point to major factors that interfere with the production of quantitative data around SECTT (see figure 1).

Lack of research is a major obstacle making it hard, if not impossible, to accurately measure the actual scope and quantitative and qualitative trends in SECTT. Estimates are available from a few countries where studies were conducted, but are often limited in geographical scope. The criminal, clandestine and hidden nature of SECTT also implies that such figures are likely only the tip of a large, mainly submerged, iceberg. This factor is aggravated by a tendency toward under-reporting by child victims, due, for example, to fear of stigma or reprisals or lack of available reporting mechanisms. Lack of uniform definitions across the region contributes to misperceptions – by law enforcement and society at large – of what constitutes SECTT.

Fig.1 Factors hindering quantitative analysis of SECTT



How many offenders engage in SECTT?

Bearing in mind these serious limitations, this desk study attempted to gather and examine the few figures available on SECTT in the region, with a view to providing some quantitative analysis on travelling child sex offenders and affected children and adolescents. Data collected and analysed include estimates, criminal statistics, information from reporting hotlines and figures provided by ECPAT groups or cited in the literature.

Estimates

Globally, some 250,000 people are reported to travel abroad every year to engage in sex with children and adolescents, according to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).⁴⁴ This estimate is, however, problematic as it appears to measure only those individuals who travel outside their country of origin with the specific purpose of abusing children (i.e. preferential offenders), which fails to include both domestic and situational perpetrators.

Table 1. Estimate of European nationals who engage in SECTT by country

Country	Estimate (per year)
Austria	2,500-4,000 (2006, developed by a University professor) ⁴⁵
Italy	80,000 (2003, proposed by ECPAT Italy) ⁴⁶
Netherlands	Over 3,000 (2002, author of the estimate unknown) ⁴⁷
Norway	At least 100 to 150 ⁴⁸ (2011, proposed by Norwegian Police)
Spain	40,000 (2010, proposed by Save the Children Spain) ⁴⁹
Sweden	4,000 – 5,000 (2008, proposed by ECPAT Sweden) ⁵⁰

Regionally, the total number of European nationals who engage in SECTT in destinations in and outside the region remains unknown. A few estimates of the number of European TCSOs have, however, been developed at the national level and used mainly to raise awareness of and highlight the gravity and breadth of the crime. Estimates of the number of European nationals who engage in SECTT range from 100-150 in Norway to 40,000 in Spain and 80,000 in Italy. In addition to reflecting an actual difference between countries, these widely divergent estimates are likely a result of differing

methodologies utilised to develop them. For example, the Norwegian police estimate may reflect only actual and/or potential cases, while that of ECPAT Italy appears to be based on a variety of sources (e.g., ongoing judicial cases, material from personal and judicial archives, Internet websites and chats).⁵¹ Generally speaking, estimates of individuals committing sex crimes against children through travel and tourism are neither empirical nor scientific – a factor aggravated by lack of an agreed definition of SECTT.

⁴⁴ "Assembly: we must end 'sex tourism' impunity", [humanrightseurope.org](http://www.humanrightseurope.org), accessed 3 May 2015, <http://www.humanrightseurope.org/2014/03/assembly-we-must-end-sex-tourism-impunity/>

⁴⁵ ECPAT Austria, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴⁶ Lombardo Pijola, Marida, "Turismo sessuale, italiani al primo posto: padri di famiglia a caccia di bambini", *Messaggero*, 6 giugno 2013, accessed 4 May 2015 from http://www.ilmessaggero.it/PRIMOPIANO/CRONACA/turismo_sessuale_italiani_al_primo_posto_padri_di_famiglia_a_caccia_di_bambini/notizie/288530.shtml. Data comes from research conducted by ECAT Italy in 2003 (unpublished).

⁴⁷ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Netherlands", 16, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/NETHERLANDS%202nd.pdf>

⁴⁸ ECPAT International (2012), Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway, 16, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_NORWAY.pdf

⁴⁹ ECPAT International (2012), Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Spain, 20, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf

⁵⁰ ECPAT International (2011), Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Sweden, 12, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SWEDEN.pdf

⁵¹ Redattore Sociale, "Ricerca dell'Università di Parma ed Ecpat sul turismo sessuale", accessed 3 May 2015, http://www.edscuola.it/archivio/handicap/turismo_sessuale.htm

Data from law enforcement

Examining statistics on TCSOs from criminal/judicial systems also leads to less than accurate results, as so few perpetrators are identified, apprehended and brought to justice. Data gathered through this desk study are worth mentioning, nonetheless, as they provide some “hints” about the level and effectiveness of law enforcement.

TCSOs can be prosecuted in countries where the crime was committed and/or in their countries of origin, if extraterritorial legislation is in place. In light of this distinction and considering that Europe is both a region of origin and destination for travelling child sex offenders, this review sought to gather information on: a) arrests/convictions for child sex offences committed by foreigners (of any nationality) in European countries; b) arrests/convictions of European TCSOs in (any) countries of destination; c) and arrests/convictions of European TCSOs via extraterritorial legislation (i.e., in their country of origin).

a) Number of travelling child sex offenders (any nationality) arrested, prosecuted and convicted in European destinations

No European government offers disaggregated data on the number of foreigners arrested, prosecuted and convicted in their jurisdiction. Most information comes from media reports and ECPAT groups. (See Annex 2). However, Dutch and UK government statistics on the number of nationals arrested and convicted

abroad are useful for understanding how many arrests and convictions occurred in European countries of destination.

The data assessed reveal that incidents of TCSOs being arrested, prosecuted and sentenced in countries of destination in the region are rare, although some countries take a more aggressive stance (e.g. Bulgaria, Moldova and the UK). However, even this observation should be interpreted with caution, since in most states child sex crimes committed by foreign offenders are not classified as such and are usually punished under other criminal statutes (e.g. offences related to prostitution of children, human trafficking, child pornography, etc.).

The analysis also indicated that although preferred destinations for TCSOs in the region are concentrated in Central and Eastern Europe, cases of SECTT are also increasingly emerging in Southern and Western Europe. The fact that a few arrests and convictions for crimes against children committed by foreigners were reported in countries such as Belgium, Germany and Norway shows that SECTT has no boundaries and represents a threat everywhere in the region.

b) Number of European TCSOs arrested and convicted abroad

Criminal statistics specifically on European TCSOs prosecuted and convicted abroad for sex crimes against children are also lacking. Only the Netherlands and the UK have systems in place to track such cases.⁵²

Cambodian NGO tracks travelling sex offenders

In some countries, information on arrested and convicted travelling child sex offenders is collected by NGOs. In Cambodia, Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE) began gathering and analysing quantitative data about child sex offenders, victims and the legal process in 2003. Although including only cases managed and assisted by the organisation, APLE's database is an example of good practice as it provides information on incidents of SECTT reported and brought to justice, facilitating understanding of victim and offender profiles, including their countries of origin. A recent APLE report indicates that several of the foreign offenders identified between 2003 and 2013 were from European countries, primarily France and the UK.⁵³

⁵² In the UK, three different agencies collect this type of information: a) the Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Records Office (ACRO) keeps record of notifications concerning convictions of British child sex offenders in countries in and outside the EU with which it exchanges information; b) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Consular Office has a database, Compass, that collates statistics on British nationals who are reported to consular officials as having been arrested for sexual abuse of children (which however does not capture information about the number of prosecutions); and c) CEOP receives reports of UK nationals convicted or suspected of committing sexual crimes against children overseas. In the Netherlands, the Department of Consular Affairs and Migration Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs keeps records of Dutch nationals in other countries who are being held on remand, have been released on bail or are serving a term of imprisonment, including for sex offences with children. In addition, the Dutch Police has also developed a description of the phenomenon of SECTT where some statistics on traveling child sex offenders are provided, referring to suspected cases prosecuted both in the Netherlands and in countries of destination.

⁵³ APLE Cambodia (2014), “An Analysis of the Trends and Challenges in the Field of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Cambodia”, 8-9, accessed 21 October 2015, <http://www.aplecambodia.org/images/Analytical%20Report%20on%20Investigating%20Travelling%20Child%20Sex%20Offenders%20Web%20Version.pdf>.

ECPAT's member group in the UK tracks cases of individuals who have committed child sex crimes abroad, including those that have remained in the UK and abused children in other countries using the internet, webcams and live streaming facilities. As a result of this systematic work, ECPAT UK has documented around 200 cases of British nationals travelling to other countries and sexually abusing children since 1994. Of these, 55 cases were documented between June 2011 and June 2014.⁵⁴

Whilst civil society actors contribute to developing databases on victims and perpetrators, responsibility for initiating and supporting the collection and sharing of reliable information lies primarily with governments.⁵⁵ This was reiterated in a 2013 Council of Europe resolution entitled "Fighting child sex tourism".⁵⁶ The general lack of data on European TCSOs apprehended and convicted abroad suggests that most governments in the region have achieved only limited progress on data collection, information-sharing and cross-border cooperation.

c) Application of extraterritorial legislation in Europe

Many European states have enacted extraterritorial legislation that allows for the prosecution at home of crimes committed abroad by nationals or residents (see Chapter 4 for more details).

In 2011 Eurojust developed a questionnaire for all EU member states (plus Norway and USA) on the application of extraterritorial legislation. The report revealed that of 29 participant countries, 19 had conducted investigations/prosecutions of cases of child sexual abuse committed abroad by their nationals or residents in their countries. Some countries (such as the USA) registered significant success in applying extraterritoriality while others reported just one or few investigations, prosecutions and convictions.⁵⁷

Based on information provided by ECPAT groups or gathered from news and government reports, the present report conducted an additional review of the application of extraterritorial legislation in Europe, which was able to access data in 11 EU member states plus Norway, Switzerland and the Vatican State. Again numbers were found to vary widely across countries, with some reporting several investigations, prosecutions and convictions (e.g., France and the Netherlands) and others registering only one or two (See Annex 3).

Clearly, ascertaining the exact total number of TCSOs convicted since the principle of extra-territoriality was introduced remains a challenge. Governments do not appear to collate data on the application of extraterritorial legislation centrally or, if they do, the results are not accessible.

One conclusion that can be drawn from analysis of criminal statistics is that prosecution and conviction of travelling child sex offenders in their countries of origin is a rarity. Even 20 years or so since their introduction, extraterritorial laws are still difficult to apply in practice. Instead, it appears that most SECTT cases are tried where the crime was committed rather than in the country of origin (e.g. in the UK, 238 convictions were reported in other countries, about which the government exchanged information between 1st January 2012 and 31st May 2014, compared to only six-to-seven convictions via extraterritorial legislation).

Thus, as noted in a 2008 study, it appears that: "prosecutions of offenders in the country where the offence took place is a much more effective strategy, both as a deterrent, and in terms of protecting the victim from further abuse within the criminal justice system."⁵⁸

⁵⁴ ECPAT UK, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁵⁵ "The Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, IV – Integrated Cross-Sectorial Policies and National Plans of Action", para. 38 (presented at World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 November 2008), accessed 21 October 2015, http://www.unicef.org/protection/Rio_Declaration_and_Call_for_Action.pdf

⁵⁶ Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly (2013), "Fighting 'child sex tourism' ", Resolution 1926, accessed 21 October 2015, <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=19687&lang=en>

⁵⁷ EUROJUST (2011), "Traveling child sex offenders" (Final Report of the tactical meeting, The Hague, 14-15 September 2011, 15, accessed 21 October 2015, http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/Practitioners/operational/Child-protection/Documents/2011-09_tcso-report.pdf

⁵⁸ O'Brian, Muireann, Grillo, Milena, and Barbosa, Helia, "Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourism", 37.

Suspected cases of SECTT reported through hotlines

Several European countries have established hotlines for reporting suspected incidents of SECTT, mostly in collaboration with civil society organisations like ECPAT. The table below, reflecting data provided by ECPAT groups or collected through literature review, indicates that:

a) European hotlines receive only a limited number of reports

b) Information on the number of reports that lead to the opening of a judicial case is not available in some countries

c) In countries where this information exists, very few reports of SECTT result in investigation and sentencing of perpetrators.

More efforts are needed to improve access to reporting mechanisms, to ensure more efficient follow-up and data collection, and ultimately to increase the number of convictions. Chapter 4 explores barriers to effective reporting, good practices and possible solutions.

Table 2. Suspected cases of SECTT reported through hotlines in Europe

Country	Estimate (per year)
Austria	No investigations were launched following reports to the hotline established in 2010. ⁵⁹ http://www.bmi.gv.at/cms/BK/meldestellen/kinder/
Belgium	10 reports per year received by the hotline, none of them leading to opening a case ⁶⁰ http://isaystop.com/
France	30 reports through the police hotline ⁶¹ (as of February 2015)
Netherlands	In 2010-2011 the hotline www.meldkindersekstoerisme.nl received 30 reports, of which 18 were transferred to the national police ⁶² . In 2013, the same hotline received 22 reports. ⁶³ None of these reports resulted in a conviction.
Poland	17 reports related to CSEC offences received by the hotline http://stopseksturystyce.fdn.pl/home/ established in 2014; none of these relate to SECTT. ⁶⁴
Switzerland	A total of 35 reports were submitted to www.stop-childsextourism.ch since its launch in 2008. About 30 reports led to further investigations, but none resulted in a conviction. ⁶⁵
Sweden	Four reports received by ECPAT Sweden hotline https://www.ecpathotline.se/ in 2005-2007; 10 in 2008-2014; and 2 from Jan 1 st January to 19 February 2015. ⁶⁶

⁵⁹ ECPAT Austria, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015

⁶⁰ ECPAT Belgium, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015

⁶¹ ECPAT France, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015

⁶² ECPAT International (2011), Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Netherlands, 16, accessed 7 May 2015, <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/NETHERLANDS%202nd.pdf>

⁶³ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁶⁴ Information provided by Nobody's Children Foundation Poland in October 2015.

⁶⁵ ECPAT Switzerland, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

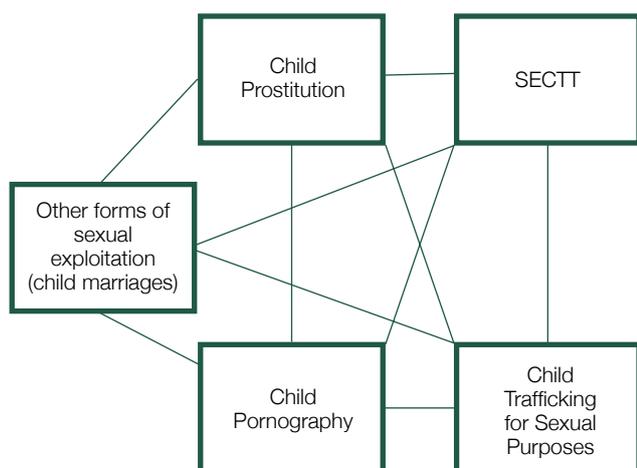
⁶⁶ ECPAT Sweden, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

How many children are affected by sexual exploitation in travel and tourism in Europe?

The lack of comprehensive, national-level studies on the scope of SECTT and the absence in several countries of centralised data collection systems able to disaggregate information on CSEC crimes are major barriers to gauging how many children and adolescents have been victimised by TCOSs. In none of the European countries under review are such figures available.

Quantitative analysis is complicated by the fact that children victimized by TCOSs may also be subject to other forms of commercial sexual exploitation and thus classified as victims of other offences in criminal statistics. As mentioned above and exemplified in figure 2, SECTT is not only related to prostitution of children, but is often also tied to child sex trafficking, child pornography and some forms of child marriage. Clearly, all these manifestations of CSEC are strictly interconnected, as reflected in the increasing number of children exposed to multiple forms of victimisation.

Fig. 2. SECTT and its links with other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children



Source: ECPAT International (2008), *Protecting children from sexual exploitation in tourism: An ECPAT Training Resource Kit*, 19.

In the context of scarce data, this desk review collected available data from criminal statistics or estimates that offer some indication of the geographical spread, prevalence and variety of forms that CSEC takes in Europe, with a focus on countries where children and adolescents are or may potentially be exploited by travelling child sex offenders. (See Annex 4 for detailed information on specific countries).

Is SECTT in Europe increasing or decreasing?

In line with a global trend registered by Interpol,⁶⁷ the number of children and adolescents targeted by travelling child sex offenders appears to be rising in some European countries. For example, during her mission to Latvia in 2008, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking (hereinafter UN Special Rapporteur) heard from all interlocutors that the phenomenon of SECTT was on the rise. Likewise, in 2013 NGOs in Moldova noted an increase in the commercial sexual exploitation of Moldovan children by foreign tourists, combined with an alarming rise in Internet use as a tool for recruitment and exploitation.⁶⁸ In Eastern Europe a similarly disturbing trend was observed in Estonia⁶⁹ and Ukraine,⁷⁰ while Turkey has acquired a growing reputation for sex tourism, including cases of children and adolescents.⁷¹

Although growing trends were recorded mostly in Eastern Europe, SECTT appears to have also increased dramatically in Portugal,⁷² likely due to the financial crisis and resulting austerity measures. Research in the Netherlands in 2009 noted that: “in all locations, the growth in demand resulting from the availability and promotion of sex tourism appears to be resulting in an increased pull of local girls into the sex markets by local pimps”.⁷³ In the UK online “grooming” of children, for later sexual exploitation, has reportedly increased since 2010.⁷⁴

It should be noted, however, that these apparent trends may be due, at least in part, to increased awareness or reporting, better law enforcement or more effective cooperation, rather than solely to increasing numbers of incidents.

⁶⁷ UN Human Rights Council (2009), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat M’jid Maalla. Addendum: Mission to Latvia.”, UN Doc. A/HRC/12/23/Add.1, (2009), para. 9.

⁶⁸ UNITED STATES, Department of State (2013), “2013 Trafficking in Persons Report – Moldova”, accessed 13 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51c2f3a2d.html>

⁶⁹ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M’jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para. 6.

⁷⁰ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine”, 14, accessed 13 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf

⁷¹ ECPAT International (2008), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Turkey”, 15, accessed 13 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-TURKEY_ENG%20%281%29.pdf

⁷² Child Rights Connect (2014), “State Party Examination of the Portugal’s Initial Periodic Report on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography”, (report presented at 65th session of The Committee on the Rights of the Child, 13 – 31 January 2014), 3, accessed 13 May 2015, http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Portugal_Session-Report-OPSC_FINAL.pdf

⁷³ SHARED HOPE International, “Demand. A Comparative Examination of Sex tourism and trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States”, 64.

⁷⁴ Beckford, Martin, “More abuse victims being groomed online, says Barnardo’s”, www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9017934/More-abuse-victims-being-groomed-online-says-Barnardos.html, 17 January 2012, accessed 15 May 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9017934/More-abuse-victims-being-groomed-online-says-Barnardos.html>

The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children observed: “If child sex tourism is to be tackled effectively, first and foremost it is necessary to compile a comprehensive list of countries where Dutch nationals have committed sexual violence against children. This is particularly important with a view to improving international cooperation in the areas of prevention, investigation and prosecution”.⁷⁵

WHERE DOES SECTT OCCUR?

While the precise scope of SECTT in Europe remains unknown, information provided by ECPAT groups and the extensive literature review undertaken as part of this study shed light on the scope of the phenomenon and emerging trends in the region. Mapping “hot spots” can provide valuable information on the nature and situation of SECTT, such as origin and destination countries and how they have shifted, as well as locations where SECTT takes place and how it is organised. This knowledge helps to pinpoint where action to address SECTT is most urgent and supports cooperation in prevention, victim assistance and criminal justice responses.

Yet limitations should not be overlooked, as noted by the UN Special Rapporteur, who pointed out that such maps are neither static nor exhaustive. Lack of research and information makes it difficult to provide a list of sending countries and destinations that accurately reflects reality.⁷⁶ The lack of agreed criteria for classifying countries as “emerging” or “traditional” sources and destinations further complicates rigorous mapping. For example, in 2005 (and later in 2008) ECPAT listed Cambodia among emerging destinations, but this was questioned by the Protection Project (a U.S.-based human rights research institute) on the basis that the problem was sufficiently substantial and entrenched to merit classification as an already established destination.⁷⁷

Findings from previous mappings

Mapping by ECPAT and the Protection Project has frequently been used to illustrate where SECTT occurs in Europe and worldwide.

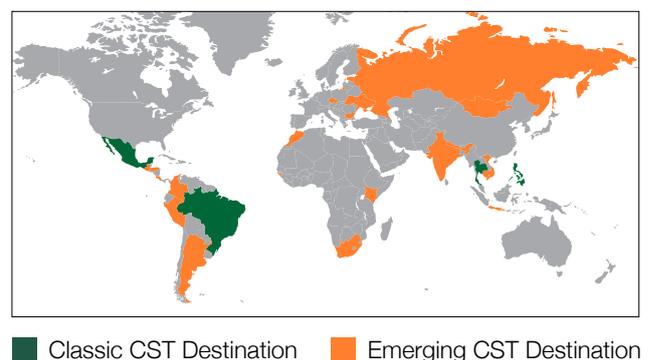
The Protection Project conducts an annual review of the U.S. Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report as the basis for its mapping of countries affected by SECTT. With regard to Europe, the 2014 review indicated that:

- Sending countries for SECTT include: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Sweden
- Destination countries include Latvia and Moldova
- Countries that are both a source of TCSOs and a destination for SECTT include Georgia and Russia.⁷⁸

The main limitation of this exercise is linked to the information source on which it is based. The fact that a country has not reported SECTT in its annual TIP report does not necessarily mean that the problem does not occur.

In 2008 ECPAT International proposed a map illustrating the global occurrence of SECTT, indicating that in Europe there were no classic destinations for TCSOs, but some countries (Russia, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Estonia and potentially Bulgaria) were increasingly being affected by this crime.⁷⁹ The source of demand was identified as coming from all developed countries, including Russia and the wealthier countries of Europe.⁸⁰ Like the Protection Project effort, this mapping also had some limitations, as it was developed focusing mainly on countries where ECPAT has member groups and did not rely on an extensive literature review. Again, several countries already experiencing SECTT were not included in the mapping.

Fig. 3: Countries of destination according to ECPAT International (2008)



■ Classic CST Destination ■ Emerging CST Destination

⁷⁶ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M’jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para. 25.

⁷⁷ The Protection Project (2007), “International Child Sex Tourism: Scope of the Problem and Comparative Case Studies” (The John Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies), 23, accessed 19 February 2015, http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/JHU_Report.pdf

⁷⁸ Johns Hopkins University, Protection Project (2014), “The Protection Project review of the trafficking in person report”, 102-103, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/3547.pdf>

⁷⁹ ECPAT International (2008), “Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism: an ECPAT Training Resource Kit”, 25, accessed 4 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ECPAT_CST_Code_Toolkit.pdf

⁸⁰ ECPAT International, “Combating child sex tourism: questions and answers”, 13-14.

Table 3: European countries of origin for SECTT

Traditional/long affected country of origin	Confirmed emerging country of origin	Potential emerging country of origin
Austria	Russia	Greece
Belgium	Turkey	Ireland
Denmark	Portugal	Luxembourg
Finland		Poland
France		Romania
Germany		Slovenia
Italy		
Netherlands		
Norway		
Spain		
Sweden		
Switzerland		
United Kingdom		

Findings from the new mapping

To complement existing efforts and fill current knowledge gaps, an updated and extensive mapping was undertaken as part of this desk study, based on information gathered from various sources, including ECPAT member organisations, media reports, documented cases and other literature. To ensure a more appropriate classification, criteria were defined to guide this exercise, taking into account the dimension and duration of the problem and its potential to develop further.

Countries of origin in Europe

With regard to countries of origin of TCSOs, the following definitions were proposed:

- Traditional/long affected country of origin: when several cases of SECTT had been reported/observed for over 10 years;
- Confirmed emerging country of origin: when several cases of SECTT had been reported/observed in the last three to 10 years;
- Potential emerging country of origin: when only a few cases of travelling child sex offenders have been reported/observed in recent years, but this number could increase if no remedial action is taken. (With few exceptions, this category includes countries where the limited information available makes it impossible to assess the real magnitude of the problem.)

In line with ECPAT's 2008 mapping, the present study confirms that the majority of European nationals engaging in SECTT come from the most affluent Western European and Nordic countries. In many cases the existence of TCSOs was already known at the time of the First World Congress in 1996 (e.g., Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and UK), while for others the phenomenon became more apparent a few years later (e.g., Austria, Denmark, Finland and Spain).

In terms of emerging countries of origin of sex offenders, despite a lack of in-depth research, evidence shows that over the last decade Europe has witnessed a rise in the number of TCSOs from non-traditional sending countries, particularly Portugal, Russia and Turkey. According to the UN Special Rapporteur, the number of Russian citizens among abusers who sexually exploit children in travel and tourism is significant.⁸¹ The growing incidence of SECTT by Russian perpetrators was exposed by numerous cases in countries such as Cambodia, Nepal,⁸² Thailand⁸³, Belarus⁸⁴ and as recently as 2014, in the south of France.⁸⁵ According to a 2006 survey conducted by the Estonian Open Society Institute among adult sex workers and some underage girls exploited in prostitution, 19% of the sex buyers were Russian.⁸⁶ In addition to engaging directly in sex with children, Russians have also been increasingly noted as organisers of the sex business, catering to both locals

⁸¹ "Секс-туризм, затрагивающий детей, не знает границ" ("Child sex-tourism has no borders"), UN.org, 7 February 2013, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.un.org/russian/news/story.asp?NewsID=19056#.VDz7qld0Ycb>

and tourists. For example, in Pattaya, Thailand, much of the (child) sex trade is reportedly controlled by the Russian mafia.⁸⁷ In the Dominican Republic, an emerging trend is Russian-run villas where sexual services of Eastern European and Dominican women/girls are offered to Russian and other tourists, who can book accommodations and choose the girls on the Internet.⁸⁸

More and more perpetrators from Turkey have also been observed in Eastern Europe, particularly in the Black Sea area, as well as in other regions. In Moldova, ECPAT member organisation La Strada reported cases of Turkish nationals who spend weekends in privately rented apartments and engage in commercial sexual

relations with children and adolescents.⁸⁹ Similarly, in Ukraine, recent research found that both organised and individual “sex tours” involving Turkish men have become common in recent years⁹⁰ and that Turkish citizens are likely the most represented nationality for SECTT in the country.⁹¹ Nationals from Turkey were also identified as organisers of “sex tours” involving women and adolescents in Belarus⁹² as well as consumers of sex services with young people in Northern Russia⁹³ and, more recently in other countries such as Cambodia⁹⁴ and Uganda. The box below not only reveals the involvement of Turks in SECTT, but also the ties among different manifestations of CSEC and the gaps that perpetrators take advantage of to carry out their crimes.

Turkish citizen abused children in Africa

An incident of child sexual abuse by a Turkish tourist was recently recorded in Africa. In 2012, a perpetrator from Turkey who had lured over 50 Ugandan underage girls for sex was arrested and detained in Uganda.

The man was found to be in possession of pornographic videos depicting the young girls during sexual acts. Reports indicated that he had already been charged in 2009 before a court in Malindi, Kenya, after he was allegedly found having sex with a 15-year old Kenyan girl.⁹⁵ The Ugandan Special Investigations Unit was first alerted to the man’s activities from his Facebook page. The accused had publicly uploaded nude photographs of himself and a young teenage girl, and even bragged that he had been able to circumvent “court after court” by traveling from “country to country”.⁹⁶

⁸² ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society”, 36, accessed 14 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_South%20Asia.pdf.

⁸³ See for example “Russian Pedophile suspect arrested by Police in North Pattaya”, [thaivisa.com](http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/topic/735027-russian-pedophile-suspect-arrested-by-police-in-north-pattaya/), 17 June 2014, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/topic/735027-russian-pedophile-suspect-arrested-by-police-in-north-pattaya/>

⁸⁴ A case is cited in ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus”, 11, accessed 21 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

⁸⁵ “Российского олигарха Владимира Лукьяненко арестовали в Монако по обвинению в педофилии” (“Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko arrested in Monaco on charges of pedophilia”), [Antikor.com.ua](http://antikor.com.ua/articles/12905-rossijskogo_oligarha_vladimira_lukjjanenko_arestovali_v_monako_po_obvineniju_v_pedofi), 5 September 2014, accessed 4 June 2015, http://antikor.com.ua/articles/12905-rossijskogo_oligarha_vladimira_lukjjanenko_arestovali_v_monako_po_obvineniju_v_pedofi

⁸⁶ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Estonia”, 15, accessed 21 May 2015, http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_Estonia.pdf

⁸⁷ Martin, Phillip, “Underground Trade Part Four: One Town in Thailand (and human trafficking)”, [huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/philip-martin/underground-trade-one-town_b_2714422.html), 19 February 2013, accessed 21 May 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/philip-martin/underground-trade-one-town_b_2714422.html

⁸⁸ ECPAT Netherlands (2013), “Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism”, 39, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf>

⁸⁹ La Strada Moldova, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁹⁰ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), “Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction”, (draft version not for circulation), 23.

⁹¹ Levchenko, Kateryna et al., “Дитячий секс-туризм в Україні: спроба ситуаційного аналізу” (Child sex tourism in Ukraine: attempt situational analysis), 54.

⁹² “Мінська міліція активізує боротьбу з проституцією” (“Minsk police intensify the fight against prostitution”), 11 November 2012, accessed 4 June 2015, [Sb.by](http://www.sb.by/v-belarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutsiey-2.html), <http://www.sb.by/v-belarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutsiey-2.html>

⁹³ The following information was provided by the NGO Stellit in February 2015: “According to a street sex worker who gave an interview to Regional NGO “Stellit” staff in 2011, in 1997 in St. Petersburg there were a lot of girls of 15 – 17 years old who went to hotels to provide sexual services to foreigners, including citizens of Turkey.”

⁹⁴ Pisey, Hay “Turkish Man Arrested for Buying Children’s Virginity”, [cambodiadaily.com](https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/turkish-man-arrested-for-buying-childrens-virginity-58426/), 9 May 2014, accessed 21 May 2015, <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/turkish-man-arrested-for-buying-childrens-virginity-58426/>

⁹⁵ “Turkish paedophile re-arrested”, [newvision.co.ug](http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629969-turkish-paedophile-re-arrested.html), 29 March 2012, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/629969-turkish-paedophile-re-arrested.html>

⁹⁶ Kigongo, Juliet, Bagala, Andrew, Croome, Philippa, “Sex tourist pays Shs6 million fine, walks free”, [monitor.co.ug](http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1375704/-/awpbihz/-/), 29 March 2012, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1375704/-/awpbihz/-/>

According to research commissioned by UNWTO in 2005, men from Portugal were the most represented nationality for sex tourism in North-East Brazil after Italians. Although only 10% of tourists were found to explicitly seek sex with children,⁹⁷ the presence of Portuguese travelling child sex offenders in Brazil and other destinations is substantiated by media reports⁹⁸ and the 2014 Protection Project's review of the TIP report.⁹⁹

A more detailed discussion of European countries of origin is provided in Annex 5 (A).

Countries of destination in Europe

In addition to mapping source countries, this desk study has sought to illustrate the shifting of countries of destination in Europe. For the purpose of this mapping exercise, the following definitions have been adopted:

- a) Traditional/long affected country of destination: when several cases of children sexually exploited by travelling offenders have been reported/observed for over ten years;
- b) Confirmed emerging country of destination: when several cases of children sexually exploited by travelling offenders have been reported/observed in the last 3 to 10 years;
- c) Potential emerging country of destination/Other: when only few cases of children sexually exploited by travelling child sex offenders have been reported/observed in recent years but this number may increase if no remedial action is taken. N.B. With few exceptions, this category usually includes countries where the limited information available makes it impossible to assess the real magnitude of the problem. It also includes countries that have only recently acknowledged the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism by both local and foreign perpetrators.

Table 4: European countries of destination

Traditional/long affected country of origin	Confirmed emerging country of origin	Potential emerging country of origin
Czech Republic	Albania	Armenia
Latvia	Bulgaria	Azerbaijan
Portugal	Estonia	Belarus
Russia	Moldova	Belgium
Romania	Poland	Croatia
Slovakia	Spain	Georgia
	Turkey	Greece
	Ukraine	Hungary
		Kazakhstan
		Kyrgyzstan
		Montenegro
		Netherlands
		UK

⁹⁷ "Italiano e português lideram turismo sexual no Nordeste", Folha de S.Paulo, 26 December 2005, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/folha/turismo/noticias/ult338u5441.shtml>

⁹⁸ See for example Andy Dolan, "Why was he free? Predatory paedophile from Portugal groomed and raped British girl, 12, before going on the run after CPS gave him bail and let him keep his passport", DailyMail.co.uk, 14 September 2014, accessed on 4 June, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2331602/Predatory-child-rapist-Portugal-goes-run-police-gave-bail-let-passport.html#ixzz3RGZuLAiA>; and "Agostinho dos Santos de Sousa jailed for indecent images", BBC.com, 10 February 2014, accessed on 4 June 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-guernsey-26081433>

⁹⁹ The Protection Project, International Child Sex Tourism: Scope of the Problem and Comparative Case Studies, 102-103.

At the time of the First World Congress against CSEC, Western European and Nordic countries were considered a primary source for SECTT, but 20 years later the situation has evolved, and Europe is now also a region of destination for travelling child sex offenders.

A full discussion of the destination countries in Europe can be found in Annex 5 (sections D, E and F), including case studies and specifics on several countries and sub-regions. Some highlights from the findings on traditional and emerging destinations include:

- Increased law enforcement and reduced availability of children in nations traditionally affected by this practice, have induced offenders to move to locations where they can find higher levels of impunity and corruption as well as a rising supply of young victims
- Mapping over time in the city of St. Petersburg and other Russian cities indicates a decline in reported cases of SECTT in Russia, which may be due to improved economic conditions and enhanced child protection efforts but may also reflect increased latency of the crime
- The Czech Republic also appears to have achieved some success in controlling SECTT, in part due to new laws and in part to an improved economy that reduces children's vulnerability. But SECTT continues on the Czech-German border, the capital and other cities
- Conversely, Portugal experienced cutbacks in services and protection for children and SECTT appears to be firmly entrenched in tourist areas such as Madeira, Lisbon, the Azores and Porto
- Moldova is becoming a "paradise" for travelling child sex offenders, facilitated by cheap services, lack of countermeasures and increased children's vulnerability (due to economic crisis)
- Recent research by ECPAT member La Strada revealed the existence of a thriving "SECTT market" in Ukraine, especially in Odessa, Crimea and Kiev
- A 2015 research conducted by the International Children's Centre in collaboration with an academic institution, found that SECTT is a fact in Turkey and is becoming increasingly organised
- Official data, anecdotal evidence and media reports confirm the emergence of SECTT in Spain, led by offenders from the UK, Netherlands, Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Germany.

European countries at risk of becoming SECTT destinations

The mapping exercise indicates that other European countries are at risk of becoming a destination for SECTT. This is particularly true for nations where tourism development schemes and actions do not prioritise child protection, where vulnerable children are available in consistent numbers, where sexual exploitation is socially condoned and there is existing local demand, and last but not least, where legislation and prosecution for sexual crimes against children remain weak.

Information provided by ECPAT member organisations and the literature review suggest that countries potentially exposed to the problem of SECTT include: Croatia, Greece and Montenegro in the Balkan region; Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in the Caucasus; Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia; Belarus and Hungary in Eastern Europe. It must however be noted that only a few incidents of child sex crimes committed by tourists and travellers have been reported or found in these countries.

In addition, Western European countries better known for creating demand for SECTT (such as the Netherlands and UK) are also beginning to experience incidents, especially tied to the use of new ICT tools to access children and by domestic travellers (see Annex 5 (F)).

Annex 5(G) discusses non-European destinations frequented by European TCSOs.

IMPACT OF THE CRIME

SECTT has a devastating impact on both child victims and destinations. While the actual effects vary according to each child's individual circumstances and depend on factors such as a child's stage of development and the nature, duration and form of the abuse, all children who are sexually exploited suffer severe, life-long emotional, psychological and physical consequences.¹⁰⁰

Many victims of sexual exploitation report having been beaten and raped and exposed to other forms of physical violence from perpetrators, pimps, traffickers and often police, leading to subsequent health and reproductive problems.

In Moldova, a study by La Strada on child sex trafficking and SECTT found that 50% of child victims suffered from a venereal disease and 10% became pregnant, with severe complications. Cases of infection of victims with HIV were also recorded, as were high levels of alcohol addiction.¹⁰¹

¹⁰⁰ ECPAT International (2008), "Questions & Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children", IV edition, 24, accessed 22 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/faq_eng_2008.pdf

¹⁰¹ La Strada Moldova, Rusu, Viorelia, Fomina, Tatiana (2010) "Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova", 70, accessed 20 May 2015, http://www.lastrada.md/publicatii/ebook/Child_Traffick_En_corr2.pdf

Sexually exploited children also suffer emotional and psychological damage. In addition to feelings of shame, guilt and low self-esteem, some do not believe they are worthy of rescue; others feel betrayed by someone they trusted; others suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders, depression and anxiety. Some child victims attempt suicide or turn to substance abuse.¹⁰²

Children involved in sexual exploitation are often stigmatised and encounter serious difficulties reintegrating into society. Stigmatisation may come from their communities, families and peers as well as law enforcers, caregivers, judges and other actors responsible for their protection. When effective and comprehensive social and psychological recovery and reintegration programmes are not available, including viable alternative livelihood options, child victims may also run away from care facilities and fall back into sexual exploitation.¹⁰³

SECTT not only claims child victims, it also ruptures families, causes cultural disintegration and endangers public health. When a tourist destination becomes known as a (child) sex tourism destination and prostitution is a

major source of income, the entire local community is at greater risk for infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. NGOs in Latvia and Ukraine point to sharp increases in HIV infections linked to burgeoning demand for sex by tourists.¹⁰⁴

SECTT encourages corruption and the growth of illegal economic activity, particularly when criminal networks are involved. Illegal profits made through the sexual exploitation of children are thought to be massive. It has been estimated that SECTT could be worth US\$20 billion per year¹⁰⁵ and that global child pornography profits range from US\$3-to-20 billion.¹⁰⁶ Sexual abuse of one child in front of a live webcam is estimated to generate revenues of US\$1,000 a night.¹⁰⁷

Moreover, when a location has acquired notoriety as a destination for SECTT, its reputation can be severely and irreparably damaged, causing it to lose ordinary tourists and investment. Stereotypes are hard to change, making it difficult for a country to reverse such a negative image by developing responsible forms of tourism that benefit communities.

Big business

“In the Czech Republic, where prostitution operates in a legal grey zone but is largely tolerated, the sex industry is big business, generating \$A760 million, much of it from British visitors, according to Mag Consulting, a tourism research company in Prague that studies the sex industry.”¹⁰⁸

The sex industry is also a big business in the Netherlands, where it is reported to generate €1.1 billion annually (about 5% of Netherland’s GDP).¹⁰⁹

¹⁰² ECPAT International, “Questions & Answers about the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children”, 24.

¹⁰³ ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group (2006), “Combating the Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes: Questions and Answers”, 21, accessed 20 May 2015 http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/trafficking_faq_eng.pdf

¹⁰⁴ Fox Isabelle, “Latvia: Sex Tourism Presentation”, accessed 20 May 2015, https://prezi.com/a76av0f01q_k/latvia-sex-tourism-presentation/; Turner, Denise, “Heterosexual AIDS figures increase as sex tourism blights Ukraine”, [womensviewsonnews.org](http://www.womensviewsonnews.org), 22 August 2011, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.womensviewsonnews.org/2011/08/heterosexual-aids-figures-increase-as-sex-tourism-blights-ukraine/>; Schuster, Martina, Sülzle, Almut, Zimowska, Agnieszka (2010), “Discourse on prostitution and human trafficking in the context of UEFA EURO 2012: academic study of discourse and campaigns in the run-up to the 2012 European Football Championship finals as the basis for advising decision-makers”, accessed 20 May 2015, <http://lastradainternational.org/Isidocs/Disourse%20on%20prostitution%20and%20human%20trafficking%20in%20the%20context%20of%20UEFA%20EURO%202012.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ UN Human Rights Council (2013), “Combating child sex tourism”, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/ChildSexTourism.aspx>

¹⁰⁶ Handrahan, Lori, “The Justice Department’s Child Porn Problem”, frontpagemag.com, 7 September 2012, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://frontpagemag.com/2012/lori-handrahan/the-justice-departments-child-porn-problem/>

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Hall, Allan “Flaccid economies lead to lay-offs in Europe’s brothels”, [Sidney Morning Herald](http://www.smh.com.au), 11 December 2008, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.smh.com.au/world/flaccid-economies-lead-to-layoffs-in-europes-brothels-20081210-6vti.html>

¹⁰⁹ Caldwell, Clarissa, “Amsterdam travel: sex tourism and sexual trafficking”, [justmeans.com](http://www.justmeans.com), 19 August 2010, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.justmeans.com/blogs/amsterdam-travel-sex-tourism-and-human-trafficking>

CONCLUSION

Although the actual scale of SECTT in Europe remains unknown, there is evidence that it is a significant, widespread and likely growing problem. As pointed out by the UN Special Rapporteur in 2012, SECTT “can occur anywhere in the world and no country or tourism destination is exempt”.¹¹⁰ The mapping conducted as part of this study demonstrates that this observation is particularly true for Europe.

The mapping exercise provides evidence that sending countries in Europe have increased in number and may expand further in coming years, as tourism development advances. The fact that more and more Russian perpetrators have been observed in destinations for SECTT is not surprising, considering that in 2013 Russia was the fourth-largest outbound tourism market.¹¹¹ This is also true of Turkey, where in 2013 the number of travellers reached approximately 7 million.¹¹² Supported by currency appreciation, an increase in disposable incomes and reduced restrictions on foreign travel, tourism spending abroad from some European countries has grown - and with it the likelihood that some children and adolescents will be sexually exploited by travellers and tourists.

Increasing ease of travel combined with lower costs have undoubtedly multiplied opportunities for European nationals — even from more and less affluent countries — to reach developing destinations, particularly those within Europe; this increased movement has often been accompanied by the sexual exploitation of children and young people. Indeed, one of the most alarming findings

of this mapping is the high incidence and prevalence of SECTT in many European countries.

Domestic and transnational SECTT in the region is associated/linked with all manifestations of CSEC and occurs in multiple venues, from brothels, massage parlours, clubs and entertainment enterprises, to beaches, hotels, and guesthouses and urban, rural or coastal settings. In a number of countries, SECTT has become more invisible, shifting from public places to private locations. Pimps and traffickers play a crucial role in the chain of exploitation, especially in countries with an organised industry catering to TCSOs (such as Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine).

As well as travelling to nearby or neighbouring countries in the region, the above mapping indicates that European tourists and travellers continue to fuel the demand for sex with children in both traditional and emerging destinations in other world regions. All indications are that the pattern of SECTT is not static, but that factors determining the choice of destination include language similarities, presence of a migrant community, preference for minors from certain nationalities and the existence of direct flights from countries of origin.

The impact of SECTT on children and adolescents and on destinations can be devastating and long-lasting. The magnitude of SECTT in the region can no longer be neglected and the range of factors that facilitate its proliferation, as described in the next chapter, require urgent attention.

¹¹⁰ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para 22.

¹¹¹ UNWTO (2014), “Tourism Highlights: 2014”, 13, accessed 22 October 2015, <http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416899>

¹¹² Ibid. See also International Children's Centre (ICC), Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

CHAPTER 3

UNDERLYING FACTORS AND EMERGING TRENDS IN SUPPLY, DEMAND¹¹³ AND MODALITIES OF OFFENDING

The pervasive nature of SECTT in Europe can be explained and efficiently addressed only by understanding the root causes and risk factors that create vulnerability and the characteristics of children and adolescents most affected, and learning more about travelling child sex offenders and the methods they use to perpetrate their crimes. This chapter seeks to analyse these key elements, focusing on emerging trends that future efforts to combat SECTT must take into consideration to ensure a more targeted and timely response.

STRUCTURAL FACTORS ENABLING SECTT

In a 2012 report on SECTT, the UN Special Rapporteur noted that multiple, often interlinked, structural causes and risk factors related to the child, families and the local/national environment support the occurrence of this multi-dimensional problem.¹¹⁴ When looking at root causes, it is clear that some determinants apply to all manifestations of CSEC, while others impact more directly on SECTT. At the same time, some factors drive both supply and demand, while others may impact just one or the other.

Globalisation, poverty and inequality

All over the world globalisation is causing profound economic and socio-cultural changes, some of which

have an adverse effect on children's wellbeing. Critics argue that this process has led to persistent inequality and poverty,¹¹⁵ which in turn have rendered children in these populations at greater risk of exploitative situations, including commercial sexual exploitation. While the bulk of perpetrators of SECTT are believed to be situational offenders,¹¹⁶ it is well known that preferential child sex offenders tend to choose countries and locations affected by high levels of poverty, where large numbers of children are vulnerable. Moreover, the significant disposable income of TCSOs is a major driver of SECTT in most destination countries.

Not surprisingly, the main destinations for SECTT in Europe are the Central/Eastern European countries with high levels of poverty and inequality. Recent estimates suggest that within the EU at least 25% of the over 100 million children and young people aged 0-18 are at risk of poverty and/or social exclusion. The severity of child deprivation is generally more pronounced in newly acceded countries: one study found that in Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Romania deprivation rates range from 40% to nearly 80%, while in Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Sweden they are under 10%.¹¹⁷ Several studies undertaken in Eastern Europe point to poverty as a key contributor to SECTT. For example, in Moldova a 2010 qualitative study on child trafficking and SECTT found that "the average portrait of a victim of violence by a child sex-tourist coincides with the portrait of a child trafficking victim. These children

¹¹³ For the purpose of this report, demand refers primarily to those who directly engage in commercial sexual relations with children, i.e. the offenders/perpetrators. It must however be noted that the concept of "demand" should be understood more broadly to also encompass those who facilitate the sexual exploitation of children (pimps, traffickers, intermediaries, etc.) as well as the complex and interrelated factors that support its perpetuation.

¹¹⁴ UN Human Rights Council (2012), "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid", UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para 34-39.

¹¹⁵ Rifkin, Jeremy, "The Rise of Anti-Capitalism", nytimes.com, 15 March 2014, accessed 15 May 2015, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/opinion/sunday/the-rise-of-anti-capitalism.html?_r=0

¹¹⁶ ECPAT the Netherlands (2009), "Offenders Beware: Child sex tourism case studies", (2009), 4, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/995.pdf>

¹¹⁷ Guio, A.-C., Gordon, D. and Marlier, E. (2012), Measuring material deprivation in the EU: Indicators for the whole population and child-specific indicators, Eurostat Methodologies and working papers, (Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (OPOCE)), 13, accessed 22 October 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3888793/5853037/KS-RA-12-018-EN.PDF>. To note that child deprivation rate was calculated based on 18 indicators and refers to children aged 1-15.

SECTT and inequality in Ukraine

“Big income gaps between hosting country and home countries of sex tourists, between Ukrainians and foreign guests, allows foreigners to feel comfortable and impress Ukrainian teenagers, who see themselves as a “royal princess” capable of making all their dreams for “fabulous life” (dinner at a restaurant, expensive clothes etc.) come true. For some children a dinner paid by an “older guy” might be the only meal of the day. In such cases the decision to provide sex services is caused by a wish, or sometimes a need, to earn money for living.”¹²⁰

often come from vulnerable families with problems of poverty”¹¹⁸; indeed, 96% of the child victims surveyed noted significant economic problems at home. Similarly, a study by La Strada Ukraine pointed out that in a country where 11 million people live below the poverty line, economic distress pushes adults and young people to engage in commercial sex,¹¹⁹ while also making them vulnerable to unsafe migration and human trafficking.

Throughout much of the region, the economic and financial crisis has further exacerbated poverty levels and deepened inequalities within countries, contributing to destabilising the socioeconomic environment for children. Austerity programmes - based on deep spending cuts, especially to public services such as education and social security - have dismantled mechanisms that reduce inequality and enable equitable growth. Between 2008 and 2011, the risk of impoverishment increased in 17 EU member states, with marked consequences for the lives of children and young people. Reductions in income support and child benefits, cuts in services directly affecting children (e.g., health, education), increasing unemployment and insecurity at work (for both young people and their parents) and increased demands on child protection services combined to produce a deterioration in living conditions for millions

of children,¹²¹ increasing their vulnerability to sexual exploitation and making the purchase of sex services more affordable. A direct link between increased SECTT and the economic crisis was clearly identified in Portugal. In Ukraine, experts claimed that devaluation of the local currency made sex tourism in Ukraine very inexpensive compared to other countries.

Lack of child protection in tourism development

Policies aimed to support expansion of the tourist sector — including the development of sustainable, responsible and high-quality tourism — have been adopted at the EU level and in a number of countries in the region.¹²³ However, despite increasing dependence on international tourism as an income source, most states have failed to include child protection in their tourism development schemes or adopt policies to prevent SECTT. Several destinations (such as Ukraine, Estonia, the Netherlands, Hungary and Latvia) are being promoted over the Internet for their “sex tourism” industry (see for example the website <http://www.sextourism.net/destination/europe/>), and, even though sex with children and young people is not explicitly encouraged, governments do not appear to have taken a strong stance against these marketing strategies.

According to 2012 research by La Strada Ukraine, the price of sex services provided by a girl is about 40-60 Euros per hour, while elsewhere in Europe it is nearly the double. Combined with the relatively low cost of flights and hotels, this has led to an increase in “sex tourism” in Ukraine, even during the off season.¹²²

¹¹⁸ La Strada Moldova, Rusu, Viorelia, Fomina, Tatiana “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 71.

¹¹⁹ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), “Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction”, 16-17.

¹²⁰ Ibid., 17.

¹²¹ ECPAT International (2014), “The commercial sexual exploitation of children in Europe”, 4.

¹²² Levchenko, Kateryna et al., “Дитячий секс-туризм в Україні: спроба ситуаційного аналізу (Child sex tourism in Ukraine: attempt situational analysis”, 29.

¹²³ Calabrò, Cristina (2013) “Sustainable Tourism within the EU Tourism Policy”, (paper Fourth meeting of the ARLEM's Commission for Sustainable Development (SUDEV), Brussels 16 January 2013), accessed 15 May 2015, <http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/arlem/activities/meetings/Documents/cristina-calabro-stineutourism-policy.pdf>

Profit over protection

In Latvia, policies that the government argues are fighting sex tourism are ambiguous and ineffective. If from one side the need to combat this practice is recognised (for example, the Tourism Division of the Ministry of Economics is responsible for promoting Latvia as a safe tourist destination), on the other sex tourism is seen as beneficial for economic development; as a result, according to one analysis, policy efforts tend to focus on attracting as many tourists and visitors as possible rather than on protecting women and girls.¹²⁴

In the Czech Republic, “The State Tourism Policy Concept for the period of 2007 – 2013” adopted by the Czech Ministry of Regional Development as its plan to address socially responsible tourism, does not mention SECTT, child trafficking or prostitution of children. Likewise, the 2008 Draft Czech Tourism Report, which describes the government’s tourism policy, does not contain references to the issue of SECTT, but instead focuses on traditional tourism development ideas.¹²⁵

“Selling” a country as a sex tourism destination not only supports the idea that commercial sex is socially accepted, but likely contributes to creating an environment that condones the behaviour of perpetrators, especially where there is local demand for sex with children and their vulnerability to sexual exploitation is particularly high.

Lack of efficient legal frameworks and prosecution mechanisms

Research carried out by La Strada Ukraine points to impunity of perpetrators as a key factor contributing to SECTT in the country. An analysis of TCSO Internet forums conducted as part of the study revealed that the

main reason behind their behaviour was the “certainty” of escaping justice both in Ukraine and in their countries of origin. The possibility of “buying” the complacency of law enforcement (through bribery) was found to further facilitate this; some experts also claimed that law enforcers were directly involved in the commercial sex business either as “consumers” or as pimps.¹²⁶

Corruption is not limited to Ukraine. Repeated incidents of police officers and representatives of the judiciary who received bribes from offenders to avoid investigation and prosecution have been reported, especially in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and some EU Eastern European countries.¹²⁸

“It’s simple here. If police notes something, they ask for big money and you can go on.”

Interview with a commercial sex worker, Kyiv ¹²⁷

“I’d like to go to like Russia, somewhere you know, honestly. Russia or Romania ... because ‘number one’ you can bribe the officials easily enough, you know, if you do get into trouble and ‘number two’ they, like I said, they usually don’t prosecute you ... at least that’s what I’ve heard.”

Interview with an American child sex offender ¹²⁹

¹²⁴ Dean, Laura A., “Advocacy Coalitions in East European Sex Tourism: The Case of Latvia”, 36.

¹²⁵ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic”, 17, accessed 14 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

¹²⁶ La Strada Ukraine (2014), “Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction”, 17-18.

¹²⁷ Ibid., 18.

¹²⁸ ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of the Independent States”, 6, accessed 14 November 2015, [http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_CIS%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_CIS%20(English).pdf).

¹²⁹ This interview is mentioned in Sullivan, J. (2015), “Traveling Sex Offenders”, contribution to ECPAT International’s Global Study on CSETT (in press).

An environment where corruption is the rule and offenders go unpunished creates favourable conditions for SECTT to flourish. But impunity does not stem exclusively from corruption. Across the European region, elements that create a solid foundation allowing SECTT to flourish include: persistent weaknesses in legal frameworks addressing all crimes tied to CSEC (see chapter 4 for more details);¹³⁰ lack of awareness and capacity; limited reporting, including insufficient involvement of the tourism and travel sector; widespread tolerance of the problem, even among actors responsible for child protection;¹³¹ and increased sophistication of the criminal networks involved, making counter-measures particularly difficult.

Migration

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, increasing migration flows within and from the region were recorded in Europe.¹³² EU enlargement in 2004, 2007 and more recently in 2013, has further facilitated migration, particularly from newly acceded countries to Western Europe. Whilst post-accession labour mobility flows from the newest member states made a positive contribution to the economies of receiving countries,¹³³ the opening of borders raised concern over a possible increase in human trafficking. Although hard evidence is lacking, some experts believe that “one major new problem which came as a consequence of the enlargement was the phenomenon of human trafficking within the borders of the EU.”¹³⁴

Children and young people in the whole European region are affected by migration in different ways. Children left behind by migrating parents, while benefitting from remittances, may suffer from the

negative impacts of less parental supervision, including a higher risk of being trafficked.¹³⁵ Children also make up a proportion of the migration flow. Despite the lack of reliable data, research indicates that about 4% of the total migrant population in Europe is under 20 years of age (mostly between 15 and 19 years). Some of these children move within or between countries with their parents, while others move on their own. Unaccompanied children who are undocumented (or irregular) migrants are particularly vulnerable to coercion, deception and violence through child labour, trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.¹³⁶ Europe's large population of young asylum seekers are also at risk of exploitation.¹³⁷ Instead of receiving protection, unaccompanied children may face prolonged detention, intimidation and abuse.¹³⁸

Armed conflicts and civil wars

Despite Europe's relative stability in recent decades, when political clashes and civil unrest have occurred, serious violations of children's rights have been reported, including child sexual exploitation.

The role of military and peacekeeping personnel and humanitarian workers in the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in conflict and post-conflict contexts has been highlighted by several studies.¹³⁹ Military personnel who seek out prostitutes are usually considered situational offenders who, while not actively seeking sexual activity with minors, may nevertheless engage in it given the “fact that they are mostly young men, usually working in poor and extremely dangerous conditions, and separated from all that is familiar to them. Furthermore there is enormous peer pressure to participate in it”.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁰ ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of the Independent States”, 39-42.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Salt, John Almeida, José Carlos (2006), “International Migration in Europe : Patterns and Trends since the mid-1990s”, *Revue Européenne des Migrations Internationales* 22, no. 6, 155-175, accessed 22 October 2015, <http://remi.revues.org/2828>

¹³³ ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe”, 5.

¹³⁴ ANDREA, “EU Enlargement and Human Trafficking: an Insider's Point of View”, *Andrea's gender blog*, 24 April 2010, accessed 14 May 2015, <https://genderthoughts.wordpress.com/2010/04/24/euenlargemet-and-human-trafficking-an-insiders-point-of-view/>

¹³⁵ ECPAT International, *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe*, 6.

¹³⁶ IOM (2013), “Children on the move”, accessed 14 May 2015, http://maejt.org/pdfs/Children_on_the_Move_English.pdf; IOM (2002), “Trafficking in unaccompanied minors in the European Union: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain”, accessed 14 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/migration/archives/Source/MalagaRegConf/Trafficking_unaccompanied_minors_European_Union_en.pdf

¹³⁷ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2010), “Unaccompanied minors in the EU”, accessed http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/asylum/uam/uam_infographic_a4_en.pdf

¹³⁸ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe”, 5-6.

¹³⁹ See, for example, *Save the Children UK* (2008), “No One To Turn To: The Under-reporting of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by Aid workers and Peacekeepers”, accessed on 7 February 2013, http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/No_One_to_Turn_To_1.pdf

¹⁴⁰ O'Connel-Davidson, J. (2001), “The Sex Exploiter” (Paper for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children), accessed 22 October 2015, http://www.csecworldcongress.org/PDF/en/Yokohama/Background_reading/Theme_papers/Theme%20paper%20The%20Sex%20Exploiter.pdf

In Europe, such cases were reported in conjunction with the Balkan wars in the 1990s. Until at least 2003, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police and peacekeepers were alleged to have been involved in trafficking women and girls for sexual purposes and sexually victimising girls in Kosovo. It was also alleged that UNMIK failed to prosecute international personnel suspected of involvement in trafficking or of knowingly exploiting trafficked women and girls.¹⁴¹ While the United Nations system has recently taken actions to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse by its personnel, the Secretary General's 2014 report indicates that the problem persists, though to a limited extent (two cases of sexual abuse of minors by UNMIK's civilian staff are mentioned).¹⁴²

In eastern Ukraine the activity of illegal armed groups and resulting instability has undermined social protection systems in parts of the Crimean peninsula, with serious repercussions for children. According to 2015 research by *la Strada* Ukraine, the ongoing conflict is leading to an increasing problem of sexual exploitation of children,¹⁴³ including by Russian soldiers fighting alongside separatist rebels.¹⁴⁴

Europe is also affected by armed conflicts in some countries in the Middle East, particularly Syria. Incidents of Turkish nationals and men from the Middle East who travelled to Turkey and sexually exploited Syrian girls in refugee camps have been reported and young refugees separated from their parents are at high risk for exploitation.

Social norms: between “new” and “old”

As noted by the UN Special Rapporteur:

Social norms are a critical element of a protective environment for children. They can increase vulnerability, especially when they lead to discrimination, gender bias, harmful practices, and social acceptance and under-reporting of violations. Conversely, social norms promoting protective behaviours can play an important role in reducing risk and enhancing resilience. They also influence

*the functioning of formal institutions and good governance, including public accountability.*¹⁴⁵

The broader context in which SECTT has proliferated has dramatically changed in recent years. If on the one hand traditional cultural beliefs, stereotypes and customs are still fuelling this practice, on the other globalising trends have eroded long-established social norms and sexual mores that protected children, redesigning the landscape in which SECTT occurs. As illustrated below, the new and old now co-exist, adding further complexity to the scenario.

Gender constructions, discrimination and harmful traditional practices

While rapid transformations take place, several forms of discrimination that are deeply rooted in norms and practices persist, leaving countless children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation. In Europe, racism and discrimination have surged in recent years, especially against minorities, people with different religious views, migrants and asylum-seekers. This is especially true of Europe's largest ethnic minority group, the Roma, which has a long history of marginalisation and persecution, including forcible resettlement, the removal of children from their families to state institutions and exclusion from education. Despite efforts to improve integration, Roma children still face discrimination and hostility.¹⁴⁶ Research conducted by ECPAT and other actors indicates that as a result of these discriminatory practices and low living standards, in a number of Eastern European countries (such as Bulgaria,¹⁴⁷ Bosnia,¹⁴⁸ Macedonia,¹⁴⁹ Montenegro,¹⁵⁰ Czech Republic,¹⁵¹ Romania¹⁵² and Ukraine¹⁵³) children from ethnic minorities (especially Roma children) are highly exposed to sexual exploitation, including by travelling child sex offenders (see section on ‘Which children and young people are affected?’).

Although Europe has made significant efforts to address gender disparity (according to the 2012 World Economic Forum report, Europe is second only to North America on the overall Global Gender Gap Index), women in the region continue to face discrimination and a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion. Gender-based violence remains pervasive.¹⁵⁴ Across all countries of the former Soviet Union, for instance, girls are highly vulnerable to domestic abuse

¹⁴¹ ECPAT International (2006), “Global monitoring report on the status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children; Serbia”, 11, accessed 22 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-SERBIA.pdf

¹⁴² UN General Assembly (2014), “Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: Report of the Secretary-General”, UN doc. A/68/756, para. 23.

¹⁴⁸ US Department of Labor (2013), “Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finding on the worst forms of child labor: moderate advancement”, accessed 14 May 2015 from http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/childlabor/bosnia_herz.htm

¹⁴⁹ US Department of Labor (2013), “Macedonia. Finding on the worst forms of child labor: moderate advancement”, accessed 14 May 2015 from <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/childlabor/macedonia.htm>

¹⁵⁰ Ombudsman for Children, “IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA OZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE”, 33.

¹⁵¹ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic”, 9, accessed 14 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

¹⁵² ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Romania”, 13, accessed 14 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_ROMANIA.pdf

¹⁵³ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine”, 11, accessed 14 May 2015 http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf

¹⁵⁴ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe”, 8.

and often endure violence with almost no means of escape.¹⁵⁵

Local perceptions and norms related to childhood also serve to permit social tolerance of SECTT. In many societies, including in Europe, parents and adults acting in loco parentis are both allowed and expected to exercise powers over children of a type and degree that would be unthinkable in relation to any other social group. As a result, children are still often viewed as possessions of their parents and are beholden to their parent's demands.¹⁵⁶ At the same time, research shows that consumers of prostitution, including TCSOs, often see adolescents as adults and, while refusing sexual exploitation of young children, consider commercial sex with adolescents as "normal" and socially acceptable.¹⁵⁷

One of the main expressions of gender discrimination and gender-based violence is child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), a traditional practice not common in Europe, but still occurring to some extent. Although widespread secularisation and postmodern lifestyles have led to the predominance of marriage based on love, child marriage continues to be practiced particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with the highest rates reported in Albania, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan and among children from Roma communities.¹⁵⁸ Diaspora communities¹⁵⁹ in Western European countries (e.g., UK and the Netherlands) still support this harmful custom, especially first-generation immigrants who are less likely to be culturally integrated into the host society than younger generations.¹⁶⁰ As noted earlier, there is evidence that child marriage can be used by TCSOs to access children and disguise child sexual exploitation as a "culturally acceptable" practice (see also section on "Accessing children through child, early and forced marriage and associated crime methods").

Consumerism, misuse of ICTs and evolving sexual norms

While creating substantial benefits, globalisation and the rapid spread of the Internet have brought about rapid

transformations of traditional social values and sexual mores, which in turn impact both the supply and demand sides of child sexual exploitation.

In Europe and other regions of the world, the spread of a consumer culture linked to globalisation is contributing to a "commodification" of children and their increased sexual exploitation. Demand by TCSOs for sex services relies "on an ideological concept of the consumer market as one based on money and pleasure, without respect for values or ethics. Everything can be bought to satisfy desires and the pursuit of profit, including the fulfilment of fantasies and the practice of sexual deviances".¹⁶¹ In a world where everything is for sale — including sex and young bodies — children have become a tradable commodity at the service of an efficiently structured domestic and global sex industry, often controlled by organised crime networks that make extraordinary profits from this and other illegal practices.

Consumerism also fuels the supply side of child sexual exploitation. In many Eastern European countries, the transition to a market economy led to a sudden influx of products that were not previously available, resulting in skyrocketing desire for these goods. Consumerism is increasingly supporting child sexual exploitation by foreign and local perpetrators in Western European countries. Research in this sub-region shows that some children and adolescents may be persuaded to exchange sexual services for money or status products as a result of factors such as peer pressure; the need to belong and conform to the social value placed on expensive, brand-name products and luxury goods.¹⁶²

Another trend that may be contributing to changes in traditional moral and sexual values — and ultimately facilitating SECTT and CSEC in the region — is the increasing exposure of children to sexual messages and violence. The constant portrayal of sexual activity in mass media leads children and adolescents to believe that everyone around them is sexually active, influencing their sexual behaviour and contributing to shaping their attitude toward all forms of sexual activity, including sexual

¹⁵⁵ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States", 17.

¹⁵⁶ O'Connell-Davidson, J. (2001), "The Sex Exploiter, Paper for the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children", accessed 30 June 2015, http://www.csecworldcongress.org/PDF/en/Yokohama/Background_reading/Theme_papers/Theme%20paper%20The%20Sex%20Exploiter.pdf

¹⁵⁷ ECPAT International, CODENI, IDEIF, REDES, "Movimiento el Pozo. Mercancía Sexual: Comohemos creado la demanda para la explotación sexual comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes en el Perú,(2005),accessed 2 June 2015,http://white.oit.org.pe/ipecc/documentos/mercancia_sexual_ecpat.pdf

¹⁵⁸ UNFPA (2015), "Child marriage in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: regional overview", (s.d), 2, accessed 14 May, <http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pubpdf/Child%20Marriage%20EECA%20Regional%20Overview.pdf>

¹⁵⁹ The terms "diaspora community" refer to "emigrants and their descendants, who live outside their country of birth or ancestry, either on a temporary or permanent basis, yet still maintain affective and material ties to their countries of origin... they identify with their country of origin or ancestry and are willing to maintain ties to it". Definition in GSDRC, Evie Browne, Evie (2014) "Harmful traditional practices in diaspora communities", 1-2, accessed 14 May 2015, <http://www.gsdr.org/docs/open/HDQ1108.pdf>

¹⁶⁰ Ibid., 1-2.

¹⁶¹ ECPAT International, O'Briain, Muireann, Grillo, Milena, Barbosa, Helia, "Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in tourism", 7.

¹⁶² ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe", 8 and 10.

Internet use in EU and CIS countries

An increasing number of children are going online in European countries. Across the EU, the average Internet use by children aged 6-17 years rose from 70% in 2005 to 75% in 2008, with the sharpest rises recorded in newly acceded countries in Central and Eastern Europe.¹⁶⁵ On average, two-thirds of children aged 6-17 reported having a mobile phone in 2008, among 15-to-17-year-olds, the proportion peaked at 94%.¹⁶⁶ According to 2014 research, mobile devices such as smartphones are increasingly used by children to access the Internet and social networking sites, exchange images, download music and videos, email, etc.¹⁶⁷

Although there is no disaggregated data on the number of children and young people who go online in CIS countries, ITU statistics show that the region has experienced consistent growth in Internet penetration. While in 2005 fixed-broadband subscriptions and mobile-cellular subscriptions were 64 and 166 million, respectively; by 2014 they had increased to 70 and 397 million, respectively.¹⁶⁸

exploitation. The marketing and advertisement industry often play a role by featuring young children in images that are sexually suggestive, if not exploitative.¹⁶³

Increased use of the Internet and new technologies in Europe have further intensified this risk. While bringing many benefits and opening up unprecedented opportunities, the expansion in ICTs has had a not entirely positive impact on children's habits. As noted by the UN Special Rapporteur, "the exposure of children to child pornography inspires and influences their sexual practices and affects their behaviour. Prevailing standards and peer pressure have led adolescents to share sexualised images of themselves, making them vulnerable to abuse and potentially redefining some of the social limits of acceptability of child pornography".¹⁶⁴

Children and adolescents appear to be inclined to send and exchange sexually explicit messages or photos to their friends – or even to people they have just met online (so called "sexting") – without considering the risks involved. Some may also have the impression that engaging in transactional sex in the offline and online environments is acceptable behaviour, again ignoring the potential consequences. Travelling child sex offenders take advantage of such practices to groom children and obtain access to them for sexual exploitation (see section on "ICT linkages").

WHICH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY SECTT IN EUROPE?

Understanding the characteristics, vulnerabilities and experiences of children suffering from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is essential to the development of a more tailored response to those already affected and to help predict which groups of children are likely to be victimised in the future. In addition to structural causes, vulnerability to SECTT is the result of a broad range of interconnected factors related to the child, the families and the local/national environment where he/she lives and develops.¹⁶⁹ Often children experience several risk factors at the same time, one of which may act as a trigger that sets their sexual exploitation in motion.

Research on children affected specifically by SECTT (as opposed to other forms of sexual exploitation) is very limited; this section therefore relies on literature focused on associated manifestations of CSEC in general and analysis of documented cases and media reports.

¹⁶³ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States", 7.

¹⁶⁴ UN Human Rights Council (2013), "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid", UN Doc. A/HRC/25/48/Add.2, para 49.

¹⁶⁵ LSE, Livingstone, Sonia, Haddon, Leslie (2009), "EU Kids Online: Final report", 6, accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20%20%282006-9%29/EU%20Kids%20Online%20%20Reports/EUKidsOnlineFinalReport.pdf> p. 6.

¹⁶⁶ GALLUP ORGANISATION (2008), "Towards a safer use of the internet for children in the EU: a parents' perspective", 94, accessed 20 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_248_en.pdf

¹⁶⁷ Mascheroni, Giovanna and Ólafsson, Kjartan (2013), "Mobile internet access and use among European children. Initial findings of the Net Children Go Mobile project", accessed 20 May 2015, http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/54244/1/Mobile%20internet%20access%20and%20use%20among%20European%20children_NCGM.pdf

¹⁶⁸ UN, Itu, "Statistics", accessed 20 May 2015 from <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

¹⁶⁹ UN Human Rights Council (2012), "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, NajatMaallaM'jid", A/HRC/22/54, 9.

Individual characteristics (e.g. gender, age, ethnicity, etc.) of children and adolescents affected by sexual exploitation through travel and tourism in Europe and groups most vulnerable to this violation differ from country to country, making generalisations impossible. Nevertheless, some commonalities can be observed across European countries regarding the socio-demographic profiles of child victims and the risk factors determining their vulnerabilities, the analysis of which suggests emerging trends that require adequate responses.

Gender and age: increasing involvement of boys and younger children

The age and gender of children involved in SECTT can play a role in determining their vulnerability to this crime, capacity to respond to the abuse and likelihood that they will be identified as victims. Although gender-based distinctions remain a largely unexamined and under-developed area of research on SECTT and other manifestations of CSEC, several studies and reports from different countries seem to suggest that although most children involved in sexual exploitation are adolescent girls, boys constitute a significant proportion of the victims. In the Czech Republic, for example, research found that TCSOs target primarily boys, and in Ukraine the involvement of boys in prostitution was reported to be on the increase (see table 5). A review of media articles confirms that many cases of SECTT in Europe involve boys. It also appears that male victims are more likely to be exploited by preferential offenders, while girls tend to be victimised mostly by situational abusers.

With regard to modalities of exploitation, the literature suggests that prostitution of boys may occur independently, or less frequently, be controlled by exploiters (e.g. Netherlands), with the Internet often used to market sex services and establish contacts with potential “consumers”. It is not entirely clear whether the increasing visibility reflects an actual change in demand and/or supply of boys for the purposes of sexual exploitation or is the result of increased awareness and reporting of boys’ victimisation within the region. More efforts are needed to ensure that boys report abuse and access assistance; numerous studies indicate that they are less likely to seek help due to feelings of shame, uncertainty, confusion and homophobic attitudes on the part of parents, service providers and justice/police officials.

Another disturbing trend is that the age of child victims is dropping, especially for the production of child abuse material. Several incidents have been recorded of perpetrators who produced child abuse materials with toddlers during their trips abroad, sometimes with the complicity of the family (see box below). This reflects a more general trend observed by law enforcement agencies. The UK-based Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), cites figures revealing that between 2011-2012, child sexual abuse material focused on girls under the age of 10 increased by an estimated 70%; material involving toddlers or babies was not uncommon and the level of violence portrayed was increasing.¹⁷⁰

Very young children exploited by a German in Spain to produce pornography

A German citizen was arrested in April 2014 by the Spanish police for allegedly using children for the production of pornography. According to a police statement, the man was suspected of sexually abusing a child of three years and two girls aged 10 and 12 years in Palma de Mallorca. The parents of the victims were also arrested for participating in the commission of the crime. The alleged offender was a close family friend and gave the parents money in exchange for abusing their children and “marketing” the child abuse materials online.

The investigation also identified three other suspected perpetrators in Germany, two in Canada, one in the Netherlands and one in the U.S. who requested the production of specific abuse materials. Police located an office and studio where more than 10,000 photographs and a dozen videos of child pornography were found.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ Cited in UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (2014), “Study facilitating the identification, description and evaluation of the effects of new information technologies on the abuse and exploitation of children”, UN Doc. E/CN.15/2014/CRP.1, 19.

¹⁷¹ “Detienen en España a un pedófilo alemán que hacía fotografías “por encargo”, emol.com, 19 Abril 2014, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/2014/04/19/656057/detienen-en-espana-a-unpedofilo-aleman-que-hacia-fotografias-por-encargo.html>

Table 5: Age, gender and sexual orientation of victims of SECTT in selected European countries

Country	Age and gender of SECTT victims
Central and Eastern Europe	
Northern Russia	Research on SECTT carried out by the NGO “Stellit” in the early 2000s found that the victims were mostly girls aged 12-14 years old. ¹⁷² Another 2006 report on human trafficking in the Russian Federation identified boys under 14 years old as those sexually exploited by foreign perpetrators. ¹⁷³ More recent research on SECTT in Russia exposed some cases of boys exploited by TCSOs; the youngest child at the time of sexual exploitation was 9 years old, the oldest one was 17 years old. ¹⁷⁴
Moldova	The average age of children assisted by La Strada between 2010-2014 was 14 years; cases of children abused by tourists and travellers included six boys. ¹⁷⁵
Ukraine	Research conducted by La Strada identified incidents of children as young as five years sold for sexual exploitation by their parents to travelling offenders; the average age of entry into prostitution is declining and the problem of prostitution of boys, including paid sex with foreigners, has significantly increased. ¹⁷⁶
Czech Republic	A 2005 report by ECPAT notes that SECTT was more related to the prostitution of boys at that time, as older men from some European countries were travelling to this destination with the intention of accessing boys for sex. ¹⁷⁷
Montenegro	Over 90% of the victims of sexual exploitation are girls with an average age of between 10 and 16 years. ¹⁷⁸ The risk posed by those who travel for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse with children was recently acknowledged by the Government.
Southern and Western Europe	
Spain	A number of child sex crimes committed by foreign perpetrators involved the production of child abuse materials. Child pornography affects both girls and boys, especially children younger than 13 years of age. ¹⁷⁹
Netherlands	Male prostitution caters to locals and foreigners. Those involved in the sex industry include under-aged boys and men who offer paid sex in (gay) bars and clubs, those who market their services through gay websites and those coerced to work as prostitutes. ¹⁸⁰ Girls in the Netherlands are also enticed into sexual exploitation in great numbers, particularly through the so called “lover boy” tactic. A research into this phenomenon published in 2012 found that more than half of the girls and young women seduced and later exploited by “lover boys” were minors (56%), some as young as 12. ¹⁸¹
UK	The problem of SECTT is associated to some extent with the phenomenon of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups, ¹⁸² which has been the subject of several studies. A 2012 inquiry into this practice by the British Government indicates that sexually-exploited children and young people were mostly girls (72%) whose age ranged from four to 19, with a peak age of 15. ¹⁸³ However, boys and young men, particularly those who were either unsure about their sexuality or were gay or bisexual, and who had left home or their local area, were also considered at high risk of sexual exploitation. ¹⁸⁴

¹⁷² NGO Stellit, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

¹⁷³ Tiurukanova, Elena V. Institute for Urban Economics for the UN/IOM Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings (2006), “Human trafficking in the Russian Federation: Inventory and Analysis of the Current Situation and Responses”, Moscow, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Unicef_EnglishBook.pdf

¹⁷⁴ Kolpakova O.I., et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stellit, 34.

¹⁷⁵ La Strada Moldova, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

¹⁷⁶ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine, 10-11, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf

¹⁷⁷ ECPAT International (2006), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic”, 15, accessed 15 June 2015, http://resources.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/Europe/Global_Monitoring_Report-CZECH_REPUBLIC.pdf

¹⁷⁸ Ombudsman for Children, IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE, 31 and 33.

¹⁷⁹ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Espana”, 16, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf

¹⁸⁰ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe”, 11.

¹⁸¹ ECPAT Netherlands, Kaandorp, Majorie, Blaak, Mirjam (2013) “Child Trafficking in the Netherlands: combating child trafficking and protecting child victims in the Netherlands”, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/3517.pdf>

¹⁸² ECPAT UK, “Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe”.

¹⁸³ Children’s Commissioner, Berelowitz, Sue et al. (2012), “I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world”: the Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups”, 14, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.iscbchairs.com>

¹⁸⁴ Ibid, 88.

Education

It is well known that low educational levels and school drop-out are critical underlying factors exposing children to increased risk of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Not surprisingly, information from different countries in Europe suggests that some children and young people engaging in commercial sex are not in school. In Moldova, nearly two-thirds of children assisted by La Strada were enrolled in school, but 37% of victims of sexual abuse and exploitation had dropped out.¹⁸⁵ In Russia, a specific vulnerable group that was found involved in SECTT included girls who went to border towns to enrol at secondary and higher educational institutions and failed to be admitted.¹⁸⁶ In Montenegro, according to 2013 research, nearly half of child victims of sexual exploitation had left regular education.¹⁸⁷ In the UK, children who are absent or have been excluded from school were identified as another 'at-risk' group. According to a 2012 inquiry on the phenomenon of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups by the British Government, 65% of the sexually exploited children interviewed were not attending school.¹⁸⁸ In some countries, however, the level of education of those involved in the sex industry was reportedly higher. In the Netherlands, for example, 40% of girls affected by the "loverboy" phenomenon had completed secondary education and more than one-quarter had started vocational or higher education.¹⁸⁹ While lack

of education may contribute to children's vulnerability, other factors and motives also lead some young people to become involved in commercial sexual exploitation.

Ethnicity and nationality

Although information on the nationality and ethnicity of child victims of sexual exploitation through travel and tourism is highly limited, available data suggest that these factors may be another major determinant of vulnerability. As noted above, children from minority groups, particularly Roma, are at disproportionately higher risk of being exploited in prostitution and child labour (particularly begging) and criminal activities. Research in Slovakia, for example, noted that sexual activity among minors (under age 15) is more frequent Roma youth than in the mainstream population, and since prostitution of these children is often a significant source of family income, it is often hidden. Furthermore, their exploitation is not socially perceived as child sexual abuse, but rather considered as a normal practice among these communities, compounding the difficulty of identifying these child victims.¹⁹⁰ In Montenegro, most sexually exploited children are reportedly country's nationals (30.5%); however one child in five is Roma. Considering that Roma constitute a small percentage of the population, the data indicate that Roma children are highly susceptible to sexual exploitation in Montenegro.¹⁹¹

Englishman abused two Roma brothers in Bulgaria

In 2012, a Bulgarian court ordered the permanent detention of a 63-year-old British citizen suspected of sexually abusing two Roma brothers aged 10 and 11. The children's family allegedly knew of the man's activities and received financial support from him. Local media claimed other children in the poverty-stricken area had been lured to the expat's village house with promises of computer games and a bath in his brand new tub.¹⁹²

Case study from Ukraine

A. is a young Roma girl who received assistance from La Strada-Ukraine. Growing up in a family of four children, when she was 11 years old her mother forced her to beg near the railway station. One day an old foreigner approached her and gave her 600 Euros. Attracted by this huge amount of money, the mother agreed to visit the man's apartment with his daughter. Soon after this first meeting, the girl was repeatedly raped by this and other men. When she became pregnant, her mother forced her to have an abortion. Thanks to an acquaintance, A. was able to escape from such a situation and to contact the National Child Hotline run by La Strada-Ukraine.¹⁹³

¹⁸⁵ La Strada Moldova, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

¹⁸⁶ Kolpakova O.I., et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stelit, 35.

¹⁸⁷ Ombudsman for Children, "IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE", 32.

¹⁸⁸ Children's Commissioner, Berelowitz, Sue et al., "I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world": the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups", 49.

¹⁸⁹ ECPAT Netherlands, Kaandorp, Majorie, Blaak, Mirjam (2013), "Child Trafficking in the Netherlands: combating child trafficking and protecting child victims in the Netherlands", 36, accessed 15 May 2015, <https://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/3517.pdf>.

¹⁹⁰ Children of Slovakia Foundation (2013), "Alternative report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) in the Slovak Republic", 5, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.nds.sk/images/attachdokumenty/Alternative_report_on_the_OPSC_implementation_in_Slovakia_May_2012.pdf

¹⁹¹ Ombudsman for Children, "IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE", 33.

¹⁹² "Brit Paedo Named and Shamed By Polish Prosecutors". This article originally appeared on Austrian Times, 18 April 2013, accessed 3 November 2015, <http://www.davidicke.com/forum/showthread.php?t=222773&page=3455>

¹⁹³ Case study provided by La Strada Ukraine.

In the Czech Republic, particularly in the Ústí region near the German border where cases of SECTT have been reported, a local NGO claims that Roma represent around 70% of persons trafficked for sexual exploitation.¹⁹⁴ Children from minority groups were also found to be vulnerable to high levels of sexual exploitation in the UK. The 2012 government inquiry into sexual exploitation in gangs and groups exposed a higher rate of victimisation amongst black and minority ethnic children and young people than had been previously observed.

Research conducted by La Strada Moldova in 2012 showed that SECTT in the country is strictly connected to domestic child sex trafficking, and that the profile of children victimised by travellers and tourists is similar to that of children trafficked for sexual exploitation.¹⁹⁵ Perpetrators abuse both local and foreign children and young people trafficked domestically or from other countries. Sexual exploitation of children by tourists in Slovakia was found to involve victims from Slovakia, Russia and Ukraine.¹⁹⁶ Likewise, in Turkey 2015 research noted that children involved in SECTT included those trafficked from abroad.¹⁹⁷

Children with disabilities

Disability has been identified as an additional condition that increases vulnerability to child sexual exploitation, including through tourism.¹⁹⁸ Although evidence about these issues is scant and dispersed, there are indications that children and young people with disabilities are at additional risk of sexual abuse and exploitation because of the increased likelihood that they will be separated from their families and accommodated in group settings where they encounter multiple caregivers. They are also targeted on account of their visible “difference” or “vulnerability”.¹⁹⁹ Regrettably, despite being at increased risk, this group of children receives limited protection from either mainstream or specialised agencies. This was confirmed by the 2012 UK inquiry into sexual exploitation in gangs and groups, which showed that a number of disabled children and young people were being sexually exploited during the time period considered, but had not been identified by the agencies involved.²⁰⁰

Norwegian abused disabled children in Romania

In May 2014, a 59-year-old Norwegian man living in Bucharest was arrested for alleged child sexual abuse. According to media reports, the defendant was suspected of having perpetrated sexual acts against more than 10 victims. All of the children were younger than 14, and many had hearing and speech impairments. Following his arrest, police found several child pornographic videos at his home.²⁰¹

¹⁹⁴ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic”, 12, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

¹⁹⁵ La Strada Moldova, “Overview of the child tracking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 62.

¹⁹⁶ “Country information Slovakia”, child-hood.com, accessed 16 May 2015, <http://www.childhood.com/index.php?id=720&type=6>

¹⁹⁷ ICC - University of Hacettepe, Institute of Public Health Society of Public Health Specialists, “Sexual Exploitation of children in tourism in Turkey” (draft version not for circulation).

¹⁹⁸ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe”, 6. See also the case of a Russian girl with hearing disability who was sold into prostitution by her lover boy and was induced to providing sex services to Russian men from other regions of the country. Cit. in Kolpakova O.I., et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stelit, 79.

¹⁹⁹ Brown, Hilary (2011), “Sexual abuse of children with disabilities”, Protecting Children from Sexual Violence –A Comprehensive Approach (Strasbourg: Council of Europe), 103-117, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/Source/PublicationSexualViolence/Brown.pdf>

²⁰⁰ Children’s Commissioner, Berelowitz, Sue et al., “I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world”: the Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation In Gangs and Groups”, 97.

²⁰¹ Avram, Eliza “Pedofilnorvegian, arestat, după ce a fost urmărit de anchetatori din București până în Ploiești”, romanialibera.ro, 11 May 2014, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.romanialibera.ro/actualitate/eveniment/pedofil-norvegian--arestat--dupa-ce-a-fost-urmarit-de-anchetatori-din-bucuresti-pana-in-ploiesti--334823>

Domestic violence and other family factors

Across the region, several conditions within the family lead to increased risk that children will be lured into sexually exploitative situations. A typical scenario is that of families where the adult members of the household do not have jobs that provide enough money for the family to survive; or there is illness, divorce or death in the family; economic shocks; natural or man-made disasters or civil conflicts. Under such circumstances, some families may decide to sell their own children for sex to alleviate household poverty, while others may be persuaded to accept offers of money from exploiters or ill-intentioned individuals seeking sexual contact with their children, sometimes unaware that they will end up in broader sexual exploitation.

Domestic violence, including child sexual abuse, has also been shown to be a factor increasing the vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation by local and foreign offenders. In families where violence is present, children may yearn to escape and readily take up offers to go with a recruiter or perpetrator. Children who witness or suffer violence in the home may also run away and end up living on the streets, where their vulnerability to sexual exploitation is acute. Left to fend for themselves, they may resort to prostitution or become easy prey of middle-men and sex offenders because they have no means of survival.

Across the European region, children living and/or working on the streets and children from poor and dysfunctional families – including those where parents are addicted to alcohol and drugs or are involved in prostitution – were found to be at high risk of sexual

exploitation. Some may become addicted to drugs and engage in commercial sex to support their addiction. Children experiencing abuse and family problems (such as divorce or inability to communicate with parents) are also emotionally vulnerable and can easily be lured into sexual exploitation, including by their peers. To retain exclusive control over their victims offenders often deliberately create or exacerbate victims' vulnerabilities – such as a drug habit or family difficulties.

Children affected by migration and in institutions

As noted earlier, due to family and other problems, some children in Europe move within or between countries, accompanied or alone, to make a new life and earn a living. The children may travel within their own country – generally from rural to urban areas – or cross borders and become refugees or illegal migrants. Separated or unaccompanied children on the move face acute risk of being smuggled, trafficked or exploited in the sex industry or as labourers. Seen as 'outsiders' or 'foreigners,' they are not entitled to the same rights and services as local children and have difficulty accessing services such as education, health, police protection and social welfare.

In European countries where large numbers of parents have migrated to find work, children may be left with elderly relatives or foster families, and many of them run away or suffer from the negative impacts of parents' absence, becoming more vulnerable to trafficking and SECTT.²⁰³ In Moldova, for example, one Dutch offender who presented himself as a volunteer in summer camps and orphanages, sexually abused a young boy whose parents had migrated abroad, sometimes in the presence of other adolescents.²⁰⁴

In Ukraine "the main demand is for minors. It's easier with minors; they don't understand the damage and the consequences. These are minors from socially unprotected families and families with many children. A foreigner, for example, says he needs two 14-15 years old girls and two 15-16 years old boys. Mediators look for the match near stores where children beg for money."

Interview with law enforcement agent, Kyiv ²⁰²

²⁰² La Strada Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 24.

²⁰³ ECPAT International (2011), "Global monitoring the status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine", 12, accessed 22 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf

²⁰⁴ This case study was provided la LaStrada Moldova.

In CIS countries, despite the current process of de-institutionalisation and transformation of residential care structures, the volume of children placed in institutions is very high compared to other parts of Europe.²⁰⁵ Institutionalised children were found to be at increased risk of sexual exploitation in many European countries (including Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova, Poland²⁰⁶ and Russia²⁰⁷). In countries such as Latvia and Portugal, incidents of children and young people in orphanages and boarding schools sexually exploited by travelling child sex offenders have emerged in great numbers since end of the 1990s. Another 2012 inquiry in the UK shows that children may go missing from care for several reasons including abuse, bullying, lack of supervision — or because someone gives them the attention they crave. The same inquiry suggests a strong link between children in care who go missing and those being groomed or sexually exploited.²⁰⁸

Child, early and forced marriage as a risk factor

In some European countries young people, particularly girls, may become victims of SECTT as a result of CEFM, or to avoid being involved into this practice. To escape domestic violence and abuse some girls may flee their marital homes; others may be abandoned or experience divorce and widowhood. These situations often plunge young, uneducated and unemployed wives into extreme poverty, and some brides may have no alternative but to resort to prostitution to support themselves and their children. In Western European countries where CEFM still occurs in some diaspora communities, young girls at risk of forced marriage or 'honour'-based violence may run away from home, thus becoming easy targets for intermediaries and offenders, including TCSOs.

Child labourers

In spite of limited research on the link between child labour and SECTT, evidence from some European countries indicates that working children can be at risk of sexual exploitation. The CoE recently pointed out that child labour in the region appears to be growing in the wake of the economic crisis in sectors such as agriculture, construction, textiles, restaurants, food processing, cleaning, hospitality and entertainment. Girls, in particular, are often employed in domestic work. Working children may suffer from abuse, violence and sexual exploitation at the hands of their employers and other perpetrators.²⁰⁹ 2010 research by the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings noted that in certain cases, domestic servants are forced to perform other tasks in addition to household-related ones, such as begging, selling in the streets, working in a restaurant, providing sexual services or engaging in prostitution.²¹⁰ Children working in the travel and tourism sector (hospitality, restaurants, entertainment) also run the risk of being forced into commercial sex. In Turkey, for example, 2015 research conducted by the International Children's Centre, an ECPAT member organisation, found that, according to some law enforcers and hotel and tourism workers, girls working as interns in tourism-related animation, hotel keeping and guidance services are often abused by their seniors and are also used in prostitution.²¹¹

²⁰⁵ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States", 9.

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ Kolpakova O.I., et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stellit, 35.

²⁰⁸ APPG for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2013), "Report from the joint inquiry into children going missing from care", 12, accessed on 15 June 2015, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175563/Report_-_children_who_go_missing_from_care.pdf.

²⁰⁹ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe", 6.

²¹⁰ OSCE (2010), "Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude", (research paper on Trafficking in Human Beings for Domestic Servitude in the OSCE Region: Analysis and Challenges, presented at Tenth Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference: "Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude", Vienna, 17-18 June 2010), 21, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/75804?download=true>

²¹¹ ICC - University of Hacettepe, Institute of Public Health Society of Public Health Specialists, "Sexual Exploitation of children in tourism in Turkey".

“Schools send their students to various tourism facilities for their internship. They work as animators in these facilities and then start earning money by doing other things.” (Judge from Ankara - Turkey)

“This issue must be talked about with interns. It is difficult to find qualified personnel in tourism. Under the title “intern” there are many students working as slaves for some remuneration mostly in hotels at the coast. There are foreign children making their living in Turkey and we are trying to teach and train them, trying to provide for their safety and security. If we don’t do this then they may end up in prostitution to earn more. There are also some abused by hotel directors and other workers.”

Hotel manager from Antalya, Turkey, male, 53-years-old¹²

The vulnerability factors explored in this section have been identified in several countries of destination for SECTT in Europe (see Annex 6 for details).

WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS?

Over the last decade awareness has grown that efforts to curb the demand side of SECTT require better understanding of the offenders’ profiles, their motivations and the methods they use to access vulnerable children and young people for sex. Thanks to research and data collected by some law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations, more qualitative information on travelling child sex offenders has been developed, particularly in some European countries of origin.

With a view to understanding the different modalities of offending that perpetrators use when committing sex crimes against children through travel and tourism, CEOP recently developed a list of behavioural typologies based on first-hand research and practical work with travelling child sex offenders.²¹³ Through analysis of the accounts of 35 perpetrators, mainly from the UK, CEOP identified the following typologies of behaviour:

- Speculative exploring (travelling abroad to locations where children are reported to be available for sex)
- Self-contained exploitation (travelling abroad in the company of intended child victims)
- Resident foreigner (abuse by foreigner resident in developing countries);
- Pseudo care-worker (professionals and volunteers abusing the children with whom they work)
- Networking perpetrators (networking with other perpetrators to facilitate offending)
- Formal/informal adoption
- Remote child exploitation (using the Internet to abuse children in foreign countries).²¹⁴

While detailed descriptions of the modalities of offending of perpetrators in Europe are not available, documented cases seem to suggest that travelling child sex offenders in the region generally fit into the distinct typologies of behaviour proposed by CEOP. It is important to note however that the proposed categories may often overlap and do not reflect the full spectrum of ways in which perpetrators gain access to children.

Below is a brief analysis of the most common socio-demographic characteristics and modus operandi of perpetrators identified by this desk review.

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ UN Human Rights Council (2012), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M’jid”, UN Doc. A/HRC/22/54, para 28.

²¹⁴ Sullivan, J. (2015), “Traveling Sex Offenders”, contribution to ECPAT International’s Global Study on CSETT.

Some socio-demographic characteristics of travelling child sex offenders

Reflecting and corroborating global findings, this study found that there is no single profile of those who sexually abuse children through travel and tourism. Despite a widespread perception that perpetrators are mostly middle-aged, well-off men, the literature indicates that they may be married or single, wealthy or not and any age. The only variable that appears to make a difference is gender, as the vast majority of child sex offenders are male. Furthermore, there are some indications that the age of abusers may be declining, with some isolated cases involving offenders under 18 years of age.²¹⁵

A description of SECTT developed by the Dutch police provides insight into the socio-demographic characteristics of European offenders. Based on the analysis of 85 cases registered in police information systems between January 2009 and November 2012:

- 92 possible suspects were identified, 93.5% of whom were male and 3.3% female (the gender of the remaining percentage was not recorded)
- The average age of the suspected perpetrators was 56 years, the youngest was 25 years and the oldest 73
- The profession of the abusers was known in twelve cases and included jobs allowing the offender to easily access children (e.g. director of a nursery, teacher, a football coach, and a co-owner of an aid organisation and a volunteer involved in children abroad)
- With regard to nationality, 80 were Dutch nationals while the remaining were from other countries (Brazil, Indonesia, Italy, Sri Lanka and Suriname) and were, or had been, Dutch residents.²¹⁶

Information collected by ECPAT UK also showed that the vast majority of cases of SECTT they documented involved Caucasian men. The age spectrum of offenders is wide, and many were educated, well-off individuals with successful careers (e.g. a financier and an Oxford-educated private school teacher).²¹⁷ In its 2013 Threat Assessment CEOP noted that “almost all of those reported...as suspected or convicted of offending overseas in 2012 were male (99%), with the majority (67%) being above the age of 40... Four individuals below the age of 20 were identified, whilst the most common age range was 51-60”.²¹⁸

Research carried out by ECPAT Italy in collaboration with academic and other institutions found that most (90%) Italian travelling offenders are males who come from all socio-economic groups. In contrast with other research indicating a higher average age of offenders, this study found that the majority of individuals in the sample were between 20 and 40 years of age, with an average age of 27, strengthening the notion that “the modern sex tourist exploiting children” is getting younger.²¹⁹ In Norway, a recent mapping on SECTT conducted by the Norwegian police indicates that perpetrators are often single men who are unemployed but have sufficient financial resources to make a living. In less affluent developing countries, Norwegian sex offenders were generally found to be older.²²⁰ Several high profile cases in Russia have highlighted SECTT by Russian nationals in Europe and other regions, such as that of pianist Mikhail Pletnev in Thailand²²¹ and oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko in the south of France,²²² although most SECTT is carried out by ordinary travelers and tourists.

²¹⁵ For example, in a case occurred in Durres, Albania, a 14-old child Albanian child living in Switzerland was arrested by the Albanian police for engaging in commercial sex with minors during his vacation in this seaside tourist location (see also box below). “Durrës, sekspërturistët prangatu torëve e prostitutave” (“Durres, sex tourists arrested”), shqiptarja.com, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://shqiptarja.com/m/home/durr-s-seks-p-r-tur-ist-t--pranga-tutor-ve-eprositutave-236508.html>

²¹⁶ POLITIE, Moerenhout, Laura (2013), “Kindersekstoerisme”, accessed 15 June 2015, <https://www.meldkindersekstoerisme.nl/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2013-Politie-Fenomeenbeschrijving-Kindersekstoerisme-openbare-versie.pdf>

²¹⁷ ECPAT UK, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

²¹⁸ CEOP (2013), “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 15, accessed 15 June 2015, http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf

²¹⁹ ECPAT International (2008), “Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Tourism”, 15

²²⁰ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway”, 16, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_NORWAY.pdf

²²¹ “Russian pianist Mikhail Pletnev accused of child rape in Thailand”, Telegraph, 7 July 2010, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/thailand/7877223/Russianpianist-Mikhail-Pletnev-accused-of-child-rape-in-Thailand.html>

²²² “Российского олигарха Владимира Лукьяненко арестовали в Монако по обвинению в педофилии” (“Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko arrested in Monaco on charges of pedophilia”), Antikor.com.ua, 5 September 2014, accessed 4 June 2015, http://antikor.com.ua/articles/12905-rossijskogo-oligarha-vladimira-lukyanenko-arestovali_v-monako_po-obvineniju_v-pedofi

Only limited information on the profile of perpetrators is available in European countries of destination. Research conducted by La Strada Moldova noted that it is difficult to develop an average portrait of those who engage in SECTT in the country since they have very different backgrounds. The only common element identified was that offenders had higher income levels than the average Moldovan.²²³ As in other countries in the region, most of the perpetrators documented by La Strada Moldova were men aged between 48 and 59 years.²²⁴ A study by La Strada Ukraine produced similar findings, highlighting that abusers are mostly middle-aged men with middle or low income in their country of origin, but are perceived as “rich” in Ukraine. The expansion of cheap travel allows even those with relatively few financial resources to visit frequently for the purpose of sexually abusing and exploiting children and young people.²²⁵

Female perpetrators

Though in very small numbers, the data presented above indicate that some women from Europe also engage in SECTT. Noted since the time of the First World Congress, the presence of female TCSOs is corroborated by research conducted in a number of tourism destinations, as well as by academics. Women generally target men aged over 18 years. However, incidents of minor boys having sexual intercourse with adult European female offenders, often in exchange for remuneration, have also been identified in different regions, such as the Caribbean.²²⁶

Research and media reports have exposed the problem of women from Europe who travel to Senegal, Kenya and other African countries to engage in paid sex with youth.²²⁷ A recent ECAPT study indicates that the Gambia also attracts single European women looking for sex with Gambian men. Although no incidents had been reported involving women with minor boys, some participants in the study reported seeing women with underage men.²²⁸ According to a journalistic investigation, women who engage in sexual relationships with young boys in the Gambia, usually aged between 45 and 60 years, include nationals from Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK.²²⁹ The presence of European women offenders has also been noted in some Asian countries. In Sri Lanka, for example, there are numerous anecdotes and blogs about the sexual availability of Sri Lankan “beach boys”, some of whom are underage, being accessed for sex by women from Europe.²³⁰

Men and young boys who exchange sexual services for monetary gain in tourist destinations (referred to as beach boys, island boys, players, gigolos, etc.) usually do not self-identify as providers of sex services and may perceive their activity as an assertion of their masculinity. Likewise, women typically see themselves as being ‘seduced’ by boys and young men in a kind of ‘holiday romance’ situation.²³¹ However, as noted by Jacqueline Sanchez-Taylor, the sexual-economic relationships that female tourists have with local men and youth are predicated upon the same global economic and social inequalities that underlie male sex tourism.²³²

²²³ La Strada Moldova, “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 64.

²²⁴ La Strada Moldova, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

²²⁵ La Strada Ukraine (2014), “Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction”, 54.

²²⁶ Sanchez Taylor, Jacqueline (2001) “Dollars are a girl’s best friend? Female tourists’ sexual behaviour in the Caribbean”, *Sociology*, Vol. 35, no.3(2001): 749-764, http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/800/1/WRAP_Sanchez_taylor_Dollars_female_tourists.pdf

²²⁷ ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Africa. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society”, 22, accessed 14 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Africa.pdf.

²²⁸ ECPAT Austria et al. (2014), “Assessment on sexual exploitation of children related to tourism and reporting mechanisms in Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa”, 32, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Overall%20report%20-%20Assessment%205%20African%20countries.pdf>

²²⁹ “Les grandes destinations du tourisme sexuel en Afrique”, *SlateAfrique.com*, 6 June 2014, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.slateafrique.com/14047/tourisme-sexuel-pedophilie-grandesdestinations-en-afrique#trending>

²³⁰ See for example “The Truth about Sri Lankan Beach Boys”, *Travel Blog*, 26 December 2009, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.travelblog.org/Asia/Sri-Lanka/Southern-Province/Tangalle/blog-463262.html> (the blog posts of German, English and Australian female tourists and their experiences with sex tourism in Sri Lanka)

²³¹ Williams, Erica L. (2012), “Romance tourism”, in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Globalization*, abstract available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9780470670590.wbeog504/abstract>

²³² Sanchez Taylor, Jacqueline (2006), “Female sex tourism: a contradiction in terms?”, *Feminist Review*, No. 83, Sexual Moralities, 52.

Business travellers and domestic demand

As understanding of SECTT has expanded, it has become clear that in addition to tourists, child sexual exploitation is also committed by nationals. Evidence has also increasingly emerged of the role played by travellers, including business travellers, in fuelling the demand for sex with children and young people. It is now recognised that while still taking place in the framework of vacation and leisure, child sexual abuse and exploitation is also committed by individuals who travel within or across countries, for work or other

purposes (e.g. to specifically abuse children they have previously contacted and/or groomed online).

Available information on this trend is scanty, coming primarily from a handful of documented cases and media reports. This reflects limited awareness of the business travelling component and domestic dimension of SECTT, including among civil society groups. Nevertheless the problem of domestic demand and business travellers can be observed in several European countries, some of which were never before identified as destinations for travelling child sex offenders.

Business and domestic travellers in Ukraine

Research on SECTT by La Strada Ukraine offers new insights. According to experts interviewed for this desk study, the majority of those who engage in commercial sexual relations with children and adolescents during their trips to Ukraine are situational offenders who come on business or vacation, and decide to buy sex services on the spot with no prior plan. Besides foreign perpetrators, the study identified three groups of domestic travellers:

- 1) those who travel from small towns to big cities where anonymity can be ensured and there is a more diversified supply of children to be exploited
- 2) those who travel from big cities to rural areas where the price of sex services is lower
- 3) those who travel to a specific place to purchase a specific, often pre-ordered, sexual service.

Recent research by the NGO Stellit identified a number of cases of Russian citizens who travelled to other regions of the country either for business or for longer stay and sexually exploited children at destination.²³³ According to the Nobody's Children Foundation, ECPAT's member organisation in Poland, some Polish offenders move from one city to another, using the tourism infrastructure to access children

for sex. The search for anonymity appears to be the main motivation.²³⁴ Incidents of nationals engaging in commercial sexual relations with children and young people through domestic travel were also reported by ECPAT groups in the UK and the Netherlands. Cases of domestic SECTT in Moldova were sometimes found to be associated with online grooming of children that was followed by travel and offline sexual exploitation.

Online grooming, travel and offline sexual exploitation in Moldova

In Moldova, the police recently identified a Moldovan citizen who travelled within the country and engaged in sexual acts with youth. During the criminal investigation, it was found that the abuser had established online contacts with nearly 900 children, all of them boys aged 13–14. At least one boy was reportedly groomed online to be later sexually abused offline by the perpetrator.²³⁵

²³³ Kolpakova O.I. et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stellit, 27-28.

²³⁴ Nobody's Children Foundation, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

²³⁵ La Strada Moldova, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

In addition to information from ECPAT groups, the present study consulted numerous media reports illustrating the problem of domestic tourists and travellers in countries such as Italy, Spain²³⁶ and Albania. In several cases, the number of “customers” involved was high and often included nationals on vacation as well as men on business trips who

engaged in commercial sex with young people. In addition to private apartments, the abuse was sometimes perpetrated in small hotels and pensions, often with the involvement of taxi drivers to transport girls from one place to another or to market sex services to potential “customers”.²³⁷

Child prostitution ring catering to locals and business travellers in Rome

In June 2014, prosecutors in Rome, Italy, asked judges to convict and sentence a suspect to 16 years in prison for masterminding an alleged prostitution ring involving two girls aged 14 and 15 based in Rome’s upscale Parioli neighbourhood. The man was among eight people sent to trial for aiding and exploitation of prostitution, selling drugs, blackmail, possession of child pornography and underage prostitution. Investigators said dozens of “clients”, mostly well-heeled, paid for sex with the two girls in a Parioli apartment.²³⁸ Some suspected “customers” were businessmen from other Italian cities who had travelled to Rome for work. The girls reportedly studied at the same high school and were lured into prostitution through a social network. They reportedly used part of the money to supply their “pimps” - including one of their mothers - with drugs.²³⁹

Child prostitution ring catering to domestic and foreign tourists in Albania

As part of an operation codenamed “Client”, the Albanian police arrested seven people for allegedly running a prostitution ring that involved underage girls in Durrës, a famous seaside destination. Sex services were reportedly provided in a hotel and at a train station and “customers” included men and young boys on vacation, travelling from Albania and other countries, such as Macedonia and Switzerland.²⁴⁰

In line with global findings, this study found that demand for paid sex with adolescents often comes from men who are highly mobile in their work (e.g. transport industry workers such as truck drivers or air pilots). One local NGO in Armenia identified cases of underage girls who provided sexual services to foreign truck drivers at the border with Iran.²⁴¹ Similarly,

research on the demand side of prostitution in Hungary found that locations where “customers” buy sex services from adults and underage people include gas stations and truck parking lots.²⁴² Another example is a major case of transnational child sexual exploitation in Britain involving an air pilot who sexually abused dozens of African orphans and schoolchildren.²⁴³

²³⁶ Rendueles, Luis, Marlasca, Manu “Los clientes de la red de prostitución de menores de Murcia”, *ondacero.es*, 2 February 2015, accessed 15 June 2015, http://blogs.ondacero.es/territorionegro/clientes-red-prostitucion-menores-murcia_2015020200346.html. See also “Detenidos 14 miembros y 15 clientes de una red que prostituía en Murcia menores de 14 a 17 años”, *lainformacion.com*, 21 January 2015, accessed 15 June 2015, http://noticias.lainformacion.com/asuntos-sociales/esclavitud/detenidos-14-miembros-y-15-clientesde-una-red-que-prostituia-en-murcia-menores-de-14-a-17-anos_dHJWAWOI9T0w2LN8JPHr86/

²³⁷ This was particularly evident in the case of Spain (see note above).

²³⁸ “16 years asked for ‘Rome child prostitution ringleader’”, *Ansa*, 9 June 2014, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2014/06/09/16-years-asked-for-rome-child-prostitutionringleader_129fa40f-8f56-4776-a646-056c39db706e.html

²³⁹ “Baby prostitute a Roma, si allunga la lista dei clienti ricchi”, *Globalist*, 3 November 2013, accessed 15 June 2015, [http://roma.repubblica.it/cronaca/2013/11/02/news/baby_squillo_trovata_la_lista_dei_clienti_vip_impreditori_notai_e_commercialisti_nel_mirino-70050217/](http://www.globalist.it/Detail_News_Display?ID=50825&typeb=0&Babyprostitute-a-Roma-si-allunga-la-lista-dei-clienti-ricchi-; Angeli,Federica, “Baby squillo,trovata la lista dei clienti vip. Imprenditori, notai e commercialisti nel mirino”, <i>Repubblica</i>, 2 November 2013, accessed 15 June 2015, <a href=)

²⁴⁰ “Durrës, seks për turistët pranga tutorëve e prostitutave” (“Durrës, sex tourists arrested”), *shqiptarja.com*, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://shqiptarja.com/m/home/durr-s-seks-p-r-turist-t--prangaturator-ve-e-prostitutave-236508.html>

²⁴¹ Hope and Help NGO, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

²⁴² ICCR-Budapest Foundation (2006), Balogi, Anna et al., “Report on the demand side of sexual services in Hungary”, accessed 15 June 2015, https://ec.europa.eu/antitrafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/report_on_the_demand_side_of_sexual_services_in_hungary_1.pdf

²⁴³ Wilson, Luke, “Paedophile pilot sexually abused 100 African orphans and schoolchildren during British Airways volunteering”, *Metro News*, 2 September 2013, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://metro.co.uk/2013/09/02/paedophile-pilot-sexually-abused-100-african-orphans-and-schoolchildren->

HOW DO OFFENDERS ACCESS VULNERABLE CHILDREN FOR SEX? TRADITIONAL AND EMERGING MODALITIES

Organised SECTT and networking perpetrators

It has been observed that sexual predators usually choose discreet ways of travelling and are less likely to be part of organised tours and to use registered facilities than common tourists. Using the numerous tourism services that have increasingly opened up travel destinations around the world (budget accommodation, online booking services and low-cost carriers), tourists

can easily gain access to destinations and locations where they can have sexual contact with children without the help of unofficial or hidden networks.

Nevertheless instances of collective, organised SECTT in Europe persist, particularly through communications and arrangements among preferential child sex offenders to facilitate child sexual abuse in other locations.²⁴⁴ This may take place via the Internet, by establishing contacts directly with local abusers and facilitators or through a combination of online and offline interactions. Besides organising trips for individuals seeking sexual contact with children, networking perpetrators may travel to provide children to other predators or to abuse children provided by other offenders.²⁴⁵

Organised sexual exploitation of children and networking perpetrators in Crimea

In 2011, the Ukrainian police arrested a 54-year-old man from Simferopol for allegedly producing child abuse materials and facilitating the sexual exploitation of children by foreigners in Crimea, Ukraine. The suspect was a photographer and a well-known expert on local history, ecology, recreation and tourism. Pretending that he was promoting a healthy lifestyle and back-to-nature movement, the man produced videos and pictures depicting naked children and sold them on the Internet.

Through a website located in Canada, the man offered foreign perpetrators the opportunity to “order” young boys either for cybersex or for sexual exploitation at destination. A British citizen living in Australia was arrested in Crimea because he not only allegedly ordered the shooting location, but also participated in the abuse and the production of child pornography. Both men were reportedly in custody.²⁴⁶

New technologies such as the Internet and mobile phones have greatly facilitated contact between child sex offenders and other like-minded individuals as well as between child sex offenders and facilitators. All over the region, perpetrators are now able to easily exchange information about recommended locations,

intermediaries who can provide sex services and other details that enable access to vulnerable children. Research on SECTT in Moldova, for example, found that travelling child sex offenders communicate with each other and get all the necessary recommendations at pornographic web-sites²⁴⁷.

“On the Internet, foreigners can find recommendations as to how to access taxi drivers who best know where they could use sexual services of minors in Chisinau. Besides, there are recommendations regarding hotels, nightclubs and bars where they could meet minors for the purpose of using sexual services”.

Alina Budeci, International Center “La Strada”Moldova²⁴⁸

²⁴⁴ ECPAT International, “Combating child sex tourism: questions and answers”, 17-18.

²⁴⁵ Sullivan, J. (2015), “Traveling Sex Offenders”, contribution to ECPAT International’s Global Study on CSETT.

²⁴⁶ “В Крыму и Севастополе устраивали секс-туры для иностранных педофилов”, (“In Crimea and Sevastopol organized sex tours for foreign pedophiles), Sevastopol, 4 August 2011, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://sevastopol.su/news.php?id=30526>

²⁴⁷ LA STRADA Moldova, “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 64.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

Though less common than in the past, segments of the travel and the tourism industry (e.g. travel agencies, hotels, taxi drivers, etc.) may still be implicated in the organisation of SECTT in Europe, for example, through the offer of thinly-veiled child sex tours. Organised sex tours are prevalent in a number of countries of destination in Europe. In Ukraine, for example, they were found to be particularly popular among Turkish citizens visiting Crimea.²⁴⁹ In Moldova, an Italian NGO

reported that some local travel agencies organise sex trips to the country which, besides an apartment for rent, offer commercial sex services, sometimes provided by underage girls.²⁵⁰ In Belarus, a recent media report exposed cases of sex tours catering to foreigners organised by Turkish and Belarusian citizens, including tour guides and interpreters; sex services were provided at hotels and nightclubs by adult sex workers and some minor victims.²⁵¹

Organised sex tours with children in Moldova

In 2012 members of a group that sold sex tours with children in Moldova were sentenced to prison by a Moldovan court. The five ring members convicted included two foreigners and three Moldovans. Prosecutors said the operation began with an Italian national who opened a travel agency in Moldova and identified children available for sexual exploitation. The Italian created a website containing pornographic material and offered sex tours to Moldova. Tourists from Germany, Sweden, the United States, Denmark, Thailand and Australia were suspected of having paid \$627 each for sex with a minor. Police cracked the ring after the Italian was arrested trying to rape a 13-year-old boy. The Italian and a person holding dual Russian and Norwegian citizenship were each sentenced to 21 years in prison. Three Moldovan associates drew prison sentences ranging from 10 to 18 years.²⁵²

Another modality of offending associated with organised SECTT in some European destinations is the use of modelling agencies to entrap children into sexual exploitation. In countries such as Ukraine and Russia, such agencies were found to exploit adolescents to produce pornographic material²⁵³ and in some cases to

involve these young people in providing sex services to local and domestic travellers and tourists. Sometimes these services are organised by transnational child sex offenders to ensure access to children by other perpetrators, while in others they are managed by local criminal networks.

Organised SECTT and model agencies: examples from Turkey and Czech Republic

In 2007 a Czech Court sentenced two German citizens to two and a half years in prison for luring young children into the production of child abuse materials through their modelling agency. The men targeted girls aged from six to 15 years from South Bohemia, offering them a career as models and inviting them to audition. After selecting girls in a hotel, a holiday cottage was rented out and used for shooting child abuse images that were later posted on a website run by a German offender. According to police investigation, the men had already committed similar crimes in the Slovak Republic.²⁵⁴

Turkish media reported use of a luxury yacht to for run a high-cost prostitution ring. In 2010, Turkish law enforcement officers detained 14 people on board, including foreign businessmen and underage girls brought to Turkey from Russia and Ukraine for prostitution through foreign modelling agencies. A Kazakh businessman allegedly served as the head of the prostitution ring.²⁵⁵

²⁴⁹ "В Крыму и Севастополе устраивали секс-туры для иностранных педофилов", ("In Crimea and Sevastopol organized sex tours for foreign pedophiles), Sevastopol, 4 August 2011, accessed on 4 June 2015, <http://sevastopol.su/news.php?id=30526>

²⁵⁰ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Moldova", 15, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_MOLDOVA.pdf

²⁵¹ "Минская милиция активизирует борьбу с проституцией" ("Minsk police intensify the fight against prostitution"), 11 November 2012, accessed 4 June 2015, Sb.by, <http://www.sb.by/vbelarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutsiey-2.html>

²⁵² "Pedophile tour operators ordered to prison", upi.com, 29 May 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/05/29/Pedophile-tour-operators-ordered-toprison/UPI-90771338309590/; Ceaglei, Olga, "Angel Killers. EU Official Among Clients of Pedophilia", *investigatii.md*, 24 August 2011, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.investigatii.md/eng/index.php?art=216>

²⁵³ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine" (2011), 13, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf. See also Kolpakova O.I., et al. (2015), *Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct*, Saint Petersburg: Stellit, 35.

²⁵⁴ "Soudpotrestalpedofily z modellingove-agentury" ("The court punishes pedophiles from modelling agencies"), *Zpravylidnes*, 5 February 2007, accessed 27 October 2015, http://zpravylidnes.cz/soudpotrestal-pedofily-z-modellingove-agentury-ft6-/krimi.aspx?c=A070205_150359_krimi_cen

²⁵⁵ "Observations from Iraq, Iran, Israel, the Arab world and beyond", *Los Angeles Times*, 30 September 2010, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://>

Resident offenders and pseudo care workers

Along with traditional tourists, there is evidence that expatriates and long-stay residents, or resident foreigners, constitute a proportion of the offender population involved in the sexual exploitation of children in destinations in Europe.

These perpetrators often buy or rent a property in a location where children can be accessed for sex. Staying in a country for an extended period of time or taking up residence allows these perpetrators to engage in a lengthy “grooming” process, which usually sees the foreigner entering into close relations with the child and his or her family and gaining the trust of the community.²⁵⁶

“If necessary, foreigners even meet the parents of children –potential victims of sexual violence – introducing themselves as businessmen or teachers with the purpose of helping their children to become “big persons”. Most often, children perceive these foreigners as good and generous people, a useful acquaintance. They do not give rise to suspicions of being rapists”.

Alina Budeci, International Center “La Strada” Moldova²⁵⁷

Examples of resident offenders in European countries of destination

In 2012 an American citizen was convicted in absentia for raping three Albanian children from 2003-2006. He reportedly lived in a rented house where he would sexually abuse the young boys and take pictures of the act.²⁵⁸ Another American citizen of Armenian descent was sentenced to 15 years in prison in Armenia for committing sex crimes against young boys. The offender was a prominent businessman of a mining company and enjoyed a reputation as a philanthropist, providing shelters for disadvantaged youths and often presenting them with generous gifts.²⁵⁹

A Finnish man was apprehended in Bulgaria for making, keeping and spreading child pornography. He had been residing in Sofia for several months during which he had abused children under poor parental supervision.²⁶⁰

To gain greater proximity and access to potential child victims, long-term visitors or foreign residents often seek employment as teachers or in child-contact-related professions. Analysis conducted by CEOP found that between 7 and 19% of the 1,200 cases of British child sex offenders working abroad between 2006 and 2009 were associated with roles that involved access to children. Teaching and school-related positions were the occupations most frequently associated with incidents of offending overseas.²⁶¹ Several European offenders

employed as teachers were arrested in countries outside Europe (e.g., Cambodia²⁶² and the Philippines²⁶³), and there is evidence that teaching is also used as a pathway to SECTT within the region. The lack of effective background checks, widespread reticence to report these incidents and limited implementation and monitoring of child protection procedures all contribute to leaving vulnerable children at risk of sexual exploitation by such offenders.

²⁵⁶ ECPAT International, “Combating child sex tourism: questions and answers”, 17.

²⁵⁷ LA STRADA Moldova, “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 22.

²⁵⁸ “Durrës, 25 vjet burg pedofilit amerikan” (“Durrës, American pedophile sentenced to 25 years prison”), Shekulli.com, 16 April 2013, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.shekulli.com.al/p.php?id=21132>

²⁵⁹ Bulghadarian, Naira, “Armenia Rocked By Pedophilia Scandal”, Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty, 14 February 2011, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.rferl.org/content/armenia_rocked_by_pedophilia_scandal/2308883.html

²⁶⁰ “Finnish Pedophile Busted in Bulgaria”, novinite.com, 12 July 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/141200/Finnish+Pedophile+Busted+in+Bulgaria#sthash.k56ER7ti.dpuf>

²⁶¹ “CEOP launch a new way to prevent UK child sex offenders from abusing children overseas”, Ceop, 18 October 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, <https://www.ceop.police.uk/Media-Centre/Pressreleases/2012/CEOP-launch-a-new-way-to-prevent-UK-child-sex-offenders-from-abusing-childrenoverseas-/>; “A fifth of child sex offenders who travel abroad end up working in jobs that involve children”, Daily Mail, 18 October 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2219419/A-fifth-child-sex-offenders-travel-abroad-endworking-jobs-involve-children.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

²⁶² Naren, Kuch, and Woods, Ben, “UK Pedophile Came to Cambodia to Teach in Schools”, Cambodia Daily, 31 October 2013, accessed 15 June 2015, <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/uk-pedophile-came-to-cambodia-to-teach-in-schools-46353/>

²⁶³ “Swede, 76, jailed for child sex crimes in Philippines”, The Local, 29 March 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.thelocal.se/20120329/39980>

British teacher abused children in Turkey

A British man who had been living in Turkey for about 10 years was arrested in 2009 for video recording nude children in a forest area. Police said the suspect was the co-owner of a private school giving foreign language courses in Istanbul.²⁶⁴

French teacher abused children in the USA

In 2011 a French citizen was sentenced in France to 12 years in prison for sexual touching and digital penetration of American children. He taught French in the United States to minors aged between 6 and 10 and during his stay abroad he abused his students. Then, to escape American justice, he returned to France, where he was arrested. Each victim received 20,000 Euros as compensation for the abuse suffered.²⁶⁵

Perpetrators who abuse children with whom they work are known as “pseudo care-workers”. Offenders may include members of the faith community, military missions, charities, NGOs and others volunteering in developing countries.²⁶⁶ This desk review was able to identify several cases of European citizens who took advantage of their work in contact with children to sexually abuse them, including through sport activities. Some perpetrators set up their own “children’s shelters”

or infiltrate existing charities, often acting as major donors or volunteers. This is also confirmed by the description of SECTT developed by the Dutch police, which found that many Dutch persons convicted for child abuse abroad were involved in orphanages: in 13 of 85 possible SECTT cases examined, the relationship between victim and perpetrator was established through aid work.²⁶⁷

British orphanage head abused children in Albania

A British man who ran a Christian missionary orphanage for abandoned street children in Albania was sentenced to 20 years in jail after being found guilty of child sexual abuse. According to information provided by the prosecutors, the charity worker first came to Albania in 1999 and two years later established the “His Children” orphanage to assist Roma children in Tirana. Several children between three-13 years old who were hosted in the shelter home were repeatedly raped.²⁶⁸

French “pseudo care-worker” abused children in Asia and Africa

In April 2014 the French organization Agir Contre la Prostitution des Enfants (ACPE) won a trial after presenting charges against Mr. Carayon, who financed an association in the Philippines to help deaf street children and hosted three young boys at his house to sexually abuse them. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Italian priest abused and threatened children in Nicaragua

Don Marco Dessì, was an Italian missionary in Chinandega, Nicaragua, where he ran an orphanage. He was quite famous in the area because he started a big humanitarian mission called ‘Betania’. In 2006 a group of children from the local revealed to Rock no War (an NGO with which Don Dessì was working) that they had been regularly sexually abused by the priest. Rock no War entrusted the Chairman of ECPAT-Italy, who is a lawyer, to represent them in the trial. The evidence consisted of testimony by the children, over 1,400 photos of naked children and several recorded phone calls where the priest threatened to kill the victims, tried to corrupt them and to intimidate them with his position of power in Nicaragua.²⁶⁹ In 2014, Don Dessì was sentenced to 6 years in prison.²⁷⁰

²⁶⁴ “Briton captured while video recording nude children”, Today’s Zaman, 9 September 2009, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.todayzaman.com/newsDetail_getNewsById.action;jsessionid=DA6D32B474A051DFADF9776C417840CC?newsId=186606&columnistId=0

²⁶⁵ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

²⁶⁶ Sullivan, J., “Traveling Sex Offenders”.

²⁶⁷ POLITIE, Moerenhout, Laura “Kindersekstoerisme”.

²⁶⁸ “Albanian court finds British paedophile guilty of sexual abuse”, Guardian, 19 November 2008, accessed 27 October 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2008/nov/19/david-brown-paedophile-trial-albania>

²⁶⁹ ECPAT the Netherlands (2009), “Offenders Beware: Child sex tourism case studies”, 9, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/995.pdf>

²⁷⁰ Bia, Silvia, “Abusi sessuali su minori in Nicaragua. Condannato a sei anni Don Dessì”, Il Fatto Quotidiano, 3 February 2014, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2014/02/03/prete-abuso-sessualmente-di-minori-in-nicaragua-condannato-a-sei-anni-don-dessi/867686/>

The threat posed by volun-tourism and orphanage tourism

Closely linked to “pseudo-care work” are the emerging phenomena of “volun-tourism” and “orphanage tourism”. A policy brief recently released by ECPAT Germany and partner organisations describes how the original concept of volunteering has evolved into a marketable tourism product. Used by charities to promote engagement in the field of development and to enlarge their base of donations, volunteer services and project visits are now also sold by specialised commercial operators as part of package tours or round trips (even during cruises). The notion of “volun-tourism” – involving a short-term volunteer experience combined with travel – has gained massive importance over the last few years. While in countries such as the U.S. and Australia it has been popular for quite some time, in Europe this market is only just developing, but is expected to grow further. At the global level, about 10 million people volunteered abroad in 2011, generating income amounting to several billion Euros annually²⁷¹

The projects in which travellers participate are usually short-term and do not require specific preparation or working experience. Many volun-tourism operators are simply aiming to make the largest profit possible by sending as many volunteers as possible. Projects where volunteers work directly with children are the most

popular form of volun-tourism and pose the most serious risks for vulnerable children. Since volunteers have countless opportunities to spend time or be alone with children, including living with host families, the danger of sexual and other forms of abuse is high. A study in Germany found that the main obstacles to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children involved in projects related to volun-tourism were: a) inadequate selection criteria and training for volunteers, b) short duration of stay; and c) lack of rules of conduct for travellers and of child protection strategies.²⁷²

“Orphanage tourism” is a related phenomenon bringing international travellers and tourists to orphanages and other children’s shelters as visitors or volunteers, entailing similar risks for the children living in these structures. Research in countries of destination of European travelling child sex offenders (such as Cambodia and Pakistan) shows that “orphanage tourism” may involuntarily fuel child trafficking and corruption. As an increasing number of tourists are interested in visiting and/or volunteering in orphanages, the demand for orphans is growing. Cases of unscrupulous intermediaries who approach poor families and convince them to place their children in external care are becoming common. Instead of receiving education and having a better life, these children are placed in very poor shelters that often lack licenses and adequate monitored.²⁷³

British paedophile abused children while “volunteering” in Africa

A British Airways pilot allegedly sexually abused dozens of African orphans and schoolchildren before killing himself. He allegedly ‘abused his position’ to molest 15 children in Kenya and Uganda while on a volunteering trip to visit impoverished African youngsters. The man was first arrested in 2000 for an alleged sex attack on an eight-year-old as he escorted children on a charity trip to North Yorkshire. Although charges were dropped due to ‘insufficient evidence’, he was later re-arrested when British police were tipped off about the African allegations. Police told the court that the pilot was suspected of abusing more than 100 African children and had transferred £64,000 to his legal team there to be used as ‘hush money’. Another theory is that he intended the money to be used to open another Ugandan orphanage to ‘groom’ potential victims.²⁷⁴

Self-contained exploitation

Some perpetrators take children away on trips, locally or to other countries, with the intention of sexually exploiting them. This behaviour, known as “self-contained

exploitation” often involves taking their own and/or other people’s children on a holiday, but can also include group leaders who travel with children as part of a group activity or event (e.g. summer camps, field trips, pilgrimages, etc.).²⁷⁵

²⁷¹ ECPAT Germany, Bread of the World and Working Group Tourism & Development (2015), “From volunteering to voluntarism: challenges for the responsible development of a growing travel trend”, 6-7, accessed 14 November 2015, http://tourism-watch.de/files/profil18_voluntourism_final_en.pdf

²⁷² Ibid., 12- 14.

²⁷³ Ibid., 11.

²⁷⁴ Wilson, Luke “Paedophile pilot sexually abused 100 African orphans and schoolchildren during British Airways volunteering”, Metro News, 2 September 2013, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://metro.co.uk/2013/09/02/paedophile-pilot-sexually-abused-100-african-orphans-and-schoolchildren-during-british-airways-volunteering-3946672/>

²⁷⁵ J. Sullivan, J. “Traveling Sex Offenders”.

A British teacher abusing children during school trips abroad

Some cases of self-contained sexual exploitation relate to teachers abusing children during travels abroad. An example is that of an American man teaching history and geography at a school in the UK who was accused to have allegedly drugged boys and abused them on school trips. The man killed himself after being found with 90 images of boys. The FBI believed the children were drugged with sleeping pills and molested in assaults dating back to 2008. Concern focused on groups of children who joined the teacher on field trips to Nepal in 2013 and Venezuela in 2012, as well as other trips. The man had already been convicted in 1969 at the age of 20 for child molestation in California, nevertheless he was able to register as a teacher and to access children for sex in several countries. An investigation by a barrister concluded that the English school where the offender was teaching did not properly address concerns about the man's behavior while he taught there, and that they failed to take references before offering him a teaching job.²⁷⁶

Adoption, surrogacy and sponsorship programmes

Adoption is a perfectly acceptable – and often necessary – solution for children whose own parents are dead or cannot look after them. However, as in other situations associated with SECTT, a traditional institution is now being used as a means to access children for sex, particularly as adoption has become 'globalised', with a rapid increase in inter-country adoptions of children born in poor countries sought by couples in wealthier countries.

The social and economic transitions that followed the end of communism in the Eastern Bloc created a boom in inter-country adoptions, provoking some governments to impose temporary bans. In Russia, for example, a ban was introduced in 2013 on adoption by American citizens;²⁷⁷ though isolated, incidents of American citizens who sexually abused children adopted from Russia have been reported in recent years, raising deep concern

over the lack of government oversight and safeguards to protect these children from violence.²⁷⁸

Once at destination, some perpetrators may enter into marriage with women who have children or, alternatively, informally adopt a child.²⁷⁹ Sometimes adoption is facilitated by brokers through illegal channels. For example, in three of the 85 cases of possible SECTT examined by the Dutch police, the child victim was entrusted to the accused through an illegal adoption.²⁸⁰

Some abusers may also establish contacts with children through sponsorship programmes, particularly by spending time with the child during sponsor visits. While sponsor visits provide an excellent opportunity to learn and give donors a chance to see where their money is spent, sponsor visits are often conducted without ensuring the high standards of protection and care that these children deserve, enabling ill-intentioned visitors to perpetrate abuse with little risk of being caught, as in the case described below.

Belgian sexually abused children through sponsorship programmes and "family links" in Cambodia

Philippe Dessart was arrested in Sihanoukville, Cambodia, in April 2006, when he was found with a minor in a hotel room. The Belgian was initially sentenced to 18 years in prison but the Court of Appeals of Phnom Penh later reduced the penalty to three years in prison. After being released, the Belgian moved to live with the child he abused and his family. According to a local child rights NGO, he had plans to marry the boy's mother, who reportedly received considerable financial support from the man. Before moving permanently to Cambodia, Dessart also travelled to the country to visit his 12 sponsored children, one of whom was sexually abused by the man. Convicted in 1994 in Belgium for child rape and torture, Dessart was deported from Cambodia in September 2009.²⁸¹

²⁷⁶ Booth, Robert "London school confirms its pupils were abused by teacher in FBI investigation", The Guardian, 24 April 2014, accessed 16 June 2015 from <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/apr/24/london-schools-confirm-abuse-pupils-william-vahey-fbi>

²⁷⁷ "US adoptions of foreign children plunge to 21-year low in part due to Russia ban", Guardian, 21 March 2014, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/21/us-adoptions-foreign-children-russia>

²⁷⁸ "Russia launches criminal probe into online trafficking of adopted kids in US", rt.com, 5 December 2013, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://rt.com/news/criminal-probe-child-trafficking-769/>; "Russian children abused and murdered by American foster parents", Pravda.ru, 4 May 2006, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://english.pravda.ru/hotspots/crimes/04-05-2006/79886-adoption-0/>

²⁷⁹ Sullivan, J., "Traveling Sex Offenders".

²⁸⁰ POLITIE, Moerenhout, Laura, "Kindersekstoerisme".

²⁸¹ Prak Chan Thul, "Convicted Pedophile Continues With Marriage Plan, Police Say", Cambodia Daily, 10 June 2009, accessed 16 June 2015, <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/convicted-pedophile-continues-with-marriage-plan-police-say-64782/>; Ainge, Eleanor and May Titthara, Roy, "Belgian's history as a paedophile catches neighbours by surprise", Phnom Penh Post, 30 June 2009, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.phnompenhpost.com/national/belgians-history-paedophile-catches-neighbours-surprise>; "Un pédophile belge expulsé du Cambodge", 7sur7.be, 23 September 2009, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.7sur7.be/7s7/fr/1505/Monde/article/detail/1001356/2009/09/23/Un-pedophile-belge-expulse-du-Cambodge.dhtml>

Surrogacy is another practice that poses serious child protection concerns and was recently found to be abused by child sex offenders, particularly in light of the absence of international guidelines for this practice. While in many developed countries commercial surrogacy²⁸² is either prohibited or heavily regulated, some Western countries have nevertheless experienced a growth in surrogacy agencies and brokers, heavily promoting such arrangements under the guise of ‘medical tourism’.

This has given rise to a thriving transnational market for surrogacy, particularly in Latin and Central America, Asia and Eastern Europe, where legislation and regulatory supervision of this practice is minimal or completely lacking. The potential for surrogacy agreements to be used as an avenue to exploit children is illustrated by a number of recent examples, some of which involved surrogate mothers from Europe, as described in the box below.

Couple uses surrogacy as means of child sexual exploitation

In 2005, a same-sex couple adopted a boy by paying \$8,000 to a Russian woman who agreed to be their surrogate. When the boy was just 20 months old, they started to sexually abuse the child. The couple took the boy around the world for about six years and allowed other men to sexually abuse the boy while they filmed the acts. The video of the sexual abuse was reportedly uploaded on an international syndicate known as Boy Lovers Network.

The couple reportedly were considered “rock stars” by other paedophiles for their ability to fly around the world abusing the boy and letting others abuse him sexually and getting away with it. The eight men who also committed sexual acts on the boy were from Australia, France, Germany and the U.S. The gay couple has since been arrested and are currently serving their sentence in the U.S.

Accessing children through child, early and forced marriage and associated crime methods

As noted above, child, early and forced marriage constitutes a manifestation of CSEC when the married child is used for sexual gratification in exchange for money or other form of compensation. Under certain circumstances, CEFM can be considered a disguised form of child sexual exploitation through travel and tourism.²⁸³

In several countries there is evidence that some perpetrators get access to children for sex by engaging in temporary marriages. Known in the Islamic world as *muta'a* (“pleasure marriage”), *misyar* (“traveller’s marriage”) and *urfi* (“secret”) marriages, this custom may be associated with SECTT when a person travels to another country or location to marry a child in return for a dowry or other consideration given to the family. The marriage lasts a few days or the entire duration of the vacation, after which the bride is abandoned or “divorced”.²⁸⁴ This practice is particularly popular in Middle East and South Asian²⁸⁵ countries, and has also recently been noted in Turkey, particularly in Syrian refugee communities.

²⁸² In commercial surrogacy, the surrogate mother and often the facilitating agency receive a monetary compensation.

²⁸³ ECPAT International, “Combating child sex tourism: questions and answers”, 22.

²⁸⁴ Shmulovitz, Shoshana, “Temporary Marriage in Islam: Exploitative or Liberating?”, Tel Aviv Notes, Vol. 6, no. 5 (March 2012), accessed 16 June 2015, http://dayan.org/sites/default/files/S_SHMULOVITZ_TEMP_MARRIAGE_MAR_11_12.pdf

²⁸⁵ ICMEC (2013) “Child Marriage in the Middle East and North Africa: white paper”, accessed 16 June 2015, http://www.icmec.org/en_X1/icmec_publications/Child_Marriage_in_the_MENA_Region.pdf

Syrian refugees and temporary marriages involving travelling child sex offenders in Turkey

The crisis in Syria, which borders southern Turkey, resulted in 1.6 million official Syrian refugees (as of November 2014) fleeing to Turkey since the conflict began in 2011; a large proportion are children and youth.²⁸⁶ There have been reports of Turkish men taking advantage of refugees' financial hardship and insecure living conditions to sexually exploit young Syrian women and girls through arranged and temporary marriages.²⁸⁷

Interviews with Syrian women living in Turkish refugee camps in the border town of Kilis in May 2014 revealed reports of girls between 15 and 18 years old (and some as young as 13) being sold as third or fourth wives, or for temporary one-night mut'ah marriages with Turkish²⁸⁸ and Muslim men travelling from the Arab world.²⁸⁹ Upon divorce or abandonment, these children often return to the camps, where they are no longer welcome due to the stigma associated with these practices.

Perpetrators may also travel to a country, marry (or promise to marry) a girl, and then bring her back to their country of origin, where she is subjected to prostitution or repeated sexual violence. In the case of SECTT through (promised) child marriage, there is an evident linkage with child sex trafficking, as the offender takes on the typical characteristics of a trafficker who recruits and moves the child across countries for subsequent sexual exploitation.

Associated with SECTT and child marriage is the practice of mail-order brides and falsely brokered marriages arranged through match-making agencies.

In Kazakhstan, for example, the local ECPAT member organisation reported several cases of young girls who entered into marriage with foreigners through match-making agencies and were later sold into sexual slavery by their husbands or suffered domestic and sexual violence at their hands. Some marriage agencies in countries such as Russia and Ukraine also organise romance and marriage tours, advertising their activity via different dating web sites and newspaper ads. According to La Strada Ukraine, this is a new form of sexual exploitation in tourism that may potentially involve and threaten underage girls.²⁹⁰

Marriage tours as a veiled form of SECTT

A criminal group involved in the organization of "sex tours" for foreigners was uncovered in Vinnytsia, a city in west-central Ukraine. The organiser was a German national who had previously been investigated for similar offences in his country. Two Ukrainian citizens were also arrested for participating in the sexual exploitation of girls by recruiting and controlling them. As a cover for their illegal activities the criminal group used a marriage agency that marketed its services over the Internet. The girls, some of whom were underage, were reportedly recruited through social networking sites. According to local NGOs, Ukrainians living in small towns and villages are at high risk of falling victims to trafficking, given high levels of unemployment in such areas.²⁹¹

²⁸⁶ ORSAM Centre for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies, TESEV, Orhan, Oytun, and Senyücel Gündoğar, Sabiha (2015), "Effects of the Syrian Refugees on Turkey", Report No. 195, January 2015, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.tesev.org.tr/assets/publications/file/09012015103629.pdf>

²⁸⁷ Ibid.

²⁸⁸ Mazlumder, 29 May 2014, available (in Turkish) and accessed 16 June 2016, <http://www.mazlumder.org/main/faaliyetler/basin-aciklamalari/1/mazlumder-kamp-disinda-yasayan-suriyeli-kadin-siginmacilar-raporu/11041>; "Claims of Prostitution in Refugee Camps", Today's Zaman, 30 May 2014, accessed 16 June 2015, http://www.todayszaman.com/turkish-press-review_claims-of-prostitution-in-refugee-camps_349168.html

²⁸⁹ Barkan, L, "Criticism In Arab World Over Exploitation Of Syrian Refugee Girls For Purposes Of Marriage", Inquiry & Analysis Series, no. 898 (November 2012), accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.memri.org/report/en/print6806.htm>

²⁹⁰ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 23.

²⁹¹ Gender Information Network of South Caucasus, "Брачное агентство Винницы организовывало секс-туры из ЕС" ("Marriage agency organizes sex tours in Vinnytsa"), 2 June 2011, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ginsc.net/home.php?option=article&id=17495&lang=ru#.Vsu7_PL_vng

ICTs, online offending and linkages with SECTT

The cases of SECTT mentioned throughout this report illustrate how the ubiquitous use of the latest Internet and communications technologies has facilitated the proliferation of this crime.

- By means of chat-lines, dedicated forums, websites and other tools, travelling child-sex offenders are now able to gain access to networks that provide information on local children and the services available at destination.
- They can also anonymously plan their trips and establish contacts with potential victims prior to travelling, enticing them through a grooming process that will eventually end up in sexual exploitation.
- Thanks to the increasing use of the so-called “hidden Internet” (areas not accessible by available search engines, as well as password-protected sites and black markets masked by routing software), predators can securely post, view and exchange child abuse materials produced during their trips through secret or encrypted networks that are very difficult to detect.
- As an alternative, they can actively participate in the live-streaming of child sexual abuse with no need to move from their habitual residence.
- With the recent evolution of technology, perpetrators can make use of cloud computing to store images or videos of their encounters, avoiding the risks associated with physically transporting child sexual abuse material through airports and other checkpoints.

Convergence between the use of increasingly sophisticated technologies and their combined impact in advancing SECTT poses several challenges to law enforcement agencies, underlining the need for holistic and integrated measures to be implemented with active involvement by all concerned stakeholders, including the ICT and tourism industries.

Grooming and associated practices

A risk that children and adolescents often face in their virtual interactions is online grooming or solicitation. This tactic is used by child sex offenders to befriend, establish an emotional connection with and gain the trust of a child, in order to lower the child’s inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity.²⁹² Typically, this modus operandi involves initiating contact with youngsters on social media platforms or other virtual places in which they commonly

meet and chat. The ultimate goal of online groomers is to encourage children to participate in sexualised activities, which may take the form of exposing themselves on webcam, emailing suggestive photographs of themselves or even meeting the predator in person and becoming the victim of direct sexual abuse. Exposure of children to pornography is often part of the grooming process, to persuade potential victims that sexual activity with an adult is normal and acceptable. Online grooming has been increasingly reported in several European countries.

In its 2014 threat assessment, Europol notes two major growing trends associated with grooming: sexual extortion and “sexting”. Through so called sex extortion perpetrators coerce children and young people into continual sexual exploitation by threatening to disseminate existing images or footage of the victims if demands are not met. Many cases of sexual extortion are a result of ‘sexting’, a practice involving the exchange of sexual messages or images, typically self-generated, sent via mobile phone or the Internet. The sharing of self-produced sexualised images usually occurs between “consenting” peers but may lead to unwanted dissemination of this material, impacting the well-being of those involved and leading to harassment and bullying, online and off-line.²⁹³

Grooming and “sexting” are also closely tied to the emerging phenomenon of children who engage in sexual activities on an opportunistic and sporadic basis to access products they could not otherwise afford. Research in a number of countries – mainly in Western Europe – has revealed that more and more teenagers are exchanging sexual services to purchase coveted goods or simply earn extra pocket money, often using the Internet or mobile phones to contact “customers” for subsequent online and offline encounters.²⁹⁴ In Italy and Spain, for example, teenagers were found to sell sexualised pictures of themselves in exchange for recharging their mobile phones.²⁹⁵ Likewise, in Sweden a study identified several cases of young women who sold sex acts online, ranging from semi-nude pictures to live webcam sex.²⁹⁶ While this form of occasional prostitution is usually independent and not organised, there is some indication that selling sex online and offline may also take place in the context of groups and gangs, with offenders occasionally travelling to have sexual encounters with these children, and young victims sometimes acting as perpetrators and exploiting their peers.

²⁹² Gillespie, Alisdair A. (2002) “Child protection on the internet challenges for criminal law”, *Child and Family Law Quarterly*, vol.14, no.4 (2002): 411.

²⁹³ EUROPOL (2014), “The Internet organized crime threat assessment (IOCTA), 30, accessed 16 June 2015, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/internet-organised-crime-threat-assesment-iocta>

²⁹⁴ ECPAT International (2014), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society”, 10-11, accessed 14 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Regional%20CSEC%20Overview_Europe.pdf.

²⁹⁵ Pijola Lombardo, Marida, “Ho 12 anni, faccio la cubista, mi chiamano principessa. Storie di bulli, lolite e altri bimbe”, (Milano: Bompiani, 2007),42. For Spain, see “Detenido un pedófilo tras citarse con una niña de 14 años a cambio de 150 euros”, *El Mundo*, 22 September 2013, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.elmundo.es/elmundo/2013/09/22/espana/1379843956.html>

²⁹⁶ Jonsson, Linda S., Svedin, Carl Goran, and Hyden, Margareta (2014), “Without the Internet, I never would have sold sex”: Young women selling sex online”, *Cyberpsychology: Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace*, vol.8, no.1, article 3, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://cyberpsychology.eu/view.php?cisloclanku=2014021703&article=3>

A gang involving minors and travelling sex offenders in Italy

A gang involving ten minors and two adults was uncovered and investigated by the Italian police for extortion and aggravated theft in a city in the north-central Italy. The investigation began when the parents of one of the girls involved noted that their daughter had a new, very expensive mobile phone. After reporting the case to police, the girl confessed that together with another girl, she had engaged in sexual acts in a hotel with a man from outside the region in exchange for gifts.

Further investigation showed that the group of young people contacted men interested in sexual encounters via social networks and proposed the exchange of explicit sexual pictures. Once the trust of the men was gained and personal information was gathered, the group would start to blackmail potential “customers”, stating that they were minors and threatening to report the case to police. Thanks to this “trap”, they extorted gifts and money from several people. Three of the confirmed victims were also reported and investigated, one for sex with minors and possession of child pornography, and the other two for possession of child pornography.²⁹⁷

The 2012 inquiry into sexual exploitation in gangs and groups conducted by the UK government raises concern over these new trends, highlighting the use of mobile phones, social networking sites and other forms of technology as channels through which perpetrators groom, bully and pursue their victims. More specifically, the investigation found that offenders may use new technologies for several purposes including: threatening that they will share images of the victims online to coerce them into ongoing sexual abuse; harassing and bullying victims through text messaging; contacting children randomly via social networking sites; using ‘friends’ lists’ on networking sites of known victims to target new children; viewing of extreme or violent pornography and discussing it during sexual assaults; and filming and distributing incidents of rape.²⁹⁸ ECPAT UK found that some recent cases of child sexual exploitation by gangs and groups involved travelling within the UK and/or use of the travel and tourism infrastructure.²⁹⁹ These new trends are therefore relevant and must be taken into consideration when addressing both transnational and domestic SECTT.

Chat-rooms, social networking sites and online games are all used to groom children for sexual exploitation. Research on SECTT in Moldova found that travelling child sex offenders use different Internet forums and chats to contact and get acquainted with children

before their travel to Moldova.³⁰⁰ As noted earlier, in addition to incidents of offenders who travel to another country to abuse children they previously contacted and groomed online, there is increasing indication that some perpetrators who meet their victims on-line subsequently travel within their own countries to meet them in person.

Cybercafés and livestreaming of child sexual abuse

The presence and importance of cybercafés in Western Europe has declined as more and more people, including children, gain other ways to access the Internet. In EU countries, only 6% of 15-to-17-year-olds and 1% of younger children go online from a cybercafé.³⁰¹ Likewise, in Ukraine the proportion of children accessing the Internet at such facilities is very small (7%).³⁰² Yet for those who do frequent cybercafés, measures to ensure their safety are limited and mainly unmonitored.

In the absence of effective child protection mechanisms, children and young people using the Internet at cybercafés are vulnerable to several potential risks, such as exposure to child pornography, online grooming, webcam sex and physical contacts with perpetrators. In Moldova some TCSOs were found to be meeting children at recreation and amusement places for teenagers, including Internet cafés.

²⁹⁷ “Adescavano adulti sui social e li ricattavano, sgominata la baby gang di Forlì”, La Stampa, 6 March 2015, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.lastampa.it/2015/03/06/italia/cronache/adescavano-adulti-sui-social-e-li-ricattavano-sgominata-la-baby-gang-di-forli-IT14QUdVxVXxLYzxeIQk/pagina.html>

²⁹⁸ CHILDREN’S COMMISSIONER, Berelowitz, Sue et. al, “I thought I was the only one. The only one in the world”, 43.

²⁹⁹ ECPAT UK, “Questionnaire on SECTT in Europe for ECPAT groups”, February 2015.

³⁰⁰ LA STRADA Moldova, “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 64.

³⁰¹ GALLUP ORGANISATION (2008), “Towards a safer use of the internet for children in the EU: a parents’ perspective”, 18, accessed 18 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_248_en.pdf

³⁰² UNICEF New York, Beger, Gerrit, Kounkou Hoveyda, Priscilla, and Sinha, Akshay (2011), “The UaNet Generation: An exploratory study of the Ukrainian digital landscape”, accessed 18 June 2015, <http://www.slideshare.net/asinha82/the-ua-netgeneration>

British offender used cybercafés to contact children in Moldova

“A British citizen working as a consultant in a foreign investment company reportedly seduced and sexually abused boys aged 12–to-15 years old. Law-enforcement agencies found out that the foreigner met minors most often at Internet-cafes, later invited the boys to his home. In his apartment, the children used Internet for free, he treated them with sweets, gave them small compensations in the form of money or presents. During a search conducted in this apartment, two computers were found that stored pornographic materials showing minors. He was found guilty and sentenced to four years of conditional imprisonment, with a stay of execution of the sentence after two years.”

Press-release by the Centre to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Interior of Moldova, 2009.³⁰³

A more immediate threat in Europe is the popularisation of webcams and chat platforms that enable the streaming of live images and videos showing child sexual abuse and exploitation. In its 2013 threat assessment report, CEOP noted an alarming increase of live-streaming of child sex abuse via webcams.³⁰⁴ Likewise, the French police observed that this phenomenon is emerging as a new form of sexual exploitation of children committed by their nationals.³⁰⁵ A recently published strategic assessment by Europol highlights that live-on-demand Web streaming of abuse for payment is by

now an established trend all over Europe. Child victims of this Internet-based practice are usually from countries with deprived economies. The majority of incidents investigated to date involved children in the Philippines who were exploited through cybersex dens in return for payment to the family or the organised criminal group involved.³⁰⁶ Severe poverty, increased access to the Internet and an established reputation as destination for SECTT contributed to high vulnerability of children to livestreaming in Southeast Asia, but incidents are also occurring in other regions (e.g. in Madagascar).³⁰⁷

Swedish man sentenced for engaging in livestreaming of child sexual abuse

In January 2013 a Swedish district court sentenced a man to eight years imprisonment for instigation of gross rape against children, conspiracy to rape children and possession of child pornography. This was the first verdict in Sweden tied to real-time abuse of children in another country (the Philippines) ordered over the Internet by a person in Sweden. The children were between six and 10 years old.

Within Europe, there are no documented cases of live-streaming organised by criminal networks, but the risks posed by this phenomenon cannot be disregarded. Research conducted by the Dutch branch of the NGO Terre des Hommes revealed how serious and widespread live-streaming of child sexual abuse has become. By adopting a proactive investigative technique

involving the creation of a virtual 10-year-old Filipino girl named “Sweetie,” designed to catch child sex predators, they encountered over 20,000 offenders from 71 countries. Sweetie was able to identify 1,000 men worldwide willing to pay to abuse the girl online, most of whom came from Europe and other Western countries.³⁰⁸

³⁰³ LA STRADA Moldova, “Overview of the child trafficking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova”, 61.

³⁰⁴ CEOP (2013), “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 8, accessed 14 June 2015, http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceop_docs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf

³⁰⁴ Information provided through ECPAT France in February 2015.

³⁰⁵ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

³⁰⁶ EUROPOL European Cybercrime Centre (2015), “Strategic assessment on threats and trends of online child sexual exploitation”, accessed 18 June 2015, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/live-streaming-child-sexual-abuse-established-harsh-reality>

³⁰⁷ ECPAT Belgium (2014), “Webcam Child Sex Tourism”, accessed 18 June 2015, <http://ecpat.be/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/webcam-english2.pdf>; ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

³⁰⁸ TERRE DES HOMMES Netherlands (2013), “Webcam child sex tourism. Becoming Sweetie: a novel approach to stopping the global rise of Webcam Child Sex Tourism”, accessed 18 June 2015, <http://www.terredeshommes.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Webcam-child-sex-tourism-terre-des-hommes-NL-nov-2013.pdf>

Major sports events and SECTT

The European region hosted several major sporting events (MSEs) over the last decade; from the Olympic Games in Greece and the UK (2004 and 2012, respectively) to the World Football Cup in Germany (2006) and the UEFA European Championship. Since the 2004 Athens Olympics, governments of numerous countries, the European Parliament, NGOs and the media have expressed concern over a possible increase in human and child trafficking for sexual exploitation as a result of the growing influx of people attending these major sport events.³⁰⁹

Despite predictions of a rise in demand for commercial sex services from visitors and tourists in the lead-up to these gatherings, there is limited solid evidence that this actually happened and, more importantly, that this resulted in an increase in child sexual exploitation. Available examples appear to indicate that MSEs create major risks for children to be sexually exploited, but available data on whether such risks translate into harm is scarce, the debate is polarized and evidence somewhat contradictory.³¹⁰

CONCLUSION

The pervasive scope of SECTT in Europe is the result of multiple, interconnected factors that influence both demand and supply. Whilst many of the socio-economic drivers remain largely the same, this desk study found that root causes and vulnerabilities have evolved and multiplied over the last two decades. The continued expansion of the Internet; increased migration (international and domestic); the economic and financial crisis; burgeoning tourism development unaccompanied by child protection measures; a high level of impunity for TCSOs, conflicts and evolving social norms and sexual morés have all combined to create a permissive environment for perpetrators and increase children's vulnerability to SECTT.

While little is known on the supply side, knowledge and understanding of travelling child sex offenders, their profiles and methods to get access to children for sexual abuse and exploitation has improved in recent years in Europe. A particularly disturbing trend identified by this desk study is the high level of sophistication of modalities of offending. Internet use has greatly facilitated crime commission, enhancing perpetrators' capacity to identify, connect with and offend. This trend will likely continue, requiring research and continually evolving responses.

The increasingly complex, ever-evolving and insidious nature of SECTT in Europe requires concerted, comprehensive and coordinated action from regional bodies, governments, tourist industry, civil society organisations and other key stakeholders. As illustrated in the next chapter, there have been a number of attempts to tackle this crime in the region, some more successful and effective than others.

³⁰⁹ Hayes, Victoria (2010), "Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation at World Sporting Events", *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, vol. 85, no. 3, article 8 (2010): 1105-1146, accessed 18 June 2015, <http://scholarship.kentlaw.iit.edu/cklawreview/vol85/iss3/8>

³¹⁰ BRUNEL CENTRE for SPORT, HEALTH and WELLBEING, Brackenridge, Celia et al. (2013), "Child Exploitation and the FIFA World Cup: a review of risks and protective interventions", 17, accessed 18 June 2015, http://www.brunel.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/316745/Child-Protection-and-the-FIFA-World-Cup-FINAL.pdf

CHAPTER 4

ADDRESSING SECTT IN EUROPE: A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL RESPONSES

Since the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, governments and a range of other actors have actively promoted actions in areas such as coordination and cooperation, prevention, protection, prosecution and child participation. The European region has achieved some successes and produced many examples of good practice. Nevertheless the failure to prioritise SECTT on political agendas is one of several persistent challenges. Increased commitment and more effective responses are required. This section seeks to explore some recent actions to tackle the problem of SECTT (recognising its linkages with other forms of CSEC, particularly child sex trafficking and child pornography) and highlight the importance of partnerships.

REGIONAL ACTIONS TO COMBAT SECTT

The European region has a number of powerful regional mechanisms that contribute to the protection of children against commercial sexual exploitation, including through travel and tourism. The long-standing commitment to realise the fundamental right of children to be safeguarded from exploitation is reflected in an abundance of legally binding instruments and policy documents adopted by institutions such as the European Union (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE), as well as by the numerous regional programmes and initiatives designed to tackle the threats of child trafficking, CSEC and SECTT.

The European Union has acknowledged the risk posed by TCSSOs since the Stockholm Congress, responding by strengthening laws and policies and developing a range of preventive and counteracting measures in collaboration with different stakeholders. Recognising that expanded tourism had contributed to increased sexual exploitation of children, a first step by the EU was adoption of the “Communication from the Commission on Combating Child Sex Tourism” (1996)³¹¹. The document envisaged a two-fold strategy aimed at reducing demand, mainly through cooperation with the tourist industry and relevant NGOs, and reducing sources of supply in destination countries, including through support to developing countries.³¹²

Significant efforts were spearheaded by the Commission and its partners (governments, UN agencies, NGOs, etc.) to ensure implementation of this Communication. Examples include a Eurobarometer survey to sound out European views on SECTT, funding research into the links between SECTT and the growth of trafficking in young women, supporting national awareness-raising campaigns and training tourism professionals.³¹³ While welcoming EU action already taken to protect children, the Council of Ministers’ Conclusions on the implementation of measures to combat child sex tourism (1999) urged the Commission and member states to further develop initiatives to combat this crime by, for example, improving knowledge about SECTT, strengthening laws and law enforcement (including extra-territorial criminal law), intensifying efforts to stem the flow of sex tourists from member states and developing measures to combat SECTT in non-member countries.³¹⁴

³¹¹ European Union (1996), “Communication from the Commission of 27 November 1996 on Combating Child Sex Tourism”, COM(96)547, November 1996, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1429199901878&uri=URISERV:l33093>

³¹² European Union (1999), “Communication from the Commission of 26 May 1999 on the Implementation of Measures to Combat Child Sex Tourism”, COM(99) 262, May 1999, accessed from http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/fight_against_trafficking_in_human_beings/l33094_en.htm

³¹³ See European Union (1999), “Communication from the Commission of 26 May 1999 on the Implementation of Measures to Combat Child Sex Tourism”, COM(1999)262, May 1999, accessed from <http://www.statewatch.org/sem/doc/assets/files/commission/COM-1999-262.pdf>

³¹⁴ European Union (1999), “Council Conclusions of 21 December 1999 on the implementation of measures to combat child sex tourism, 1999/C 379/01”, 1999/C 379/01, December 1999, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:31999Y1231%2801%29>

Acknowledging the prevalence of transnational crime and the need to enhance judicial cooperation, in 2002 EU member states adopted the Council Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States. The purpose was to simplify judicial procedures related to conducting criminal prosecution or executing custodial sentences. The European arrest warrant now ensures direct enforcement by a judge in one member state of a warrant for arrest issued by authorities of another member state. Covering 32 serious offences, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, the act is applicable to cases involving transnational child sex offenders.³¹⁵

As concerns about human trafficking mounted, a Council Framework Decision on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted the same year, with a view to harmonising criminal laws of member states related to trafficking.³¹⁶ In 2004 the EU specifically addressed CSEC through the Council Framework Decision on Combating the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography.³¹⁷

In an effort to revitalise actions to combat SECTT, the European Economic and Social Committee adopted an “Opinion on protecting children from traveling sex offenders” (2009), which outlined measures aimed at strengthening a child-focused approach by the EU in this area. The Opinion recommended the urgent development and implementation of a European strategy against SECTT that would involve, inter alia, establishing international partnerships for police cooperation and barring sex offenders from working overseas, as well providing mechanisms for public awareness-raising and counselling for victims.³¹⁸

Also in 2009, the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, strengthening collaboration among member states and extending the power of the European Parliament. After a review of existing legislation, the above-mentioned framework decisions were replaced by two new Directives, one of which is highlighted in the box below.

Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography

This 2011 Directive builds on the CoE ‘Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse’ (see details below). It includes several key provisions intended to enhance child protection from SECTT and associated CSEC offences, namely:

- 1) Criminal law: punishes online grooming and organising travel for the purpose of child sexual exploitation, while obligating states to apply extraterritorial legislation to both nationals and residents
- 2) Prevention: includes measures to prevent re-offending (barring convicted offenders from activities with children) and calls for: measures to discourage and reduce the demand that fosters all forms of sexual exploitation of children and training for officials as well as measures to reduce children’s risk of becoming victims, through awareness-raising campaigns and research and education programmes
- 3) Criminal investigation: encourages reporting and requires no complaint on the part of the victim to initiate prosecution
- 4) Protection and assistance: includes legal aid and appointment of a legal representative, child-friendly procedures during investigation and prosecution, physical and psychological assistance based on individual needs assessments and support for families, when possible.³¹⁹

³¹⁵ Council of the European Union (2002), “Council Framework Decision of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States - Statements made by certain Member States on the adoption of the Framework Decision”, 2002/584/JHA, June 2002, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32002F0584>

³¹⁶ Council of the European Union (2002), “Council Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings”, 2002/629/JHA, July 2002, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32002F0629>
“Council framework Decision 2004/68/JHA of 22 December 2003 on combating the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography”, 2004/68/JHA, December 2013, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004F0068:EN:HTML>

³¹⁸ European Economic and Social Committee (2009), “Protection of children at risk from traveling sex offenders”. Brussels, 15 July 2009,

³¹⁹ Council of the European Union/European Parliament (2011), “Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on Combating the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision”, 2004/68/JHA, December 2011, accessed from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0093>

While this Directive represents an important step forward in the battle against SECTT and CSEC, a legal study carried out in 2012 by Missing Children Europe (in collaboration with ECPAT International and a law firm) pointed out that its incorporation in to domestic legal frameworks has progressed slowly.³²⁰ A more recent review conducted by the same actors confirmed this preliminary assessment, stressing that laws in several EU member states are still not compliant with the Directive, especially with regard to the recovery and reintegration of child victims.³²¹ Furthermore, while the Commission is formally responsible for monitoring the transposition process and holding member states accountable for implementation delays and gaps, further EU mechanisms (e.g. a specific strategy, coordinating bodies, etc.) are needed to provide support and guidance in the application of the Directive.³²²

The other new mechanism, the Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011), adopts a victim-centred approach and obliges states to focus on prevention, prosecution of offenders and victim protection. In addition to providing for the establishment in each member state of a national rapporteur on human trafficking, it envisages special protective measures for children, including during investigations and judicial proceedings.³²³ Member states were obliged to transpose this Directive into their national legislation by April 2013, but although some progress has been reported, full concrete application has yet to be achieved.³²⁴ While focused on human trafficking, this Directive is also relevant for addressing SECTT, since children and adolescents sexually exploited by travellers and tourists are often trafficked within and across countries in the region.

In addition to these efforts, the EU provides financial aid to regional projects and initiatives to tackle child trafficking and other manifestations of CSEC, in both the EU and third countries. The DAPHNE Programme, for example, subsidizes organisations that develop

measures and actions to prevent or combat all types of violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk. Thanks to this support, several actions were implemented to specifically address SECTT, such as the international campaign against the sexual exploitation of children in tourism conducted by UNWTO, ECPAT and other actors between 2001 and 2006³²⁵ and more recent initiatives such as ECPAT's "Offenders Beware" project and "Don't look away" campaign (see section on "Prevention" for more details).

A number of initiatives promoted at EU level are aimed at strengthening law enforcement cooperation among member states to better counteract SECTT and other child sex crimes. First, European countries have worked to enhance information exchange and mutual legal assistance through bilateral and multilateral agreements and application of specific tools (e.g., the ECRIS system; see section on "Legislation" for more details).

Information exchange between European countries and with other nations is also supported and assisted by Europol. Established in 1992 by the Maastricht Treaty, Europol is responsible for facilitating intelligence sharing among member states, including cases relating to TCSOs. Its collaboration with police, customs and border authorities is vital in preventing perpetrators from moving to other jurisdictions to commit offenses. One example is Europol's Project HAVEN (Halting Europeans Abusing Victims in every Nation) launched in 2010 to "detect and disrupt travelling sex offenders originating from the EU that exploit children both inside and outside Europe". It is noteworthy that one of HAVEN's main objectives is to establish a European Travel Notification system (so called "RAVEN" project - Recording Europeans Abusing Victims in Every Nation).³²⁶

At the judicial level, Eurojust, the EU Judicial Cooperation Unit established in 2002, plays a leading role in coordinating information and investigations on several types of transnational crimes, including cases of

child trafficking, child abuse on the Internet and SECTT. Recognising the importance of fighting crimes against children, a 'Contact Point for Child Protection Issues' was established in 2007 to support EU Member States dealing with child protection cases requiring judicial cooperation. The Contact Point works closely with national law enforcement agencies, as well as Europol, Interpol and other partners in child protection.³²⁷ One Eurojust initiative was a 2011 Tactical Meeting on Traveling Child Sex Offenders, which identified the most common challenges faced in judicial cooperation in the fight against this crime in the EU and proposed a set of recommendations for enhancing investigation and prosecution.³²⁸

European legislation also provides for the establishment of joint investigation teams (JITs) consisting of judicial and police authorities from at least two European member states. JITs are responsible for carrying out criminal investigations into specific matters for a limited period, with a view to improving police co-operation.³²⁹ Regrettably, while efforts have been promoted in some countries to establish JITs to investigate cases of human and child trafficking (e.g. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova³³⁰, Montenegro, the Netherlands³³¹, Romania, Serbia and the UK,³³²), the potential for using these mechanisms to improve prosecution of TCSOs has yet to be explored by governments in the region.

The EU and European countries have actively partnered with other governments, the private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to prevent and counteract the online sexual exploitation of children. In this framework, two initiatives merit special mention and can potentially be used to address the linkage between SECTT and the use of the Internet by child sex predators. The first is the Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online (2012), a joint initiative by the EU and the US that involves over 50 countries around the world, including all EU member states, which committed to concrete policy targets and actions to stop this crime.³³³ The second is the #WePROTECT Children Online initiative, a global alliance launched in December 2014 under the leadership of the UK³³⁴ that gathers together representatives from over 50 countries, 26 leading technology companies, and 10 NGOs which agreed to a coordinated global response in order to address the online sexual exploitation of children.³³⁵

The Council of Europe is another regional intergovernmental organisation that has devoted significant attention to SECTT and other manifestations of CSEC. Comprising 47 member states and covering virtually the entire European continent,³³⁶ the CoE has adopted a number of treaties to enhance child protection from sex crimes, as shown in Table 6. (See Annex7 for details on the status of ratification of CoE and other treaties and international agreements.) The treaties listed in the table below are not limited to European States. They may be acceded to by any country across the globe.

³²⁷ The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit, "Child Protection at Eurojust", accessed 16 June 2015, <http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/Practitioners/operational/Child-protection/Pages/child-protection-at-eurojust.aspx>

³²⁸ The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (2011), Eurojust Tactical Meeting on "Traveling Child Sex Offenders". Final Report, (The Hague: Eurojust), accessed 4 November 2015, http://www.eurojust.europa.eu/Practitioners/operational/Child-protection/Documents/2011-09_tcso-report.pdf

³²⁹ European Commission, "Joint Investigation Teams", accessed 16 June 2015, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/page/joint-investigation-teams-989>

³³⁰ European Commission, "The Introduction of the Requirements for Establishing Joint Investigations Teams (JIT) to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings", accessed 16 June 2015, https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects/introduction-requirements-establishing-joint-investigation-teams-jit-fight-trafficking_en

³³¹ Warmerdam, Jori, "A Closer Look at Joint Investigation Teams: The Dutch-Bulgarian JIT" (Bachelor Thesis, University of Twente), accessed 4 November 2015, http://essay.utwente.nl/66091/1/Warmerdam_BA_EPA.pdf

³³² ECPAT UK, "Off the Radar: Protecting children from British Sex Offenders who Travel", 20.

³³³ European Commission, "A Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online", accessed 9 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse/index_en.htm

³³⁴ Home Office, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Rt Hon Theresa May MP, "Global war declared on online child sexual abuse", 8 December 2014, accessed 20 October 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ending-online-child-sexual-exploitation-uk-leads-global-summit-in-london-weprotect-children-online>.

³³⁵ Home Office (Gov.Uk), "#WeProtect summit: statements of action", 11 December 2014, last updated 17 September 2014, accessed 20 October 2015, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weprotect-summit>.

³³⁶ Member States are: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Table 6. Overview of CoE Conventions relevant to SECTT and associated forms of CSEC

Convention	Addressing specifically SECTT?	Main provisions	Monitoring body
CoE Convention on Cybercrime (2001)	No, but contains measures against child pornography	Includes an exhaustive definition of child pornography and requires states to criminalise various associated offences committed through the use of computer systems (including production, offering/ making available, distribution/ transmission and possession of child pornography). ³³⁷	The Cybercrime Convention Committee assesses implementation, along with other activities to support its use/ application. ³³⁸
CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) (entered into force in 2008)	No, but contains measures against child sex trafficking	Sets out measures to protect and promote the rights of victims of trafficking that States are obliged to implement, including standards in relation to: identifying victims, providing assistance, putting in place a recovery and reflection period, residence permits, compensation and legal redress, and ensuring that return to the home country is safe and dignified. It also aims to prevent human trafficking and prosecute offenders, giving special consideration to victims under 18, especially in terms of protection measures. ³³⁹	Implementation is monitored by the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). ³⁴⁰
CoE Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007) (also known as the “Lanzarote Convention”)	Yes	The most advanced, comprehensive international legal instrument against CSEC. It requires the criminalization of all possible kinds of sexual offences against minors, including those committed abroad. The Convention contains several improvements in substantive criminal law relevant for combating SECTT, namely: a) obligation to apply extraterritorial legislation to nationals (while it is optional for habitual residents); b) obligation to remove the double criminality principle requiring that the alleged facts amount to an offence both in the country where the offence is to be tried as well as in the country where it was committed; c) Formal victim requests and state complaints are not requirements for criminal prosecution; d) mandatory application of “aut dedere aut judicare” principle (extradite or prosecute); e) obligation to adopt measures against advertising abuse opportunities and SECTT. The Lanzarote Convention calls for legislation and measures designed to: keep the best interest of the child at the forefront, prevent sexual abuse and exploitation and to protect child victims and prosecute perpetrators. It also promotes international cooperation to achieve these objectives. ³⁴¹	The implementation of this treaty is monitored by the Committee of the Parties (known as the “Lanzarote Committee”) through a series of monitoring rounds. ³⁴²

³³⁷ Council of Europe, Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest, 2001), accessed from <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/185.htm>

³³⁸ Cybercrime Convention Committee (2014), “T-CY Rules of Procedure”, Strasbourg, 3 December 2014, accessed from [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/TCY/2014/T-CY\(2013\)25%20rules_v14.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/TCY/2014/T-CY(2013)25%20rules_v14.pdf)

³³⁹ Council of Europe (2005), “Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings” (Warsaw, 2005), accessed from <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/197.htm>

³⁴⁰ Council of Europe, “About GRETA –the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings”, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Monitoring/GRETA_en.asp

³⁴¹ Council of Europe (2007), “Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse” (Lanzarote, 2007), accessed from <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/EN/Reports/Html/201.htm>

³⁴² Council of Europe, “Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (T-ES)”, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/children/Committee_en.asp

The CoE also took a firm stance against SECTT through the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Resolution on Fighting “child sex tourism” (2013). Though not legally binding, this document provides clear guidance to CoE member states on how to stem and counteract child sexual abuse and exploitation by travelling sex offenders. The resolution reiterates the importance of adopting a comprehensive, coordinated approach both in countries of origin and destination, with contributions from all concerned stakeholders. It urges states to enact extraterritorial legislation and provisions to protect children under 18 from sexual exploitation, calls for ethical codes of conduct in the tourism industry, adopt measures to encourage the reporting of travelling sex offenders, centralised databases of national records on child sex offenders and other measures to increase international co-operation on this issue (see section on “Legislation” for more details).³⁴³

The PACE resolution concludes by inviting public and private entities to support and contribute to the Council of Europe “ONE in FIVE Campaign to Stop Sexual Violence against Children”.³⁴⁴ Launched in 2010, the campaign seeks to gain more signatures, ratifications and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention, as well as to inform and equip children, their families/carers and societies at large with the knowledge and tools to prevent and report all forms of sexual violence against children, including SECTT. Several initiatives have been conducted to achieve these goals, including through PACE’s Network of Contact Parliamentarians and the Pact of Towns and Regions to Stop Sexual Violence against Children promoted by the COE’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and signed by over 30 towns, regions and organisations. In addition, national campaigns are ongoing in 20 countries, contributing to national awareness-raising and policy change. The ONE in FIVE Campaign ended in November 2015. The aims of the campaign are upheld by the newly established European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (18 November).³⁴⁵

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe is another body that has taken up the issue of trafficking in human beings at the international level, devoting specific attention to trafficking in children and recognizing the link between human trafficking and sexual exploitation in tourism. Consisting of 57 states from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE has made a number of political commitments against human trafficking, including the ‘Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings’ (2003)³⁴⁶ and its addendum on special needs of trafficked children (2005);³⁴⁷ it also established an ‘Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.’

In 2003 the co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities was mandated to mobilise and enhance private sector involvement in efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly by raising awareness and identifying and disseminating best practices, such as self-regulation and codes of conduct. Due to the key role that the hospitality and tourism sector can play in sensitising tourists and business travellers to prevent trafficking and child sexual exploitation, OSCE supports use of “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism” (The Code – see section on “Prevention” for more details) particularly by facilitating the adoption of this tool by tourism companies operating in European countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Albania and Montenegro.³⁴⁸

More recently, the OSCE adopted another Addendum updating its ‘Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings’ (2013), which explicitly recognises the ties between SECTT and human trafficking and calls on participating states to:

- a) *Develop and implement policies and actions, including law enforcement co-operation, to prevent the tourism industry from being used for all forms of trafficking in human beings, in particular sexual exploitation of children*
- b) *Develop and introduce training programmes on issues related to trafficking in human beings for different actors, including personnel of the tourism and hospitality industry.*

³⁴³ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, “Fighting Child Sex Tourism”.

³⁴⁴ Ibid.

³⁴⁵ <http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/end-child-sex-abuse-day>

³⁴⁶ OSCE (2003), “OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings”, Decision 557, 24 July 2003, accessed 4 November 2015, <http://www.osce.org/actionplan?download=true>

³⁴⁷ OSCE (2005), Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Addressing the Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance”, Decision 685, 7 July 2005, accessed from 4 November 2015, <http://www.osce.org/pc/15932?download=true>

³⁴⁸ Tepelus, Camelia M. (2008) “Social Responsibility and Innovation on Trafficking and Child Sex Tourism: Morphing of Practice into Sustainable Tourism Policies?”, *Tourism and Hospitality Research*, Vol 8, no. 2 (2008): 108, accessed 4 November 2015, https://www.academia.edu/11028331/Social_responsibility_and_innovation_on_trafficking_and_child_sex_tourism_Morphing_of_practice_into_sustainable_tourism_policies

This renewed commitment was followed by a Resolution on Prevention and Prosecution of Child Sex Trafficking (2014) adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly as part of the Baku Declaration, which calls on “OSCE participating States to facilitate appropriate law enforcement coordination and notification procedures between participating States, as well as with other destination States, so that States are aware in advance of travel by individuals previously convicted of serious sex crimes against children”.³⁴⁹ The resolution also stresses the importance of enacting extraterritorial legislation applying to both nationals and permanent residents as well as employing child-friendly measures during criminal proceedings.³⁵⁰

Although several countries affected by SECTT are part of the CIS sub-region, prevention and counteraction of the problem has not been prioritised by this intergovernmental organisation. Formed after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 and currently comprising nine member states plus two associate/participating states,³⁵¹ the CIS has adopted some policy measures and programmes to address human trafficking but has not devoted attention to the special vulnerabilities of affected children nor to the different manifestations of CSEC that are increasing at an alarming rate in the sub-region, including SECTT.

The various legislative tools, policy frameworks and measures adopted by regional bodies are a clear demonstration of their commitment to enhance child protection from sexual exploitation. Regional legal standards provide benchmarks for European states; however their incorporation into national legislation, and especially their application, has advanced slowly. Mechanisms adopted by regional institutions to ensure monitoring and implementation of existing regional legal frameworks relevant for combating SECTT have been only partially successful in holding states accountable for their obligations. The EU Commission took a strong stance and comprehensive actions to address the problem of SECTT in the second half of the 1990s, but attention appears to have waned during the last decade. Likewise, CoE initiatives such as the “One in Five” Campaign helped raise awareness of and prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the region; however, there is no indication that they have had a significant impact on addressing SECTT.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS TO COMBAT SECTT

Given that a proportion of European nationals sexually exploit children in countries outside Europe, and that sex offenders from other regions (especially North America) pose a threat to European children, international cooperation and coordination between countries of origin and destination is of the utmost importance. Recognising the critical need to adopt a global approach to addressing SECTT, European nations have embarked on a number of international actions to stop TCSOs and enhance child protection from predators.

As noted above, European countries have engaged to enhance cross border law enforcement cooperation and information exchange.

At international level, a useful mechanism for the exchange and analysis of information relating to TCSOs is Interpol. Mandated to provide mutual assistance among criminal police authorities, Interpol employs various strategies to stop sex offenders from re-abusing children worldwide. A first important tool is the “green notice” system, which alerts law enforcement entities of member countries by providing warnings and information about people who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes elsewhere.³⁵² Green notices are issued by Interpol when persons involved in sexual exploitation against children at an international level are identified. It is then up to countries to decide how to proceed if a person who is the subject of such a notice wishes to enter their territory. Although the green notice is considered an effective way to prevent offenders from crossing borders to access children for sex, its use remains limited, and should be increased and intensified.³⁵³

Another important tool developed by Interpol is the International Child Sexual Exploitation Image Database (ICSE). Introduced in 2009 to replace the Interpol Child Abuse Image Database, ICSE serves to identify victims and perpetrators based on material supplied by Interpol member states. ICSE identifies TCSOs who keep records of their abuse via pornography. Again, although several European countries are already connected and contributing to the ICSE database, more efforts are required to expand its use and content.³⁵⁴

³⁴⁹ OSCEPA (2014), “Resolution on Prevention and Prosecution of Child Sex Trafficking”, accessed on 4 November 2015, <https://www.oscepa.org/meetings/annual-sessions/2014-baku-annual-session/2014-baku-final-declaration/1861-17> T

³⁵⁰ Ibid.

³⁵¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Ukraine and Turkmenistan participate in some activities but are not full members while Georgia is no longer a member.

³⁵² Interpol, “Sex offenders”, accessed 25 November 2012, <http://www.interpol.int/es/Criminalidad/Delitos-contra-menores/Sex-offenders>

³⁵³ “Protecting children from actual and virtual abuse focus of INTERPOL expert meeting”, Interpol Red Notice Removal Lawyers website, 7 November 2011, accessed 25 November 2012, <http://interpolnoticeremoval.com/2011/09/08/protecting-children-from-actual-and-virtual-abuse-focus-of-interpol-expert-meeting/>

³⁵⁴ Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online (2013), “Report- December 2013”, accessed 27 October 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse/docs/global_alliance_report_201312_en.pdf

Interpol as well as Europol are part of the Virtual Global Task Force (VGT), an international alliance of law enforcement agencies, NGOs and industry representatives committed to protecting children from online child abuse and other forms of transnational child sexual exploitation. Involving police from Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland the UK and some countries outside Europe, the VGT has contributed to the rescue of many children from sexual abuse through global law enforcement operations, many of which involved European perpetrators.³⁵⁵ The VGT has also targeted travelling sex offenders and shared and developed intelligence and resources for stamping out online child abuse and related offenses.³⁵⁶

Some initiatives were also launched by law enforcement agencies of specific European countries to prevent and counteract SECTT in destinations for European nationals. Of particular relevance are efforts spearheaded by the UK police's CEOP initiative, especially in South-East Asia. To reduce the harm caused to children by child abuse, CEOP established an International Child Protection Network involving four countries – Cambodia, Romania, Thailand and Vietnam,³⁵⁷ and supported the implementation of a range of targeted actions. Advisory Panels engaging representatives from law enforcement, government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies and British Embassy officials, were set up in all four countries in an effort to establish a holistic approach to targeting perpetrators and protecting victims (particularly through the sharing of information and expertise, capacity building and joint education and awareness campaigns). As part of this endeavour, CEOP conducted Child Protection Regional Workshops for representatives from law enforcement agencies, government ministries and NGOs responsible for child protection, and developed an International Child Protection Network Code of Practice and Key Standards for Child Protection.³⁵⁸

Another strategy to address SECTT used by European law enforcers is the allocation of police liaison officers seconded to their country's embassy or consulate in the host country. A review of ECPAT's global monitoring reports shows that several countries of origin for TCSOs (including Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK)

maintain a police presence to assist local counterparts with the prevention, investigation and prosecution of a range of transnational crimes, including SECTT.

In a number of European countries, foreign embassies are reported to support international efforts against SECTT. For example, through administrative and law enforcement assistance, German diplomatic representatives support German criminal prosecution authorities investigating charges of sexual abuse of children and young people abroad.³⁵⁹ In Belgium, since December 1995, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been calling the attention of all diplomatic posts and consulates, via an official circular, to the existence of penal provisions on extraterritoriality in relation to SECTT. The representations must systematically request a police report if a Belgian is arrested for sexual abuse of a minor, and are also bound to notify the department in Brussels, of arrests and progress of legal proceedings.³⁶⁰

It is also important to stress the contribution by NGOs and development cooperation. As noted by Eurojust, local NGOs in countries of destination "can provide crucial support to (foreign) authorities investigating the case. They possess valuable knowledge of the area and culture concerned and can therefore give advice on how to proceed while fully respecting the social, cultural and legal aspects involved. They can also assist with practical matters; e.g., identifying victims, assistance during victims' and/or witnesses' interviews, gathering evidence, etc."³⁶¹ NGOs in countries of origin are also instrumental in ensuring prosecution of TCSOs, as evidenced by the numerous cases of European perpetrators brought to justice thanks to support and assistance provided by ECPAT groups in and outside the region.³⁶²

Development programmes are another valuable resource for creating a protective environment for children affected or vulnerable to SECTT and for supporting international cooperation. Within Europe, a number of governments have allocated resources for child protection projects, including France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. Many such initiatives were implemented in collaboration with child-rights NGOs, both within Europe and in other destinations of European TCSOs.

³⁵⁵ The Virtual Global Taskforce website, accessed 9 March 2015, <http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/>

³⁵⁶ The Virtual Global Taskforce (2011), "Making the Internet a Safer Place for Children", accessed 4 November 2015, <http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/brochure.pdf>

³⁵⁷ CEOP Command, "The International Child Protection Network", accessed 16 June 2015, <https://www.ceop.police.uk/icpn/>

³⁵⁸ CEOP Command, "The International Child Protection Network", accessed 27 October 2015, <http://www.ceop.police.uk/icpn/>

³⁵⁹ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Germany (2nd Edition)", 22.

³⁶⁰ Committee On The Rights Of The Child (2009), "Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 12 (1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography", CRC/C/OPSC/BEL/1.

³⁶¹ The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit, Eurojust Tactical Meeting on "Traveling Child Sex Offenders". Final Report, 4.

³⁶² Examples are illustrated in ECPAT The Netherlands (2009), "Offenders Beware! Child sex tourism case studies", accessed 27 October 2015, from <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/995.pdf>

Good Practice: ECPAT Netherlands' multi-country project to enhance child protection against SECTT

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided sustained support to international cooperation programmes against SECTT. A good example is a multi-country project implemented between 2011 and 2013 by ECPAT Netherlands in cooperation with local organisations in Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Gambia and the Dominican Republic. The initiative targeted stakeholder groups such as tourism businesses, frontline personnel, the community, police, governments and NGOs. As part of this endeavour, some 3,000 people received training on SECTT and over 30,000 brochures on the Code were distributed (see section on "Prevention" for more details on the Code). Local partners also produced other informational materials, adapted to the local context (mugs, t-shirts, stickers etc.)

An evaluation of the project found that "overall, the seminars and information materials of all ECPAT partners were received very positively in all countries, contributing to the professional image of their organizations. The impact on industry differed from country to country, but in general the reception of the message has become much more positive. General impacts were visible in the growing support of national and local governments and the good reception by communities and youth groups. This has led to several Code signatories."³⁶³

The evaluation identified several best practices on how to protect children against sexual exploitation in tourism in a multi-stakeholder setting. The project's success relied mainly on: a) development of materials in collaboration with stakeholders; b) youth participation; c) active involvement by local governments, influential government officials and communities; and d) involvement by Western tour operators and stakeholders outside the tourism industry, particularly small-scale entrepreneurs that have direct contact with tourists and work at places where children are recruited for sexual exploitation. The evaluation also identified challenges in addressing SECTT in the countries involved, including limited will to take action among the tourism enterprises and problems in reporting, investigating and prosecuting SECTT.³⁶⁴

NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS ACTIONS TO ADDRESS SECTT

National Plans Of Action To Combat SECTT

European States pledged to implement national plans of action (NPAs) against CSEC when they adopted the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action at the First World Congress against CSEC in 1996, reiterating these commitments at subsequent Congresses. NPAs are a crucial tool for ensuring that protecting children from sexual exploitation remains high on the political agenda. Providing comprehensive, multi-sectoral and sustained "blueprints" for ending all manifestations of CSEC, NPAs enable all sectors involved to coordinate their

action through a series of strategies, programmes and activities to be delivered within an established timeframe, with due allocation of resources and mechanisms to monitor and assess their implementation.

Analysis of NPAs in countries identified as a source or destination for TCSOs (or both), suggests that most governments in Europe have not fulfilled their international commitments by adopting these policy documents (see Annex 8). With the exception of the Netherlands, no country in the region has designed and implemented a specific NPA against SECTT. In France, a plan was developed in 2006, but no substantive efforts were made to translate it into concrete actions.³⁶⁵

³⁶³ ECPAT Netherlands (2003), "Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism: Capacity building and awareness raising activities in Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Gambia and Dominican Republic", 44-45, accessed on 30 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf>

³⁶⁴ Ibid., 10-12.

³⁶⁵ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: France (2nd Edition)", accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_FRANCE.pdf

Good practice: the Dutch Action plan against child sex tourism

The Dutch 'Action plan against child sex tourism' adopted in October 2013 "involves a wide array of measures aimed at erecting barriers to prevent Dutch nationals from abusing children abroad". The three pillars of this approach are prevention, prosecution, and cooperation with NGOs and the travel sector. One specific result of the close cooperation with NGOs and the travel sector is an awareness campaign warning Dutch tourists that the sexual abuse of children is a criminal offence, and advising people how to go about reporting suspicious situations.

The dual aim of the campaign is to improve the reliability of reporting while continuing to draw the public's attention to the issue. In 2014 a special international awareness campaign aimed at those attending the World Cup in Brazil ('Don't Look Away') paved the way for further collaboration with other countries to organise a uniform international awareness campaign. Other measures in the national action plan include the creation of a certificate of good conduct, the possibility of revoking the passport of convicted child sex offenders posing a high risk of reoffending and close cooperation between police and NGOs during certain parts of a criminal investigation.³⁶⁶

Very few European states are addressing SECTT as part of other related policy frameworks. The number of countries that have adopted comprehensive NPAs against CSEC declined drastically during the last decade. In Spain, for example, the Third Plan of Action against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents expired in 2013 and there is no indication that it will be revived³⁶⁷ (the situation is similar in Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania and Sweden). The UK appears to have a valid NPA against child sexual exploitation, but it only addresses some CSEC manifestations, neglecting SECTT. Some countries, however, have NPAs that address child sexual exploitation and include measures against SECTT. In Germany, the Plan of Action 2011 of the Federal Government of Germany for the Protection of Children and Teenagers from Sexual Violence and Exploitation includes a specific chapter illustrating some initiatives against SECTT already carried out in collaboration with ECPAT Germany, the private sector and other key actors. In Sweden, an earlier NPA against CSEC was replaced by a National Action Plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children for 2014-2015, envisaging some activities against SECTT (e.g., a national information campaign on the topic with active involvement by the private sector, including hotels, taxis and restaurants).

Some countries have NPAs on (sexual) violence against children or women and child sexual abuse (Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Norway and UK). Although some of these plans include isolated components against SECTT (Czech Republic and Denmark), addressing CSEC and SECTT as a minor subset of national strategies on violence against children represents a setback for the implementation of meaningful policies to combat these specific crimes.³⁶⁸

Similar concerns have been raised in relation to broader, overarching child rights-related NPAs increasingly adopted by countries in the region (e.g. Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, Spain, Croatia and Italy³⁶⁹). These policy frameworks usually tackle some issues linked to the root causes and risk factors of CSEC (such as access to education for marginalised children or the protection and care of children living on the streets). However, elements specifically relevant to combating SECTT and other CSEC manifestations tend to be scattered, and the interconnectedness between these crimes is rarely acknowledged or addressed.³⁷⁰

Other relevant planning frameworks that have an impact on CSEC, particularly child sex trafficking, are NPAs against trafficking in human beings. All countries reviewed in this desk study except Italy and Russia³⁷¹

³⁶⁶ "Interim report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Second Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, November 2014", accessed from www.rijksoverheid.nl/

³⁶⁷ FAPMI-ECPAT Spain, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

³⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 18.

³⁶⁹ In Italy and Croatia this NPA has expired.

³⁷⁰ ECPAT International (2013), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Bulgaria (2nd Edition)", 18, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_Bulgaria.pdf; ECPAT International (2012), Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Czech Republic (2nd Edition), 18, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

³⁷¹ Germany addresses child trafficking through its Plan of Action 2011 of the Federal Government of Germany for the Protection of Children and Teenagers from Sexual Violence and Exploitation while Sweden through the National Action Plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

have an anti-trafficking NPA containing either a specific accompanying plan (Albania), a chapter (Norway) on child trafficking or a range of interventions aimed at children and young people at risk or subject to trafficking for sexual exploitation. Whilst some of these NPAs also deal with other CSEC manifestations, none appear to encompass strategies and activities to tackle SECTT specifically.³⁷²

A review of *Concluding Observations* adopted over the last five years by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child referring to implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography by several European countries³⁷³ points to several constraints hindering full implementation of NPAs, including in particular:

- a) Insufficient and unsustainable allocation of financial resources
- b) Limited capacities, unclear division of responsibilities and poor coordination among agencies responsible for realising the plan
- c) Scarce involvement of key actors (civil society groups, private sector, child survivors) in the design, implementation and evaluation of the NPA
- d) Lack of coherence among the different policy frameworks and duplication of efforts, resulting in a potential waste of resources
- e) Lack of evaluations, especially by external, independent bodies, to assess impact.

Coordination And Cooperation

CSEC and SECTT represent patterns of abuse that no single agency can solve by itself. The complexity of this crime requires multi-faceted and comprehensive responses drawing on a wide range of skills, expertise and experience. The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action recognises the crucial importance of coordination and cooperation, calling on states to establish a focal point or other government entity with a mandate to coordinate national efforts to address CSEC, and to provide leadership and effective oversight of the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies and actions against CSEC. The entity should be capable of fostering broad strategic partnerships with other government agencies and key stakeholders.

European governments have made little progress in advancing coordination and cooperation against SECTT since the First World Congress. While many states have established mechanisms to ensure monitoring and implementation of the Convention on the Right of the Child (e.g., Belarus,³⁷⁴ Kazakhstan,³⁷⁵ Kyrgyzstan,³⁷⁶ Montenegro³⁷⁷ and Turkey³⁷⁸) or have a government agency dealing with child protection and/or children's issues (e.g. Albania,³⁷⁹ Denmark,³⁸⁰ Estonia,³⁸¹ Finland, Ireland,³⁸² Italy,³⁸³ Latvia,³⁸⁴ Lithuania,³⁸⁵ Romania³⁸⁶ and Spain³⁸⁷), none appear to have established a specific body in charge of coordinating and monitoring policies and initiatives to systematically tackle all manifestations

³⁷² In Latvia, the National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2020 includes limited measures targeting children but provides for training for the tourism industry.

³⁷³ These include Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and UK.

³⁷⁴ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Belarus (2nd Edition)", 14, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

³⁷⁵ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014), "Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under article 44 of the Convention. Fourth Periodic Reports of States Parties due in 2011: Kazakhstan", CRC/C/KAZ/4.

³⁷⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014), "Concluding Observations on the Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of Kyrgyzstan", CRC/C/KGZ/CO/3-4, 3.

³⁷⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2010), "Consideration of Reports Submitted by State Parties under Article 12, Paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Concluding Observations: Montenegro", CRC/C/OPSC/MNE/CO/1 (Proceedings from the 55th Session of the CRC, 13 September- 1 October 2010), 2.

³⁷⁸ UNICEF (2012), "Annual Report 2012 for Turkey, CEE/CIS", accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.unicef.org/about/annualreport/files/Turkey_COAR_2012.pdf

³⁷⁹ Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania (2012), "Albania: Alternative Report to the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography" (Tirana: CRCA), 26, accessed 27 October 2015, <http://www.crca.al/sites/default/files/publications/OPSC%20Alternative%20Report%20Albania%202012.pdf>

³⁸⁰ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Denmark (2nd Edition)", 17, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_DENMARK.pdf

³⁸¹ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2010), "Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Concluding Observations: Estonia", CRC/C/OPSC/EST/CO/1 (Proceedings from the 53rd Session of the CRC, 11-29 January, 2010), 2.

³⁸² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2013), "Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under Article 44 of the Convention. Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of Ireland due in 2009. Ireland", CRC/C/IRL/3-4, 13 August 2013, 43.

³⁸³ Save the Children Italia (2014), "I diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza in Italia: 7° Rapporto di aggiornamento sul monitoraggio della Convenzione sui diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza in Italia 2013-2014", 34, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.gruppocrc.net/IMG/pdf/7o_rapporto_CRC.pdf

³⁸⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2013), "Consideration of Reports Submitted by States Parties under Article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. Reports of State Parties due in 2008. Latvia", 1 March 2013, CRC/C/OPSC/LVA/1, 16.

³⁸⁵ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, "Concluding Observations of Combined Third and Fourth Periodic Reports of Lithuania, Adopted by the Committee at its Sixty-Fourth Session", CRC/C/LTU/CO/3-4 (Proceedings from the 64th Session of the Committee, 16 September- 4 October 2013).

³⁸⁶ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Romania (2nd Edition)", 16, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_ROMANIA.pdf

³⁸⁷ ECPAT International, "Global de Monitoreo de Las Acciones En Contra de la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes: España" (2012), 27, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf

of CSEC, including SECTT. Even when focal points or bodies on child protection and children's rights exist, SECTT is generally not addressed. Moreover, and crucially, such mechanisms often lack the human and financial resources needed to ensure full cooperation among all actors concerned.

Despite the general lack of national focal points on CSEC, some examples of effective coordination and cooperation against SECTT can be cited, particularly in Western Europe:

- The Netherlands Ministry of Security and Justice initiated in 2013 a special working group on combating child sex tourism with stakeholders from the tourist industry, the public prosecutor's office and relevant NGOs.³⁸⁸ The group oversees and contributes to implementation of the Dutch NPA against child sex tourism.
- In Austria, a Round-Table on Ethics in Tourism was set up in 2005 within the Ministry of Economy's tourism section, bringing together NGOs (ECPAT Austria and RESPECT), the tourism industry, and Ministry representatives. The Round-Table provides an ongoing platform for keeping both sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and The Code on the agenda, and for promoting a concerted response to child sex tourism.³⁸⁹
- In the UK, CEOP recently set up a "Transnational Child Sexual Abuse Threat" group (of which ECPAT UK is part) to address concerns raised by civil society and the private sector and hear the views of different stakeholders in relation to the issue³⁹⁰

- Germany has no specific coordinating body on SECTT, but child trafficking and SECTT are addressed in a separate Working Group involving Federal Ministries, Representatives of the Federal Council, the German Cities Council, NGOs and affected children and young people³⁹¹
- Denmark's Ministry of Justice established a multi-agency working group in 2007 under the National Police, bringing together relevant government departments, the travel industry and Save the Children Denmark. The purpose was to coordinate an effective response to Danish travelling sex offenders. As a result, the awareness campaign "Stop Child Sex Tourism" was launched in January 2008 with financial support from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, SAS, the Danish Association of Travel Agencies and Save the Children Denmark.

The last decade has seen numerous attempts to promote a comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and counteract human trafficking and ensure assistance to victims. Taskforces, committees, working groups, etc. have been established in nearly all European countries. Composed of representatives from government agencies with some participation by civil society organisations, these bodies are often responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of anti-trafficking NPAs. Although some coordinating mechanisms to counteract human trafficking address child sex trafficking or other aspects of CSEC, including SECTT, the majority appear to be focused on adults and pay limited attention to the special position and vulnerabilities of children subject to sexual exploitation.

388 ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

389 ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Austria (2nd Edition)", 21, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_AUSTRIA_0.pdf

390 ECPAT UK, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

391 ECPAT Germany (2013), "Supplementary Report to the First National Report of the Federal Republic of Germany 2013 to the United Nations" (Freiburg: ECPAT Germany), 18, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.kok-gegen-menschenhandel.de/fileadmin/user_upload/medien/KOK_informiert/Supplementary_Report_OPSC_ECPAT-30-5-2013-eng-final.pdf

Good practice: Dutch National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children

In 2000, the Netherlands was the first country to establish a National Rapporteur (NR) on Human Trafficking, whose mandate was extended in 2009 to include child pornography. In 2012 the mandate was broadened to cover the whole area of sexual violence against children.

The Dutch Rapporteur is independent from other agencies, which provides several advantages and is seen as the most important aspect of this position. The main task of the NR is to report on the nature and extent of human trafficking and sexual violence against children in the Netherlands, and on the effects of government policy pursued. The NR collects statistical data from various stakeholders, including individuals, organisations and relevant authorities, including those mandated to assist victims. NR annual reports contain information and recommendations for the government on relevant regulations and legislation, as well as on prevention, criminal investigations, prosecution of perpetrators and victim support. The government responds to the NR's recommendations in Parliament.³⁹²

The NR has devoted substantial attention to CSEC.³⁹³ In addition to producing a report on child pornography³⁹⁴ and constantly stressing the need to take into account the special needs and rights of child victims of trafficking, the NR recently published a report against child sex tourism that calls on the Dutch Government to enhance efforts to prevent its nationals from committing sexual violence against children abroad through the implementation of six key recommendations.³⁹⁵

Another manifestation of CSEC often associated with SECTT that requires multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation — but has so far received limited consideration, especially in Eastern Europe — is the online sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. Examples of successful partnerships in this area can, however, be cited. In addition to the Swedish Financial Coalition against Child Pornography (a joint effort by law enforcement, financial sector, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and NGOs that enables the blocking of online payments for child abuse materials),³⁹⁶ Safer Internet Centres were established in all member states plus Iceland, Norway and Russia³⁹⁷. The Centres have stimulated active participation by different actors (government authorities, the industry, NGOs, parents, media, teachers, children and young people), while contributing to raising awareness on risky behaviours that children may adopt in the online environment and that can sometimes be conducive to SECTT.³⁹⁸

Notwithstanding some positive developments in selected countries, overall cooperation and coordination against SECTT is far from satisfactory. In addition to the absence of mechanisms capable of streamlining concerted responses against SECTT, barriers that must be overcome to achieve broad, sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration include:

- a) Limited coordination, especially between local administrations and central government agencies and between state agencies and other actors (especially NGOs)
- b) Institutional overlap and administrative confusion, particularly in countries where several branches of government are working separately on the same issues
- c) Scarce participation of communities, private sector, civil society organisations and children and young people in joint efforts to address SECTT
- d) Lack of effective coordinating mechanisms at the local level.³⁹⁹

³⁹² European Commission, "Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings. National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms. Netherlands", accessed 10 June 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/national-rapporteurs/netherlands>

³⁹³ European Commission, "Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings. National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms. Netherlands".

³⁹⁴ National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The Netherlands (2012), "Child Pornography. Summary Report" (The Hague: BNRM), accessed 4 November 2015, http://www.childcentre.info/robert/public/Child_Pornography_Summary_Report_of_the_Dutch_National_Rapporteur.pdf

³⁹⁵ National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The Netherlands (2013), "Barriers against Child Sex Tourism. Summary Report", accessed 4 November 2015, <http://www.dutchrapporteur.nl/reports/child-sex-tourism/>

³⁹⁶ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Sweden (2nd Edition)", 15, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SWEDEN.pdf

³⁹⁷ European Commission, "Safer Internet Centres", last updated 1 July 2015 2013, <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/safer-internet-centres>

³⁹⁸ Safer Internet Day, "Belgium Safer Internet Centre", accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.saferinternetday.org/web/belgium/home>

³⁹⁹ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe", 22.

SECTT Prevention

Prevention is the backbone of any strategy to tackle SECTT. To be effective and sustainable, prevention efforts need to be based on a comprehensive, integrated and multi-faceted approach targeting both the supply and the demand side of SECTT and drawing on the resources, expertise and influence of all actors concerned, including the private sector.

Prevention also requires a combination of long-term programmes to address the structural causes of SECTT and medium- and short-term strategies to address factors that increase the risk that a child will be exploited by a TCSO. As SECTT is a borderless crime, it is essential that preventative measures be developed both in countries of origin and destination, and ideally preceded by initial research to gain broad understanding the phenomenon, identify potential target groups and design effective interventions tailored to the needs of specific groups.

Across Europe, efforts made to reduce the likelihood that vulnerable children become victims of SECTT have focused mainly on:

- Awareness raising, training and education
- Establishment of reporting mechanisms
- Corporate social responsibility initiatives
- Strategies for preventing and reducing offending
- Support mechanisms for children at risk of sexual exploitation and vulnerability reduction strategies.

Inter-sectoral collaboration has increasingly emerged as a pivotal element of SECTT prevention in the region. Strategic alliances have been forged between and within governments, with European institutions and among UN agencies, international and local NGOs, policy-makers, children and youth, universities, the media, private sector and broader civil society. Yet the importance of investing resources in prevention has not been widely recognised, as evidenced by the dearth of prevention programmes in many countries of destination in Central and Eastern Europe. Some governments have yet to acknowledge that SECTT affects their countries or tend to downplay the severity of the problem (e.g. Turkey, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania), while others have just begun to engage against this issue (e.g. Moldova, Ukraine and Azerbaijan). Overall, there appears to be a concentration of preventive efforts on the demand side of SECTT whereas strategies to improve the status of children most vulnerable to this violation have not been prioritised to date. This is a major challenge to be overcome by European governments.

Awareness raising, training and education

As noted, sensitisation, training and educational activities relating to SECTT have targeted different stakeholder groups. Initiatives ranged from national public campaigns and community-level awareness seminars and exhibitions, to production/dissemination of information and communication materials (flyers, posters, leaflets, etc.), radio and television announcements, capacity development workshops and school education. Governments often support these initiatives financially or collaborate in their implementation. Based on information contained in ECPAT Country Monitoring Reports on Europe and other sources,⁴⁰¹ a review of efforts to prevent SECTT through awareness-generation and education undertaken in the last five-to-ten years shows progress and achievements in several Western European countries and persisting gaps in most Eastern European states (see Annex 9 for information on specific countries).⁴⁰¹

ECPAT International and the ECPAT network in Europe, in collaboration with governments, other NGOs and the private sector, have played a leading role in SECTT prevention in recent years, supporting the delivery of training to communities, professionals and relevant government officials; development and dissemination of public education campaigns; participation in dialogue relating to the development and implementation on policy and legislation relating to SECTT; and working with children and young people to ensure their participation in actions to combat the problem (see section on “child participation”). Some of these initiatives present elements of good practice, particularly as they have promoted sustained awareness and collaboration among different stakeholders, especially the private sector. Successful initiatives in terms of awareness raising, training and education include:

- ECPAT Belgium’s “Stop child prostitution” campaign has since 2004 targeted all Belgians travelling abroad: tourists, businessmen, soldiers on foreign missions, embassy personnel, development-aid workers, and bus and truck drivers. The campaign is the result of a wide partnership involving: other NGOs (such as Child Focus and Plan Belgium); Belgium’s National Railway Company, the Federation of Belgian Carriers, and the Federation of the Tourism Industry from the private sector; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence from the government side; and finally, the Federal Police. The campaign saw direct engagement by all participating agencies. Each

⁴⁰¹ For the purpose of this assessment, the following criteria were adopted: 1) “several” means more than 5 initiatives in the last five-ten years; 2) “some” means 2 to five initiatives; and “limited initiatives” means 1 or two initiatives.

partner distributed the leaflets and posters among its own ranks. As a result, the materials were placed in train stations, international train lines such as the Thalys and the Eurostar, national and regional airports, Belgian embassies, police offices, tour operators and army barracks. A trilingual website was also created to inform the public and encourage them to report any abuse they witness. Reaction to the campaign was overwhelming. A brief inquiry showed that 75% of train passengers had noticed the posters in their station.⁴⁰² The campaign is now continuing through the “I say stop” initiative, implemented as part of the European “Don’t look away” campaign (see below).

- The “Offenders Beware” project (2009-2011) involved five European ECPAT groups and six southern partners. It aimed to increase awareness and knowledge about sexual exploitation of children in tourism and build capacity for preventive actions among tourism professionals, students and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., law enforcement and governmental authorities). One of its main outcomes was the creation of a free e-learning course for tourism professionals (now available in English, German, Dutch, Italian, Estonian, French, Spanish and Swedish at www.childprotection-tourism.org).
- The campaign “Gegen das Wegsehen” (“Don’t look away”) was initiated in 2009 by the former Austrian Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth, together with Germany and Switzerland, to send out a strong,

coordinated message against sexual exploitation of children in tourism and, at the same time, to motivate travellers to report suspicious situations. The campaign is now also being conducted in Poland, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and France. Based on this campaign, ECPAT partners in Europe designed in 2011 the current EU “Don’t Look Away” project.

- Growing recognition of the need to prevent sexual exploitation of children during major sporting events, ECPAT groups in Europe launched initiatives such as: activities by ECPAT UK and partners prior to and during the 2012 Olympics;⁴⁰³ the ECPAT Italy and Terre des Hommes Italy “South Africa 2010: all together against child trafficking” campaign;⁴⁰⁴ the “Don’t lose campaign” in Poland⁴⁰⁵ and the “Let’s Do It Together” campaign in Ukraine,⁴⁰⁶ both implemented in conjunction with the EURO 2012 Football Cup.
- In 2012 ECPAT member “La Strada” Moldova organised an awareness-raising campaign entitled “Travel carefully, taking care of children” to promote child-friendly tourism in the country and raise travellers’ awareness about sexual exploitation of children. Informative materials and posters were distributed by partner companies, placed in aircraft managed by Air Moldova and in key spaces at the International Airport, as well as at ticket offices of participating tourism agencies.⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰² “Steven Vanackere launches ‘Stop Child Prostitution’ campaign”, Newsletter from the Kingdom of Belgium Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, 3 June 2010, accessed 13 February 2013, http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/Newsroom/news/press_releases/foreign_affairs/2010/06/nj_030610_vanackere_stpo_child_prostitution_campaign.jsp

⁴⁰³ Patel, Bharti (ECPAT UK), “2012 Olympics Trafficking and Policy Response. Did London get it Right?” (Presentation for the UNWTO World Tourism Network on Child Protection), accessed 28 October 2015 http://dtxq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/olympics_trafficking_and_policy_response.pdf

⁴⁰⁴ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Italy (2nd Edition)”, 19, accessed 28 October 2015 http://resources.ecpat.net/A4A_2005/PDF/Europe/A4A2011_Europe_Italy_FINAL.pdf

⁴⁰⁵ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Poland (2nd Edition)”, 12, accessed 28 October 2015, http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_POLAND.pdf

⁴⁰⁶ La Strada Ukraine, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴⁰⁷ Council of Europe (2014) “Lanzarote Convention: Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: Replies to the general overview questionnaire: MOLDOVA”, 43, accessed 28 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/CommitteeParties/Reply_REC/CP_2014_8_RR_MDA_en.pdf

Good practice: The European “Don’t look away” campaign

The most recent three-year “Don’t look away-be aware and report the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism” campaign sought to prevent sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and combat impunity and social tolerance of SECTT. The campaign was designed to inform travellers, in particular those travelling to the 2014 World Cup, of laws prohibiting sexual exploitation of children abroad and the consequences for child victims.

European member associations of the ECPAT network relayed awareness messages to ensure that potential European tourists were aware of the scope of the problem in Brazil and the risks to be avoided on arrival. The project also involved the setting up, or strengthening, of online reporting mechanisms in collaboration with the police to enable anyone who witnessed sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to report it (see the European reporting platform <http://www.reportchildsextourism.eu/>). Brazilian football stars Kaká and Juninho joined the campaign by broadcasting a joint prevention message: “During the football World Cup, be a responsible supporter”. Brazil’s Social Services of Industry (SESI) was responsible for raising awareness amongst the 3 million Brazilian travelers and 600,000 foreign visitors expected for the World Cup. Awareness messages were displayed at airports, and in taxis, restaurants and hotel chains in 12 host cities. Coordinated by ECPAT France, the “Don’t Look Away!” project was planned in coordination with five member associations of the ECPAT network in Europe (ECPAT Germany, ECPAT Netherlands, ECPAT Luxemburg and ECPAT Poland) and supported by resources of member associations of the ECPAT network in 16 other countries (South Africa, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Spain, Estonia, Gambia, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Czech republic, Romania, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Senegal and Switzerland). The project was financed by the European Union, SESI, the French Tourism Ministry and Air France for a period of three years until 2015.⁴⁰⁸

While an evaluation of the campaign’s impact has not yet been conducted several elements of good practice characterize this initiative, such as: a) involvement of both countries of origin and destination; b) participation of a wide array of key stakeholders, including sports figures and tourism actors c) use of different communication tools (postcards, videos, leaflets, radio spots, etc.); and an effective communication strategy delivering the same message with the same logo in all countries involved.⁴⁰⁹

Successful campaigns to prevent SECTT by domestic travellers were also developed. In Ireland, for example, the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is implementing a campaign (Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector) to raise awareness of child sex trafficking in Irish hotels. They have established a partnership with the Irish Hotels Federation, conducted training seminars for hotel staff and are developing an awareness-raising toolkit for hotel human resources managers to deliver to their

own staff.⁴¹⁰ In the UK, the National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children and Young People and The Children’s Society developed a national “Say Something If You See Something” campaign, which addresses the problem of hotels unwittingly being used as venues for the sexual exploitation of young people. The campaign warns hotel staff to look for suspicious signs, such as men arriving with young girls, and provides training for frontline staff.⁴¹¹

⁴⁰⁸ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴⁰⁹ See Vuillard, Guillemette (ECPAT France) (2014), “The Don’t Look Away Campaign: Strengths and Challenges”(Presentation prepared for the Side Event on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in the Context of Major Sports Events, 25th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland, 11 March 2014).

⁴¹⁰ Kilcullen, Ruth, “MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector)”, Mercy International Association website, 29 November 2014, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.mercyworld.org/mercy_global_action/project-update.cfm?pid=CE6358EE-EAB7-773C-EC387D98580E1095&jeid=C81F4900-F0DC-E5D2-EA18FE1E1BD48E09

⁴¹¹ ECPAT International (2013), “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: United Kingdom”, 30, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_UK_0.pdf

Capacity building has been a key component of all campaigns and projects mentioned above. ECPAT groups have played a major role in delivering training to different professionals, with particular focus on the tourism industry. ECPAT Germany, for example, began offering training for tourism businesses and tourism schools in 2004; in the last ten years, its efforts reached more than 7,000 current and/or future tourism and travel experts via 255 trainings. ECPAT Germany has also developed training materials and quality standards and systematic evaluation of this activity.⁴¹² In 2009 ECPAT UK, in partnership with the UK's largest travel association, developed an e-learning toolkit for use as a training tool by members of the travel industry. Since its launch the toolkit has been accessed over 7,000 times⁴¹³ (see <http://www.abtaelearning.com/>). France's ECPAT group, in cooperation with ACCOR France and government actors, designed a training manual for tourism professionals to identify and report cases of child

sexual exploitation, which has also been used in several other countries. ECPAT Italy organises training courses on SECTT for diplomats and personnel deployed in countries known as destinations for Italian travelling sex offenders.⁴¹⁴ Thanks to its intense lobbying work, ECPAT also achieved progress in educating tourism industry students on the issue of SECTT and incorporating it in relevant academic curricula to ensure sustained education on the problem. In addition, ECPAT groups in Germany, Netherlands and France organize educational activities on SECTT targeting thousands of younger, at-risk students to warn them about trafficking and online exploitation.⁴¹⁵ With regard to activities targeted to children most at risk, despite several examples of awareness-raising and educational initiatives on CSEC manifestations associated with SECTT (particularly child sex trafficking and online child sexual exploitation) initiatives focusing specifically on SECTT appear to be lacking.

Good practice: Educational activities on SECTT in the Netherlands and France

Following strong advocacy activity by ECPAT France, mandatory training on SECTT is now provided at all relevant high schools in France (tourism, hotels and restaurants). The adoption in 1997 of an inter-ministerial circular was followed the next year by a training module for tourism trainers, which is regularly reviewed and updated.⁴¹⁶

Every year ECPAT Netherlands visits about 40 tourism-related schools (vocational and higher education) to educate future tourism professionals about SECTT and their role in combating it. As part of these efforts, the group organised an annual contest between vocational schools to design a gadget that tour operators can give to their customers to raise awareness about SECTT and the Dutch reporting hotline www.meldkindersekstoerisme.nl. With a budget of 1,800 Euro, the winning idea is produced and distributed by tour operators. One winning idea was a sleeping mask with the text 'Don't close your eyes to child sex tourism'.⁴¹⁷

Despite the emergence of several promising practices in recent years, sustained, far-reaching and evidence-based awareness-raising efforts to prevent SECTT are still a rarity in the region. With the exception of ECPAT campaigns, most sensitisation efforts were of limited duration and scope and suffered from insufficient involvement of all actors concerned, particularly the private sector, communities and children and young people.

Similar challenges also affect actions undertaken to build the capacity of different key stakeholders. While specialised training with and for the tourism industry is commendable and should be further strengthened, no examples were found in which the topic of SECTT had been mainstreamed and institutionalised into existing mandatory trainings for government agencies. Gaps that hinder effective prevention of SECTT through awareness-raising and education include:

⁴¹² ECPAT Germany, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴¹³ ECPAT UK, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴¹⁴ Save the Children Italia, "I diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza in Italia".

⁴¹⁵ Information provided by ECPAT groups in these countries.

⁴¹⁶ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: France."

⁴¹⁷ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Netherlands (2nd Edition)", 31, accessed 4 June 2015 from <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/NETHERLANDS%202nd.pdf>

- Very few initiatives target government actors and other professionals responsible for child protection
- Lack of prevention strategies, particularly at the community level, to address social tolerance and change social norms that put children at risk
- Dearth of educational activities specifically on SECTT targeting children at high risk of experiencing this violation
- Few countries have included issues of SECTT, CSEC and child trafficking into school curricula
- Failure to conduct external evaluations and impact assessments, making it hard to measure the effectiveness of awareness-raising campaigns or trainings and understand which approaches can be replicated elsewhere, which should not be replicated and which require further testing.

Reporting mechanisms on SECTT

Most awareness-raising campaigns initiated in Europe were accompanied by the establishment of reporting mechanisms specifically on SECTT. As part of the “Don’t look away” project, the ECPAT network and specialized European police services developed a European online platform to report suspected or confirmed cases of SECTT (see www.reportchildsextourism.eu), share testimony with police and facilitate the start of criminal investigations. This procedure, adapted to the context of sexual abuse perpetrated outside European borders, seeks to promote responsible participation by tourists in identifying and prosecuting child sex offenders and facilitating access to justice for child victims. The reporting platform is available via a simple Internet connection or mobile application. National online reporting mechanisms on SECTT currently exist in: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. In countries where a reporting mechanism has yet to be established, reports can be made to the local police department or ECPAT group in the country.

A reporting hotline on SECTT was also set up in Denmark in 2008 as part of the “Stop Child Sex Tourism” initiative by the Ministry of Justice;⁴¹⁸ but it is not clear if it is still functioning. In addition to running a hotline to report SECTT, child pornography and other CSEC crimes, ECPAT Sweden has developed an application for mobile phones to facilitate reporting, as well as a pre-installed

report button that can be found as a bookmark in all iPhones.⁴¹⁹ Recently, the Swedish government has also sought to enhance reporting by launching, in collaboration with the Childhood Foundation, a website urging the public to report information about suspected incidents of SECTT to the Police (<http://resekurage.se/>). A “Travel Courage” public campaign was underway in 2015 to spread information about this new reporting mechanism and raise awareness about the prevalence of SECTT and the fact that it constitutes a crime.⁴²⁰

As noted in Chapter 2, available data from ECPAT groups or collected through literature review indicate that: a) the number of reports received by European hotlines is generally limited, although a few countries show increases; b) it is difficult to access information on how many reports lead to criminal cases, although it appears that the number is small. These findings seem to suggest that more efforts are needed, especially to ensure more follow-up of reports and data collection, and ultimately to increase the number of convictions. In addition, in some cases the process is time-consuming and intrusive, doubtless discouraging some from reporting. This too requires review and modification.

Other problems that may affect reporting mechanisms include: limited knowledge about the existence of hotlines among the public, tourists, travel industry and NGOs; high turnover of hotline staff; limited resources for staff training; slow follow-up to reports; shortcomings in collecting intelligence, such as reporting forms that do not include enough information for the police to open a case; and lack of formal cooperation among the different actors involved (particularly police and NGOs).⁴²¹

Corporate social responsibility

Since the First World Congress in Stockholm, the private sector has consistently strengthened its engagement in initiatives to combat SECTT. The tourism and transport industries, in particular, have increasingly recognised the value of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable tourism, and taken the lead in preventing CSEC in their businesses and services. For example, since 2000, Air France made significant contributions to the development of several campaigns against SECTT, in collaboration with ECPAT France. By showing in-flight videos, distributing leaflets about SECTT and training

⁴¹⁸ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Denmark (2nd Edition)”, 22, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.mensenhandelweb.nl/en/system/files/documents/10%20aug%202015/Ecpat%20Denmark%20status%20of%20action%20against%20CSE%20of%20children.pdf>

⁴¹⁹ ECPAT Sweden, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴²⁰ Länsstyrelsen Stockholm, “Travel Courage. Swedish authorities’ awareness campaign against sexual exploitation of children”, accessed 16 June 2015, http://dtxqtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/c_-_petra_tammert_seidefors.pdf

⁴²¹ “Tackling the sexual exploitation of children by strengthening the cooperation between NGOs, law enforcement and the private sector. How to improve reporting procedures?” (Paper presented at the expert meeting of the European Project “Offenders Beware”, Berlin, Germany, 7-9 March 2010), accessed from <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/1404.pdf>

its staff on the issue, Air France has raised awareness among millions of travellers.⁴²²

Several private companies have adopted self-regulatory approaches complementing their CSR policies to strengthen the marketability of their business, services or products or to show their genuine commitment to protecting children's rights. One of the best examples of this kind is The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism (The Code). Originally created in 1998 by ECPAT Sweden, The Code is now an independent organisation, currently funded by the Swiss Government and Code members and supported by UNWTO and UNICEF. The Code is an industry-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to protect children from sexual exploitation in tourism and is regarded as the most efficient CSR tool to combat this crime.⁴²³ ECPAT member groups act as

local Code representatives in several European countries. In collaboration with tourism industry partners such as Accor, Kuoni, Thomas Cook and TUI, their work supports the adoption, monitoring and implementation of the Code in countries of origin and destination in Europe and other regions.⁴²⁴ A number of governments and organisations have also supported The Code or have incorporated it into overarching policy. In Spain, for example, the government made a commitment and took concrete steps to facilitate spreading The Code among different agencies and authorities of the tourism sector.⁴²⁵

The Code stresses the engagement of all employees of the signatory companies, from management to shop-floor. Staff at all levels must be trained to identify SECTT and understand their key role in protecting children from sexual exploitation on their premises.

Code implementation in Poland

In December 2012, a man checked into a hotel in Wroclaw with a 13-year old boy. An employee of the hotel, which had signed The Code in October 2012, noted that the relationship between the man and the boy did not seem natural and caring. Following hotel procedures, the employee alerted the local police, who immediately intervened, finding out that the man had been charged with possession of child pornography back in 2005.

The man was arrested and the case was reported to the prosecutor's office. The proceedings were finalised in January 2015, and the man was condemned to seven years in prison for sexual offenses against children.⁴²⁶

Although it has been praised by various United Nations organisations as a good practice example of collaboration to combat exploitation of children, a 2012 evaluation of The Code conducted by UNICEF pointed to challenges and weaknesses that need to be addressed, such as involving smaller companies and the informal

tourism sector, slow progress in implementing some Code criteria and the need for enhanced training.⁴²⁷ A survey in Italy found that fewer than 50% of tour operators had been raising awareness about SECTT with their employees.⁴²⁸

⁴²² ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴²³ The Code requires signatory companies to implement the following six criteria: (1) establish an ethical policy and procedures, (2) train personnel, (3) introduce a Code-related clause in contracts with suppliers, (4) provide information to travellers, (5) support, collaborate and engage stakeholders, and (6) report annually to The Code on the initiatives undertaken.

⁴²⁴ "About the Code", TheCode.org, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.thecode.org/about/>

⁴²⁵ ECPAT International (2012), "Global de Monitoreo de Las Acciones En Contra de la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes: España", 41, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf

⁴²⁶ Nobody's Children Foundation Poland, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴²⁷ UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2012), "Assessing The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism" (Discussion paper, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, 22 February 2012), 21-33, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/ids_codeofconduct2.pdf

⁴²⁸ EBNT (2010), "Osservatorio nazionale circa l'applicazione della legge 269/1998 e del Codice di Condotta recepito il 19 luglio 2003 dal CCNL del

Several companies and associations from the travel and tourism industry also adhere to the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET). Adopted by the UNWTO in 1999, GCET is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key players in tourism development. Addressed to governments, the travel industry, communities and tourists alike, it aims to help maximise the sector's benefits while minimising its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe.⁴²⁹ The associated Code of Ethic for Tourism involves a pledge by companies to uphold, promote and implement the values of responsible and sustainable tourism development championed by the Code. As of April 2015, the Private Sector Commitment to the Code of Ethics had been signed by enterprises from 24 European States.⁴³⁰

Despite numerous examples of the potentially positive impact of businesses on stopping SECTT, some segments of the travel and tourism industry continue to be wary, fearing that tourists will be deterred or offended. Online travel agencies appear to have an especially bad record for adhering to Codes and related laws, according to research in Italy.⁴³¹ Persistent gaps and discrepancies are also attributable to the voluntary nature of CSR, 'codes of conduct' and the overall lack of accountability.⁴³² In this framework, tourism authorities and government agencies appear to have put insufficient pressure on companies to respect national laws and adhere to relevant codes. More rigorous and transparent monitoring of existing voluntary, self-regulatory codes is also needed to ensure that companies translate their commitments into concrete actions.

Strategies for preventing and reducing (re-)offending

Reducing the demand for sex with children and young people is imperative to prevent and stop SECTT. Unfortunately, the focus on prevention by European countries has been limited. Legal provisions to criminalise

perpetrators were adopted and some offender management initiatives were developed, but few actions are aimed at questioning and changing the social, cultural and historical factors that directly or indirectly support the demand for sex with children and youth. The awareness-raising campaigns mentioned above focused largely on improving reporting and discouraging potential TCSOs, but their impact in terms of deterrence remains unknown.

In an effort to reduce (re-)offending, some countries have begun to offer services for potential perpetrators. In Sweden, for example, the Karolinska University Hospital Center for Andrology and Sexual Medicine received Government funding to launch a helpline for persons with sexual problems or at risk of initiating sexual exploitation of children (<http://preventell.se/>).⁴³³ In Germany, the project "Do you like children in ways you shouldn't?" (<https://www.dont-offend.org/>) provides therapy for paedophiles.⁴³⁴ The same services are also offered in the Netherlands by the helpline Stop it Now!, part of the Hotline on Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism.⁴³⁵

Some promising efforts to address the risk posed to children by staff in child-contact professions can also be cited. As envisaged by its NPA against SECTT, a Dutch International Certificate of Good Conduct was constructed and published, ready to be used worldwide.⁴³⁶ The Certificate is compulsory for some professions, such as teachers, staff in day care and after-school care facilities or host parents.⁴³⁷ By making this certificate of good conduct available in English and free for Dutch voluntary or sport organisations, the Dutch government also seeks to encourage its use by associations that send volunteers overseas to work with children.⁴³⁸ (For more details, see section on "Legislation").

⁴²⁹ UNWTO, "Global Code of Ethics for Tourism", accessed 11 June 2015, <http://ethics.unwto.org/en/content/global-code-ethics-tourism>

⁴³⁰ UNWTO, "Private Sector Commitment to the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics in Tourism", accessed 11 June 2015, <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/private-sector-commitment-global-code-ethics-for-tourism>; The 24 European countries that signed it are Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkey and United Kingdom.

⁴³¹ Ente Bilaterale Nazionale Turismo (2013), "National Observatory on the Implementation of Law 269/98 and of the Tourism Industry Code of Conduct" (EBNT report), 11-12, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.slideshare.net/safehostproject/ebnt-observatory-on-combating-the-sexual-exploitation-in-tourism-eng?qid=7956706c-3cc8-4d19-9614-b8499e551846&v=1&b=&from_search=3

⁴³² ECPAT International (2012), "Corporate Social Responsibility: Strengthening Accountability in the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation of Children" Journal Series 4, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ecpat_journal_oct_2012.pdf

⁴³³ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Sweden", 21.

⁴³⁴ ECPAT Germany, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴³⁵ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴³⁶ European Commission, "Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online- 2014 Reporting Form", accessed 11 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse/docs/reports-2014/ga_report_2014_-_netherlands_en.pdf

⁴³⁷ The Hague, "Certificate of Good Conduct (VOG)", accessed 11 June 2015, <http://www.denhaag.nl/en/residents/relocation-and-settling/to/Certificate-of-Good-Conduct-VOG.htm>

⁴³⁸ European Commission, "Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online- 2014 Reporting Form".

Good practice: CEOP's International Child Protection Certificate

"The International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) has been developed in the United Kingdom (UK) to help better protect children from British nationals and residents who would seek to travel and work overseas to sexually abuse them. The ICPC is issued following a check made against police information and intelligence databases in the UK and lists all of the applicant's convictions. The Certificate can provide reassurance that staff employed in schools and voluntary organisations do not have a criminal record in the UK that makes them unsuitable to work with children. The ICPC is the only UK police check produced specifically for British nationals and residents working overseas. The ICPC is produced by the Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Records Office (ACRO) in the UK in conjunction with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre."⁴³⁹

Support for children at risk of sexual exploitation

Regrettably, there are only a few examples of interventions aimed at reducing children's vulnerability throughout Europe; most have targeted children susceptible to trafficking, and were implemented by civil society organisations — often with EU financial support. A good example in terms of vulnerability reduction is the Mario Project, implemented since 2009 by Terre des Hommes in collaboration with ECPAT groups in Belgium, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Poland and Romania and other organisations. The Mario Project has contributed to improving protection for migrant children vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and trafficking in several Central and South eastern European countries through a combination of components (including documenting the situation of children living on the street and identifying migration patterns and the vulnerability factors that put migrant children at risk, as well as training and direct support to professionals responsible for child protection and advocacy and empowerment of at-risk migrant children).⁴⁴⁰

Some initiatives were conducted by governments, in collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs, to improve access to education, particularly by most vulnerable children. In Central and South-eastern Europe, for example, UNICEF has identified several effective education programmes, policies, initiatives and interventions for Roma children that are suitable for replication.⁴⁴¹ Nevertheless, a 2011 review by Eurochild pointed out that in most EU countries national education targets for reducing school drop-out rates do not sufficiently take into account the situation of children

at particularly high risk of educational disadvantage (especially, Roma children, children with disabilities, young people with migrant backgrounds or from socially disadvantaged families), who are the most likely candidates for school drop-out.⁴⁴²

Recognising the importance of improving the welfare of European children, in 2013 the European Commission adopted a recommendation on "Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage", which encourages member states to organise and implement policies to address child poverty and social exclusion and promote children's well-being. To achieve these objectives, the recommendation proposes the use of multidimensional strategies that rest on three fundamental pillars: access to adequate resources; access to affordable quality services; and children's right to participate.⁴⁴³ A recent report on the implementation of this recommendation highlights that investing in children represents a much greater challenge for some countries with high levels of child poverty or social exclusion than for others. Promoting social inclusion and well-being of children has so far received limited priority in most member states; attention has mainly focused on reducing educational disadvantage and policies to support parents' participation in the labour market, while income support schemes and access to services have been mostly neglected. Not unexpectedly, the report also confirms that children from ethnic minorities (particularly Roma children), children affected by migration and children with a disability are most likely to be affected by poverty and social exclusion.⁴⁴⁴

⁴³⁹ ACPO Criminal Records Office - Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (n.d.), "International Child Protection Certificate UK Information for Schools and Organisations", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.nabss.org/index.php/es/miembros/documentos-relacionados/categoriy/16-child-protection%3Fdownload%3D77%253Ainformation-booklet+&cd=5&hl=it&ct=clnk&gl=it>

⁴⁴⁰ Information about the Mario Project can be found at: <http://marioproject.org>

⁴⁴¹ UNICEF CEECIS (2010), "Towards Roma Inclusion: A Review of Roma Education Initiatives in Central and South- Eastern Europe", accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/ROMA_PAPER_FINAL_LAST.pdf

⁴⁴² Eurochild (2011), "The 2011 National Reform Programmes (NRP) from a Child Poverty and Well-Being Perspective", accessed 11 June 2015, http://old.eurochild.eu/fileadmin/ThematicPriorities/ChildPoverty/Eurochild/Eurochild_analysis_of_the_NRPs.pdf

⁴⁴³ European Commission (2013), "Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage", C(2013) 778 final (Brussels), accessed from http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/c_2013_778_en.pdf

⁴⁴⁴ Frazer, Hugo and Marlier, Eric (2014), "Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage. A study of national policies. Synthesis Report, 20", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1025&langId=en&newsId=2061&moreDocuments=yes&tableName=news>

Over the last decade, only limited efforts were directed to understanding and tackling harmful practices that might put children at heightened risk for SECTT, such as child, early and forced marriage. For example, in Turkey, where this practice has been found to be associated with SECTT, the Network against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children initiated the ‘Don’t Send Child Brides’ campaign in 2012. The campaign launched a petition to end child marriage of girls, focusing on the fact that child brides are sexually and commercially exploited for their “bride price”. Based on a peer-to-peer methodology, this project has helped to increase the visibility of the problem of child marriages in Turkey.⁴⁴⁵

Legislation to Combat SECTT and Factors Affecting Application of the Law

Status of ratification of international and regional legal instruments

European countries have made consistent efforts to ratify international and regional legal instruments relevant to combating CSEC. All countries in the region are party to the:

- *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)*
- *International Labour Organisation Convention No.182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)*
- *Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000) (hereafter Trafficking Protocol).*

The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000) (hereafter OPSC) was ratified by all European countries except Ireland, and only nine states are party to the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communication Procedure (2011). At the regional level, critical legal instruments such as the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (2001), Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings(2005) and Convention on

the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (2007) have not been ratified by all European nations. Further detail on each country’s status with regard to these important international and regional legal instruments is outlined in Annex 7.

Good practice examples of national legislation addressing SECTT

Whilst regional European Frameworks have been progressive in their approach to addressing SECTT and CSEC crimes, advancement at the national level varies. No European state has specific legislation to tackle SECTT (like Australia’s Child Sex Tourism Act⁴⁴⁶) and the more recent Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Offences Against Children) Act of 2010.⁴⁴⁷ However some national provisions can be described as progressive, as highlighted below.

Travel restrictions and other preventative measures

After several amendments in recent years, the UK has one of the broader legislative frameworks against SECTT. For prevention, the UK recently updated its foreign travel orders. The Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) and Sexual Risk orders (SRO) that came into force via the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014⁴⁴⁸ now regulate the restriction of movement for convicted sex offenders. SHPOs can be applied to anyone convicted of or cautioned for a sexual or violent offence, including when offences are committed overseas. Defendants are prohibited from doing anything described in the order, which can include a ban on foreign travel.

Prohibitions remain in effect for a fixed period specified in the order, or until further order. An offender subject to a SHPO prohibiting them travel to all countries outside the UK will be required to surrender his passport(s) at a police station. Failure to comply with a requirement imposed under an Order is an offence punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment.⁴⁴⁹ This provision was enacted after successful advocacy by ECPAT UK, amongst others, highlighting the possibility of achieving effective legislation through targeted advocacy.⁴⁵⁰

⁴⁴⁵ International Children’s Centre – Turkey, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁴⁴⁶ Australian Government (1994), “Crimes (Child Sex Tourism) Amendment Act 1994 (Canberra)”, accessed <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004A04778>

⁴⁴⁷ ECPAT International (2012), “Protection and the OPSC: Justifying Good Practice Laws to Protect Children From Sexual Exploitation”, Journal Series 2, 7-9, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ecpat_journal_apr2012_final.pdf

⁴⁴⁸ UK Government (2014), “Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014”, accessed from <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/part/9/enacted>

⁴⁴⁹ “Sexual Harm Prevention Orders”, accessed 11 June 2015, http://trixresources.proceduresonline.com/nat_key/keywords/sexual_harm_prev_ord.html

⁴⁵⁰ “Government Moves to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children in the UK and Abroad”, ECPAT UK Press Releases, October 2013, accessed from <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/government-moves-prevent-sexual-abuse-children-uk-and-abroad>

In addition to laws addressing SECTT, especially in relation to prevention, the Dutch Criminal Code allows restricted movement of convicted child sex offenders with a high risk of recidivism (which apparently will be determined on a case-by-case basis). Articles 15 and 38 of the Dutch Criminal Code allow courts to impose restrictions on an individual's liberty as part of a suspended sentence, a sentence or a conditional discharge.⁴⁵¹ These restrictions on movement can include a duty to report to the police, a ban on visiting a particular location or an order to remain in a particular location. Moreover it may be possible in future to impose a travel ban, since the State Secretary for Security and Justice has included a travel ban as one of the measures amending article 38, providing for long-term supervision of convicted criminals.⁴⁵²

The Dutch Passport Act (article 24), already makes it possible to refuse a passport to a person convicted for CSEC within the previous 10 years or to cancel his or her passport by entering that person's name in a register. This can be done if there is a valid reason to suspect that he or she will be guilty of sexual violence against children. However, there are limits to this provision, as determinations can only be made by the minister, and not by a judge or court.

A number of European countries have opted for setting up child sex offender registers. A 2014 review indicates that European nations with national sex offender registration systems include France, Ireland, Malta and the UK; Austria and Switzerland are considering adoption of such a tool.⁴⁵³ Registers differ across countries in terms of conditions and procedures, updating of information, period of retention of the data, conditions of access to data in the register, public access to the register, scope of offences that are registerable, etc.⁴⁵⁴

In an effort to monitor the movement of registered sex offenders and prevent reoffending overseas, Ireland, Malta and the UK also introduced provisions requiring convicted perpetrators to notify competent authorities about their travels abroad. However, a number of shortcomings exist. In Malta, for example, the travel notification appears to be optional, and must be required by the Minister through regulations.⁴⁵⁵ International travel notification may also carry a "travel window" for which reporting is not necessary. While in the UK a 2012 amendment now requires registered sex offenders to notify the police of all travel outside of the UK, in Ireland sex offenders must notify only for travel lasting seven days or more.⁴⁵⁶ As noted by ECPAT experts, thanks to such loopholes, TCSOs are able to slip through the net and potentially continue to abuse children overseas, by taking short trips or by "disappearing."⁴⁵⁷

Registered sex offenders go missing in the UK

A recent report by the police in UK revealed that nearly 400 sex offenders have disappeared "off the radar" of UK law enforcement. According to the charity National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), half of those on the register are perpetrators who have raped or sexually assaulted children.⁴⁵⁸

ECPAT UK has expressed concern over this situation, noting that it demonstrates systemic failures in management of sex offenders aimed at preventing them from moving around in or leaving the UK. To address this loophole, ECPAT UK has called on the government to ensure adequate resources to law enforcement agencies to regularly monitor and track sex offenders. It also recommended that UK police should immediately inform authorities in other countries of the offenders that have gone missing, share intelligence, develop joint investigation teams, deport offenders once identified, place them under strict surveillance and prosecute them for their crimes.⁴⁵⁹

⁴⁵¹ Ibid.

⁴⁵² National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The Netherlands (2013), "Barriers against Child Sex Tourist. Summary Report", accessed from <http://www.dutchrapporteur.nl/reports/child-sex-tourism/>

⁴⁵³ Office of Sex Offending Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (2014), "Global Overview of Sex Offender Registration and Notification Systems" (Washington DC: SMART/US Department of Justice), 1, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.smart.gov/pdfs/GlobalOverview.pdf>

⁴⁵⁴ Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe (2008), "For a Europe-wide Sex Offenders Register AS/Jur 51", (Introductory Memorandum), accessed from http://assembly.coe.int/CommitteeDocs/2010/20081104_ajdoc51.pdf

⁴⁵⁵ Government of Malta (2011), "Protection of Minors (Registration) Act", Article. 11 (1) (Valleta).

⁴⁵⁶ "Sex Offenders Register", Citizens Information website. Last modified 2 June 2015, http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/justice/criminal_law/criminal_trial/sex_offenders_register.html

⁴⁵⁷ ECPAT UK (2011), "Off the Radar: Protecting Children from British Sex Offenders who Travel", 4-5, accessed 30 November 2012, http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/off_the_radar_-_protecting_children_from_british_sex_offenders_who_travel.pdf

⁴⁵⁸ Topping, Alexandra, "Hundreds of Convicted Sex Offenders are Missing, New Figures Show", The Guardian, 10 March 2015, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/mar/10/hundreds-of-convicted-sex-offenders-are-missing-new-figures-show>

⁴⁵⁹ "UK Failure to Monitor Sex Offenders Threatens Children Everywhere", ECPAT UK Press Releases, March 2015, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/uk-failure-monitor-sex-offenders-threatens-children-everywhere>

In addition to establishing national databases, attempts have been made to create a central European sex offenders register — but these have always failed, mainly due to sovereignty issues and other constraints. Despite momentum gained in the European Parliament in 2007 following the disappearance of Madeleine McCann,⁴⁶⁰ in 2010 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution calling instead on member states to take effective national measures to prevent sexual offenses, including child sexual exploitation, with the rationale that the register would be impossible due to lack of harmonisation of criminal laws across states.⁴⁶¹ The COE resolution invites member states to establish a comprehensive system to manage sex offenders that would include, *inter alia*, national sex offender registers. The resolution also stressed the need to address the problem of TCSOs — including within Europe — seeking to avoid conviction and escape supervision in their home country. To prevent SECTT, the Assembly called for a comprehensive package of legal measures aimed at controlling and monitoring the movement of sex offenders, particularly trips abroad, as well as for more information-sharing among states and enhanced use of Interpol's tools and services.⁴⁶²

This approach is reflected in the recent EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography adopted in December 2011, which does not oblige member states to establish child sex offenders registers but allows them to do so, “in accordance with national constitutional principles and applicable data protection standards, for instance by limiting access to the judiciary and/or law enforcement authorities.”⁴⁶³

The EU has made consistent efforts to enhance law enforcement cooperation and information exchange on criminal records among member states. Since the mid-1990s, the Schengen Information System (SIS) has been operating within the EU. SIS is Europe's largest

information system for public security; intelligence can be stored and accessed by law enforcement agencies across the EU to support police, judicial and customs cooperation. Updated in April 2013 to enhance its functionality,⁴⁶⁴ the current SIS II is a critical mechanism for exchanging information on travelling child sex offenders.⁴⁶⁵

In addition, the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) was launched in April 2012, establishing “an electronic interconnection of criminal records databases to ensure that information on convictions is exchanged between EU countries in a uniform, speedy and easily computer-transferable way.” Through ECRIS, authorities of a given EU state are able to request information about prior convictions of a non-national from another member state and vice-versa, using a standardised format. The information is not centralised in a common European database but remains in the criminal record system in the country where the individual was convicted.⁴⁶⁶ According to ECPAT UK, “this system aims at being a progressive means of sharing information about known sex offenders ... and can therefore contribute to preventing convicted sex offenders from moving within the EU for the purpose of reoffending.”⁴⁶⁷ Among the system's shortcomings, it was noted that the ECRIS classification system is not detailed enough, as the minimum constituent elements of offences are currently not defined. Additionally, given the lack of an instrument to harmonise national legislation with the EU law, interpretation becomes very difficult.⁴⁶⁸

The Europol Information System (EIS) is another tool supporting information sharing and cooperation among law enforcement agencies of EU member states. EIS contains information on suspected and convicted persons, offences, criminal structures and other important data that can be used for the purpose of investigating serious cross-border crimes including human trafficking and SECTT.⁴⁶⁹

⁴⁶⁰ “MEPs ‘want EU sex offender list’”, BBC News, 22 August 2007, accessed from http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6958807.stm

⁴⁶¹ Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Council of Europe, “For a Europe-wide Sex Offenders Register”, 8-11.

⁴⁶² Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2010), “Reinforcing Measures Against Sex Offenders” (Resolution 1733), accessed from <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=17868&lang=en>

⁴⁶³ *Ibid.*, see in particular point 43.

⁴⁶⁴ “Questions and Answers: Schengen Information System (SIS II)”, European Commission Press Release Database, accessed 11 June 2015, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-309_en.htm

⁴⁶⁵ “Investigation. Schengen Information System (second generation) SISII”, College of Policing website, last modified 13 May 2015, <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/investigations/european-investigations/schengen-information-system/>

⁴⁶⁶ European Commission, “ECRIS (European Criminal Records Information System)”, last modified 7 May 2015, accessed 25 November 2012, http://ec.europa.eu/justice/criminal/european-e-justice/ecris/index_en.htm

⁴⁶⁷ ECPAT UK, “Off the Radar: Protecting Children from British Sex Offenders who Travel”, 20.

⁴⁶⁸ Vermeulen, Gert, De Bondt, Wendy, Ryckman, Charlotte and Peršak, Nina (2012), “The disqualification triad. Approximating legislation. Executing requests. Ensuring equivalence” (Antwerpen: Maklu/European Commission), accessed 20 April 2015, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201207/20120718ATT49103/20120718ATT49103EN.pdf>

⁴⁶⁹ Europol, “Europol Information System (EIS)”, accessed 9 November 2015, <https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/page/europol-information-system-eis-1850>

The EU Passenger Name Record Directive: benefit and concerns

Negotiations between the EU Parliament, the Commission and the Council on a new EU Passenger Name Record Directive (PNR Directive) started in September 2015. The text was approved by the Parliament's committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), and aims to deter terrorism and other serious crimes, such as the sexual exploitation of children.⁴⁷⁰ Although identity verification and border management tools such as the Advanced Passenger Information Directive, SIS, SIS II and VIS are already in place, they do not allow for the detection of unknown criminals, or for the assessment of passengers. This new intelligence gathering mechanism is therefore welcomed by many as a necessary tool in the fight against terrorism⁴⁷¹. Several EU members (for example the United Kingdom and France) have already adopted PNR legislations at national level, or are considering this possibility⁴⁷². Faced with the multiplication of PNR legislations and fearing that the complexification of the legal framework at EU level will lead to great difficulties for airlines, carriers and associations of carriers such as IATA and AEA have called for a swift adoption of the PNR directive⁴⁷³. Should this directive be adopted, its potential to deter sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism should be highlighted and fully used by national police forces and by Interpol. However, it would be necessary to ensure that safeguards are in place to protect passengers' privacy. Indeed, some major concerns have been raised regarding the new directive's impact on data protection. The necessity and proportionality of the text have been contested, including by the European Data Protection Supervisor.⁴⁷⁴ The reliability of data given by passengers for commercial purposes has also been questioned, as well as the efficiency of such a mechanism⁴⁷⁵. The European Association for the defense of human rights sees it as a mechanism of generalized suspicion, and denounces a disproportionate breach of the protection of personal data and of the freedom of circulation⁴⁷⁶. Finally, some members of the European Parliament, as well as Human Rights organizations draw a parallel between this new directive and the Data Retention Directive, adopted after the 2004 -2005 terrorist attacks in Madrid and London and annulled by the European Court of Justice in 2014. According to them, the PNR directive could live the same fate, should it be adopted.⁴⁷⁷

⁴⁷⁰ European Parliament, "EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) proposal: an overview", last updated 18 September 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150123BKG12902/html/EU-Passenger-Name-Record-\(PNR\)-proposal-an-overview](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150123BKG12902/html/EU-Passenger-Name-Record-(PNR)-proposal-an-overview)

⁴⁷¹ European Commission (2011), "Proposal for a Directive Of The European Parliament And Of The Council on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime", Brussels: European Commission, 2 February 2011, 7-8, accessed 10 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/com_2011_32_en.pdf

⁴⁷² European Parliamentary Research Service, "PNR Systems in Member States and EU funding", 4 May 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, http://epthinktank.eu/2015/05/04/the-proposed-eu-passenger-name-records-pnr-directive-revived-in-the-new-security-context/pnr_systems_in_ms/. See also Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés, Création à titre expérimental du « système API-PNR France », 12 February 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, <http://m.cnil.fr/dossier/deplacements-transports/article/article/creation-a-titre-experimental-du-systeme-api-pnr-france/>.

⁴⁷³ AEA and IATA, "Letter to the members of the European Parliament", September 2014, accessed 10 November 2015, https://netzpolitik.org/wp-upload/2014-09_AEA_IATA_Joint_letter_on_EU_PNR.pdf

⁴⁷⁴ European Data Protection Supervisor, "Opinion 5/2015. Second Opinion on the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime", 24 September 2015, p.15, accessed 10 November 2015, https://secure.edps.europa.eu/EDPSWEB/webdav/site/mySite/shared/Documents/Consultation/Opinions/2015/15-09-24_PNR_EN.pdf.

⁴⁷⁵ Vallet, C., "PNR, le Big Brother de l'air" ("PNR, the Big Brother of the air"), 20 January 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, <http://www.slate.fr/story/96961/pnr-le-big-brother-de-l%E2%80%99air>

⁴⁷⁶ Association Européenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme, "PNR européen: un mécanisme de "suspicion généralisée" avalisé par la commission des libertés civiles du Parlement Européen" (European PNR : a "generalised suspicion" mechanism endorsed by the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) committee of the European Parliament), 15 July 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, <http://www.aedh.eu/PNR-europeen-un-mecanisme-de.html>

⁴⁷⁷ Vallet, C., "PNR, le Big Brother de l'air" ("PNR, the Big Brother of the air"), 20 January 2015, accessed 10 November 2015, <http://www.slate.fr/story/96961/pnr-le-big-brother-de-l%E2%80%99air>

Disqualification and information exchange

The Council of Europe and the EU both have legislation to prevent convicted sex offenders from working with children, including by travelling to other European countries. The Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse calls on State Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that those in professions involving regular contact with children have not been convicted for child sex crimes.⁴⁷⁸

Likewise, the EU Directive on Combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography requires member states to take steps for the temporary or permanent prohibition of child-contact-related professions (i.e., disqualification)⁴⁷⁹ as well as to exchange information on criminal convictions for crimes included in the Directive or any relevant employment disqualification, through the ECRIS System.⁴⁸⁰ The latter provision is essential to avoid allowing offenders to gain access to children simply by moving between EU member states. The Directive also gives, for the first time, the right to an employer who is recruiting staff for professional or voluntary activities involving contact with children, to conduct pre-employment criminal background checks. A 2015 survey on the implementation of this EU Directive conducted by the NGO Coalition 'Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children', highlighted some progress in the transposition of these measures into national legislation of EU member states. It found that nearly all EU countries have introduced provisions related to disqualification; in some cases permanently and others for a defined period of time.⁴⁸¹ Also, laws in several countries now oblige employers (and often other institutions) to conduct background checks, although this usually does not cover volunteers.⁴⁸² Efforts are also being made in some countries to improve information exchange on criminal convictions. For example, in France the National Criminal Records services is responsible for delivering a certificate to authorities in EU member states requesting

information on criminal or other sanctions imposed on a professional. According to the most recent statistics, the process for the transmission of such information is functioning well, with 72% of requests being resolved within 24 hours.⁴⁸³

Addressing the tourism sector and corporate liability

Italy has progressive legislation for tackling the promotion and organisation of SECTT,⁴⁸⁴ which is widely ignored in other European domestic laws despite obligations under the EU Directive. Law No. 269/98 establishes "provisions against the exploitation of child prostitution, pornography and sex tourism as new forms of slavery" and introduced many advancements, such as the possibility to punish, in Italy, Italian citizens who commit sexual offences against minors abroad, including when they act as accomplices of foreign nationals. This piece of legislation was further strengthened with the enactment of Law No. 38/2006 on "Provisions to Fight the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Pornography, including through the Internet".

Thanks to these new laws, specific provisions against SECTT have been introduced, such as an Article of the Italian Criminal Code on "Tourist initiatives aimed at the exploitation of child prostitution", which stipulates that "anyone who organises or promotes foreign travels that promotes child prostitution or encourages such activity is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6-to-12 years and a fine of 15.493 to 154.937 Euros."⁴⁸⁵

Italy's Criminal Code also provides for penalties for accessories, those who promote tourist initiatives aimed at the exploitation of children through prostitution (as well as other relevant CSEC offences). Those convicted face confiscation of goods, closure of business and revocation of business permits that are tied to their role as accessory. Conviction also provides for a perpetual ban from work in any establishment mainly attended by minors.

⁴⁷⁸ Council of Europe, "Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse", Article 5 (3)

⁴⁷⁹ Ibid, Art. 10 (1).

⁴⁸⁰ Ibid, Art. 10 (3).

⁴⁸¹ Herbert, Francis, Missing Children Europe. "The Disqualification and Screening of Convicted Sex Offenders". Presentation delivered at the « Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children » workshop, 24 April 2015, Brussels. The provision on disqualification is being implemented as follows: a) At the discretion of the court: Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania (current), Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia; b) automatically linked to the conviction: Austria, Estonia, France, Italy, Lithuania (draft), Latvia. Disqualification is permanent in: Austria, Croatia, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland and Slovakia. It is temporary in: Belgium, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Some countries have introduced regulatory disqualifications: Estonia, Finland, Netherlands (in combination with judicial), Slovenia, Sweden and UK.

⁴⁸² Ibid. Obligation to screen has been implemented as follows: a) obligation professional and voluntary activities: Estonia, Italy and Latvia; b) professional: Finland and Portugal; c) specific activities: Austria (prof.), Belgium, Bulgaria (prof.), Germany, France, Greece (prof.), Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland (not yet in force), Sweden, Slovenia (prof.) and UK; d) no obligation: Luxembourg, Poland (current) and Romania.

⁴⁸³ ELSA – International Legal Research Group on Children's Rights (2015), "How has Directive 2011/93/EU on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography been transposed into 12 EU Member States?", 167, accessed 29 October 2015, http://files.elsa.org/AA/Report_Children_Rights.pdf

⁴⁸⁴ "Sex Tourism", Osservatorio per il contrasto della pedofilia e della pornografia minorile website, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.osservatorioropedofilia.gov.it/dpo/en/turismo_sessuale.wp;jsessionid=1E5E9596040D117D8397640725FC2AEF.dpo1

⁴⁸⁵ Government of Italy, Criminal Code, Article 600 quinquies (Rome) accessed from <http://www.legislationline.org/documents/id/4960>

Italy has also set a high bar by requiring tour operators to expressly repudiate SECTT in their promotional materials. Art. 38 of Law No. 38/2006 reaffirms the obligation of tour operators organising group or individual travel outside of Italy to insert a warning in their printed materials and advertising, itineraries and other travel documents, informing that the Italian law provides for detention for crimes related to child prostitution and pornography, even if committed abroad. The new law also increases the fine envisaged for tour operators who violate this obligation.

Like Italy, Malta has a law to punish the act of promoting SECTT. Chapter 9 of the Maltese Criminal code, Article 208AB on advertisement of sexual tourism, calls for two to five years of imprisonment for those convicted of publicizing or organizing travel tied to child sexual exploitation.⁴⁸⁶

In recognition of the correlation between child sexual exploitation and travel and tourism the UK's 2014 'Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act' introduces provisions allowing police to require hotels and similar establishments in which they reasonably believe child sexual exploitation is taking place to provide information about guests.⁴⁸⁷ Those who fail without reasonable excuse to comply with this requirement can be fined.⁴⁸⁸

The UK government has also introduced the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which aims to tackle the issue of human trafficking, exploitation, abuse and sexual abuse of children, as well as forced labour. Section 54 of the Act introduces a Transparency in Supply Chains clause which places legal obligations on all companies above a certain turnover and with UK operations (the size is still to be determined), to publish an annual statement disclosing the steps taken to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in their business and supply chains.⁴⁸⁹ The British government is currently consulting with key stakeholders to define the details of the statement; guidance is expected in October 2015.⁴⁹⁰

In its submission to this study ECPAT UK provided a number of recommendations to strengthen the new Act, such as a requirement to make the statement public; inclusion of online supply chains in the case of

Internet companies and other social media enterprises to ensure no ties with grooming, live-streaming, etc.; demonstration by companies in the tourism sector of awareness about how their infrastructure can be used for SECTT; and adoption of a Zero Tolerance policy for child sexual exploitation and trafficking across all levels of the supply chain.

At a minimum, companies should implement a child protection policy and a code of conduct, including an explicit commitment to respect all children rights and the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights: Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework and the Code of Conduct.

Extraterritorial legislation

In cases of transnational SECTT, the country where the crime occurred is typically the best place for investigating and prosecuting the offence due to the presence of victims, witnesses and evidence. However, sometimes the state in which the crime is committed may be unwilling or unable to prosecute; for example, when travelling sex offenders have fled the country to escape prosecution. In such cases extraterritorial jurisdiction is a critical tool for bringing offenders to justice by allowing prosecution of the offender at home, under national laws.

A review of national legislation conducted by ECPAT International in 2013⁴⁹¹ indicates that all European countries except Macedonia⁴⁹² have adopted extraterritorial legislation for transnational crimes committed by their citizens (and in several cases, residents) in other countries. However, the application of extraterritoriality is hampered by a number of procedural obstacles. Of particular concern is the fact that many European countries still apply the "double criminality" requirement for CSEC offences,⁴⁹³ while in other states legislation requires double criminality only for certain sex crimes against children.⁴⁹⁴ Double criminality means that the offence must be prohibited in both the perpetrator's home country and in the jurisdiction where the offence took place. In countries where the criminal or penal code requires double criminality, a national can travel to another country with a less child-friendly legal framework to engage in SECTT – without any consequence. In addition, in some European countries extraterritorial

⁴⁸⁶ Government of Malta, Criminal Code, Article 208 AB (Valleta), accessed from <http://www.justiceservices.gov.mt/DownloadDocument.aspx?app=lom&itemid=8574>

⁴⁸⁷ Government of the UK (2014), "Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act", Art. 116 (London, 2014).

⁴⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁸⁹ Government of the UK (2015), "Modern Slavery Act", part 6 (London, 2015).

⁴⁹⁰ Information provided by ECPAT UK in May 2015.

⁴⁹¹ The review led to the establishment of a database which however was not made public.

⁴⁹² Note that information was not available on extraterritorial legislation in Monaco, San Marino, Turkmenistan and Holy See.

⁴⁹³ Albania, Armenia, Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia (with some exceptions), Georgia (with some exceptions), Iceland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, UK.

⁴⁹⁴ Germany, Ireland, Sweden, Greece, Norway and Switzerland.

jurisdiction does not extend to all CSEC offences, even when double criminality is not required,⁴⁹⁵ or may be subject to other types of restrictions.⁴⁹⁶ Another obstacle still found in legislation of some European states is the prerequisite of a victim's complaint. According to ECPAT's 2013 review and an analysis of extraterritorial jurisdiction carried out by European Law Students' Association and a law firm, it appears that in Poland, Croatia and Montenegro prosecution is still conditional upon the filing of a complaint by the victim.⁴⁹⁷ Child victims are often afraid to file complaints or do not know how to do so; this is especially the case for trafficked and migrant youth.

As noted earlier, the application of extra-territorial legislation in European countries remains generally weak. In addition to the abovementioned procedural obstacles, other obstacles to applying extraterritorial jurisdiction include: difficulties in gathering evidence and producing child victims and witnesses for trial, lack of consistency between laws and procedures in different states, financial burdens on the resources of a country's prosecution services and complications resulting from the use of different languages.⁴⁹⁸ (See also box on "Barriers to law enforcement".)

Extradition and mutual legal assistance

In light of these constraints, the prosecution of offenders in the country where the offence took place is considered a much more effective strategy. If a perpetrator has escaped the jurisdiction where he committed the offence, extradition back to that country is the best option. The OPSC encourages extraditions by requiring all the offences under its scope to be deemed included in existing treaties. When a country that makes extradition conditional upon a treaty receives

a request from a country with which it does not have a treaty, they are invited to consider the OPSC as a basis for extradition. A review of Concluding observations by the CRC Committee on the implementation of the OPSC by European countries⁴⁹⁹ confirms that major barriers to extradition for CSEC offences include: double criminality;⁵⁰⁰ prosecution is possible only when there is a bilateral or multilateral treaty in place and therefore OPSC is not considered as a basis for extradition in the absence of a treaty;⁵⁰¹ non-extradition of nationals;⁵⁰² and the existence of other prerequisites.⁵⁰³

Mechanisms have also been put in place both within Europe and for cooperation with countries in other regions to ensure information exchange and legal assistance on criminal matters, including SECTT. Within the EU, although mutual legal assistance mechanisms are being progressively replaced by mutual recognition instruments,⁵⁰⁴ the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (2000) is still in place; the agreement strengthens cooperation between judicial, police and customs authorities in all EU countries.⁵⁰⁵ The Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters provides for mutual assistance between signatory countries. It is important to note that both instruments can be used for prosecuting TCSOs, and are particularly useful for collecting evidence or hearing witnesses abroad.

Although mutual legal assistance within the EU and CoE has been enhanced, the same cannot be said with regard to cooperation with countries outside the region. The Netherlands, for example, has only concluded treaties with a few countries of destination for SECTT and has no treaty with three-quarters of the destination frequented by Dutch TCSOs.⁵⁰⁶

⁴⁹⁵ Austria, France, Finland, Germany (also requires double criminality), Turkey and Greece.

⁴⁹⁶ Portugal and Turkey.

⁴⁹⁷ "Analysis Extraterritorial Jurisdiction" (internal document, ECPAT Belgium, April 2015). The analysis was conducted on the basis of the national reports by ELSA and/or Allen & Overy law firm.

⁴⁹⁸ O'Briain, Muireann, Grillo, Milena, Barbosa, Helia, "Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescent in Tourism, (a contribution to World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents)", 26 and 35.

⁴⁹⁹ Concluding observations analysed include those adopted in the last 5 years by the CRC Committee referring to the following European countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and UK.

⁵⁰⁰ For example in Estonia, Albania, Kazakhstan, Turkey and UK.

⁵⁰¹ For example in Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Moldova.

⁵⁰² For example in Kyrgyzstan, Latvia (in this case the state has the obligation to prosecute), Russia and Sweden.

⁵⁰³ For example Norway and Portugal.

⁵⁰⁴ Mutual recognition of judicial decisions is a process by which a decision usually taken by a judicial authority in one EU country is recognised, and where necessary, enforced by other EU countries as if it was a decision taken by the judicial authorities of that latter countries.

⁵⁰⁵ European Commission, "Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition", last modified 10 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/justice/criminal/judicial-cooperation/legal-assistance/index_en.htm

⁵⁰⁶ National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (2013), The Netherlands, "Barriers against Child Sex Tourism. Summary Report", 7.

Brief overview of legislation on CSEC offences associated with SECTT: progress and gaps

As travelling sex offenders tend to choose countries with weak laws against child sexual exploitation, it is imperative for states to enact provisions against all offences associated with SECTT, namely child prostitution, child pornography, trafficking of children for sexual purposes and child marriage; in doing so, they need to ensure full harmonisation of their legislation with the OPSC and other relevant international and regional legal standards.

With regard to the prostitution of children, most European nations have adopted laws against this crime; however, many fail to provide a comprehensive definition of the offence,⁵⁰⁷ whilst others do not criminalise all the related acts⁵⁰⁸ or do not have separate provisions for children.⁵⁰⁹ Most importantly, in some European countries children are not protected from exploitation through prostitution until they reach age 18⁵¹⁰ nor explicitly exempted from punishment for prostitution-related crimes (though in practice they are often not sanctioned).⁵¹¹

This partial compliance with relevant regional and international legal instruments also affects national legislation to address the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. While some governments have taken steps to enhance relevant provisions (for example, Italy recently amended its legislation to exclude any possibility of consent to trafficking from a victim under the age of 18),⁵¹² persisting gaps noted in some countries include: failure to criminalise all elements of child trafficking

and to exclude the possibility of “consent” by children to trafficking;⁵¹³ not all forms of sexual exploitation (as defined in the Trafficking Protocol) are covered; punishment of child victims for criminal activities they were compelled to commit as a result of being trafficked; and the lack of comprehensive measures to protect child victims.⁵¹⁴

Thanks to the obligation to incorporate the EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography into domestic legal frameworks, EU countries have made progress in reforming their laws to combat child pornography. The 2015 survey by the NGO Coalition “Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children” found that 22 EU countries have provisions to punish online grooming⁵¹⁵ while 19 have legislation making knowingly obtaining access (by means of information and communication technology) to child pornography an offense.⁵¹⁶ An increasing number of countries have also adopted legal measures to either block or remove online child pornography (or both).⁵¹⁷ However, despite this promising progress, several nations in the region, particularly in Eastern Europe, have not yet enacted legislation. The main loopholes with regard to legislation on child pornography remain a failure to cover all types of materials (especially virtual child pornography) in their definitions; the non-criminalisation of all relevant acts, including possession, online solicitation of children for sexual purposes and viewing/accessing child pornography; and the lack of a reporting requirement for ISPs.

⁵⁰⁷ For example, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

⁵⁰⁸ In the EU, countries that criminalise all acts correlated to child prostitution (i.e. the offering, obtaining, procuring or providing of a child for prostitution, or the attempt to do so) include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Spain, UK. On the other hand, none of the CIS countries (i.e. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine) criminalise all the acts that constitute child prostitution.

⁵⁰⁹ In this case, the provisions that relate to child prostitution often form a subsection of the country’s Criminal Code for adults, so that where offences involve minors this is referred to as an aggravating factor and leads to a stronger penalty.

⁵¹⁰ In Bulgaria, for example, an offender who obtains a child under the age of 14 for prostitution is punished while if the child is between 15 and 18, the act does not constitute an offence.

⁵¹¹ This is the case of Albania, for example.

⁵¹² Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) (2013), “Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Italy”, (Strasbourg: COE), 20, accessed from http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Reports/GRETA_2014_18_FGR_ITA_w_cmnts_en.pdf

⁵¹³ It appears to be the case in Belarus, Uzbekistan and Czech Republic.

⁵¹⁴ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society”, 40.

⁵¹⁵ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States”, 38.

⁵¹⁶ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Spain, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Romania and UK. See The NGO Coalition of Missing Children Europe, ECPAT International and eNACSO. “Workshop 2015” (presentation delivered at the «Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children» workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2015).

⁵¹⁷ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Germany, Hungary and UK. See Jánoskúti, Boglárka “Grooming” (presentation delivered at the “Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children” workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2015).

⁵¹⁸ The obligation to remove materials located inside the national territory is now envisaged in 16 EU Member States; 18 states have also introduced measures on blocking (voluntary, judicial or through specific legislation). See The NGO Coalition of Missing Children Europe, ECPAT International and eNACSO, “Workshop 2015” (presentation delivered at the “Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children” workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2015).

Barriers to law enforcement: A review in the Netherlands

A 2013 study by Terre des Hommes (TDH) has identified numerous barriers that impede efforts to prevent and punish SECTT. These problems apply specifically to the Dutch context; however, as this desk study clearly shows, it is conceivable that these are obstacles are encountered more generally. In terms of law enforcement, some of the main issues of concern highlighted in the TDH's report include:

Sovereignty

States are required to respect each other's borders and not interfere in the domestic affairs of others. A breach of such rules can lead to evidence being ruled as illegal.

Political situation and administrative circumstances

The majority of states lack adequate legislation to deal with SECTT. In others the laws are not effectively enforced. State organs can be undermined by corruption, bribes and the money tourism brings into the state. Furthermore, when children are not registered at birth it is easy for them to disappear into the system. In worst-case scenarios, passports are falsified to ensure children satisfy the age of consent in their respective state.

Lack of readiness to take action

Some SECTT destination countries lack the political will to tackle SECTT, making it difficult for states of origin to receive assistance.

Loss of jurisdiction

Travelling sex offenders may renounce their citizenship, thus removes the states of origin's obligation and priority to pursue legal proceedings.

Lack of physical evidence

Acquiring evidence can be difficult. Cases are not usually reported immediately, which makes physical traces difficult to obtain; this can be compounded by distance. Finally forensic science is often not sufficiently developed in destination states.

Perpetrators can move freely between countries

It is difficult to manage the movements of convicted sex offenders, who can freely travel abroad and easily obtain access to children.

The unknown is unpopular

Knowledge about these crimes is low, which impacts on the way cases are handled and affects investigation rates. It is also possible that incidents of SECTT are overlooked due to insufficient experience.

Low quality of reporting

Reports of SECTT contain little ground for suspicion; the TDH study states that hard evidence is needed to accompany claims of reports (such as videos or images, statement from victims, tips from witnesses or NGO investigations or actually catching one in the act). These forms of hard evidence are not always available.

Lack of bilateral treaties

Bilateral agreements and Joint Investigation Teams are effective alternatives to time-consuming legal assistance requests, however there are not enough of them and their use needs to be encouraged.

Emergency passport

Emergency passports may be granted even when passports have been confiscated by the police, allowing offenders to escape.

Negative costs/benefits analysis

The process of investigating and prosecuting on a transnational basis is expensive and time-consuming. Prosecutions usually proceed where there is a chance of conviction; when the cost/benefit analysis is negative, the case will not proceed, leaving the accused to go free.⁵¹⁸

⁵¹⁸ Terre des Hommes (2013), "Tipping the Scales. Recommendations for a Better Balance in Combating Child Sex Tourism", accessed 28 October 2015, https://terredeshommes.nl/sites/tdh/files/uploads/nl_2013_10_10_tdh-tipping_the_scales-rapport-engels-web.pdf

Child-friendly justice for sexually exploited children and adolescents

In accordance with international and regional legal standards, European countries have taken steps to ensure access to justice for child victims of sexual exploitation. At the EU level, of particular relevance are Articles 19 and 20 of the Directive 2011/93/EU, which collectively deal with access by children and youth to justice in relation to sexual exploitation crimes. At the CoE level, an important contribution to improving children's access to and treatment by justice systems are the "Guidelines on child-friendly justice" as well as Art. 35 of the Lanzarote Convention, which calls for specially equipped rooms, video recording of the interview and specialists trained in child-friendly interviewing.

The 2015 survey by the NGO Coalition Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children evaluated the implementation of provisions contained in the EU Directive, revealing that member states have introduced new measures or adjusted their legislation to comply with it. According to this survey, most EU countries have established special premises for interviewing children and adopted provisions to ensure that interviews are conducted by or through a trained professional. The appointment of a guardian and audio-visual recording is also envisaged by legislation of most member states. Several common problems, however, exist in relation to existing provisions. In addition to discrepancies based on the age of the victim and the type of offence (adolescents are generally less protected than younger children), the survey pointed out that less attention is devoted to particularly vulnerable children (e.g. unaccompanied minors). Furthermore, implementation was found to vary from country to country, depending on investment in human resources, training, facilities, equipment, etc.⁵¹⁹

Notwithstanding the progress reported in the European region, it is widely acknowledged that access to justice for child victims of sexual exploitation needs to improve. The following concerns were identified as barriers through a survey and subsequent report produced by Child Rights Connect, for which children were consulted about their views on support services:

- **Lack of awareness and child-friendly procedures**
Children are not aware of the full extent of their rights or who to contact to learn about them. Although laws and procedures are in place, there are tangible worries that these are not tailored to fulfil children's rights.
- **Accessibility**
The justice system is not accessible for children, who find it intimidating; moreover children stated that they were distrustful of authorities and lawyers. Children also expressed doubts about institutions' ability to provide support and direction in a patient and appropriate manner. Those most critical and apprehensive about such services are adolescents, who represent the age group most affected by CSEC- and SECTT-related crimes.
- **Discrimination**
Certain groups of children may find access to justice more difficult. This is true for children in detention, those with disabilities or living in poverty and those belonging to minorities. There is a strong correlation between marginalisation and CSEC; minorities are more likely to be victims.
- **Safety and security**
The most commonly cited obstacle to accessing justice was the safety of the child involved or the person speaking on their behalf. Respondents believed that those abusing the children were dangerous or in a position of power that victims felt they could not overcome.⁵²⁰

⁵¹⁹ Couvrer, Ariane, ECPAT Belgium (2015), "Assistance, Support and Protection Measures for Child Victims" (presentation delivered at the "Together against Sexual Exploitation of Children" workshop, Brussels, Belgium, 24 April 2015).

⁵²⁰ Child Rig

Good practice: the Children's House Model

In an effort to prevent secondary victimization of children exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation, during the last decade special cooperation units of Barnahus (Children's Home) were established in a number of European countries, including Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Involving police, public prosecutors, forensic doctors, social workers and child psychologists, the Children's House is a cooperative initiative aimed at providing child victims with one place to go for legal and other support services.

With the Barnahus model, representatives from different authorities cooperate to investigate the crime against the child and the child's need for protection and support. The child does not need to talk about painful experiences several times to different people, in different places. Generally, in Barnahus a police officer specially trained to speak with children handles the interview and other professionals can follow the conversation from another room through an earpiece or on a TV screen. The Children's House Model is considered as an example of good practice because it contributes to reducing hardship during criminal proceedings, while also ensuring that children receive comprehensive support services.⁵²¹

Support Services for Victims of SECTT

The needs of children who have been commercially sexually exploited, including through travel and tourism, are many and complex. Apart from immediate care to help the child overcome the abuse, it is also critical that children receive help with reintegrating into their families and communities. Support services must be tailored to meet the special needs of child victims of sexual exploitation; they should also be coordinated, sustained and delivered by highly trained and skilled professionals.

The social and economic context across European countries varies considerably and with it the type of responses, resources, structures and systems in place. A 2008 study identified three distinct patterns of care and protection of child victims of sexual exploitation within Europe, as detailed below.⁵²²

In Western Europe, support services are relatively well developed and comprehensive, with a range of options for care delivery and defined protection systems. Assistance is provided by both states and civil society, typically with some level of monitoring by government agencies. While some dedicated programmes for commercially sexually exploited children can be seen as

good practices (see examples in Annex 10), in general support tends to be unspecialised and delivered under the general umbrella of each country's mechanism or scheme to address sexual abuse or domestic violence against women and children.⁵²³

In Eastern Europe, service provision and resources for care and protection appear to be less available. Whilst structures and procedures are gradually evolving to develop alternatives for care (such as family based/ foster care and enhanced protection systems), there are fewer care choices and fewer possibilities for support and reintegration, leaving child survivors at higher risk of being re-victimised.⁵²⁴

The situation in the CIS is even more worrisome, with CSEC being a relatively newly acknowledged and emerging issue. Although a process of de-institutionalisation and transformation of residential care institutions is currently taking place, a persisting legacy of institutional care (usually in large-scale orphanages and boarding schools⁵²⁵), compounded by limited understanding of the needs of children and few resources to meet those needs, means that children are generally not afforded the care and protection necessary to support their recovery and reintegration.⁵²⁶

⁵²¹ Guðbrandsson, Bragi (2011), "Towards a Child-Friendly Justice and Support for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse", in *Protecting Children from Sexual Violence – A Comprehensive Approach*, 91-93, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/Source/PublicationSexualViolence/Gudbrandsson.pdf>

⁵²² Stephanie Delaney (2008), "Guide to Visiting Children's Care Projects & Schemes: Making sense of what you see and hear", (Bangkok: ECPAT International), 15, accessed 14 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Guide_visiting_Schemes.pdf.

⁵²³ Ibid.

⁵²⁴ Ibid.

⁵²⁵ In the former Soviet Union boarding schools were introduced; these sometimes are known as Internat-schools. They varied in their organization. Some schools were associated with orphanages after which all children enrolled in Internat-school automatically. Also, separate boarding schools were established for children with special needs (schools for blind, for deaf and other. In post-soviet countries, the concept of boarding school differs from country to country.

⁵²⁶ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States", 40-41.

Child victims of sexual exploitation through travel and tourism require a range of specialised support services, including housing, basic material assistance, health care, professional psychological services, education and training, self-esteem and confidence-building programmes and family support. If they have been trafficked, additional layers of support may be required, such as: translation services, family tracing, risk and security assessments of the home and organising support in the country of origin and specialised legal support, including for acquiring essential documentation.

Although there may be differences across European countries in terms of service provision, assistance is generally not accessible to all child victims of sexual exploitation in the region, and the few services available are generally located in capital cities. It has also been noted that many specialist services are established to meet the needs of the “typical” victim, and thus not always able to respond to the diverse needs of children from diverse backgrounds and with different experiences. Furthermore, concerns remain over the sustainability of services, which are often funded by the voluntary sector, as well as the lack of trained staff within both government and non-government agencies responsible for the implementation of these programs. Failure to systematically and rigorously monitor and evaluate current interventions, a lack of longitudinal outcome studies and absence of children’s voices constitute additional challenges that make it difficult to assess the quality of services delivered.⁵²⁷

A review of ECPAT Country Monitoring Reports on CSEC in Europe shows that another area of particular concern is the sexual exploitation of boys. The abuse of males is often not perceived as a problem, and there are many social and cultural barriers and gender constructions (as described in section on “Social Norms”) that need to be addressed and questioned in order for people to recognise this as abuse. Across the whole region, the sole focus on girls by government agencies, donors and international organisations usually leaves male survivors ignored, neglected and isolated. Apart from a dearth of

gender-specific support services, there is also a general lack of specialised support services for LGBT youth and children abused online, as well as a dearth of specialised treatment for sex offenders, including adolescents.⁵²⁸

Although sexually exploited children and young people in Europe continue to face numerous obstacles in enjoying their right to recovery and reintegration, some good practice examples deserve mention. However, with few exceptions the promising initiatives that emerged in recent years focused primarily on assistance to child victims of trafficking, with limited attention devoted to survivors of sexual exploitation. This is of particular concern since several Eastern European countries have become TCSO destinations.

Engaging Children and Youth to Combat SECCT

European institutions have stressed the importance of child and youth participation (CYP) in several legal instruments and policy documents. A number of Council of Europe recommendations encourage member states to ensure meaningful involvement by children and young people. Article 9 of Lanzarote Convention requires states parties to encourage the participation of children, according to their evolving capacity, in developing and implementing state policies and other initiatives in the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.⁵²⁹ The EU has also expressed clear commitment to children’s participation, including in the Charter of Fundamental Rights article 24, the Commission Communication “Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child” and the “EU Agenda on the Rights of the Child”. Both the EU and CoE have supported child participation in relevant programmes and activities (e.g., the EU Safer Internet Programme and the CoE “One in Five” campaign). In CIS countries, youth representation at the regional level also appears to have increased over the years. For example, in 2012 the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations decided to establish a Youth Inter-Parliamentary Assembly to engage young parliamentarians and youth leaders in efforts to promote cross-country cooperation.⁵³⁰

⁵²⁷ Cody, Claire (2011), “Recovery services for child victims of sexual violence and their families – What can be offered?”, in *Protecting Children from Sexual Violence –A Comprehensive Approach* (Strasbourg: Council of Europe), 209-210, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/Source/PublicationSexualViolence/Cody.pdf>

⁵²⁸ *Ibid.*, 45.

⁵²⁹ “The concept of the ‘evolving capacities’ of the child was introduced by the CRC. Article 5 of the Convention states that direction and guidance, provided by parents or others with responsibility for the child, must take into account the capacities of the child to exercise rights on his or her own behalf. This principle – new in international law – has profound implications for the human rights of the child. It establishes that as children acquire enhanced competencies, there is a reduced need for direction and a greater capacity to take responsibility for decisions affecting their lives. The Convention recognises that children in different environments and cultures who are faced with diverse life experiences will acquire competencies at different ages, and their acquisition of competencies will vary according to circumstances. It also allows for the fact that children’s capacities can differ according to the nature of the rights to be exercised. Children, therefore, require varying degrees of protection, participation and opportunity for autonomous decision-making in different contexts and across different areas of decision-making.” Lansdown, Gerison, (UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre)(2005), “The evolving capacities of the child”, 3, accessed 30 June 2015, <http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/evolving-eng.pdf>

⁵³⁰ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Europe. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society”, 46.

Some national-level initiatives to allow children and youth to participate in decision-making have been promoted through the creation of youth parliaments, youth councils and similar platforms. Nevertheless, there is still a persistent absence of efforts to create opportunities for children to influence and access decision-making processes.⁵³¹

NGOs play a key role in promoting and facilitating meaningful CYP in dialogue relating to the formulation of new legislation, strategic plans and policy documents, as well as in the preparation of monitoring reports relating to the CRC and the OPSC. For example, the Youth Advisory Committee of ECPAT Austria was actively involved in developing the Alternative Report on the implementation of the OPSC.⁵³² In Germany, children and youth participated in working groups and preparatory conferences for the development of the 2011 Plan of Action for the Protection of Children and Teenagers from Sexual Violence and Exploitation.⁵³³ Again, despite these promising examples, participation by children and youth in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies affecting their lives remains insufficient across all countries in the region.

In relation to programmes and projects addressing all manifestations of CSEC, including SECTT, there appears to be a general lack of government support for initiatives involving children and youth. Although the peer-to-peer approach has been increasingly recognised as a powerful tool to empower children to protect themselves from sexual exploitation, funding to organisations involved in building youth self-esteem and leadership skills, and more generally in CSEC prevention, remains limited. The few actions involving direct and meaningful participation by children and young people were carried out by NGOs, especially the youth sections of ECPAT groups (e.g. ECPAT Germany, ECPAT Austria, ECPAT UK, member organizations in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, etc.).⁵³⁴

A particularly successful initiative is the Youth Partnership Programme for Child Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (YPP) implemented between 2009 and 2011 in Moldova, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. This programme sought to engage both survivors of CSEC and those most at-risk of sexual exploitation in empowerment

and life-skills training, with a view to developing a team of peer supporters who can provide direct support and initiate campaigns and projects to combat child trafficking and child sexual abuse and exploitation. Many follow-on actions stemming from the YPP initiative have been reported across the region.⁵³⁵

Germany, Austria and Ukraine provide good examples of national efforts to engage children and young people in efforts to combat SECTT. In Germany, young people active in the national ECPAT group played an active role in sensitising staff of tourism offices on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, including calling for their involvement in preventing and counteracting it. They also organised a show at an airport to raise awareness of the issue on the day commemorating the fight against CSEC.⁵³⁶ In Austria, specialised peer-to-peer workshops on SECTT were delivered by the Youth Advisory Council of ECPAT Austria.⁵³⁷ In Ukraine, as a part of the micro-project “Children against Child Sex Tourism,” a Kyiv municipal institution worked with child rights NGOs to organise the youth festival “Kyiv Youth – Holiday of Smiles” in the city’s central park. During this event a representative of the YPP Ukraine team raised awareness about SECTT among 206 participants, including youth, children, and their parents. Around 3,000 youth and children, with their parents, participated in the festival. In the framework of the YPP, several activities against SECTT were also organised in Odessa and Simferopol, including two training sessions delivered to some 40 children and young people.⁵³⁸

Child and youth participation is essential to any strategy to address SECTT and is also an important component of successful recovery and rehabilitation processes. Several initiatives designed and implemented by ECPAT show that the level of re-victimisation significantly decreases if children have a voice in decision-making and developing a reintegration plan.⁵³⁹ The participation of CSEC survivors and young people and children is particularly important as it helps build their sense of resilience and empowerment, while at the same time promoting social mobilisation to fight against sexual violence and exploitation. Nevertheless, their meaningful involvement requires robust child protection policies and

⁵³¹ Save the Children, “The European Union and Child Participation”, December 2011, accessed 16 June 2015, <http://resourcecentre.savethechildren.se/sites/default/files/documents/5750.pdf>

⁵³² ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Austria (2nd Edition)”, 45.

⁵³³ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Germany (2nd Edition)”, 18.

⁵³⁴ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States”, 44.

⁵³⁵ Examples can be found in ECPAT International and young people. Youth Journal. Youth Partnership Programme. Empowering child survivors and at-risk youth against commercial sexual exploitation, (2012).

⁵³⁶ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Germany (2nd Edition)”, 43.

⁵³⁷ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Austria (2nd Edition)”, 56.

⁵³⁸ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Ukraine”, 29, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_UKRAINE.pdf

procedures as well as a clear responsibility to address the consequences, follow-up and obligations that such participation entails.

Regrettably, CYP in programmes to tackle SECTT and other forms of CSEC in Europe remains negligible. In addition to the low investment of public funds, other barriers must be overcome to ensure the meaningful involvement of children and youth including: a) ongoing lack of awareness among policymakers on participatory methodologies and best practices for working with children; b) lack of trained personnel to empower children and youth to participate; c) limited participation by most vulnerable children and SECTT survivors in current programmes; and d) lack of child-friendly information for children at risk of, or affected by, SECTT, which limits their ability to exercise their rights, protect themselves and access assistance.⁵⁴⁰

CONCLUSION

Since the First World Congress against CSEC in Stockholm, work to address SECTT has been taking place unceasingly both within Europe and beyond, and – with the active engagement of sections of the travel and tourism and civil society organisations – has often proved ground-breaking. Many of the actions initiated over the past two decades clearly point to gradual progress and underline the need to intensify anti-SECTT initiatives. European institutions such as the EU, CoE and OSCE have played a vital role in addressing SECTT by adopting relevant legal and policy instruments to enhance child protection from this violation and by developing successful programmes and law enforcement initiatives. However they have not put enough pressure on participating states to ensure that they prioritise actions against SECTT and can be held accountable to their obligations and commitments. Not surprisingly, most European countries are lagging behind in the implementation of regional legal instruments relevant for tackling SECTT.

International actions to improve law enforcement and cross-border cooperation, including through the adoption of bilateral agreements and creation of police liaison officers, have intensified, but information exchange among countries for the purpose of investigation and prosecution remains a major challenge. It appears that although embassies and civil society organisations in countries of destination are best placed to provide support in the fight against SECTT, they represent a resource yet to be fully used.

In most European countries only limited efforts have been undertaken to address SECTT through specialised plans of action and NPAs on human trafficking, violence against children, children's rights and other issues adopted in recent years, which have not mainstreamed measures against SECTT. Isolated and uncoordinated actions cannot keep pace with the globalised and rapidly evolving operations of perpetrators of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Involvement in actions against SECTT by key actors – such as some segments of the travel and tourism industry, communities, civil society organisations, health providers, children and young people, particularly most vulnerable groups and survivors – has been marginal. In terms of legislation, reforms have been promoted in several countries but no European state has a comprehensive legal framework to address SECTT. Limited law enforcement due to numerous obstacles also affects all countries in the region, leaving perpetrators free to continue their abuse. Prevention work has been conducted, often successfully and particularly in Western European countries of origin for SECTT. Most efforts revolved around awareness-raising, capacity building and preventing (re)offending, while interventions to tackle the vulnerabilities that put children at risk are either lacking or insufficient. Of particular concern in this framework is the absence of initiatives involving communities and scanty private sector engagement and application of corporate social responsibility. In terms of child protection, the lack of specialised care and child-friendly justice for child and adolescent victims of SECTT constitutes a major challenge that must be urgently addressed.

As this chapter clearly shows, SECTT is by no means – and can no longer be considered – a closed and isolated criminal system that can be combated with specific tools, independently of other forms of exploitation or irrespective of types of exploiters. SECTT needs to be viewed through the lens of the multiple links connecting it to other forms of CSEC to identify effective responses. For governments and other actors combating SECTT in Europe, a raft of targeted measures has been identified and – given the political will to make the necessary resources available – is within reach.

⁵⁴⁰ See, for example, ECPAT Netherlands (2013). "Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism: Capacity building and awareness raising activities in Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, Gambia and Dominican Republic", accessed 16 October 2014, www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf

CHAPTER 5

RECOMMENDATIONS

This analysis shows that European countries are failing to prevent and counteract SECTT and to protect vulnerable and affected children. The alarming scope of SECTT in the region and its increasing and evolving complexity demand more appropriate and fine-tuned responses at all levels. The 22 recommendations below seek to provide guidance for revitalising efforts against this scourge. The recommendations cover the areas of: legal frameworks and policy, programmes, research and corporate social responsibility. They were developed recognising that SECTT requires engagement on the part of all sectors and key actors, including governments, civil society, the private sector and children and young people.

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Regional and International level

Advocating for Full Ratification of International and Regional Instruments Relevant to Combatting SECTT and holding states accountable for their obligations

To demonstrate their commitment to combat SECTT, European countries that have not yet done so must urgently ratify the following international and regional treaties:

- Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure
- CoE Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention)
- CoE Convention on Cybercrime
- CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

In order to hold states accountable, Governments' efforts to comply with their regional and international legal obligations should be effectively and constantly monitored by responsible bodies. With regard to SECTT, the Committee on the Rights of the Child - which is responsible for reviewing the state party reports with

respect to compliance with the CRC, its Optional Protocols, and other relevant conventions and treaties, should evaluate whether a country is taking actions to tackle this crime and propose specific recommendations to address remaining gaps in accordance with international standards. It is critical that NGOs and children and young people, including survivors, take part in monitoring government actions through the submission of alternative reports to relevant treaty bodies and by utilising all existing mechanisms which allow for their participation.

At the regional level, further strengthening of the monitoring function of the Lanzarote Committee is needed. The current monitoring procedure, through questionnaires and state reports, has limitations and weaknesses. In light of the success achieved by GRETA in overseeing the implementation of the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, it is recommended that a similar mechanism - which envisages the possibility of organising visits in states parties - be adopted by the Lanzarote Committee.

Mechanisms should also be developed to facilitate the full implementation of EU Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography. The European Commission should consider adopting a comprehensive strategy to guide EU member states in implementing its provisions, establish an EU mechanism dedicated to monitoring the transposition process and create a system allowing civil society organisations to provide the Commission with implementation reports.⁵⁴¹

Advocating for renewed and sustained commitment against SECTT within existing regional mechanisms and expanding opportunities for strengthening international cooperation

To keep the issue of SECTT high on the regional political agenda, the EU should revitalize actions against SECTT. For example, the European Commission may consider adopting a specific recommendation on addressing SECTT, suggesting proactive actions to member states and calling for renewed and sustained commitment against this crime.

⁵⁴¹ ECPAT International (2014), "Submission on behalf of ECPAT International to the Public Consultation of the European Commission Directorate General for Home Affairs. Contribution to the European Commission's New Agenda for Home Affairs", 7, accessed 28 October 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/public-consultation/2013/pdf/0027/organisations/ecpat-international-statement-eu-public-consultation-dg-home-affairs-012014_en.pdf

Building on the positive outcomes of the “Don’t look away” campaign and similar initiatives, the EU could also organise multi-stakeholder campaigns to promote sustained awareness of the issue, deter potential child sex offenders and encourage reporting of incidents of child sex abuse and exploitation to hotlines in European countries and the platform www.reportchildsextourism.eu. The EU should continue to provide financial aid to projects and initiatives to tackle SECTT in Europe and in countries of destination of European TCSOs outside the region, with special consideration for programmes aimed at poverty reduction, improving education and increasing the scope and reach of social and child protection schemes.

To facilitate identification of high risk child sex offenders travelling within its borders, the EU should speed up the adoption of the PNR Directive, ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect passengers’ privacy.

The Council of Europe should continue to support actions to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation through initiatives like the “One in Five” campaign. In this framework, the recent decision of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE to celebrate each year on 18 November a European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,⁵⁴² represents an important opportunity for civil society organisations to push for a permanent action against SECTT and all kinds of sexual offences against children.

European countries should explore all possible opportunities for establishing new partnerships across borders and build on ongoing global efforts to enhance the focus on SECTT. For example, given the linkages between SECTT, the use of ICT and online offending, the European Commission could advocate within the Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online for more attention to the issue of travelling child sex offenders (see also recommendation 9 for more international initiatives that can be used).

Country level

Adopting comprehensive legislation against SECTT

Since no European state has comprehensive legislation to prevent and counteract SECTT, the adoption and implementation of SECTT-specific laws is a necessary precondition for enhancing prosecution of offenders and ensuring protection of children and young people.

At EU level, Member States should speed up efforts to harmonise their legislation with the Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography which contains specific provisions that are relevant for combatting SECTT.⁵⁴³

All European countries should enact progressive legal frameworks that comprehensively address this crime. Legislation from Australia and Colombia offer valuable good practice models,⁵⁴⁴ as do Italy, Netherlands and UKs new laws (see section on “Legislation” for more details).

Extraterritorial legislation and extradition

European countries should urgently review their extraterritoriality legislation. Legal reform in this area should, in particular, be aimed at: a) abolishing the double criminality requirement for all CSEC offences; b) extending extraterritorial jurisdiction to all CSEC crimes and abolishing any other formal restrictions to its application; c) applying extraterritoriality to citizens, residents and legal persons; and d) abolishing the prerequisite of a victim’s complain to initiate prosecution. Given that prosecution of offenders in the country where the offence took place has proved a much more effective strategy to ensure success, it is essential that European countries also engage to remove all existing barriers that hinder extradition for CSEC offences. They should also conclude more bilateral and multilateral treaties aimed specifically at combating SECTT, particularly with countries of destination of European travelling child sex offenders outside the region.

⁵⁴² Council of Europe, “European Day on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse”, accessed from http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/1in5/News/EuropeanDaySexualAbuse_en.asp

⁵⁴³ More specifically, the Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography requires that member states “take appropriate measures to prevent or prohibit: (a) the dissemination of material advertising the opportunity to commit” CSEC offences, b) the organisation for others, whether or not for commercial purposes, of travel arrangements with the purpose of committing” such offences.

⁵⁴⁴ ECPAT International (2012), “Protection and the OPSC: Justifying Good Practice Laws to Protect Children From Sexual Exploitation”, Journal Series 2 (April 2012), 13, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/ecpat_journal_apr2012_final.pdf Australian legislation makes it an offence to prepare to commit a prohibited act of SECTT, as well as encouraging, benefiting, grooming, and procuring. Colombian legislation includes the following provisions: a) establishing an obligation for tourist services providers to adopt commitments or codes of conduct for the protection of children against all forms of exploitation; b) creating a duty for hotels or lodging establishments to inform customers and employees about the legal consequences of the exploitation and sexual abuse of minors in the country; and c) obliging air lines as well as travel and tourism agencies (and not only tour operators as it happens in Italy) to inform customers about the existence of legislation against SECTT.

Adopt legal measures to stop repeat offenders and improve information exchange

When refining legislation against SECTT, it is critical that European countries adopt a range of additional proactive and preventative measures to ensure that it becomes more difficult for former perpetrators of child sexual abuse and exploitation to commit new offences abroad. Sex offender registries, obligatory travel notifications, controls over passports, travel bans, or close supervision should be considered.⁵⁴⁵ More resources should also be allocated to law enforcement agencies so that they can efficiently monitor, supervise and track offenders, to prevent them from going missing.

To prevent offenders from working in child-contact professions, all European countries should consider making background checks compulsory (as envisioned by the Lanzarote Convention) and extending it to both professional and voluntary activities. Disqualification should be permanent, linked to convictions (i.e., not discretionary) and be applicable/valid in all countries.

Good practice models, such as International Child Protection Certificates in the UK, should be replicated in other European countries. In collaboration with civil society organisations, actions must be undertaken in destinations for travelling child sex offenders to raise awareness about the existence of this tool and increase its use by all institutions working with children. At the EU level, the possibility of developing a EU Child Protection Certificate should be explored by the European Commission.

European states should bolster efforts to improve and speed up information exchange on suspected persons, criminal convictions and disqualifications with other countries. Within the EU, the use of existing databases such as Schengen Information System (SIS II), ECRIS and EIS should be further increased and accelerated. Considering that Europol is currently developing and testing a European shared data system on child sexual offenders (Recording Europeans Abusing Victims in Every Nation - RAVEN), use and contribution by EU member states and third countries to this information system need to be expanded and sustained.

Strengthening national laws on CSEC offences associated with SECTT

Legal reform should be urgently undertaken to ensure full harmonisation of domestic legislation with ratified regional and international instruments. Within the EU, Member States must accelerate the incorporation into national legal frameworks of the provisions of directives

on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.

It is of the utmost importance that all children up to 18 years of age be protected from all CSEC offences and explicitly recognised as victims of these crimes, instead of being treated as offenders for acts they were forced to commit. Considering that some minors are involved in SECTT as perpetrators, it is also crucial that legislation ensures compliance with the principle that depriving children of liberty should be pursued only as a measure of last resort.

Intensifying law enforcement, including through stronger international collaboration

Given the generally low numbers of travelling child sex offenders brought to justice across the region, intensifying law enforcement efforts is an urgent priority for European countries. Measures that European governments should take include:

- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcers and the judiciary to counteract this crime
- Ensuring that law enforcers and the judiciary have sufficient resources to overcome the challenges of cross-border cases
- Establishing specialized police units to investigate and counteract transnational child sex offences, if they do not exist
- Ensuring regular monitoring of tourist areas, travel agencies, the Internet, sex establishments and any other locations where child sexual exploitation may take place
- Expanding the presence of liaison officers in countries of destination of European TCSOs in and outside Europe, and exploring the possibility of establishing “clusters” of EU liaison officers to strengthen investigation and information sharing on child sex offenders travelling within the EU
- Creating an international platform, for example in the framework of The #We PROTECT Children Online initiative, to enhance law enforcement cooperation among participating countries particularly on the issue of SECTT
- Using the EU Joint Investigation Teams to specifically investigate and prosecute SECTT cases
- Establishing efficient mechanisms to fight corruption
- Increasing the use of Interpol’s “Green notice” and countries’ contribution to Interpol’s ICSE database
- Enhancing cooperation with civil society organisations in countries of destination

⁵⁴⁵ Terre des Hommes, “Tipping the Scales. Recommendations for a Better Balance in Combating Child Sex Tourism”, 40-41.

- Strengthening efforts and devising new mechanisms and strategies to detect and prosecute situational offenders
- Increasing the use of Europol and Eurojust's channels for greater information exchange and improved assistance in the investigation and prosecution of SECTT in EU states.

Establishing and enhancing access to child-friendly justice for children and adolescents involved in sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

It is imperative that European countries incorporate key provisions related to the rights of child victims of sexual exploitation, as enshrined in the CRC, the OPSC, and the two 2011 EU Directives into their national legal frameworks.

Adopting NPAs with components on SECTT and ensuring their effective implementation

The recent experience of the Netherlands shows that where a specific NPA against SECTT exists, efforts to tackle this crime are amplified. Building on this positive example, European countries should adopt NPAs that prioritize CSEC and include strong, comprehensive measures to address SECTT, and should also allocate adequate resources for their effective implementation. Civil society organisations should engage, directly or indirectly, to support the development, revision, implementation and monitoring of NPAs that tackle SECTT through their advocacy work and other local activities and programmes in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

Integrating child protection from sexual exploitation in tourism development schemes and policies

It is vital that tourism development be tackled more holistically and with regard for the right of children and adolescents to be safeguarded from sexual abuse and exploitation. In addition to signifying a change of tack for well-established tourism spots in Europe, this should also apply to emerging destinations in the region. Governments, through the Ministries of Tourism or other responsible government departments, must prioritize the design and implementation of socially responsible strategies that promote equitable development and child protection, ensuring clear requirements on the private sector. Existing policy and regulatory frameworks on tourism development should also be reviewed to respond to new challenges posed by recent transformations of the sector, including the growth of the sharing economy and its potential impact on the youngest and most vulnerable elements of society. In collaboration with civil society organisations and private sector, National Tourism Authorities should develop regulatory, educational and communication measures to prevent and control the use of the local tourism industry by TCSOs.

Establishing mechanisms to Coordinate National SECTT-Related Actions

Since SECTT is not directly addressed in most child protection coordinating mechanisms established by European countries, it is recommended that countries form multi-stakeholder working groups or roundtables to promote actions against SECTT, facilitate information exchange and keep key actors engaged. These coordinating structures must be sustained over time and involve all relevant sectors, including among other tourism departments and authorities, law enforcement agencies, the tourism, travel and ICT industry, civil society organizations, and, where possible, children and young people.

PROGRAMMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Prevention

Strengthening awareness raising, education and training

Governments, in collaboration with civil society organisations and the private sector, should bolster additional efforts to raise awareness of SECTT in both countries of origin and destination and at the regional, national and local levels. The range of stakeholder groups to be targeted includes government officials, vulnerable children and communities, religious leaders, health services, schools, embassies, business/work travellers, tourists, the general public; and the travel, tourism and ICT industries. Ideally, such initiatives should be preceded by research aimed at identifying high-risk locations, most vulnerable children and communities, specific needs of target groups and the most effective awareness-raising strategies.

Given that a proportion of children vulnerable to SECTT are in school, governments should ensure that the issue of SECTT, child protection from online risks and education to a responsible and safe sexuality, be systematically incorporated in the curricula of primary and secondary schools or in other school-based prevention programmes. In addition to activities targeting students from all types of schools, more efforts should also be promoted to ensure sustained education of future tourism professionals about SECTT and their role in combating it.

Educational and awareness raising initiatives on SECTT should also target children and communities most exposed to this violation in order to enhance resilience mechanisms, reduce social tolerance of this crime and generate a shift in social norms and practices which put children at risk.

Training is required for front-line staff responsible for child protection and those involved in the travel and

tourism and ICT industries to address the rapidly evolving modalities of SECTT. Capacity building should be integrated into a broader children's rights framework and examine the linkages between SECTT and other CSEC offences and violations. Considering that there is a high staff turnover (particularly but only within national and local authorities), it is important that training be sustained over time. A good way of mainstreaming training and ensuring that the learning is passed on to others and is repeated, is by training some staff to be future trainers and using online training tools such as ECPAT's free e-learning course for tourism professionals (available at www.childprotection-tourism.org). Besides conducting capacity building for specific target groups (such as the tourism industry), it is important to further expand multi-stakeholder training which has proved particularly successful in enhancing detection of victims and offenders of SECTT, increasing prosecution, improving assistance and strengthening coordination.

Engaging with men and boys in efforts to prevent SECTT

In addition to measures targeting preferential abusers (Recommendation 7), it is critical that attitudes and behaviours be re-oriented and changed by involving men and boys in questioning their perceptions of masculinities as well as the social norms and cultural constructions that create tolerance for the sexual exploitation of children. A recent publication by ECPAT Luxembourg and ECPAT France identified a number of creative ways and good practice models that civil society organisations can employ to engage with men and boys in the combat against CSEC.⁵⁴⁶

Addressing root causes and strengthening child protection systems

It is critical that actions to improve the status of children most vulnerable to SECTT be prioritised by European countries, particularly preferred destinations for TCSOs. Measures that states might consider adopting include: a) programmes to keep children in school or to provide them with informal education; b) vocational training, job counselling and employment for youth; c) initiatives to prevent domestic abuse; d) livelihood strategies, employment and conditional/unconditional cash transfers to reduce family's vulnerability; and e) programmes addressing exclusion and discrimination, including gender discrimination and gender-based violence and to prevent and stop child, early and forced marriage. Targeted

actions for children from minority communities, especially Roma children, are of utmost importance, along with other children identified in this report as being at high-risk for sexual exploitation through travel and tourism.

Within the EU, member states should speed up implementation of the 2013 recommendation by the 2013 European Commission on Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage. A recent evaluation of its application provides useful guidelines.⁵⁴⁷

A recent mapping of child protection systems in the EU identified a number of common challenges.⁵⁴⁸ It is strongly recommended that all European governments engage to strengthen child protection systems at the regional, national and local levels, which should include specific measures and components to ensure prevention of CSEC and SECTT.

Establishing, maintaining and strengthening SECTT reporting mechanisms

To increase reporting of SECTT, several European countries have established specific reporting mechanisms and joined the European platform www.reportchildsextourism.eu. It is important that the EU, governments, private sector and other donors allocate sufficient resources for the continuous functioning of these tools.

Civil society organisations and other actors running the hotlines should enhance reporting, monitoring and evaluation of these mechanisms while also taking steps to address other remaining gaps that appear to reduce their effectiveness and limit their use. In this framework, future actions that could be promoted include: a) extending the possibility of anonymous reporting where this is not envisaged; b) simplifying reporting procedures but ensuring that reporting forms include enough information for the police to open a case; c) increasing efforts to raise awareness about the existence of the hotlines (e.g. through ad hoc campaigns, featuring a link to the reporting hotline on websites of online travel booking services or other travel and tourism actors); d) allocating resources for staff training; e) speeding up follow-up to reports; and f) linking reporting hotlines on SECTT with helplines for children and youth involved in sexual exploitation as well as for potential offenders (where they exist).

⁵⁴⁶ Hoyaux, Isabelle and Chabbert, Pauline (2014), "Involving men and boys in the combat against child sexual exploitation: a review of good practices" (ECPAT France and ECPAT Luxembourg), accessed 14 November 2015, http://www.ecpat.lu/sites/default/files/resources/ECPAT-RE_VUE_EN.pdf.

⁵⁴⁷ EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion (2014), "Investing in children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage. A study of national policies", 19-20, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1025&langId=it&newsId=2061&moreDocuMents=yes&tableName=news>

⁵⁴⁸ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, "Mapping child protection systems in the EU", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/data-and-maps/comparative-data/child-protection>

The use of innovative ICT-based reporting mechanisms, such as that pioneered successfully in Sweden, should be further expanded.

Mainstreaming child and youth participation in policy-making and efforts against SECTT

To ensure that the voice of children and youth is heard by decision-makers and others responsible for their protection, it is crucial that European governments not only establish processes and structures to institutionalise meaningful child and youth participation in developing policies and programmes that affect them, but also support efforts to build the capacity of children and youth to be advocates for themselves. Systematic efforts, including by civil society organisations, are necessary to ensure that boys and girls, especially those at high risk for SECTT, are involved in preventive and other efforts.

Response

Specialised Care for Victims of SECTT

It is essential that EU member states accelerate the incorporation into their national legal frameworks of the EU Directives related to child trafficking and pornography, both of which envisage measures to assist and support victims of child sexual exploitation, which includes SECTT victims.

Across the region, European governments should ensure that support services be provided by trained professionals and tailored to meet the immediate and long-term needs of each individual child victim. Support schemes should consistently differentiate between girl and boy children, making sure that the latter are not overlooked, and should also be culturally-sensitive and ensure that groups of children that have so far been neglected (e.g. LGBT and children victimised through the use of ICT) receive specialist services. European governments should place particular emphasis on victims' identification and referral as well as on strengthening the adoption of proactive identification methods and child-sensitive approaches when conducting training for professionals that may come into contact with potential child victims. Civil society organisations, schools and health services play a pivotal role in identifying potential child victims and therefore should be actively involved in this process. Efforts are also required to improve functioning of and access by SECTT survivors to existing child helplines/hotlines.

Programmes providing specialised treatment to potential or convicted child sex offenders, including adolescents who sexually offend, should be further developed and expanded. Some promising practices exist in countries such as Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and UK, which can inspire others.

Research and Data Collection

Expanding the knowledge base on SECTT and conducting monitoring and evaluations

Overcoming the current lack of rigorous data and knowledge on all aspects of SECTT should be a priority, in Europe and elsewhere. This desk study has identified a number of areas that should receive more attention in future research by governments, civil society, private sector, academics and other actors; these include:

- Analysing the scope and incidence of SECTT, particularly in emerging countries of origin and destination, and identifying specific locations where it occurs, with a view to understanding recent trends
- Examining the characteristics of child victims, their perception and experience of SECTT, factors leading them into sexual exploitation or helping to increase their resilience, and their views on the most appropriate solutions
- Investigating how the modus operandi of child sex offenders has evolved in recent years and improving understanding of the prevalence of SECTT in relation to volun-tourism, hen and stag parties, business travel, sport events, child marriage, adoption and other emerging trends.
- More attention should be paid to situational offenders and factors that might discourage them from engaging in opportunistic criminal activity
- Analysing aspects that have so far been neglected in research, such as women engaging in SECTT, the sexual exploitation of adolescents within the tourism and hospitality sector, boys involvement in SECTT both as victims and offenders, demand for LGBT as sexual partners, the impact of the sharing economy on SECTT and the nexus of domestic demand and SECTT;
- Enhancing understanding of the use of ICTs, online offending and how it is linked to SECTT; more attention should also be paid to the phenomena of "sexting", transactional sex, peer-to-peer exploitation and its correlation with SECTT
- Deepening understanding of risks and protective social norms at the base of SECTT. This will be particularly helpful for the design of community-level prevention interventions.

In addition, European countries should ensure that the impact of interventions undertaken is carefully monitored and evaluated, including through feedback from children.

SECTT data collection systems

Standardised, centralised information-gathering systems capable of disaggregating data (by gender, age, nationality and type of child sex crime committed) should be established by governments to gauge the scope and dimensions of SECTT. As a region that both produces and attracts offenders, data-gathering efforts in Europe should seek to create solid information on children and youth affected and crimes committed by Europeans,

both at home and abroad, as well as on the modalities of SECTT in each country. Safeguards must be put in place to ensure that this sensitive data is duly protected and is used only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and assistance.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Establishing and strengthening private-sector partnerships to combat SECTT

Greater efforts are needed to consolidate and expand the application of private sector instruments and initiatives; for example, increasing engagement by the travel and tourism industry in emerging countries of destination such as Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

The increasing access to children for sex through unregulated tourism observed in recent years, demands that both the formal and informal tourism sectors be more involved in future efforts. Actors that can play a key role in tackling SECTT when this occurs in an unstructured context include small traders, service providers and intermediaries; taxi drivers and tour guides; and staff at guesthouses, restaurants, bars and vendors. Stronger commitment is also necessary on the part airlines, particularly low-cost carriers that may be unwittingly facilitating the movement of TCOSOs in the region.

New alliances should be established with companies providing online booking services, “sharing economy” corporates (such as Airbnb or Uber) and commercial operators specialised in selling new tourism products that may present risks for children, such as volun-tourism or new forms of accommodation (e.g. home stays).

The presence in the offender population of business travellers and highly mobile workers also requires stronger partnership with these businesses and categories of workers, as well as modelling agencies in countries where this modality is used to lure children into SECTT.

Increased collaboration with the ICT industry, cyber cafés and the banking and financial sector should also be forged, as has been done in Sweden; the media and advertising industry represent other potential partners in the fight against SECTT.

Businesses of different types could contribute to prevention, as well as recovery and social reintegration of survivors, by offering vocational training and job opportunities to vulnerable and affected youth. Specific activities that private companies may conduct throughout the supply chain include: informing their customers about the issue of SECTT; adopting and implementing

self-regulatory frameworks; training their personnel to detect and report suspected cases of SECTT; and supporting communities in destination countries, for example by increasing income-generating opportunities.

Adopting and implementing a Zero Tolerance policy against child abuse and exploitation in all businesses

A supply chain 100% free of child trafficking and exploitation should be the goal of every company. Thus it is essential that all companies have a clear and unambiguous child protection policy and practices in place, outlining their commitment to protect children from abuse and exploitation.

Promoting the adoption and implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and similar self-regulatory mechanisms

As the most important industry-driven initiative to address SECTT, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the Code must be further strengthened and extended. Strong collaboration between Code signatories and civil society organisations that act as local code representatives must be established and sustained, with a view to delivering staff training, ensuring monitoring and evaluation and facilitating referral of potential victims.

Tourism authorities and governments of countries of origin and destination must put more pressure on companies to adopt, respect and comply with the Code of Conduct and other similar self-regulatory mechanisms. Should the use of these voluntary tools prove ineffective, governments may need to explore the possibility of introducing specific legal obligations for the tourism industry and other private sector segments responsible for addressing SECTT (e.g. obligation to adopt commitments or codes of conduct for the protection of children against sexual exploitation; duty to report suspected SECTT cases or to inform customers, etc.). In case businesses do not comply with their legal obligations, sanctions should be imposed on violators to demonstrate that unwillingness or inability to act is not tolerated.

Considering that many corporations apply the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines – the most widely used comprehensive sustainability reporting standard in the world, civil society organisations may consider partnering with GRI to ensure that businesses reporting on the implementation of these guidelines do also report on actions to address SECTT.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1.

Questionnaire on SECTT for ECPAT groups in the region

Q.1 Based on current knowledge (research, criminal statistics, media reports, anecdotal evidence, etc.) could you please tell if your country is (you can tick more than option):

- A “traditional/long-affected” country of destination for CSTT (occurring for more than 10 years)
- A “traditional/long-affected” country of origin of CSTT (occurring for more than 10 years)
- An “emerging” country of destination for CSTT (appearing in the last 5-10 years)
- An “emerging” country of origin for CSTT (appearing in the last 5-10 years)
- A potential country of origin or of destination for CSTT (i.e. isolated cases occurring in recent years). Please specify factors contributing to this risk (e.g. tourism development, opening of new routes, etc.).
- Other, namely:

Q.2 Could you please provide any available quantitative information on CSTT in your country? Please specify the source.

- A. Estimation of the number of “child sex tourists” travelling from/to your country (if possible, please specify how this estimation was developed/calculated)
- B. Estimation of the number of children and adolescents involved in CSTT in your country
- C. Criminal statistics (investigations, prosecutions and convictions, including application of extraterritorial legislation)
- D. Data from reporting hotlines
- E. Any other relevant data available

Q.3 If you are a country of origin, could you please illustrate (possibly with literature and evidence): Please specify if there has been any change in recent years (e.g. new destination emerging and why).

- A. The main countries of destination of “child sex tourists”
- B. The main socio-demographic characteristics (age, social class, education, etc.) of “child sex tourists”
- C. The reason behind their trips: 1) Vacation/travelling; 2) Business; 3) “Voluntourism” and orphanage tourism; 4) participation in mega sport events; 5) Other.
- D. Cases of long-term visitors or residents (expats) who sexually abused/exploited children in destination countries (this category may include people who go abroad for work purposes, such as teachers, NGO workers, care workers, migrant workers, etc.; it also includes armed forces, diplomats, deployed overseas staff and members of the Church)

Q.4 If you are a country of destination, could you please illustrate (with literature and evidence):

Please specify if there has been any change in recent years (e.g. new countries of origin emerging, increasing number of domestic business travelers, etc.).

- A. Nationality (i.e. countries of origin) and main socio-demographic characteristics (age, social class, education, etc.) of both “child sex tourists” and children/adolescents involved in CST
- B. Geographic localities/cities where CSTT takes place
- C. Specific places where CSTT occurs. Please specify: 1) Brothels and clubs; 2) beach and on the streets; 3) Hotels and guesthouses; 4) Private/Rented accommodation (apartments, villas, etc.)
- D. The reason behind offenders’ trips: 1) Vacation/travelling; 2) Business; 3) “Voluntourism” and orphanage tourism; 4) participation in mega sport events; 5) Other.
- E. Cases of long-term visitors or residents (expats) who sexually abused/exploited children in your country (this category may include people who go abroad for work purposes, such as teachers, NGO workers, care workers, migrant workers, etc.; it also includes armed forces, diplomats, deployed overseas staff and members of the Church)

Q.5 Could you please provide examples/case studies on CSTT in your country, including on the application of extraterritorial legislation?

Q6. Could you please mention the main initiatives to address CSTT in your country promoted by governments, NGOs, private sector and other actors in the last 10 years in the following areas (describe only those that you feel should be mentioned in the Global Study or that you consider “good practice”)?

- A. Coordination/Cooperation (between ministries, with NGOs, private sector and other actors)
- B. Improvements in the legal framework and access to justice for victims
- C. Prevention (awareness raising, training, education, etc.)
- D. Reporting mechanisms (helplines/hotlines)
- E. Recovery and reintegration of victims and rehabilitation of perpetrators
- F. Other

Q7. What are your key recommendations to strengthen the prevention and counteraction of CSTT in Europe and Central Asia? Please address the following actors:

- A. United Nations
- B. EU and other European Institutions
- C. Your government
- D. The private sector
- E. NGOs and civil society actors
- F. Researchers and media

Q.8 Below is a list of literature which may be relevant for examining CSTT in your country. Is there any other source you want to add (also in your local language)?

Q.9 Could you please confirm that this media article deals with CSTT? If so, could you provide a summary of the content?

ANNEX 2.

Examples of arrests, prosecutions and convictions of TCSOs in European countries where the crime was committed

Country of destination	N. of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for child sex crimes committed by a foreigner in a European country
EU countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 118 notifications concerning convictions of British nationals from 19 EU countries between 27 April 2012 and 31 May 2014 • 79 notifications from all EU countries between 1 January 2010 and 26 April 2012 <p>Source: ACPO Criminal Records Office⁵⁴⁹</p>
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One conviction in 2008⁵⁵⁰ • Two convictions in 2010⁵⁵¹ • One conviction in 2013⁵⁵² <p>Source: Media reports</p>
Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 conviction in 2011⁵⁵³ <p>Source: Media report/ECPAT group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 convictions for SECTT classified under other criminal provisions <p>Source: ECPAT group</p>
Belarus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 arrests in 2008⁵⁵⁴ • 1 Arrest in 2009⁵⁵⁵ <p>Source: Media reports</p>
Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 (Dutch) individuals detained as of August 2014 <p>Source: Dutch Government⁵⁵⁶</p>

⁵⁴⁹ Baroness Doocey (2014), "Offences against Children", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201415/ldhansrd/text/140721w0001.htm>

⁵⁵⁰ Lewis, Paul, "Albanian court finds British paedophile guilty of sexual abuse", Guardian.com, 19 November 2008, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2008/nov/19/david-brown-paedophile-trial-albania>

⁵⁵¹ "January 2010: British pair jailed for Albania orphanage abuse", ukpaedos-exposed.com, 29 April 2012, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://ukpaedos-exposed.com/2012/04/29/dino-christodoulourobin-arnold-blackburncromer/>

⁵⁵² "Tirana: American pedophile sentenced in absence for raping three Albanian children", newsalbania.de, 2 May 2012, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://news.albania.de/2012/11/08/11-jahre-haft-in-abwesenheit-fur-den-paedophilen-amerikaner-carl-stephan-kaminski/>; "Men face extradition over 'abuse'", bbc.co.uk, 10 March 2008, accessed 4 May 2015, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/7287537.stm

⁵⁵³ "U.S.-Armenian Businessman Jailed In Armenia for Pedophilia", rferl.org, 18 November 2011, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.rferl.org/content/american-armenian_bussinessman_jailed_for_pedophilia/24394946.html

⁵⁵⁴ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus", 11, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

⁵⁵⁵ "Citizen of Israel suspected of pedophilia to be kept in detention pending trial", navy.by, 26 May 2009, accessed 4 May 2015, http://naviny.by/rubrics/english/2009/05/26/ic_news_259_311841/

⁵⁵⁶ Information provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cited in the questionnaire by ECPAT Netherlands.

Country of destination	N. of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for child sex crimes committed by a foreigner in a European country
Bulgaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 conviction in 2008⁵⁵⁷ <i>Source: media report</i> • 1 conviction in 2009⁵⁵⁸ <i>Source: U.S. Government</i> • 7 convictions in 2010⁵⁵⁹ <i>Source: U.S. Government</i> • 1 conviction⁵⁶⁰ and 1 investigation⁵⁶¹ in 2012 <i>Source: media report</i> • 1 arrest in 2014⁵⁶² <i>Source: media report</i> • 1 Dutch detained as of August 2014 <i>Source: Dutch Government</i>⁵⁶³
Croatia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 arrest in 2014⁵⁶⁴ <i>Source: media report</i>
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 arrest in 2004⁵⁶⁵ • 4 convictions in 2007⁵⁶⁶ • 1 conviction in 2009⁵⁶⁷ <i>Source: media reports</i>
Estonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cases registered in the last 13 years (as of 2012) <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 (Dutch) individuals detained as of August 2014⁵⁶⁸ <i>Source: Government</i>
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 arrests in 2014⁵⁶⁹ <i>Source: media report and government</i> • 1 Dutch detained as of August 2014 <i>Source: Dutch Government</i>⁵⁷⁰

⁵⁵⁷ "Australian Pedophile Sentenced in Bulgaria's Varna", novinite.com, 12 October 2009, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/108795/Australian+Pedophile+Sentenced+in+Bulgaria%27s+Varna>

⁵⁵⁸ US Department of State (2010), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Bulgaria", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c1884042d.html>

⁵⁵⁹ US Department of State (2011), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Bulgaria", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4e12ee90c.html>

⁵⁶⁰ "Bulgarian Court Orders Permanent Detention for British Pedophile", novinite.com, 2 May 2012, accessed 4 May 2015 from <http://www.novinite.com/articles/138979/Bulgarian+Court+Orders+Permanent+Detention+for+British+Pedophile>

⁵⁶¹ "Finnish Pedophile Busted in Bulgaria", novinite.com, 12 July 2012, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/141200/Finnish+Pedophile+Busted+in+Bulgaria>

⁵⁶² "СърРичардХарпърКралскипотомък, братовчедна С. Сакскобургготски, арестуванзапедофилия в Кюстендил" ("Sir Richard Harper ... arrested for pedophilia in Kyustendil"), Struma.bg, 26 September 2014, <http://struma.bg/news/31590/1/1/Kralski-potomuk-bra-tovched-na-S-Sakskoburggotski-arestuvan-za-pedofiliya-v-Kyustendil.html>;

⁵⁶³ Information provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cited in the questionnaire by ECPAT Netherlands.

⁵⁶⁴ "Uhitiliga: Pedofilusred dana predškoldiraodjevojčicu" ("Pedophile arrested in middle of the day while touching school girl"), 24sata.com, 24 August 2014, accessed 16 October 2014 <http://www.24sata.hr/crna-kronika-news/uhitili-ga-pedofil-usred-dana-pred-skol-om-dirao-djevojcicu-389046>

⁵⁶⁵ "Policiedopadlaněmeckéhopedofila", ("Police arrests German paedophile"), Zpravylidnes, 6 April 2014, accessed 28n October 2015, http://zpravylidnes.cz/policie-dopadla-nemeckeho-pedofila-dt1-/krimi.aspx?c=A040416_130822_krimi_lkr

⁵⁶⁶ Two convictions mentioned in "Němečtipedofilovépůjdoumístovyhoštěnízamříže" ("German pedophiles go to jail instead of being expelled"), Novinky, 30 January 2007, accessed 28n October 2015, <http://www.novinky.cz/krimi/108055-nemecti-pedofilove-pujdou-misto-vy-hosteni-za-mrize.html> and two others in "Soudpotrestalpedofily z modelingovéagentury" ("The court punishes pedophiles from modeling agencies"), Zpravylidnes, 5 February 2007, accessed 28n October 2015, http://zpravylidnes.cz/soud-potrestal-pedofily-z-modelingove-agentury-ft6-/krimi.aspx?c=A070205_150359_krimi_cen

⁵⁶⁷ "Pedofil Novák siodypkávsvojtrest v Česku" ("Pedophile to serve his sentence in the Czech Republic"), Spravy Pravda, 13 January 2010, accessed 28n October 2015, <http://spravy.pravda.sk/domace/clanok/164873-pedofil-novak-si-odpyka-svoj-trest-v-cesku/>

⁵⁶⁸ Information provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cited in the questionnaire by ECPAT Netherlands.

⁵⁶⁹ One case is mentioned at: "Pedophiles in 32 countries have been located by Hellenic Police in Internet", newsbomb.gr, 16 May 2014, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.newsbomb.gr/en/story/446230/pedophiles-in-32-countries-have-been-located-by-hellenic-police-in-internet#ixzz30bc9Mehc>; and the other at: "Greece arrests BG pedophile child", standartnews.com, 5 May 2014, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/greece_arrests_bg_pedophile_child_doctor-3534.html. Furthermore a third case was reported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (information as of August 2014).

⁵⁷⁰ Information provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cited in the questionnaire by ECPAT Netherlands.

Country of destination	N. of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for child sex crimes committed by a foreigner in a European country
Kazakhstan	1 conviction in 2014 ⁵⁷¹ <i>Source: media report</i>
Hungary	1 arrest in 2011 ⁵⁷² <i>Source: media report</i>
Macedonia	1 arrest in 2010 ⁵⁷³ <i>Source: media report</i>
Moldova	5 convictions between 2010 and beginning of 2012 ⁵⁷⁴ <i>Source: media report</i>
Netherlands	2 cases of SECTT recorded by the police ⁵⁷⁵ <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Norway	1 Dutch detained as of August 2014 <i>Source: Dutch Government</i> ⁵⁷⁶
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific statistics on travelling sex offenders available. However statistics for correlated crimes show, for example, that 5 non-Polish citizens were identified in 2008 for sexual relationship with a minor under 15 years of age⁵⁷⁷ <i>Source: Government</i>
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 prosecution in 2003⁵⁷⁸ <i>Source: media report</i>

⁵⁷¹ "В Уральске делобританского педофила довели до суда" ("In Uralsk British pedophile case was brought to court"⁹, Bnews, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://bnews.kz/ru/news/post/205849/>)

⁵⁷² "Police break up Hungary pedophile ring, arrest 2", *today'szaman.com*, 15 November 2011, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.today'szaman.com/latest-news_police-break-up-hungary-pedophile-ring-arrest-2_262878.html

⁵⁷³ "OSCE official in Macedonia suspected of child pornography", *b92.net*, 5 June 2010, accessed 4 May 2010, http://www.b92.net/eng/news/region.php?yyyy=2010&mm=06&dd=05&nav_id=67613

⁵⁷⁴ Rusnac, Corneliu, "Moldova votes to legalize chemical castration", *thestar.com*, 6 March 2012, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2012/03/06/moldova_votes_to_legalize_chemical_castration.html

⁵⁷⁵ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁵⁷⁶ Information provided by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cited in the questionnaire by ECPAT Netherlands.

⁵⁷⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child (2009), Written replies by the government of the Republic of Poland concerning the list of issues (CRC/C/OPAC/POL/Q/1) to be taken up in connection with the consideration with the consideration of the initial report of the Republic of Poland under Article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC/C/OPAC/POL/1)", CRC/C/OPSC/POL/Q/1/Add.1.

⁵⁷⁸ "Casa Pia: Cidadão britânico acusado de 16 crimes pelo Tribunal de Oeiras", *publico.pt*, 7 February 2003, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/casa-pia-cidadao-britanico-acusado-de-16-crimes-pelo-tribunal-de-oeiras-278687>

Country of destination	N. of arrests, prosecutions and convictions for child sex crimes committed by a foreigner in a European country
Romania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 prosecution in 2010⁵⁷⁹ • 1 arrest in 2011⁵⁸⁰ • 2 prosecutions in 2014⁵⁸¹ <p>Source: media reports</p>
Russia	<p>1 person extradited to Russia for sex crimes against children committed between 2006 and 2009⁵⁸²</p> <p>Source: media report</p>
Spain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 conviction and deportation for sex crimes against children in 2011⁵⁸³ • 1 arrest in 2014⁵⁸⁴ <p>Source: media reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 (Dutch) individuals detained as of June 2013⁵⁸⁵ <p>Source: Government</p>
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 prosecution in 2004⁵⁸⁶ • 1 conviction in 2008⁵⁸⁷ <p>Source: media reports</p>
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 conviction in 2007⁵⁸⁸ • 14 people detained in 2009⁵⁸⁹ • 1 person arrested in 2009⁵⁹⁰
Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 prosecutions in 2011⁵⁹¹ • 1 prosecution in 2012⁵⁹² <p>Source: media reports</p>
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 foreigners convicted for child rape who were not deported (as of 2014)⁵⁹³

⁵⁷⁹ Carmen Cosman, "Pedofilenglez, judecat la Petroșani", romanialibera.ro, 4 May 2010, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.romanialibera.ro/actualitate/proiecte-locale/pedofil-englez--judecat-la-petrosani-185410>

⁵⁸⁰ "Un pedofilitalian sustine că România e tărâmul libertății sexuale", dcnews.ro, 14 May 2011, accessed 4 May 2015, http://www.dcnews.ro/un-pedofil-italian-sustine-ca-romania-e-taramul-libertatii-sexuale_64415.html

⁵⁸¹ Eliza Avram, "Pedofil norvegian, arestat, după ce a fost urmărit de anchetatori din Bucureștipână în Ploiești", romanialibera.ro, 11 May 2014, accessed 4 May 2015, <http://www.romanialibera.ro/actualitate/eveniment/pedofil-norvegian--arestat--dupa-ce-a-fost-urmarit-de-anchetatori-din-bucuresti-pana-in-ploiesti--334823>; "Turism sexual cu copii de 5 ani. Un pedofil belgian poartă om de afaceri de succes în România", evz.ro, 8 May 2014, accessed 6 May 2015, <http://www.evz.ro/turism-sexual-cu-copii-de-5-ani-un-pedofil-belgian-pozain-om-de-afaceri-de-succes-in-romania-imagini-socante-au-fost-descoperite-de-procurorii-dicot-in-laptopul-strainului.html>

⁵⁸² "Педофилам запретят въезд в Россию" ("Pedophile banned from entering Russia"), Utro, 16 September 2013, <http://www.utro.ru/articles/2013/09/16/1144120.shtml>

⁵⁸³ "Expulsado diez años de España un entrenador pedófilo de la Fundación VCF", levante-emv.com, 10 March 2010, accessed 6 May 2015, <http://www.levante-emv.com/deportes/2011/03/10/expulsado-diez-anos-espana-entrenador-pedofilo-fundacion-vcf/789259.html>

⁵⁸⁴ "Detienen en España a un pedófilo alemán que hacía fotografías "por encargo", emol.com, 19 April 2014, accessed 6 May 2015, <http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/2014/04/19/656057/detienen-en-espana-a-un-pedofilo-aleman-que-hacia-fotografias-por-encargo.html>

⁵⁸⁵ Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel en Seksueel Geweld tegen Kinderen, "Barrières tegen kinderseksisme" ("Barriers against child sextourism"), 10.

⁵⁸⁶ "Holandský pedofil znásilnil tři žiačky" ("Dutch pedophile raped three schoolgirls"), Spravy.pravda.sk, 11 March 2004, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://spravy.pravda.sk/cierna-kronika/clanok/138054-holandsky-pedofil-znasilnil-tri-ziacky/>

⁵⁸⁷ "Radio 1 DJ jailed for paedophilia claims offences were consensual", telegraph, 22 February 2010, accessed 6 May 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/7291723/Radio-1-DJ-jailed-for-paedophilia-claims-offences-were-consensual.html>

⁵⁸⁸ "Canadian teacher convicted of possessing child porn", Today's Zaman, 11 January 2007, http://www.todayzaman.com/latest-news_canadian-teacher-convicted-of-possessing-child-porn_39836.html

⁵⁸⁹ "OBSERVATIONS FROM IRAQ, IRAN, ISRAEL, THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND", 30 September 2010, accessed 28 October 2015, <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/babylonbeyond/2010/09/turkey-prostitution-ring-busted-aboard-aturks-historic-yacht.html>

⁵⁹⁰ "Briton captured while video recording nude children" (2009). Today's Zaman, 28 October 2015, http://www.todayzaman.com/newsDetail_getNewsById.action?sessionId=DA6D32B474A051DFADF9776C417840CC?newsId=186606&columnistId=0

⁵⁹¹ One case cit. in "В Крыму и Севастополе устраивали секс-туры для иностранных педофилов", ("In Crimea and Sevastopol organized sex tours for foreign pedophiles), Sevastopol, 4 August 2011, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://sevastopol.su/news.php?id=30526>

⁵⁹² "В Крыму девушка за 100 гривен продала педофилу младшую сестру" ("She sold her sister to a pedophile for 100 hryvnia"), 16 April, <http://glavred.info/archive/2012/04/16/180229-0.html>

⁵⁹³ Dawar, Anil, "Thousands of foreign rapists dodging deportation to roam British streets", express, 6 May 2014, accessed 6 May 2015, <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/474234/Thousands-of-foreign-criminals-and-RAPISTS-roaming-Britain-and-dodging-deportation>

ANNEX 3.

Examples of application of extraterritorial legislation in European countries

Country	N. of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in application of extraterritorial legislation
Austria	Max. 20 cases successfully prosecuted since 1997 <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Belgium	At least 8 cases investigated and prosecuted since 1995 of which 6 resulted in convictions, 1 was closed due to lack of evidence and 1 is still under investigation (to note that in 1996 Belgian authorities were also willing to prosecute a case occurred in Sri Lanka but the country of destination never transferred it, leading to the disappearance of the offender) <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Finland	1 conviction in 2004 ⁵⁹⁴ <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
France	There is an average of 15 investigations, 7 charges and 3 or 4 convictions per year. <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Germany	3 convictions between 2009 and 2011 <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 convictions between 1998 and 2009⁵⁹⁵ • Another conviction in 2014⁵⁹⁶ <i>Source: media reports</i>
Netherlands	7 convictions of Dutch nationals for sexually abusing children abroad between 1996 and 2012 <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>
Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 convictions in 2007⁵⁹⁷ <i>Source: ECPAT group and U.S. Government</i> • 1 conviction in 2010⁵⁹⁸ <i>Source: Government</i>
Poland	1 prosecution in 2014 ⁵⁹⁹ <i>Source: media report/ECPAT group</i>
Spain	1 conviction in 2010 ⁶⁰⁰ <i>Source: ECPAT group</i>

⁵⁹⁴ ECPAT Netherlands, "Offenders Beware: Child sex tourism case studies", (2009), 8, accessed from <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/995.pdf>

⁵⁹⁵ Laura Squintani, "Struttamento sessuale di bambini a fini commerciali", *dirittominorile.it*, (2009), 3, accessed 7 May 2015 from <http://dirittominorile.it/public/approfondimento/76-64676.pdf>

⁵⁹⁶ Silvia Bia, "Abusi sessuali su minori in Nicaragua. Condannato a sei anni Don Dessi", *il fattoquotidiano.it*, 3 February 2014, accessed 7 May 2015 from <http://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2014/02/03/prete-abuso-sessualmente-di-minori-in-nicaragua-condannato-a-sei-anni-don-dessi/867686/>

⁵⁹⁷ One conviction is mentioned in ECPAT Netherlands, "Child Sex Tourism fact sheet", (2009), 6, accessed on 4 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/1313.pdf>; and the other in US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons: Norway", (2008), accessed from <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105388.htm>

⁵⁹⁸ ECPAT International, Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway, (2012), 17, accessed 7 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_NORWAY.pdf

⁵⁹⁹ "Polish prosecutors indict ex-priest on child sex abuse", *ansa.it*, 6 November 2014, accessed 7 May 2015, http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2014/11/06/polish-prosecutors-indict-ex-priest-on-child-sex-abuse_7f270482-f900-4f5a-a004-f712308d7758.html

⁶⁰⁰ ECPAT International, Extraterritorial Laws: why they are not really working and how they can be strengthened, (September 2008), 11, accessed from http://resources.ecpat.net/worldcongressIII/PDF/Journals/EXTRATERRITORIAL_LAWS.pdf

Country	N. of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in application of extraterritorial legislation
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 conviction in 2012⁶⁰¹ • 1 conviction in 2011⁶⁰² • 1 conviction in 2009⁶⁰³ <i>Source: U.S. Government</i>
Switzerland	13 cases handled between 2011 and 2013 ⁶⁰⁴ <i>Source: Government</i>
United Kingdom	6-7 prosecutions under extraterritorial legislation to date <i>Source: ECPAT group/British Police</i>
Vatican State	1 prosecution in 2014 ⁶⁰⁵ <i>Source: media report</i>

⁶⁰¹ US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons: Sweden", (19 June 2013), accessed 7 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51c2f38618.html>

⁶⁰² US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons: Sweden", (19 June 2012), accessed 7 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30c91c.html>

⁶⁰³ US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons: Sweden", (14 June 2010), accessed 7 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c1883c32.html>

⁶⁰⁴ UN Human Rights Council, "List of issues in relation to the report submitted by Switzerland under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", UN CRC/C/OPSC/CHE/Q/1/Add.1, (2015), 2.

⁶⁰⁵ "Vaticano, prelado arrestato per pedofilia. Wesolowski rischia tra i 6 e i 7 anni. Padre Lombardi: «Poteva fuggire»", *ilmessaggero.it*, 24 September 2014, accessed 7 May 2015, http://www.ilmessaggero.it/PRIMOPIANO/VATICANO/vaticano_arrestato_arcivescovo_pedofilo_wesolowski/notizie/919746.shtml

ANNEX 4.

Number of children sexually exploited in selected European countries

Country	Number of children subject to CSEC or to one of its manifestations
All EU countries	<p><i>Child sex trafficking:</i> Over 1,000 child victims were registered as trafficked for sexual exploitation between 2010 and 2012.⁶⁰⁶</p> <p>Child pornography and online child sexual abuse/exploitation: Interpol's ICSE database received nearly 4,000 identifications of children allegedly involved in pornography from across the continent, including 177 from Norway and 238 from Sweden.⁶⁰⁷</p> <p>A 2011 EU Kids Online survey discovered that approximately 15 percent of children in the EU had viewed or received sexual messages from peers in the past year.⁶⁰⁸</p>
Albania	<p><i>Child sex trafficking:</i> About 60 percent of Albanians trafficked for prostitution are children.⁶⁰⁹ In 2009, approximately half of the victims of trafficking within the country were Albanian women and girls subjected to conditions of forced prostitution in hotels and private residences in the cities of Tirana, Durrës, and Vlora.⁶¹⁰</p>
Belarus	<p>Prostitution of children: between 2007 and 2010, 138 cases of child prostitution in were officially reported Belarus.⁶¹¹</p> <p><i>Child sex trafficking:</i> according to 2009 data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the official number of children trafficked for sexual exploitation registered by the Ministry of Internal Affairs was 22 in 2007; 103 in 2008; and 11 in the first six months of 2009.⁶¹²</p> <p><i>Child pornography:</i> Government sources reported 71 minors involved in the production of child pornography in 2008. The number decreased in 2009 to 22 minors and only one case was reported during the first six months of 2010.⁶¹³ According to Interpol's ICSE database, 91 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013.⁶¹⁴</p>
Bulgaria	<p><i>Prostitution of children:</i> The government reported that in 2010 and 2011, there were 119 and 137 children, respectively, who passed through child pedagogic rooms for prostitution or homosexuality.⁶¹⁵</p> <p>Child pornography: According to Bulgarian police statistics, only three victims of child pornography were identified during the years 2008-2010, and no victims were recorded in 2011.⁶¹⁶</p> <p><i>Child trafficking:</i> In 2011, the government identified 512 victims of trafficking (404 of whom were victims of sex trafficking), including 70 children.⁶¹⁷</p>

⁶⁰⁶ European Commission (2014), "Mid-term report on the implementation of the EU strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings, (COM(2014) 635 final)", accessed 7 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/commission_staff_working_document_-_mid-term_report_on_the_implementation_of_the_eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings.pdf; see also: European Commission (2014), "Trafficking in human beings 2010-2014: eradicating the slave trade", accessed 7 May 2015, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1164_en.htm

⁶⁰⁷ "Low number of child porn victims reported by police", accessed 28 October 2015, <http://cphpost.dk/news/low-number-of-child-porn-victims-reported-by-police.9199.html>

⁶⁰⁸ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Romania, 35, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_ROMANIA.pdf

⁶⁰⁹ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Albania, 12, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_ALBANIA.pdf

⁶¹⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹¹ ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus, 9, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

⁶¹² Ibid.

⁶¹³ Ibid., 10.

⁶¹⁴ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit (2013), "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SADEH_%282%29.pdf

⁶¹⁵ ECPAT International (2013), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Bulgaria, 11, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_Bulgaria.pdf

⁶¹⁶ Ibid., 13.

⁶¹⁷ Ibid., 14.

Country	Number of children subject to CSEC or to one of its manifestations
Czech Republic	<i>Prostitution of children:</i> A total of 500 children and adolescents were observed between 1996 and 2003 at the Czech-German border, a hotspot for SECTT. ⁶¹⁸ <i>Child pornography:</i> According to Interpol's ICSE database, 60 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶¹⁹
Estonia	<i>Prostitution of children:</i> A 2006 study on prostitution in Estonia identified 408 women in the country, 7% of whom were aged 15-18 years old. Furthermore, research on adolescents sexuality published in 2007 found that 2.4% of girls and 0.4% of boys aged 16-18 claimed to have provided sex for money or other forms of reimbursement. ⁶²⁰ <i>Child pornography and online child sexual abuse/exploitation:</i> in 2010 there were 57 incidents of online solicitation of children (including cases of children that were filmed with a webcam, with videos uploaded on the Internet). ⁶²¹ According to Interpol's ICSE database, six children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶²²
Latvia	<i>CSEC:</i> According to estimates, some 10,000 children may be subject to sexual exploitation. ⁶²³ <i>Child sex trafficking:</i> According to government statistics, there were 12 child victims of sex trafficking between 2006 and 2008. ⁶²⁴
Moldova	<i>Prostitution of children:</i> According to crime statistics, 458 cases of persons who engaged in prostitution were registered between 2005 and 2007, 178 of which involved minors (16-17 years old). ⁶²⁵ <i>Child pornography and online child sexual abuse/exploitation:</i> A study by La Strada Moldova showed that 13.4% of 12-year-olds and 29.3% of 16-year-olds reported receiving indecent proposals on the Internet. ⁶²⁶
Montenegro	<i>CSEC:</i> 201 child victims of sexual exploitation were recorded by different actors between 2008 and 2011. ⁶²⁷
Netherlands	<i>Child sex trafficking:</i> According to the Coordination Centre on Trafficking in Human Beings (CoMensha) and the Dutch National Rapporteur, 260 minors were alleged victims of trafficking in 2013, of whom 96 were trafficked across borders and 111 were alleged to be Dutch victims of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation. ⁶²⁸ <i>Prostitution of children:</i> A survey conducted in the Netherlands showed that 5% of prostitutes in the licensed sector had started before the age of 18. In the escort sector, more than 10% were actually underage. ⁶²⁹ <i>Child pornography:</i> According to Interpol's ICSE database, 152 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶³⁰

⁶¹⁸ ECPAT Deutschland, UNICEF Deutsches Komitee, Schauer, Cathrin (ed.) (2003), "Kinder auf dem Strich: Bericht von der deutsch-tschechischen Grenze", 31, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.de/uploads/media/CathrinSchauer_Kinder_auf_dem_Strich.pdf

⁶¹⁹ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit (2013), "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SADEH_%282%29.pdf

⁶²⁰ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Estonia, 11, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_Estonia.pdf

⁶²¹ Ibid., 14.

⁶²² INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit (2013), "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SADEH_%282%29.pdf

⁶²³ "Country Information Latvia", accessed 12 May 2015, <http://www.child-hood.com/index.php?id=725&type=6&type=6>

⁶²⁴ UN Human Rights Council, Special Procedure Bulletin 14 (July-September 2009): 8, accessed 12 May 2015, <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G09/145/66/PDF/G0914566.pdf?OpenElement>

⁶²⁵ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Moldova", 11, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_MOLDOVA.pdf

⁶²⁶ Ibid., 14.

⁶²⁷ "IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE Unapređenjepoložajdeteta u ciljuzaštite odsvihvidovaeksploatacijelstraživanjasprovedena u Crnoj Gori 2010-2013" (2013) (Research on exploitation of children on CSECin Bosnia), 28-29, accessed 28 October 2015, http://ombudsman.co.me/djeca/docs/110420133_kompilacija_izvjestaja%20konacna.pdf

⁶²⁸ Information provided by ECPAT Netherlands in February 2015.

⁶²⁹ European Parliament, Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Schulze, Erika et al. (2014), "Sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender equality", 29, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/493040/IPOL-FEMM_ET%282014%29493040_EN.pdf

⁶³⁰ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit (2013), "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SADEH_%282%29.pdf

Country	Number of children subject to CSEC or to one of its manifestations
Poland	CSEC/prostitution of children/child trafficking: According to police statistics, the number of children under age 15 who were victims of sexual exploitation was: 5,086 in 2011 and 5,335 in 2012; child victims of exploitation in prostitution were 125 in 2011 and 218 in 2012; child victims of trafficking were 17 in 2011 and 16 in 2012. ⁶³¹
Romania	<i>Child trafficking:</i> In 2011, 319 children were victims of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation, of whom 224 were victims of internal trafficking. ⁶³² In 2013, the number of trafficked children rose to 300. ⁶³³ <i>Child pornography:</i> According to Interpol's ICSE database, 27 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶³⁴
Russia	<i>Child sex trafficking:</i> According to a 2006 report by World Vision Middle East/Eastern Europe, of the estimated 80,000 to 130,000 sex trade victims in Moscow, 20-to-25% were underage. ⁶³⁵ <i>Prostitution of children:</i> Research among adult sex workers conducted by the NGO Stellit in 2008-2009 showed that about 70% of women involved in prostitution start at the early age of 14-15. ⁶³⁶ <i>Child pornography:</i> According to Interpol's ICSE database, 34 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶³⁷
Spain	Between 2010-2013 the Spanish police identified: <i>Prostitution of children:</i> 1,256 child and adolescents victims of prostitution and corruption of minors <i>Child sex trafficking:</i> 25 minor victims of sex trafficking (between 2011-2013); <i>Child pornography:</i> 340 minors involved in pornography cases. ⁶³⁸ According to Interpol's ICSE database 87 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶³⁹
Ukraine	<i>Prostitution of children:</i> The number of individuals aged 16-18 working in prostitution identified by law enforcement reached 479 in 2009-2011, 61 in 2012 and 30 in the first nine months of 2013. <i>Child Trafficking:</i> Between 2000 and 2012, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted a total of 604 child victims of trafficking, 574 of whom were from Ukraine. ⁶⁴⁰ <i>Child pornography:</i> According to Interpol's ICSE database, 42 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013. ⁶⁴¹ CSEC: The estimated number of women/girls providing commercial sexual services in Ukraine is 70,000 individuals, of whom 15,000 are aged 14-19. These numbers only cover women/girls involved in commercial sex on a long-term basis. ⁶⁴²

⁶³¹ Information by Nobody's Children Foundation Poland in February 2015.

⁶³² ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Romania", 11.

⁶³³ Information provided by Save the Children Romania in June 2015.

⁶³⁴ Interpol (2013), "Online Child Sexual Exploitation Investigation", Presentation held on 5 December 2013, 13, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SA_DEH_%282%29.pdf

⁶³⁵ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Russia, 9, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_RUSSIA.pdf

⁶³⁶ Ibid., 11.

⁶³⁷ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit (2013), "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13, accessed 12 May 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/Source/Cybercrime/Octopus2013/Presentations/Workshop5/20131205_Strasbourg_SADEH_%282%29.pdf

⁶³⁸ Information provided by FAPMI/ECPAT Spain in June 2015.

⁶³⁹ INTERPOL, "Online Child Sexual Exploitation Investigation", Presentation held on 5 December 2013, 13.

⁶⁴⁰ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 35.

⁶⁴¹ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit, "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13.

⁶⁴² LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 12.

Country	Number of children subject to CSEC or to one of its manifestations
UK	<p><i>Child sex trafficking:</i> 21% of the 1,128 people believed to have been trafficked for sexual exploitation in the UK in 2013 were minors (13% were from the UK).⁶⁴³</p> <p><i>Child sexual exploitation:</i> A nationwide Inquiry by the Office of the Children's Commissioner found that 2,409 children and young people were confirmed victims of child sexual exploitation in gangs or groups in the 14-month period August 2010 to October 2011.⁶⁴⁴</p> <p>Child pornography and online child sexual abuse/exploitation: 1,145 public reports relating to incidents of online grooming were received by CEOP in 2012.⁶⁴⁵ According to Interpol's ICSE database, a total of 314 children had been identified as victims of pornography as of 1st December 2013.⁶⁴⁶</p>

As is also true of perpetrators, comparing data on child victims of sexual exploitation across European countries is difficult, especially because of the differing definitions of offences involved in child sexual exploitation adopted by states and other actors. Furthermore, statistical information is highly speculative and may refer to different time periods. Reporting mechanisms also vary from one country to the other, and even within the same country, among regional authorities or ministries responsible.

Despite these limitations, analysis of the data summarised in Annex 4 permits several observations:

- Most of the figures available refer to child victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, a sign that governments and other actors in Europe have increasingly recognised the importance of collecting data on trafficking in persons, including children and adolescents.
- According to data provided by the European Commission, over 1,000 child victims were registered as having been trafficked for sexual exploitation in EU member states between 2010-2012.⁶⁴⁷ The number of identified or presumed child victims of trafficking for sexual and other purposes increased from 876 in 2010 to 1,376 in 2012.⁶⁴⁸ In several European countries, children and adolescents trafficked for sexual exploitation represent a significant proportion of all victims trafficked for this purpose (e.g. 60% in Albania, 21% in the UK and 20-25% in Moscow, Russia). In countries such as the UK, the Netherlands, Albania and Romania, hundreds of children are trafficked internally for sexual exploitation, including those born in the country.
- Whilst a consistent number of children are sexually exploited in Eastern European countries such as Latvia, Ukraine and Poland, other Western European EU states and the UK are experiencing an alarming rise in child sexual exploitation;
- According to criminal statistics and other sources, hundreds of children are exploited in prostitution in European countries such as Belarus (138 underage victims in 2007-2010), Bulgaria (256 in 2010-2011), Czech Republic (500 between 1996 and 2003 at the Czech-German border (a hotspot for SECTT), Moldova (178 in 2005-2007), Poland (343 in 2011-2012), Spain (252 in 2002-2006) and Ukraine (540 in 2009-2012);

⁶⁴³ NCA, Strategic Assessment, "The Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2013", (2014), 10, accessed 12 May 2015, <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/399-nca-strategic-assessment-the-nature-and-scale-of-human-trafficking-in-2013/file>

⁶⁴⁴ Children's Commissioner for England, "http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/press_release/content_486

⁶⁴⁵ CEOP (2013), "Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", 9, accessed 12 May 2015, http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceop_docs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf

⁶⁴⁶ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit, "Online child sexual exploitation investigation" (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013), 13.

⁶⁴⁷ European Commission (2014), "Mid-term report on the implementation of the EU strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings", COM(2014) 635 final.

⁶⁴⁸ Eurostat, "Trafficking in human beings", Statistical Working Papers, (2014), 71 and 73, accessed 5 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/docs/20141017_working_paper_on_statistics_on_trafficking_in_human_beings_en.pdf. A sharp increase was registered particularly in some countries. In the United Kingdom, the increase observed in 2011 and 2012 seems to be linked to the inclusion of "potential victims" – a broader definition than the EU definition of „presumed victims“. Similarly, the increase in the number of registered victims in the Netherlands and Latvia may also be explained by changes in the registration systems from 2011 onwards.

- Data provided by Interpol through the ICSE database show that the number of children identified in child abuse material in Europe range from very few victims in Eastern European countries to hundreds in Western European countries. The country with the largest number of identified victims in Eastern Europe is Belarus.⁶⁴⁹ In terms of dissemination, the EU countries hosting the largest number of URLs suspected of commercial distribution of child abuse materials between October 2012 and June 2014 were: in descending order - Netherlands, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Hungary and France.⁶⁵⁰
- Across the region, children and adolescents are facing a number of dangers in their online interactions. A 2011 survey by the EU Kids Online network investigated key online risks, including those of a sexual nature, exposing the following findings: (a) 14% of 9-to-16 year olds surveyed reported to have seen pornography; (b) 15% received peer-to-peer “sexual messages or images ...meaning talk about having sex or images of people naked or having sex,” and 3% said they had sent or posted such messages; (c) 30% communicated with someone they had never met face-to-face; and d) 9% of children met an online contact offline. The Czech Republic, Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden were found to be the countries where children were most at risk online, while Italy, Portugal and Turkey had the lowest risk.⁶⁵¹ Online grooming for the purpose of sexual exploitation has become a reality in many European countries. In Estonia, for example, the number of registered cases of “grooming” in 2011 more than tripled in just one year.⁶⁵²
- Generally speaking, only a few victims of commercial sexual exploitation come to the attention of authorities and receive assistance. This is true for all CSEC manifestations.
- Whilst it is not possible to establish how many underage victims of the various forms of CSEC are actually subject to sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, data suggest that countries where children and adolescents are (or may be potentially) targeted by travelling child sex offenders are also affected by a significant, and often growing, problem of prostitution of children, child sex trafficking and child pornography.

⁶⁴⁹ INTERPOL, Crime against children Unit, “Online child sexual exploitation investigation” (paper presented at Strasbourg, 5 December 2013).

⁶⁵⁰ European Financial Coalition (2015), “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. A strategic assessment”, <http://www.europeanfinancialcoalition.eu/private10/images/news/pdf/65.pdf>

⁶⁵¹ Livingstone, S., Haddon, L., Görzig, A., Ólafsson, K. (2010), “Risks and safety on the internet. The perspective of European children”, Initial findings from the EU Kids Online survey of 9-16 year olds and their parents, EU Kids Online II report, London School of Economics and Political Science, accessed 15 November 2015, [http://www.lse.ac.uk/media%40lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20II%20\(2009-11\)/EUKidsOnlineIIReports/D4FullFindings.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/media%40lse/research/EUKidsOnline/EU%20Kids%20II%20(2009-11)/EUKidsOnlineIIReports/D4FullFindings.pdf)

⁶⁵² ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Estonia”, 14, accessed 20 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_Estonia.pdf

ANNEX 5.

Findings of Mapping Exercise

Countries of Origin

5 (A) : Traditional/long affected countries of origin

In line with ECPAT's 2008 mapping, this desk study confirms that the majority of European nationals engaging in SECTT come from the most affluent Western European and Nordic countries. For many of these sending countries, the existence of perpetrators who sexually abuse children during their trips abroad was already known at the time of the First World Congress (e.g. Belgium, Italy, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and UK), while for others the phenomenon became more apparent at the end of the 1990's/beginning of 2000's (e.g. Austria, Denmark, Finland and Spain).

5 (B): Confirmed emerging countries of origin

Despite the lack of in-depth research on the topic, evidence shows that in the last decade Europe has witnessed a rise in the number of travelling child sex offenders from non-traditional sending countries, particularly Russia, Turkey and Portugal. According to the Special Rapporteur, the number of Russian TCSOs is significant.⁶⁵³ The growing incidence of SECTT by Russian perpetrators was exposed by numerous cases in countries such as Cambodia, Nepal,⁶⁵⁴ Thailand⁶⁵⁵, Belarus⁶⁵⁶ and, only a few months ago, in the South of France.⁶⁵⁷ According to a 2006 survey conducted by the Estonian Open Society Institute among adult sex workers and some underage girls exploited in prostitution, 19% of all sex buyers were Russians.⁶⁵⁸ Besides "consuming" sex with children, Russians have also been increasingly noted as organisers of the sex business, catering to both locals and tourists. For example, in Pattaya, Thailand, much of the (child) sex trade is reportedly controlled by the Russian mafia.⁶⁵⁹ In the Dominican Republic, a phenomenon that has recently emerged is that of Russian-run villas where sexual services of Eastern European and Dominican women/girls are offered to Russian and other tourists who can book the accommodation and choose the girls on the internet.⁶⁶⁰

⁶⁵³ "Секс-туризм, затрагивающий детей, не знает границ" ("Child sex-tourism has no borders"), UN.org. , 7 February 2013, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.un.org/russian/news/story.asp?NewsID=19056#.VDz7qld0Ycb>

⁶⁵⁴ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society", 36.

⁶⁵⁵ See for example "Russian Pedophile suspect arrested by Police in North Pattaya", thaivisa.com, 17 June 2014, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.thaivisa.com/forum/topic/735027-russian-pedophile-suspect-arrested-by-police-in-north-pattaya/>

⁶⁵⁶ A case is cited in ECPAT International (2011), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus", 11, accessed 21 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

⁶⁵⁷ "Российского олигарха Владимира Лукьяненко арестовали в Монако по обвинению в педофилии" ("Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko arrested in Monaco on charges of pedophilia"), Antikor.com.ua, 5 September 2014, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://antikor.com.ua/articles/12905-rossijskogo-oligarha-vladimira-lukjanenko-arestovali-v-monako-po-obvineniju-v-pedofii>

⁶⁵⁸ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Estonia", accessed 21 May 2015, http://ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_Estonia.pdf

⁶⁵⁹ Martin, Phillip, "Underground Trade Part Four: One Town in Thailand (and human trafficking)", huffingtonpost.com, 19 February 2013, accessed 21 May 2015, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/phillip-martin/underground-trade-one-town_b_2714422.html

⁶⁶⁰ ECPAT Netherlands (2013), "Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism", 39, accessed 21 May 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf>

Some cases of SECTT by Russian perpetrators involved celebrities or tycoons. Two high-profile examples that have made headlines are noted below.

The case of Trofimov in Cambodia

Trofimov was arrested in 2007 on suspicion of sexually abusing as many as 19 Cambodian girls. In 2008, he was convicted under Cambodia's old debauchery law and sentenced to 17 years imprisonment, reduced to eight years on appeal. However, Trofimov was released from prison by royal pardon in 2011, after serving slightly more than four years of his sentence. At that time, Russia was seeking Trofimov's extradition, and following the pardon, 14 NGOs signed an APLE-initiated petition asking for his re-arrest and extradition to Russia, where he would face charges of earlier child sex abuse. In 2012, APLE's informants reported that Trofimov had built a house for a 10-year-old girl's family in Kandal province. They had witnessed Trofimov at the house multiple times, after he was pardoned by the King. After APLE's investigators identified Trofimov, the police were notified and prepared his arrest. Trofimov was arrested and later extradited to Russia. Arriving in Russia, he was arrested and detained and, at last report, awaiting trial.⁶⁶¹

The case of Lukyanenko in the South of France

In September 2014, the Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko was arrested by the French police on charges of corruption of minors. Owner of a magnificent villa in Èze, a village located between Nice and the Principality of Monaco in Southern France, Lukyanenko was found in the company of some adolescents and was later detained on suspicion of having sexual relations with three girls and two boys aged between 13 to 16 years. Besides Lukyanenko, another Russian citizen and a man from the Principality of Monaco were also arrested. According to a preliminary police investigation, the suspect from Monaco worked for a modelling agency and acted as a "pimp", supplying young people to foreigners. Lukyanenko was also found in possession of drugs and tried to bribe the police officers who searched his house and arrested him.⁶⁶²

More and more perpetrators from Turkey have also been observed in Eastern Europe, particularly in the Black Sea area, as well as in other regions of the world. In Moldova, La Strada reported cases of Turkish nationals who spend weekends in privately rented apartments and engage in commercial sexual relations with children and adolescents.⁶⁶³ Similarly, in Ukraine, recent research found that both organised and individual "sex tours" involving Turkish men have become common in recent years⁶⁶⁴ and that Turkish citizens are likely the most represented nationality for SECTT in the country.⁶⁶⁵ Nationals from Turkey were also identified as organizers of "sex tours" involving women and adolescents in Belarus⁶⁶⁶ as well as consumers of sex services with young people in Northern Russia⁶⁶⁷ and, more recently, in countries outside Europe (e.g., Cambodia⁶⁶⁸ and Uganda).

⁶⁶¹ APLE Cambodia (2014), "Investigating traveling child sex offenders: an Analysis of the Trends and Challenges in the Field of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Cambodia", 27.

⁶⁶² "Российского олигарха Владимира Лукьяненко арестовали в Монако по обвинению в педофилии" ("Russian oligarch Vladimir Lukyanenko arrested in Monaco on charges of pedophilia"), Antikor.com.ua, 5 September 2014, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://antikor.com.ua/articles/12905-rossijskogo-oligarha-vladimira-lukjanenko-arestovali-v-monako-po-obvineniju-v-pedofi>

⁶⁶³ La Strada Moldova, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁶⁶⁴ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 23.

⁶⁶⁵ Kateryna Levchenko et al., "Дитячий секс-туризм в Україні: спроба ситуаційного аналізу (Child sex tourism in Ukraine: attempt situational analysis)", 54.

⁶⁶⁶ "Минская милиция активизирует борьбу с проституцией" ("Minsk police intensify the fight against prostitution"), 11 November 2012, accessed 4 June 2015, Sb.by, <http://www.sb.by/v-belarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutsiej-2.html>

⁶⁶⁷ The following information was provided by the NGO Stellit in February 2015: "According to a street sex worker who gave an interview to Regional NGO "Stellit" staff in 2011, in 1997 in St. Petersburg there were a lot of girls of 15 – 17 years old who went to hotels to provide sexual services to foreigners, including citizens of Turkey."

⁶⁶⁸ Pisey, Hay, "Turkish Man Arrested for Buying Children's Virginity", cambodiadaily.com, 9 May 2014, accessed 21 May 2015, <https://www.cambodiadaily.com/archives/turkish-man-arrested-for-buying-childrens-virginity-58426/>

5(C): Potential emerging countries of origin

The lack of a solid knowledge base does not permit identification of other significant emerging countries of origin in the region. However, the desk study suggests that perpetrators may potentially come from many other European nations. For example, Luxembourg is believed to be a potential sending country, though documented cases are lacking.⁶⁶⁹ Likewise, according to the NGO Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland can be classified as a potential source, as some cases of Polish offenders were recently noted in destinations such as the Dominican Republic, India and Kenya.⁶⁷⁰ A 2014 study on human trafficking in Slovenia, based on interviews with key stakeholders, revealed that according to a police officer, Slovenian citizens are travelling abroad to engage in commercial sex acts with children.⁶⁷¹ Despite the Greek government reporting no cases related to SECTT in 2008,⁶⁷² the 2012 TIP report and La Strada Moldova note that the group of perpetrators involved in CSEC in Moldova includes Greek citizens.⁶⁷³ The second edition of ECPAT's country monitoring report on CSEC in Romania points to some documented cases of Romanian citizens found exploiting children outside national borders⁶⁷⁴. Similarly, a review of news articles has unveiled a number of incidents of Irish nationals engaging in SECTT in countries of destination such as Chile, the Netherlands and the Philippines.⁶⁷⁵

Countries of destination

5(D): Traditional/Long-standing SECTT destination countries

The Czech Republic has had a reputation as a popular sex tourism destination since the 1990s, when after its initial "opening", the country experienced a high influx of sex tourists and a high volume of sex trafficking and street prostitution. However, this perception of the country is changing. The rapid development of the Czech economy, the increase in the standard of living in the past 20 years, and increased political stability have impacted positively on the situation of children, reducing their vulnerability to sexual exploitation.⁶⁷⁶ In Prague and major border towns such as Brno and Plzen there is evidence that the SECTT has been on the decline due to the 2009 economic recession and crackdowns by local governments.⁶⁷⁷

Despite this progress, the Czech Republic still has a sex tourism industry that includes instances of SECTT. Whilst enhanced cooperation between the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria has resulted in a decreased presence of German and Austrian perpetrators in the border area, the phenomenon still occurs to some extent (for example in the city of Cheb), despite denials by officials.⁶⁷⁸

⁶⁶⁹ ECPAT Luxembourg, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁶⁷⁰ Nobody's Children Foundation Poland, Response to the questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁶⁷¹ Bučar Ručman, Aleš and Frangež, Danijela (2014), ZAKLJUČNO POROČILO RAZISKAVE: ANALIZA TRGOVINE Z LJUDMI Z NAMENOM IZKO RIŠČANJA DELOVNE SILE, TRGOVINE Z OTROKI, PRISILNEGA BERAČENJA IN IZVRŠEVANJA KAZNIVIH DEJANJ, («FINAL REPORT RESEARCH: ANALYSIS OF THE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION IN LABOUR, child trafficking, forced begging»), 56, accessed 4 June 2015, http://www.vlada.si/fileadmin/dokumenti/si/THB/ZAKLJUCNO_POROČILO_-_TZL.pdf

⁶⁷² UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, "Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography: list of issues concerning additional and updated information related to the consideration of the initial report of Greece (CRC/C/OPSC/GRC/1). Addendum.", CRC/C/OPSC/GRC/Q/1/Add.1, (2012), 2.

⁶⁷³ US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report: Moldova", 27 June 2011, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4e12ee5e3c.html>

⁶⁷⁴ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Romania", 13, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_ROMANIA.pdf

⁶⁷⁵ See, for example, ECPAT International (2010), "News Clipping: Irishman caught with child porn in Amsterdam gets eight-month term", 3 March 2010, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpatinternational.org/EI/resource_newsclippings.asp?id=931; "25 foreign-born paedophiles arrested", 16 August 2005, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://mobile.wnd.com/2005/08/31813/>; "Chile: Irish priest guilty of sex-abuse on minor", foxnews.com, 15 October 2014, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/10/15/chile-irish-priest-guilty-sex-abuse-on-minor/>; "Far East sex tourists exposed", BBC news, 4 November 2003, accessed 23 May 2015, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/3238033.stm

⁶⁷⁶ ECPAT International (2012) "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic", 9, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

⁶⁷⁷ Ibid., 13.

⁶⁷⁸ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Germany", accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_GERMANY.pdf

Children's voices: SECTT at the German-Czech border

The presence of a flourishing child sex industry at the German-Czech border was first exposed by 2003 research by UNICEF and the NGO Karo. As part of this study, 40 children involved in sexual exploitation were interviewed to gather their views and insights. They provide useful information on factors driving them to prostitution. For example, twelve-year-old Karel describes the motivating force of poverty: "Before I used to beg from the Germans in their cars. We have no money at home. Then I just drove away with them." Some travelling child sex offenders take the children for a meal or give financial support to their families. "Sometimes K. sleeps in our place and then he goes shopping with my mum," says 13-year-old Petr. All children interviewed said they had been subjected to violence by their pimps and perpetrators. "A German chained me in his car and sealed my mouth," said 11-year-old Antonin.⁶⁷⁹

In an effort to overcome its reputation as an established sex tourism destination, the Czech government has adopted some successful measures to eliminate street prostitution, such as instituting fines for public solicitation. While these measures have contributed to reducing the number of incidents of street prostitution, the interface point for SECTT in the Czech Republic seems to be shifting from the streets to private brothels, clubs and bars. Evidence of this growing appeal of private commercial establishments is the fact that Prague remains a very popular destination for Western European "stag/hen/bachelor" parties. This popularity is in part due to limited prosecution of TCSOs as well as to weaknesses in legislation, including a persistent "legal grey area" regarding prostitution and the low age of consent, which is 15 years of age.⁶⁸⁰

Slovakia can also be classified as an established destination for SECTT. Some years ago, it was reported that SECTT represented a considerable problem in the country, with victims coming not only from Slovakia, but also increasingly from Russia and Ukraine.⁶⁸¹ Confirming this, 2006 research on the demand side of prostitution identified foreigners as consumers of commercial sex in the country, particularly in Bratislava, where several men from Austria, Poland, Russia and the UK were observed.⁶⁸² Although the average age of those involved in the sex industry was reportedly 20-22 years, the study indicated that most of the victims had their first experience of paid sex when they were between 14 and 18 years old.⁶⁸³ Lack of updated data prevents knowledge of how this issue has evolved. In its 2013 concluding observations on the initial report of Slovakia on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC), the Committee on the Rights of the Child raised concern at the lack of concrete information on policies to prevent SECTT, implying that the problem still occurs.⁶⁸⁴ However the review of media reports conducted as part of this desk study was not able to identify recent incidents.⁶⁸⁵ Thus the possibility that SECTT may have declined should not be disregarded.

⁶⁷⁹ ECPAT Deutschland, UNICEF Deutsches Komitee, Schauer, Cathrin (2003), "KinderaufdemStrich: Bericht von der Deutsch-Tschechischen Grenze", accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.de/uploads/media/CathrinSchauer_Kinder_auf_dem_Strich.pdf

⁶⁸⁰ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic", 13-14, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_CZECH_REP.pdf

⁶⁸¹ "Country Information Slovakia", childhood.com, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.child-hood.com/index.php?id=720&type=6>

⁶⁸² Bianchi, Gabriel, Popper, Miroslav and Lukšik, Ivan (2006), "Demand side of prostitution: Slovakia 2006 Report", (IOM Regional Office Budapest, SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Department of Social and Biological Communication, 2006), 27-28, accessed 23 May 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/demand_side_of_prostitution_1.pdf; Bianchi, Gabriel, Popper, Miroslav and Lukšik, Ivan (2007), "Between demand and supply: a regional analysis of four country studies on the supply and demand for sex services and trafficking in Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia", (IOM Regional Office Budapest, SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Department of Social and Biological Communication, 2007), 58, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.iom.pl/Shared%20Documents/demand%20and%20supply_04_05.pdf

⁶⁸³ Ibid, 32.

⁶⁸⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2013), "Concluding observations on the initial report of Slovakia submitted under article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-second session (14 January-1 February 2013)", CRC/C/OPSC/SVK/CO/1/

⁶⁸⁵ See, for example, "Holandskýpedofilznásilnil tri žiačky" ("Dutch pedophile raped three schoolgirls"), Spravy.pravda.sk, 11 March 2004, <http://spravy.pravda.sk/cierna-kronika/clanok/138054-holandsky-pedofil-znasilnil-tri-ziacky/> and "Britskéhopedofilačakána Slovenskusúd" "British pedophile facing Slovak Court", Spravy.pravda.sk, 31 July 2008, <http://spravy.pravda.sk/cierna-kronika/clanok/142541-britske-ho-pedofila-ca-ka-na-slovensku-sud/>. The second case related to Mr. Denning is also illustrated at "Radio 1 DJ jailed for paedophilia claims offences were consensual", Telegraph.co.uk, 22 February 2010, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/7291723/Radio-1-DJ-jailed-for-paedophilia-claims-offences-were-consensual.html>

Latvia appears to have been affected by SECTT since the second half of the 1990s. A 1997 study by an NGO, involving interviews with adolescents engaging in prostitution, revealed that consumers of sex with children included, among others, tourists, drivers, local businessmen and soldiers.⁶⁸⁶ The existence of SECTT was later confirmed by additional research, court cases and journalistic investigations. In 2000, for example, a photo-video agency in Riga was found to be involved in supplying models for child pornography and abuse both to prominent members of Latvian society and visiting foreigners. An investigation conducted by the BBC the same year corroborated that SECTT was occurring in the country, showing in particular how easy it was to access children in institutions for the purpose of sexual exploitation.⁶⁸⁷ Another 2006 study indicated that CSEC in the country was mainly concentrated in Riga, which hosts the largest number of tourists. The research also pointed to a decrease in street prostitution and a growing demand for sex in less visible places/locations where tourists can rest and relax, including hotels, cafés, bars, etc., similar to trends in the Czech Republic.⁶⁸⁸ Although there is no accurate information on latest trends related to SECTT in the country, during her mission to Latvia in 2008, the Special Rapporteur found that according to all interlocutors, the phenomenon was on the rise.⁶⁸⁹ More recently, the 2013 TIP report pointed out that “Latvian children are vulnerable to child sex tourism in Latvia”.⁶⁹⁰ However, as noted for the Czech Republic and Slovakia, it is possible that the phenomenon may have decreased. A recent mapping of destinations for Norwegian nationals conducted by the Norwegian police (Kripas) shows that the Baltic Sea countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) are no longer the main destinations for Norwegians who buy sex from women and young people during their trips abroad.⁶⁹¹

Since the early 2000s the North-western zones of the Russian Federation were increasingly reported as destinations for SECTT. A research published in 2000 by the NGO Stellit was one of the first attempts to provide insight into the problem. Focusing on several cities of Northwest Russia (including St. Petersburg, Vyborg, Sortavala and Petrozavodsk) the study exposed 41 cases of commercial sexual exploitation of Russian children by foreigners (coming from Finland, Sweden, Norway, United Kingdom, Germany, USA, Turkey, Arab Emirates, Japan, Australia, Canada, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia).⁶⁹² In 2007 the same NGO organised a number of roundtables with stakeholders working in the child protection field in 11 cities of North-West Russia to discuss the latest trends in CSEC. During these roundtables, experts described incidents of SECTT in four of 11 regions (Saint Petersburg, Murmansk oblast, Republic of Karelia and Leningrad oblast⁶⁹³). In an effort to gather more information, in 2011 the NGO “Stellit” carried out another large-scale study of the current trends in sexual abuse and CSEC in St. Petersburg, which surprisingly identified no cases of sexual exploitation by TCSOs in the city.⁶⁹⁴ The abovementioned mapping by Kripas seems to further corroborate this finding, highlighting that the Murmansk region and the city of St. Petersburg in Russia are no longer preferred destinations for Norwegian nationals involved in SECTT. According to recent research conducted by Stellit, this decrease may be due to the development of a more effective child protection system which has led to the establishment of governmental social protection institutions, a reduction in the number of children living and working on the street and a decline in the number of low-income families. The other possible reason could be that the phenomenon has become more hidden and Russian children who are now sexually exploited in travel and tourism are not being identified by relevant stakeholders.⁶⁹⁵ The research confirms that the capital Moscow and the North-West region remain a destination for TCSOs, including domestic travellers and tourists and offenders from new countries of origin outside the region (namely China and Korea).⁶⁹⁶

⁶⁸⁶ Diana Vasilane et al., “Sexual Exploitation of Children in Latvia: research”, (RIGA CHRISTIAN STREET CHILDREN CENTRE, 2006-2007), 5-6, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://childcentre.info/projects/abused/latvia/dbaFile14535.html>

⁶⁸⁷ “Latvian orphans bought for sex”, BBC News, 26 May 2000, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/correspondent/761959.stm>

⁶⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁶⁸⁹ UN Human Rights Council (2009), “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M’jid. Addendum, Mission to Latvia”, A/HRC/12/23/Add.1, 9.

⁶⁹⁰ US Department of State (2013), “Trafficking in Persons Report: Latvia, 19 June 2013”, accessed 23 May 2015 from <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51c2f3ad18.html>

⁶⁹¹ ECPAT International (2012), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway”, 16, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_NORWAY.pdf

⁶⁹² NGO Stellit (2000), “Child prostitution in St. Petersburg with the involvement of foreigners: Research report” (St. Petersburg: Regional NGO Stellit).

⁶⁹³ NGO Stellit (2007), “Predvaritelny plan deistviy protivodeistviu kommerchesko seksualnoi expluataciidei v Severo-Zapadnom federalnom okruge (Preliminary plan of action on combating commercial sexual exploitation of children in North-West Russia)”, (St. Petersburg: Regional NGO Stellit).

⁶⁹⁴ NGO Stellit, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, in February 2015.

⁶⁹⁵ Kolpakova O.I. et al. (2015), Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism in Russia and by Russian citizens abroad: analysis of some cases available and readiness of tourism industry to sign and implement the Code of Conduct, Saint Petersburg: Stellit, 25-26.

Boys' prostitution network catering to foreigners in Moscow

In a 2009 case, the police arrested a man from the Rostov region who managed a network of boys' prostitution in Moscow. In collaboration with a Master of Sports in karate, an employee of a Moscow agency working with youth, and a trainer of martial arts, the man would find "clients" online and would recruit young homeless youth at train stations. "Customers" involved in this case included foreigners who traveled to Moscow on sex tours.⁶⁹⁷

Romania is another established destination for SECTT. Since the end of the 1990s a series of cases involving European and American travelers and tourists who had sexual contact with children signaled that this phenomenon constituted a threat for Romania's vulnerable children. While it does not seem that an organised "SECTT industry" has developed,⁶⁹⁸ there is evidence that some foreign nationals still engage in commercial sex acts with children and adolescents in the country. However the perception of this crime varies among stakeholders, with some government officials claiming it is not a problem (although they do not deny it), and some civil society actors stating it should be an issue of concern and requires adequate responses.⁶⁹⁹

As noted with concern by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Portugal has recently experienced an alarming rise in the incidence of the SECTT. The economic crisis resulted in financial cuts to social benefits for half a million children, undercutting fulfillment of their right to protection.⁷⁰⁰ However, awareness of this issue among stakeholders, including civil society actors is limited – if not totally lacking – as evidenced by the absence of data, research and other specific actions to counteract it. This is even more troubling if we consider that the presence of TCOSOs in Portugal was already known at the end of the 1990's. The existence of cases of pedophilia connected to international networks and SECTT in the country, and particularly in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, was first exposed at the EU level by a written question to the EU commission submitted in 1998.⁷⁰¹ A few years later, the Portuguese Information and Security Service (SIS) drew a map of paedophilia and sexual abuse of minors in Portugal, identifying three international networks operating in the country, especially in the Azores, Madeira, Lisbon and Porto. According to SIS, foreigners were also involved in these criminal networks and Portugal was one of the most popular destinations for child perpetrators in Europe.⁷⁰² In line with this mapping, several media reports have highlighted incidents of sexual exploitation by travelling child offenders from countries such as the France, the Netherlands and Switzerland,⁷⁰³ and have also identified poverty, corruption and relaxed laws as main facilitators of this crime.⁷⁰⁴

⁶⁹⁷ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Russia", 10, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_RUSSIA.pdf

⁶⁹⁸ ECPAT International (2006), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Romania", 13, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-ROMANIA.pdf

⁶⁹⁹ Gamble, Meredith, The Boston Initiative to Advance Human Rights (2010), "Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Street Children in Romania: Catalysts of Vulnerability and Challenges in Recovery", 18, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1016&context=humtraconf2>

⁷⁰⁰ Child Rights Connect (2014), "State party examination of Portugal's initial periodic report on the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", (research presented at 65th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 13-31 January 2014), 3, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Portugal_Session-Report-OPSC_FINAL.pdf

⁷⁰¹ European Union (1998), "Written Question No. 90/98 by Sérgio RIBEIRO to the Commission. Cases of paedophilia in the Autonomous Region of Madeira (Portugal), sex tourism and international networks", Official Journal C 323, 21/10/1998 P. 0024, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:91998E000090>

⁷⁰² Lusa, "Relatório do SIS traçou um mapa da pedofilia em Portugal", [publico.pt](http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/relatorio-do-sis-tracou-um-mapa-da-pedofilia-em-portugal-1263824), 12 July 2006, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/relatorio-do-sis-tracou-um-mapa-da-pedofilia-em-portugal-1263824>

⁷⁰³ "Holandeses acusados em Portugal por pedofilia", [tsf.pt](http://www.tsf.pt/PaginalInicial/Interior.aspx?content_id=753991), 10 August 2000, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.tsf.pt/PaginalInicial/Interior.aspx?content_id=753991; Pereira, Ana Cristina, "Pedofilia internacional continua a "recrutar" crianças na Madeira", [publico.pt](http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/pedofilia-internacional-continua-a-recrutar-criancas-na-madeira-1181494), 11 January 2004, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/pedofilia-internacional-continua-a-recrutar-criancas-na-madeira-1181494>; Lusa, "Casa Pia: Cidadão britânico acusado de 16 crimes pelo Tribunal de Oeiras", [publico.pt](http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/casa-pia-cidadao-britanico-acusado-de-16-crimes-pelo-tribunal-de-oeiras-278687), 7 February 2003, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/casa-pia-cidadao-britanico-acusado-de-16-crimes-pelo-tribunal-de-oeiras-278687>; Mesquita, Antonio Arnaldo, "SIS detectou há três anos redes de abuso de menores em Lisboa", [publico.pt](http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/sis-detectou-ha-tres-anos-redes-de-abuso-de-menores-em-lisboa-1166960), 19 September 2013, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/sis-detectou-ha-tres-anos-redes-de-abuso-de-menores-em-lisboa-1166960>; Crimedigoeu, "A Pedofilia em Portugal: compadrios, negocios e tabu; sis produziu relatório a que ninguém ligou", crimedigoeu.wordpress.com, 13 January 2012, accessed 23 May 2015, <https://crimedigoeu.wordpress.com/2012/01/13/a-pedofilia-em-portugal-compadrios-negocios-e-tabus-sis-produziu-relatorio-a-que-ninguem-ligou/>

⁷⁰⁴ Malone, Andrew, and Allen, Vanessa, "Why Portugal is a haven for paedophiles: the disturbing backcloth to the Madeleine case", [dailymail.com.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-488654/Why-Portugal-haven-paedophiles--disturbing-backcloth-Madeleine-case.html), 20 October 2007, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-488654/Why-Portugal-haven-paedophiles--disturbing-backcloth-Madeleine-case.html>

5 (E): Confirmed emerging countries of destination

Whilst some long-established destinations such as Russia and the Czech Republic have possibly witnessed a decline in SECTT, several countries in the region, especially in Eastern Europe, have emerged as new targets for perpetrators. As observed in other world regions, increased law enforcement and reduced availability of children in nations traditionally affected by this practice, have induced offenders to move to locations where they can find higher levels of impunity and corruption as well as a rising supply of young victims. Countries in the Black Sea area in particular, including Moldova, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine, have increasingly witnessed cases of tourists and visitors who engaged in sex with children in the last decade and have therefore all been identified as emerging destinations for SECTT.

Although authorities do not consider this an issue of concern and often downplay the problem, a number of media articles and recent research suggests that Moldova is becoming a “paradise” for TCSOs. Facilitated by the low cost of services, lack of counteraction and increased children's vulnerability (due to economic crisis), the sexual exploitation of children in tourism is fueling domestic child sex trafficking and contributing to the production and dissemination of child abuse images.⁷⁰⁵ According to documented cases collected by La Strada Moldova, perpetrators visiting the country tend to come from Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Sweden and the U.S.⁷⁰⁶

Moldova, a “sex predator’s paradise”

According to a Romanian-Moldovan newspaper, “on some of the most popular social networking sites in the countries of the former USSR space (www.odnoklassniki.ru and www.mail.ru) boys from the Republic of Moldova in the range of ages between 11 and 17 years have in their ‘friends’ lists’ men aged 30-55 years living in Germany, Denmark, Norway, Italy, Russia, even Thailand, wanted by the Chisinau police for child trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, child pornography or “sex tourism”.

On some pictures posted on the site, children appear in the company of these men in private places drinking alcohol. A well-organised network of foreign paedophiles operated freely on the territory of the Republic of Moldova up until November 2010, when the Chisinau police managed to make some arrests. One of the main suspects whose case reached the desk of the judge was a citizen of the Russian Federation and Norway. He is suspected by the police to be the head and administrator of a site that promoted sex tourism in Moldova for the purpose of sexual exploitation of children. The site was operational until early April 2011.”

Although accurate information about the incidence of SECTT in the country is lacking, Ukraine is also witnessing a huge and increasing presence of travelling child sex offenders. This was recently confirmed by research conducted by La Strada Ukraine. Based on a mixed methodology (interviews with experts and workers of the service sector and content analyses of Internet forums, case studies and criminal cases), the study found that a thriving “SECTT market” exists in Ukraine, especially in Odessa, Crimea and Kiev, though it is less visible than adult sex tourism. The research identified children that are most at risk, while also examining schemes used by offenders to reach children and their motivation for coming to Ukraine for child sexual exploitation. In addition to offenders from more developed countries (EU member states such as Italy, Germany and Ireland as well as Turkey, U.S., and sometimes United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan),⁷⁰⁷ the study indicates that SECTT is increasingly involving domestic tourists and travelers.⁷⁰⁸

With prostitution being legal in the country, Turkey has recently acquired a reputation for sex tourism, particularly in its popular resort locations. While this does not point to large-scale SECTT per se, 2006 research by ECPAT International and local NGOs exposed cases of children and adolescents being sexually exploited in touristic areas in Diyarbakir, mainly by domestic tourists, but also travellers from abroad.⁷⁰⁹ Another publication by ECPAT suggests that TCSOS are found mainly around the Black Sea (where minors from Ukraine and Russia are trafficked into the country) and in places like Izmir, Kusadasi, Fethiye and Antalya.⁷¹⁰

⁷⁰⁶ La Strada Moldova, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, in February 2015.

⁷⁰⁷ Levchenko, Kateryna et al., “Дитячий секс-туризм в Україні: спроба ситуаційного аналізу (Child sex tourism in Ukraine: attempt situational analysis)”, 54.

⁷⁰⁸ La Strada Ukraine (2014), “Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction”, (2014), 14-25.

⁷⁰⁹ ECPAT International (2008), Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Turkey”, 15, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-TURKEY_ENG%20%281%29.pdf

⁷¹⁰ ECPAT Netherlands (2011), “Child Sex Tourism: Protect Child in Tourism”, 20, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/imagenes/13/1406.pdf>

Shedding light on SECTT in Turkey

Research conducted in 2015 by the International Children's Centre, an ECPAT member organisation in the country, in collaboration with an academic institution, has for the first time shed light on the incidence of SECTT in Turkey. Based on interviews with key stakeholders in three Turkish provinces, the study found that SECTT is a fact. In Antalya, the phenomenon involves both Turkish and foreign male and female children and, sometimes takes place in such contexts as small enterprises, massage parlours, yacht tours, private homes, clubs and entertainment enterprises. The research also highlights the organised nature of SECTT; some intermediaries bring children into the country to meet the demand for sex by wealthy clients, and some girls employed in the tourism sector have been victims of sexual exploitation.⁷¹¹

Although official data provided by the government indicates that there is no organised SECTT in Bulgaria,⁷¹² police inspectors from Child Pedagogical Offices reported that the Black Sea and mountain resorts were key areas where they observe and work with under-aged girls who are victims of prostitution at the hands of European travellers and tourists. They also noted that at the big Black Sea resorts, they often have cases of Roma minor girls who offer their sexual services to drunken foreign tourists directly on the beach, particularly in the summer. Some police officers reported difficulties in solving this problem mainly due to the fact that girls in prostitution are now controlled by organised criminal networks consisting of hotel and nightclub owners, pimps, taxi drivers, and waiters.⁷¹³ Several media reports collected as part of this desk study confirm that SECTT occurs in tourist locations on the Black Sea as well as in Sofia and smaller Bulgarian cities.⁷¹⁴

German offender using Bulgarian children for the production of pornography

As part of a Europe-wide bust of a massive paedophile ring in September 2009, a 72-year-old German man was arrested by police in the Bulgarian town of Samokov after he allegedly circulated nude pictures of local Roma children. Following the photo sessions he reportedly rewarded his victims with chocolates. Although the number of local children abused remained unclear, police revealed that the children were very young, aged between "a few months old to 7 years."⁷¹⁵

⁷¹¹ ICC - University of Hacettepe, Institute of Public Health Society of Public Health Specialists, "Sexual Exploitation of children in tourism in Turkey" (draft version not for circulation)..

⁷¹² MARIO (2009), "Situational Analysis of the Actions against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Bulgaria: summary", 2, accessed 28 October 2015, http://lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/993_BG_Summary_of_SA_in_EN_original.pdf

⁷¹³ ECPAT International (2013), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Bulgaria", 16, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_Bulgaria.pdf

⁷¹⁴ See, for example, "СърРичардХарпърКралскипотомък, братовчедна С. Сакскобургготски, арестуванзапедофилия в Кюстендил" ("Sir Richard Harper ... arrested for pedophilia in Kyustendil"), Struma.bg, 26 September 2014, <http://struma.bg/news/31590/1/1/Kralski-potomuk-bratovched-na-S-Sakskoburggotski-arestuvan-za-pedofiliya-v-Kyustendil.html>; "Bulgarian Court Orders Permanent Detention for British Pedophile", novinite.com, 2 May 2012, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/138979/Bulgarian+Court+Orders+Permanent+Detention+for+British+Pedophile>; "Bulgaria Pedophile Arrest Part of International Ring Bust", novinite.com, 30 September 2009, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/108340/Bulgaria+Pedophile+Arrest+Part+of+International+Ring+Bust>; "Australian Detained for Child Molestation in Bulgaria's Varna", novinite.com, 10 November 2008, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=98731

⁷¹⁵ "Bulgaria Pedophile Arrest Part of International Ring Bust", novinite.com, 30 September 2009, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/108340/Bulgaria+Pedophile+Arrest+Part+of+International+Ring+Bust>; "Bulgaria Police Arrest German Pedophile in Samokov", novinite.com, 30 September 2009, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.novinite.com/articles/108335/Bulgaria+Police+Arrest+German+Pedophile+in+Samokov>

In the Baltic region, Estonia has had to contend with the escalating issue of SECTT as a result of the increase in tourism and closer contact with Western European countries. Although its extent and prevalence remains unknown due to a lack of research and data collection, a number of news articles, court cases and surveys suggest that Estonia is a destination for travelling child sex offenders – mainly from neighbouring countries, especially Finland. According to a 2006 survey by the Estonian Open Society Institute involving adult sex workers and some underage girls exploited in prostitution, approximately half of the sex buyers were Estonian men followed by Finns (23%), Russians (19%) and Swedes (2%). British bachelors were also mentioned as a separate category of consumers of sex services.⁷¹⁶ As is true of other countries of destination, it is difficult to identify current trends in sexual exploitation of children by travelling offenders. However the mapping conducted by Kripos points to a decrease of Norwegian nationals engaging in SECTT in Baltic countries, including Estonia.⁷¹⁷

In Eastern Europe, other countries faced with a SECTT problem are Poland and Albania. As the Polish Government recently acknowledged, there is an emerging ‘cross-border sex industry’ along Poland’s border with Germany. Big shopping malls, railroad stations and bus depots are being used as places for initial contact between minors and potential “consumers” of prostitution.⁷¹⁸ Zielona Province, in particular, is known for receiving girls from Bulgaria and Ukraine for sexual exploitation at the hands of German travellers who cross the border specifically for this purpose. Tourists from Italy, Sweden and some non-European countries are also known to have been involved in the sexual exploitation of adolescents, making evident the increasingly regional nature of the phenomenon.⁷¹⁹ According to information provided by the NGO Nobody’s Children Foundation, ECPAT’s member organisation in the country, TCSOs in Poland also include locals, and locations where SECTT occurs include Warsaw, Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław and Szczecin.⁷²⁰

In Albania, 2009 research by ECPAT International and a member organisation in the country found that the increase in tourism in Albania, whether national or international, and the existence of internal trafficking, had heightened the risk for children to become victims of SECTT. According to representatives of public institutions interviewed as part of such research, this crime was on the rise and spreading in Albania and a number of cases appeared in the media and reported by NGOs confirmed this trend. The SECTT phenomenon occurs especially in the summer during the high tourism season and locations that are most affected include Tirana, Dures, Vlore, and Saranda, i.e. the capital, big towns and seaport towns.⁷²¹

Surprisingly, this desk study has also found substantial evidence of SECTT in Southern European countries, particularly in Spain. In an effort to gather more knowledge on the phenomenon, in 2006 ECPAT Spain conducted an investigation in Barcelona which included interviews with actors from the tourism industry. The preliminary assessment revealed that according to taxi drivers, foreign tourists often asked information about locations where they could easily access children for sex. Similarly, some hotel staff reported that they were aware of cases of underage people entering the rooms with customers that were not their relatives.⁷²² Although FAPMI-ECPAT Spain has recently noted that there is not enough information to prove that Spain is an emerging destination,⁷²³ data relating to notifications regarding individuals who had been arrested abroad for child sexual abuse (such as those related to citizens from the Netherlands⁷²⁴ and the UK⁷²⁵) show that SECTT occurs in the country, though its extent remains unknown. An extensive review of media articles undertaken in the framework of this desk study exposed numerous incidents of

⁷¹⁶ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Estonia”, 15.

⁷¹⁷ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway”, 16.

⁷¹⁸ Child Rights Connect (2009), “State party examination of Poland’s initial periodic report on the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography”, (52nd session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 14 September – 2 October 2009), accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Poland-OPSC-Amended52.pdf>

⁷¹⁹ ECPAT International (2006), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Poland”, 11, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-POLAND.pdf

⁷²⁰ Nobody’s Children Foundation Poland, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷²¹ Hazizaj, Altin and MAksutaj, Alma (2009), “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Albania” (Tirana, ECPAT International and Children’s Human Rights Centre of Albania), 21.

⁷²² ECPAT International (2006), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Spain”, 11-12, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-SPAIN.pdf

⁷²³ FAPMI-ECPAT Spain, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷²⁴ A total of 3 cases of Dutch offenders who sexually exploited children in Spain were reported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2 in 2013 (Barrières tegen kindseksuïerisme, p. 10) and 1 in 2014 (as per information provided by ECPAT Netherlands).

⁷²⁵ CEOP (2012), “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 12, where it is said that the 61 notifications received by CEOP in 2011 covered 26 different countries, the most common being the USA, Spain, Australia, Netherlands, France, Germany, Cambodia and Thailand. Accessed 23 May 2015, http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/CEOPThreatA_2012_190612_web.pdf

sexual exploitation by travelling child sex offenders from several countries (including UK, Netherlands, Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Germany).⁷²⁶ In many cases these were also linked to the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography. This partly correlates with the fact that Spain is the second country in the world for the number of visits to child pornography websites.⁷²⁷ Whilst factors contributing to this significant presence of foreign perpetrators are yet to be identified, it must be noted that thanks to the increase in low cost flights connecting many European countries with Barcelona and other locations (such as the Costa del Sol), Spain has seen a significant growth in tourism flow in recent years. According to UNWTO data, in 2013 the country ranked third for arrivals, hosting over 60 million visitors.⁷²⁸ It is possible that this factor, as well as a lack of awareness of the problem and an increase in children's vulnerability as observed since the beginning of the economic recession,⁷²⁹ have all combined together to facilitate the child sexual exploitation by tourists and travellers.

British child sex offenders in the Costa del Sol

According to media reports, the South of Spain – particularly the Costa del Sol – has become a destination for dangerous British registered sex offenders, many of whom are believed to be on the run.⁷³⁰ The British community in this region is quite extensive, thus cases of sexual exploitation by British citizens residing in Spain are not uncommon. For example, in 2012 the Moroccan police arrested a British man suspected of kidnapping and trying to rape a young girl in the Andalusian town of Vélez-Málaga. The man had already spent six years in prison in Wales after a 2008 trial in which he was found guilty of trying to abduct a five-year-old girl. He was also found guilty of indecently assaulting a young girl and possessing 730 indecent images of children.⁷³¹

5 (F): Potential emerging countries of destination

Balkan region: Croatia is not a major destination for SECTT but there are reports that many children are exploited in prostitution along the Adriatic Coast, particularly during the peak tourist season.⁷³² Information on Greece is very limited, but analysis of media reports and other sources exposed incidents of sexual exploitation of children by perpetrators from Bulgaria,⁷³³ Netherlands⁷³⁴ and Russia.⁷³⁵ Although no cases of SECTT were registered between 2006 and 2009,⁷³⁶ recent research in Montenegro stressed that the expansion of tourism in the country may expose

⁷²⁶ "Un pedófilo inglés entra en España, cambia de nombre y abusa de una niña de 4 años", laopiniondemalaga.es, 10 February 2010, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.laopiniondemalaga.es/malaga/2011/02/10/pedofilo-ingles-entra-espana-cambia-nombre-abusa-nina-4-anos/401028.html>; cases of child pornography involving foreigners: "Detenidas 18 personas relacionadas con pedofilia en internet", diariolibre.com, 26 December 2005, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.diariolibre.com/noticias/2005/12/26/i83583_detenidas-personas-relacionadas-con-pedofilia-inter-net.html; "Detienen en España a un pedófilo alemán que hacía fotografías "por encargo", emol.com, 19 April 2014, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.emol.com/noticias/internacional/2014/04/19/656057/detienen-en-espana-a-un-pedofilo-aleman-que-hacia-fotografias-por-encargo.html>; "Expulsado diez años de España un entrenador pedófilo de la Fundación VCF", levante-emv.com, 10 March 2011, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.levante-emv.com/deportes/2011/03/10/expulsado-diez-anos-espana-entrenador-pedofilo-fundacion-vcf/789259.html>

⁷²⁷ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Spain", 16, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf

⁷²⁸ UNWTO (2014), "Tourism Highlights: 2014 Edition", 6, accessed 12 November 2015, <http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416226>

⁷²⁹ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Spain", 10 and 13, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_SPAIN.pdf. To note that Spain has been particularly hit by the recession and levels of unemployment are the highest in Europe (only Greece is higher). See <http://www.statista.com/statistics/268830/unemployment-rate-in-eu-countries/>

⁷³⁰ "¿Son las costas españolas un paraíso para pedófilos extranjeros?", antena3.com, 20 December 2012, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.antena3.com/programas/espejo-publico/noticias/son-costas-espanolas-paraíso-pedofilos-extranjeros_2012122000049.html

⁷³¹ "Brit kidnapper nabbed for Malaga child sex crime", thelocal.es, 20 June 2013, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.thelocal.es/20130620/brit-kidnapper-nabbed-for-child-sex-crime>

⁷³² US Department of State (2013), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Croatia, 19 June 2013", accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51c2f3c816.html>. See also individual cases of foreign child sex offenders illustrated in "Britanski pedofiluhičendok je u Ičićimasnimaodjecnaplazi" ("British pedophile arrested while filming in ICICI children on the beach"), 24sata.com, 24 August 2014, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.24sata.hr/crna-kronika-news/britanski-pedofil-uhicen-dok-je-u-icicima-snimaod-jecu-na-plazi-381213> and "Uhitiliga: Pedofilusred dana predškolormdirao-djevojčicu" ("Pedophile arrested in middle of the day while touching school girl"), 24sata.com, 24 August 2014, accessed 16 October 2014, <http://www.24sata.hr/crna-kronika-news/uhitili-ga-pedofil-usred-dana-pred-skolormdirao-djevojčicu-389046>

⁷³³ "Greece arrests BG pedophile child", standartnews.com, 5 May 2014, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.standartnews.com/english/read/greece_arrests_bg_pedophile_child_doctor-3534.html; "Pedophiles in 32 countries have been located by Hellenic Police in Internet", newsbomb.gr, 16 May 2014, accessed 23 May 2015 <http://www.newsbomb.gr/en/story/446230/pedophiles-in-32-countries-have-been-located-by-hellenic-police-in-internet#ixzz3Obc9Mehc>

⁷³⁴ The overview of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs shows that 37 Dutch men are detained abroad because of a suspected or convicted sexual abuse of minors by August 2014. One of them was detained in Greece. This data was provided by ECPAT Netherlands in February 2015.

⁷³⁵ "Russian priest suspected of abusing children is arrested in Israel", haaretz.com, 22 September 2014, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/world/1.617206> and "Ρώσοςιερέας κατηγορείται για παιδεραστία στηνΕλλάδα" ("Russian priest accused of pedophilia in Greece"), Zougla.gr, 6 November 2013, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.zougla.gr/greece/article/rosos-iereas-katigorie-gia-pederastia-stin-elada>

⁷³⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011), "Summary record of the 1562th (Chamber A) meeting held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 21 September 2010", CRC/C/SR.1562, 4.

vulnerable children to an increased risk of sexual exploitation.⁷³⁷ The government has already acknowledged this threat and adopted some measures to prevent it.⁷³⁸

Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia all registered a robust growth in tourism arrivals, particularly in 2012 and 2013.⁷³⁹ Information provided by the NGO “Hope and Help”, an ECPAT member organisation in Armenia, shows that incidents of sexual exploitation of children in the country are still rare, but have the potential to increase as tourism grows. One local NGO referred to cases of underage girls who provided sexual services to foreign truck drivers at the border with Iran.⁷⁴⁰ Another example that illustrates the possible occurrence of SECTT is a high-profile case of an American citizen of Armenian descent who established a business in Armenia and was sentenced for sexual relationship with children.⁷⁴¹ Though no research has been conducted and no cases of SECTT are known in Azerbaijan, the government has acknowledged the potential risk posed by TCSOs and has already adopted some preventive measures.⁷⁴² Preliminary findings from research carried out by Public Health Foundation of Georgia, an ECPAT member organisation, show that the high growth rate of tourism in recent years — facilitated by tourism development policies and positive economic growth and development trends — have led to a risk for SECTT in the country. According to the study, the number of bars, hotels and massage parlours in certain districts of the capital city of Tbilisi and in other major towns, including Batumi, has increased. More importantly, interviews with some NGO representatives working with children living and working on the streets, revealed that the majority are involved in prostitution; they also noted that from time to time this vulnerable group migrates to the Adjara Region of Georgia (Black Sea coast), which is a known tourism destination.⁷⁴³

Eastern Europe: According to Belarus government information, “there is no legalised sex tourism industry in Belarus” nor is sex tourism promoted in the country.⁷⁴⁴ However it is difficult to be certain whether SECTT is absent, or is instead an unreported practice.⁷⁴⁵ Incidents of foreigners who sexually exploited children through prostitution and for to produce child abuse materials, identified through this desk review, seem to suggest that the phenomenon occurs to a limited extent, but is not identified as SECTT.⁷⁴⁶ The Belarus government has stated that acts related to SECTT are regarded as part of recruitment for subsequent exploitation, and are therefore criminalised under provisions against human trafficking.⁷⁴⁷ As noted above, when sexual exploitation of children and adolescents by TCSOs is punished under other laws, it may result in limited understanding of the problem and lack of tailored measures to address it.

⁷³⁴ The overview of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs shows that 37 Dutch men are detained abroad because of a suspected or convicted sexual abuse of minors by August 2014. One of them was detained in Greece. This data was provided by ECPAT Netherlands in February 2015.

⁷³⁵ “Russian priest suspected of abusing children is arrested in Israel”, haaretz.com, 22 September 2014, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.haaretz.com/news/world/1.617206> and “Πώσοιιερέας κατηγορείται για παιδεραστία στηνΕλλάδα” (“Russian priest accused of pedophilia in Greece”), Zougla.gr, 6 November 2013, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.zougla.gr/greece/article/rosos-iereas-katigorite-gia-pederastia-stin-elada>

⁷³⁶ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011), “Summary record of the 1562th (Chamber A) meeting held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 21 September 2010”, CRC/C/SR.1562, 4.

⁷³⁷ Ombudsman for Children (2013), “IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE. Unapređenjepoložajadeteta u ciljuzaštiteodsvihvidovaeksplotacije. Istraživanjasprovedena u Crnoj Gori 2010 2013” (“Results from research on protection of children from exploitation. Improving the status of children in order to protect them from all forms of exploitation. Surveys conducted in Montenegro 2010-2013”), accessed 4 June 2015, http://ombudsman.co.me/djeca/docs/110420133_kompilacija_izvjestaja%20konacna.pdf

⁷³⁸ Child Rights Connect (2010), “State party examination of Montenegro’s initial periodic report on the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography”, (research presented at 55th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 13 September - 1 October 2010), 2-3, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Montenegro-OPSC-Amended-55.pdf>

⁷³⁹ UNWTO (2014), “Tourism Highlights: 2014 Edition”, accessed 21 November 2015, http://dtxqt4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/unw-to_highlights14_en_hr_0.pdf<http://www.e-unwto.org/doi/pdf/10.18111/9789284416226>

⁷⁴⁰ Hope and Help NGO, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁴¹ “Harutunian, Mariam “Armenia risks becoming hub for child sex tourism”, mirrorspectator.com, 11 February 2011, accessed 23 May 2015, <http://www.mirrorspectator.com/2011/02/11/armenia-risks-becoming-hub-for-child-sex-tourism/>

⁷⁴² Child Rights Connect (2012), “State party examination of Azerbaijan’s initial periodic report on the optional protocol to the convention on the rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography”, (59th session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 16 January – 3 February 2012), 4, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.childrightsconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Azerbaijan_OPSC-Report_FI-NAL-59.pdf

⁷⁴³ Public Health Foundation of Georgia (2015), “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Georgia”, first draft (not yet published), 22.

⁷⁴⁴ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2010), “Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography 2009 OPSC state report. Initial reports of States parties due in 2004: Belarus”, CRC/C/OPSC/BLR/1, 9.

⁷⁴⁵ ECPAT International (2011), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus”, 11, accessed 23 May 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_BELARUS.pdf

⁷⁴⁶ See the case in the box below and “Минскаямилицияактивизируетборьбу с проституцией” (“Minsk police intensify the fight against prostitution”), 11 December 2012, accessed 4 June 2015 <http://www.sb.by/v-belarusi/article/minskaya-militsiya-aktiviziruet-borbu-s-prostitutitsiyey-2.html>; “Citizen of Israel suspected of pedophilia to be kept in detention pending trial”, Naviny.by, 26 May 2009, http://naviny.by/rubrics/english/2009/05/26/ic_news_259_311841/

⁷⁴⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2010), “Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 12, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography 2009 OPSC state report. Initial reports of States parties due in 2004: Belarus”, CRC/C/OPSC/BLR/1, 9.

A case of SECTT in Belarus

In March 2008 law enforcement authorities arrested five suspects, three of whom were from Russia, who were producing child abuse materials with boys from 16 to 21 years old. The images were produced in apartments in Minsk. Based on information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, more than 50 people were identified, but several hundred children and youth are believed to have been engaged in the production of these abusive materials. The case was reported to the authorities by a Belarusian citizen living in Germany who discovered images of one of his young, male relatives on the Internet. Most of the boys identified in this case appear to be from public boarding schools or families in difficult situations.⁷⁴⁸

Though there is no evidence that Hungary is a destination specifically for SECTT,⁷⁴⁹ men from Western Europe reportedly travel to Budapest for the purpose of adult sex tourism, which may sometimes involve the exploitation of young trafficking victims.⁷⁵⁰ The presence of this foreign demand is corroborated by 2006 research exposing cases of consumers of sex services who accessed sex workers in tourist areas or truck parking lots; the same study found that 20% of those involved in street prostitution were young people, with boys entering sexual exploitation at a younger age compared to girls.⁷⁵¹

Central Asia: Kazakhstan is also experiencing a consistent increase in tourism flows.⁷⁵² Although there is no strong indication of the presence of tourists and travellers engaging in sex with children in the country, ECPAT's member organisation in Kazakhstan reported cases of young girls who got married to foreigners and were then sold into prostitution by their husbands. Several incidents of sex crimes against children committed by foreign migrants were additionally registered.⁷⁵³ Little evidence of SECTT was also found in Kyrgyzstan. From what is known, adult sex workers are accessible to foreign tourists in big cities, while underage victims of prostitution are kept almost invisible, in hidden rooms. Foreign consumers of sex services must therefore have made special arrangements prior to their visit. In the case of prostitution of boys, some tourists are reported to pay premium prices.⁷⁵⁴ The Special Rapporteur noted that although "child sex tourism is not yet a dominant industry in Kyrgyzstan ... , tourism has been identified by the Government as a key area for development and should also be considered an area that requires further attention".⁷⁵⁵

Other countries: The present desk study also identified countries in Western Europe where reports of children sexually exploited by domestic and foreign travellers and tourists have recently begun to surface. Defining these countries as destinations for SECTT may, however, be problematic at this stage. Information available on these incidents remains very limited. Governments traditionally consider and treat such cases as prostitution of children (or as other CSEC offences), and have not yet fully acknowledged the linkage between travel and tourism and in-country child sexual exploitation. Some Western European ECPAT groups consulted for this study confirmed that in their own countries some nationals and foreigners, including long-term residents, may access children for sex during their travels. ECPAT Netherlands, for example, reported that the country is a destination for sex tourism, due to the famous red light district ('De Wallen'), which is a tourist attraction near Amsterdam Central Station. Police control is very strict in this area, so exploitation of minors is not seen there. However cases of minors being exploited in the sex industry exist. Just recently a 16-year-old girl was found having had commercial sex with over 70 men in a small hotel in Valkenburg (small touristic city near Maastricht). Contacts are mainly made through advertisements on the internet, and the abuse takes place in apartments and hotels. Although it is not known whether there is a real sex market catering to travellers and tourists and involving children and adolescents, in its description of SECTT the Dutch police mentioned that there have been a couple of cases of this kind in the Netherlands.⁷⁵⁶

⁷⁴⁸ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Belarus", 11.

⁷⁴⁹ US Department of State (2008), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Hungary", (4 June 2008), accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/484f9a1c58.html>

⁷⁵⁰ US Department of State (2012), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Hungary", (19 June 2012), accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30cc223.html>

⁷⁵¹ ICCR Budapest Foundation, Balogi Anna et al. (2006), "Report on the demand side of sexual services in Hungary", 18 and 29, accessed 10 June 2015, https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/report_on_the_demand_side_of_sexual_services_in_hungary_1.pdf

⁷⁵² UNWTO (2014), "Tourism Highlights: 2014", 7.

⁷⁵³ NGO Elpikir, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁵⁴ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Kyrgyzstan", 15, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CA_KYRGYZSTAN.pdf

⁷⁵⁵ UN General Assembly (2013), "Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid: Addendum: Mission to Kyrgyzstan (15 to 26 April 2013)", UN doc. A/HRC/25/48/Add.1.

⁷⁵⁶ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

British offender organised sex tours with underage boys in Amsterdam

In 2012 a violent child sex offender who fled the UK and went on the run for 15 years was arrested in the Czech Republic and sent back to his country of origin. The abuser was first investigated in 1992, after police suspected he had links with paedophile rings in the UK and Europe. According to media reports, he acted as a 'fixer' in Amsterdam, where he introduced sex tourists looking for underage boys. He told undercover officers from the Metropolitan and Dutch police he could pick up young boys from Germany, Prague and Poland for as little as 10p. He was also caught on secret camera offering to supply a video in which a 10-year-old boy was killed and one featuring the horrific abuse of a young boy. When Spinks was sentenced in 1995 at Lewes Crown Court for a string of offences against under-age boys, the court heard how he drugged a 14-year-old boy and 'sold him' to a gay brothel in Amsterdam.⁷⁵⁷

According to ECPAT Germany, the country is a destination for sex tourism due to the fact that prostitution is legal and pimping is not regarded as a criminal act as long as it is within a non-exploitive framework. Huge brothels are famous, like the "Pussy Club" in Fellbach (close to Stuttgart), "Paradise" in Saarbrücken, "Pascha" Cologne, close to the French border, which also attracts "clients" from abroad. Again, since police control is very strict, exploitation of minors does not take place at these locations. However cases of underage people being exploited in the sex industry exist, according to counselling services for victims of human trafficking, therefore the occurrence of SECTT in the country cannot be ruled out with certainty.⁷⁵⁸ Likewise, ECPAT France pointed out that France is not a destination for SECTT and therefore children involved in sexual exploitation in the country are not particularly affected by the problem.⁷⁵⁹ However, the case of the Russian perpetrator in southern France indicates that some foreigners engage in commercial sex acts with children and adolescents in the country.

ECPAT Belgium noted that SECTT is minimal to non-existent in the country. However, the fact that some children and adolescents involved in prostitution in Belgium are abused by foreigners proves that the problem occurs. Although available data is very limited and only reflects reported cases, information collected by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs shows that in 2013 and 2014 several Dutch citizens committed sex crimes against children in Belgium.⁷⁶⁰ Whilst this can be explained by the presence of a Dutch liaison officer in the country,⁷⁶¹ the fact that some perpetrators were identified and arrested in a destination usually not associated with SECTT, such as Belgium, deserves further analysis and more attention.

According to information provided by ECPAT UK, in-country sexual exploitation of children by British citizens, including domestic travel, has occurred for many years. Incidents of foreign citizens, such as migrant workers, who have committed sex crimes against children have also been documented in consistent numbers.⁷⁶² Although ECPAT UK does not document or collect information on cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse within the UK, there have recently been reports in the media of large-scale child sexual exploitation carried out by groups of offenders who travel within the UK to abuse young children.⁷⁶³ In addition, there have been cases of individuals travelling within the country to meet what they believed to be young children whom they have groomed online via social networking sites and chatting, but who were actually a group of people posing as young girls in order to snare individuals who approach children for sex.⁷⁶⁴ The correlation between travel and tourism, child sexual exploitation and the use of ICTs to groom

⁷⁵⁷ Williams, Amanda, "The 'Pied Piper of Paedophiles' caught after 15 years on the run: Britain's most wanted child abuser who kidnapped and sold young boys is arrested at Heathrow", Daily Mail, 18 November 2012, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2234679/Britains-wanted-paedophile-Warren-Spinks-kidnapped-sold-young-boys-abuse-finally-caught-15-years-run.html>

⁷⁵⁸ ECPAT Germany, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁵⁹ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁶⁰ There were five cases in 2013 (see National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (2014), "Barriers against child sex tourism: summary report: 2013", 4, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.dutchrapporteur.nl/reports/child-sex-tourism/>) and 7 cases in 2014 (as per information provided by ECPAT Netherlands in February 2015).

⁷⁶¹ Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel en Seksueel Geweld tegen Kinderen, "Barrières tegen kinderseksuisme" ("Barriers against child sextourism"), 8.

⁷⁶² Dawar, Anil "Thousands of foreign rapists dodging deportation to roam British streets", [express.co.uk](http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/474234/Thousands-of-foreign-criminals-and-RAPISTS-roaming-Britain-and-dodging-deportation), 6 May 2014, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/474234/Thousands-of-foreign-criminals-and-RAPISTS-roaming-Britain-and-dodging-deportation>

⁷⁶³ "Rotherham child abuse: the background to the scandal", BBC, 5 February 2015, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-28934963>, "Rochdale grooming: 'Shocking' failure over sex abuse", BBC, 20 December 2013, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-25450512>; "Oxford grooming sex case: brothers jailed for life", BBC, 27 June 2013, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-23079649>

⁷⁶⁴ Booth, Robert "Vigilante paedophile hunters ruining lives with internet stings", Guardian, 25 October 2013, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/oct/25/vigilante-paedophile-hunters-online-police>

vulnerable children has become more evident in the UK. Considering that incidents of this kind are not limited to the UK, these linkages are likely to be increasingly acknowledged in other Western European countries as a result of improved understanding, awareness and knowledge of the problem of domestic travellers and tourists.

5(G): International Destinations for European TCSOs

South-East Asia has been a destination for European perpetrators since before the First World Congress in Stockholm. Some well-known and popular countries such as Thailand, Philippines and more recently Cambodia are still witnessing cases of European travellers, tourists and expatriates who engage in sex with children (according to data collected by the local NGO APLE, French and British offenders are the most represented foreign nationalities in Cambodia after Americans and Vietnamese⁷⁶⁵). However, information from Internet chat forums indicates that the threat from European offenders may be declining to an extent in Thailand as well as in the Philippines, supporting the hypothesis that perpetrators have moved to neighbouring countries. Indeed there is evidence that as a result of more robust law enforcement in the Philippines, Thailand and to a lesser degree Cambodia,⁷⁶⁶ other emerging destinations in the region are increasingly attracting European nationals. In Vietnam, for example, a number of cases of sex perpetrators from Austria,⁷⁶⁷ France,⁷⁶⁸ Germany⁷⁶⁹ and Norway,⁷⁷⁰ among others, were noted and reported by local NGOs and other actors over the last decade. Likewise, in Myanmar, where outside observers and government authorities have both expressed concern over a possible increase in SECTT due to overall tourism increases,⁷⁷¹ there have been reports of European travellers and tourists coming from Austria⁷⁷², Denmark,⁷⁷³ France,⁷⁷⁴ Netherlands⁷⁷⁵ and Norway,⁷⁷⁶ among others. In Laos, where in 2009 the government and NGOs estimated that SECTT was likely to grow in conjunction with tourism development,⁷⁷⁷ there appears to be a sex market catering especially to Asian tourists and migrant workers and to a very limited extent to European tourists.⁷⁷⁸ In Indonesia, child sexual exploitation in tourism is prevalent in the Riau Islands bordering Singapore as well as in Bali.⁷⁷⁹ According to information provided by the ECPAT group in the country, Europeans (particularly from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland) constitute a large proportion of the foreign TCSOs in Indonesia.⁷⁸⁰

⁷⁶⁵ APLE Cambodia (2014), "Investigating traveling child sex offenders: an Analysis of the Trends and Challenges in the Field of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Cambodia", 8-9, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.aplecambodia.org/images/Analytical%20Report%20on%20Investigating%20Traveling%20Child%20Sex%20Offenders%20Web%20Version.pdf>

⁷⁶⁶ CEOP (2013), "Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", 16, accessed 10 June 2015, http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceop-docs/CEOP_TACSEA2013_240613%20FINAL.pdf

⁷⁶⁷ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Austria", 16, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_AUSTRIA_0.pdf

⁷⁶⁸ "Pédophilie: un médecin français arrêté au Vietnam", L'express, 22 July 2013, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/societe/pedophilie-un-medecin-francais-arrete-au-vietnam_1268222.html

⁷⁶⁹ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Germany", 15, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_EU_GERMANY.pdf

⁷⁷⁰ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway", 16.

⁷⁷¹ ECPAT International (2014), "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in East and South-East Asia. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society", 22.

⁷⁷² ECPAT Austria, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁷³ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Denmark", 13.

⁷⁷⁴ ECPAT France, "Response to questionnaire in SECTT in Europe", February 2015.

⁷⁷⁵ Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel en Seksueel Geweld tegen Kinderen, "Barrières tegen kinderseksstoerisme", 10.

⁷⁷⁶ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway" 16.

⁷⁷⁷ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in East and South-East Asia", 21-22.

⁷⁷⁸ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway" (2012), 16.

⁷⁷⁹ ECPAT International, "The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in East and South-East Asia", 22.

⁷⁸⁰ National Coalition for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

Soon after the First World Congress in Stockholm, it became clear that South Asia was also becoming a preferred destination for SECTT, including for European nationals. India, in particular, became a popular hub for individuals travelling to gain easy access to children. Whilst it is not possible to describe any accurate trends related to the presence of perpetrators from Europe, various sources seem to suggest that India remains a major destination for offenders from the region (e.g. Austria,⁷⁸¹ Belgium,⁷⁸² France,⁷⁸³ Norway⁷⁸⁴, Poland⁷⁸⁵ and the UK⁷⁸⁶). Nevertheless, CEOP recently noted that analysis of hidden Internet chat forums suggests that opportunities for offending may be diminishing in the country.⁷⁸⁷ Although SECTT has been a problem in Nepal since the early 1990s,⁷⁸⁸ the presence of European perpetrators became more evident in recent years (e.g., nationals from Austria,⁷⁸⁹ Germany,⁷⁹⁰ Netherlands⁷⁹¹ and Norway⁷⁹²). For example, the French Police have noted an increase in French sex offenders in the country, many of whom were arrested at destination.⁷⁹³ In Sri Lanka, where estimates based on studies undertaken by development agencies and NGOs suggest that thousands of children are trafficked from rural areas and made available for prostitution to tourists,⁷⁹⁴ there are continuous reports of European travellers and tourists committing sex crimes against children⁷⁹⁵ (e.g. Belgium⁷⁹⁶, France⁷⁹⁷ and Netherlands⁷⁹⁸). Information provided by the Dutch police points to Bangladesh as another emerging destination for Dutch TCSOs.⁷⁹⁹ Although Bangladesh the problem is not yet major, there is concern that with the projected growth in the tourism sector, sexual exploitation of children by domestic and international travellers may increase. This concern was underlined by 2013 CEOP data showing increases in British child sex offenders in Bangladesh.⁸⁰⁰

Central and Latin America have been known as destinations for European TCSOs since the mid-1990s. Thematic studies looking at linkages between prostitution of children and SECTT, prepared for the Stockholm Congress, first unveiled the presence of European perpetrators in countries such as Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.⁸⁰¹ Twenty years after this initial research, Central and Latin America continue to witness a significant presence of Europeans who engage in sex with children. According to CEOP, “although reliable comparative data is hard to come by, commercial sexual exploitation of children in Brazil is currently thought to be the most prevalent in the Western hemisphere, possibly second only to Thailand globally”.⁸⁰² Brazil has been identified as one of the main destinations for TCSOs from Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands;⁸⁰³ incidents involving perpetrators from Belgium⁸⁰⁴ and France⁸⁰⁵ were also reported. In Central America, a traditional destination that still witnesses the presence of European offenders is the Dominican Republic, as documented by cases involving nationals from Italy,⁸⁰⁶ Poland⁸⁰⁷ and Russia⁸⁰⁸ among others. Besides Brazil and the Dominican Republic, there is evidence that new and emerging countries in the region have become destinations for European nationals. An investigation conducted in 2010 by Fundación Renacer,

⁷⁸¹ ECPAT Austria, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁸² ECPAT Belgium, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁸³ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁸⁴ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway, (2012), 16.

⁷⁸⁵ Nobody’s Children Foundation Poland, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁸⁶ ECPAT UK, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁸⁷ CEOP, “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 16.

⁷⁸⁸ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of South Asia. Developments, progress, challenges and recommended strategies for civil society”, 35.

⁷⁸⁹ ECPAT Austria, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁹⁰ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia”, 36.

⁷⁹¹ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁹² ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Norway”, 16.

⁷⁹³ ECPAT France, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁹⁴ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia”, 35.

⁷⁹⁵ Kugathasan, Aingkar, “Paedophiles’ Paradise: Child Abuse and Child Prostitution in Sri Lanka”, upeace.org, 20 February 2012, accessed 10 June 2015, http://www.monitor.upeace.org/printer.cfm?id_article=873

⁷⁹⁶ ECPAT Belgium, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁷⁹⁷ Rebillat, Clémentine, “Un pédophile français arrêté grâce au Fbi”, ParisMatch, 20 May 2012, accessed 10 June 2015, <http://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Societe/Un-pedophile-francais-directeur-d-une-maison-de-retraite-a-ete-arrete-grace-au-FBI-149606>

⁷⁹⁸ Nationaal Rapporteur Mensenhandel en Seksueel Geweld tegen Kinderen, “Barrières tegen kinderseksstoerisme”, 8.

⁷⁹⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰⁰ CEOP, “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 16.

⁸⁰¹ These thematic studies were prepared by Dr Julia O’Connell Davidson and Jacqueline Sanchez Taylor and were all published in 1995.

⁸⁰² CEOP, “Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse”, 16.

⁸⁰³ “Italiano e português lideram turismo sexual no Nordeste”, Folha de S. Paulo, 26 December 2005, accessed 14 June 2015 from <http://www1.folha.uol.com.br/folha/turismo/noticias/ult338u5441.shtml>

⁸⁰⁴ ECPAT Belgium, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸⁰⁵ “Tourisme sexuel: le Maroc et le Brésil Destinations favorites pour les Français!”, Yabiladi.com, 10 September 2004, accessed on 14 June 2015, <http://www.yabiladi.com/forum/tourisme-sexuel-maroc-bresil-destinations-2-345604.html>

⁸⁰⁶ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Italy”, 13.

⁸⁰⁷ Nobody’s Children Foundation Poland, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸⁰⁸ ECPAT Netherlands (2013), “Protection of children against sexual exploitation in tourism”, 39, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.defenceforchildren.nl/images/13/2817.pdf>

ECPAT member organisation in Colombia, revealed that SECTT in the country is strongly connected to child trafficking and is increasingly promoted over the Internet. The study exposed several cases of Internet websites, involving especially transgender youth, frequented by tourists from a large number of European countries.⁸⁰⁹ In Guatemala, where children engaging in sex in the informal sector or brothels are often contacted by intermediaries or via the Internet, TCSOs appear to come predominantly from Canada, Germany, Spain and the United States.⁸¹⁰ Information collected by Dutch authorities shows that some perpetrators from the Netherlands committed sex crimes against children in Suriname.⁸¹¹ This might be related to the fact that the country is a former Dutch colony and still hosts a large Dutch community.

As far as the United States of America is concerned, it is important to note that although the U.S. has never been considered a destination for travelling child sex offenders, data collected by some law enforcement agencies in Europe indicates that a number of European nationals have been arrested in the country for sex crimes against children. For example, information collected by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs shows that most Dutch citizens who committed sex offences against children abroad in 2013 and 2014, were held on remand, released on bail or were imprisoned in the U.S.⁸¹² Likewise, CEOP noted that the majority of child sexual abuse cases perpetrated by Britons abroad in 2012, took place in countries with advanced economies in northern and western Europe, North America and Australasia, where socioeconomic and cultural factors do not create a favourable environment for offending. Whilst reflecting to a certain degree the effectiveness of the law enforcement response in the U.S. as well as good information-sharing and notification procedures among these countries (i.e. U.S. with Netherlands and UK), this data demands further analysis and understanding.⁸¹³

As a result of a growing influx of tourists (facilitated by the proliferation of new flights to Africa), weak application of laws, corruption of some officials and changing traditions, in the years following the Stockholm Congress, a number of African countries have increasingly become notorious for the presence of offenders from Europe and other regions. In North Africa, Morocco (particularly Marrakech and Casablanca) remains a popular destination for European offenders originating from Belgium,⁸¹⁴ France,⁸¹⁵ Netherlands,⁸¹⁶ Spain,⁸¹⁷ the UK⁸¹⁸ and other countries. Although the government has yet to acknowledge the existence of child sexual exploitation linked to tourism in Tunisia,⁸¹⁹ in some holiday locations such as Hammamet, charities have voiced concerns over increasing cases of deprived youngsters being targeted by perpetrators from the UK⁸²⁰ and other nations (e.g. Netherlands).⁸²¹ In addition, there is evidence of child sexual exploitation by tourists in Egypt (especially in Cairo, Alexandria and Luxor) and, although no research has been done on sending countries, media reports indicate that Europeans may also be involved.⁸²²

⁸⁰⁹ ECPAT Colombia (2014), "Informe de monitoreo de país sobre la explotación sexual comercial de niños, niñas y adolescentes (ESCNNA)", 23, accessed 14 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/CMR_COLOMBIA_FINAL.pdf

⁸¹⁰ US Department of State (2012), "Trafficking in Persons Report: Guatemala", accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4fe30cc6d.html>

⁸¹¹ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸¹² National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, (2014), "Barriers against child sex tourism: summary report: 2013", 4, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.dutchrapporteur.nl/reports/child-sex-tourism/> and data provided by ECPAT Netherlands in February 2015.

⁸¹³ CEOP, "Threat Assessment of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse", 15.

⁸¹⁴ ECPAT Belgium, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸¹⁵ James Tennent, "Is Morocco the Latest Haven for European Paedophiles?", *vice.com*, 3 September 2013, accessed 14 June 2015, http://www.vice.com/en_uk/read/is-morocco-replacing-southeast-asia-as-a-haven-for-european-paedophiles

⁸¹⁶ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸¹⁷ "Spanish pedophile pardoned in Morocco arrested in Spain", *Al Arabiya News*, 5 August 2013, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2013/08/05/Spanish-paedophile-pardoned-in-Morocco-arrested-in-Spain.html>

⁸¹⁸ "Morocco jails British Pedophile for 20 years", *Al Arabiya News*, 15 April 2014, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/africa/2014/04/15/Morocco-jails-British-Paedophile-for-20-years-NGO.html>

⁸¹⁹ "Les grandes destinations du tourisme sexuel en Afrique", *SlateAfrique.com*, 6 June 2014, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.slateafrique.com/14047/tourisme-sexuel-pedophilie-grandes-destinations-en-afrique>

⁸²⁰ Hewitt, Sian "Paedophiles get child sex tourism warning from Thomas Cook", *DailyStarSunday*, 4 August 2013, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/330343/Paedophiles-get-child-sex-tourism-warning-from-Thomas-Cook>

⁸²¹ ECPAT Netherlands, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸²² See the recent case of a French repeat offender who committed sex crimes against children in Egypt, Tunisia and Sri Lanka: Clémentine Rebillat, "Un pédophile français arrêté grâce au Fbi", *ParisMatch*, 20 May 2012, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.parismatch.com/Actu/Societe/Un-pedophile-francais-directeur-d-une-maison-de-retraite-a-ete-arrete-grace-au-FBI-149606>

In West Africa, research recently conducted by ECPAT found that in Senegal sexual exploitation of children is frequently associated with tourism. Combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, the study revealed that the majority (c. 60%) of tourists with whom girls and young women had sexual relations in exchange for a sum of money were French, followed by Belgians (25%), Spanish (2%) and other nationalities.⁸²³ Another long-affected country of destination for SECTT in West Africa is the Gambia. A 2003 research by the Child Protection Alliance (CPA) – the ECPAT group in the country – and Terre des Hommes, unveiled several incidents of boys exploited in prostitution by foreign perpetrators, some of whom (e.g. from the Netherlands and Norway) took advantage of direct flights to travel to the Gambia on package tour holidays for the specific purpose of having sexual relationships with young Gambian men.⁸²⁴ Another recent study by ECPAT confirmed that an organised sex industry catering to European tourists exists in the Gambia (e.g., Belgium, UK and Sweden), with sexual abuse increasingly taking place in private homes, and the Internet being used for building relationships between Gambians and (sex) tourists.⁸²⁵ Ghana is also a target for tourists and travellers seeking sexual contact with children. A 2006 report by the Ghanaian NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC), and some media reports, revealed that Ghanaian children were suffering sexual abuse from expatriates and international tourists from Germany, the U.S. and UK and other Western countries (such as the Netherlands), sometimes in exchange for the payment of school fees.⁸²⁶

In Central Africa, a 2006 study by ECPAT International and ASSEJA, the ECPAT group in the country, found that in Cameroon the sexual exploitation of children by tourists was taking place at beach resorts such as Kribi, particularly in hotels, nightclubs and cabarets;⁸²⁷ according to media reports, many perpetrators were French and other European nationals.⁸²⁸

In East Africa, Kenya remains a major hotspot for SECTT, including for offenders from Europe. A 2006 UNICEF study revealed that hundreds of girls and boys were being sexually exploited in the coastal towns of Malindi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Diani, with foreign perpetrators coming primarily from Italy (18%), Germany (14%), and Switzerland (12%).⁸²⁹ Information provided by ECPAT UK also suggests a recent increase in British child sex offenders in Kenya.⁸³⁰ The presence of European “child sex tourists” has also been identified in Zanzibar and other locations in Tanzania⁸³¹ (e.g., Dar el Salaam and Arusha). More recently, a number of media reports and small-scale studies have indicated that Uganda is becoming a destination country in the region and, whilst sending countries are yet to be examined, media reports suggest that Europeans tourists and travellers may be involved.⁸³²

⁸²³ ECPAT Austria et al. (2014), “Assessment on sexual exploitation of children related to tourism and reporting mechanisms in Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa”, 65, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Overall%20report%20-%20Assessment%205%20African%20countries.pdf>

⁸²⁴ CPA and Terre des Hommes (2003), “Gambia ...the Smiling Coast! A Study of Child Sex Tourism in The Gambia and the Involvement of Dutch Tourists”, 12, accessed 4 June 2015, [http://www.gbos.gov.gm/uploads/survey/GAMBIA%20THE%20SMILING%20COAST%20\(CHILD%20SEX%20TOURISM%20STUDY%20-%20GAMBIA\).pdf](http://www.gbos.gov.gm/uploads/survey/GAMBIA%20THE%20SMILING%20COAST%20(CHILD%20SEX%20TOURISM%20STUDY%20-%20GAMBIA).pdf)

⁸²⁵ ECPAT Austria et al. (2014), “Assessment on sexual exploitation of children related to tourism and reporting mechanisms in Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa”, accessed 4 June 2015, <http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Overall%20report%20-%20Assessment%205%20African%20countries.pdf>

⁸²⁶ ECPAT International (2014), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ghana”, 15, accessed 14 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A2011_AF_GHANA_FINAL2.pdf

⁸²⁷ ECPAT International (2013), “Rapport global de suivi de la mise en oeuvre des actions de lutte contre l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants à des fins commerciales: la République du Cameroun”, 14, accessed 14 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_af_cameroun_0.pdf

⁸²⁸ “Les grandes destinations du tourisme sexuel en Afrique”, Slate Afrique.com, 6 June 2014, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.slateafrique.com/14047/tourisme-sexuel-pedophilie-grandes-destinations-en-afrique>

⁸²⁹ UNICEF, Jones, C. Sarah, “The Extent and Effect of Sex Tourism and Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Kenyan Coast”, VI.

⁸³⁰ ECPAT UK in February 2015, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸³¹ Terre des Hommes Netherlands, “Money Makes the World Go Down: Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation in Tanzania”, 16, accessed 14 November 2015, <http://www.menschenhandelweb.nl/system/files/documents/14%20feb%202014/Money%20Makes%20the%20World%20Go%20Down%20%20Tanzania.pdf>.

⁸³² See Wilson, Luke, “Paedophile pilot sexually abused 100 African orphans and schoolchildren during British Airways volunteering”, Metro News, 2 September 2013, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://metro.co.uk/2013/09/02/paedophile-pilot-sexually-abused-100-african-orphans-and-schoolchildren-during-british-airways-volunteering-3946672/>; Kigongo, Juliet, Bagala, Andrew, and Croome, Philippa, “Sex tourist pays Shs6 million fine, walks free”, Daily Monitor, 29 March 2012, accessed 14 June 2015, <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/-/688334/1375704/-/awpbihz/-/>

Recent country assessments conducted by ECPAT in Southern Africa, show that sexual exploitation of children in tourism is a concern primarily in South Africa and Madagascar. In South Africa, the problem is visible in several locations (Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Nelspruit and Port Elizabeth) and often happens in rented accommodations, brothels and other non-tourism establishments.⁸³³ South Africa has been identified as a destination for offenders coming from several European countries, including Germany, Switzerland and the UK.⁸³⁴ SECTT in Madagascar affects large numbers of children and “is a socially accepted practice”⁸³⁵ that has witnessed dramatic increases in recent years (particularly in the coastal cities of Toamasina, Nosy Be and Antsiranana).⁸³⁶ Europeans also contribute to fuelling the problem. According to the 2013 Trafficking in Persons report, most foreign offenders in the country are French nationals, with some reports of Italians and other Western European nationals.⁸³⁷ Another destination country for European perpetrators in Southern Africa is the island of Mauritius. The heavy involvement of foreign tourists in child sexual exploitation was first exposed in a 2002 study that found that nationals from France, Germany and South Africa were the most active in seeking children for sexual intercourse in Mauritius.⁸³⁸

⁸³³ ECPAT Austria et al., “Assessment on sexual exploitation of children related to tourism and reporting mechanisms in Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa”, 69.

⁸³⁴ ECPAT International (2013), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: South Africa”, (2013), 16, accessed 14 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/a4a_v2_af_s.africa_0.pdf

⁸³⁵ ECPAT Austria et al., “Assessment on sexual exploitation of children related to tourism and reporting mechanisms in Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal and South Africa”, 38.

⁸³⁶ US Department of State (2013), “Trafficking in Persons Report: Madagascar”, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.antananarivo.usembassy.gov/mobile/reports/madagascar-trafficking-in-persons-report--2013.html>

⁸³⁷ Ibid.

⁸³⁸ ECPAT International (2007), “Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: South Africa”, 12, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-MAURITIUS.pdf

ANNEX 6.

Vulnerability factors and groups of children most vulnerable to SECTT

Country	Groups at risk/vulnerability factors
Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children from disadvantaged families or whose parents are unemployed • Children who have previously been raped or sexually abused • Children whose mothers are sex workers⁸³⁹ • Children living in government institutions, runaways, and foreign national minor children⁸⁴⁰ • Roma children
Latvia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children lacking care • Children spending most of their time in or living in the street • Children from families with addicted parents • Children of prostitutes • Children living in boarding schools and children's homes⁸⁴¹
Moldova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children from socially vulnerable families (e.g., with only one parent or with problems of violence, alcohol abuse, where children are left to themselves. • Children with no communication with parent/parents.⁸⁴²
Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roma children, children living and working on the streets, children exposed to violence and children from dysfunctional families⁸⁴³
Netherlands	<p>Youth vulnerable to the "lover-boy" phenomenon include, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • girls from broken families • girls using drugs • girls whose families have a wide range of issues (domestic violence, child abuse, recorded contact with police, substance abuse and psychiatric problems (of one) of the parents or relatives, problems relating to religious conviction and honor related issues).⁸⁴⁴
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccompanied foreign children, street children and children in residential care institutions • Women and girls from dysfunctional families or who have experienced domestic violence or previous sexual exploitation.⁸⁴⁵

⁸³⁹ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic", 12.

⁸⁴⁰ Ibid, 11.

⁸⁴¹ Riga Christian Street Children Centre, "Sexual Exploitation of Children in Latvia: research", (2006-2007), 13, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://child-centre.info/projects/abused/latvia/dbaFile14535.html>

⁸⁴² La Strada Moldova, VioreliaRusu, Fomina, Tatiana, "Overview of the child tracking phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova", 62.

⁸⁴³ Ombudsman for Children, "IZVJEŠTAJ O REZULTATIMA SPROVEDENIH ISTRAŽIVANJA O ZAŠTITI DJECE OD EKSPLOATACIJE", 25.

⁸⁴⁴ Cit. in ECPAT Netherlands, Kaandorp, Majorie, Blaak, Mirjam, "Child Trafficking in the Netherlands: combating child trafficking and protecting child victims in the Netherland".

⁸⁴⁵ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Poland".

⁸⁴⁶ "Relatório do SIS traçou um mapa da pedofiliaem Portugal", publico.pt, 12 July 2006, accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.publico.pt/sociedade/noticia/relatorio-do-sis-tracou-um-mapa-da-pedofilia-em-portugal-1263824>

Country	Groups at risk/vulnerability factors
Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children living in institutions • Children from poor and dysfunctional families⁸⁴⁶
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 Research on SECTT: Children whose parents or relatives have problematic alcohol use or drug addiction; children from low-income families with tense, hostile relations among family members⁸⁴⁷. • 2007 research: Young people from dysfunctional families, living in orphanages, using drugs or experiencing socio-economic difficulties⁸⁴⁸ • 2009 research: Half of the identified children in the study came from backgrounds free from the previously identified risk factors.⁸⁴⁹
Slovakia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children from foster homes, trafficked children, children in re-education homes, special boarding schools and socially weak communities, mainly Roma and unaccompanied minors who come illegally to Slovakia.
Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children from broken homes • Children experiencing domestic violence⁸⁵⁰ • Children who end up on the streets due to rural-urban migration by families suffering from poverty⁸⁵¹ • Girls running away from home to avoid been given in marriage at a young age and girls forced into marriage⁸⁵² • Refugee children from Syria
UK	<p>Children victimized through sexual exploitation in gangs and groups include, among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children from dysfunctional families, with a history of abuse, who have experienced family breakdown or have witnessed domestic violence • Children living in gang-affected neighbourhoods • Children with low self-confidence or low self-esteem • Children with a low socio-economic status • Children in care • Children and young people trafficked into the country and who were exploited sexually or otherwise once in England • Children at risk of forced marriage or 'honour'-based violence, resulting in the child running away from home, becoming homeless or being less likely to disclose exploitation should it take place • Children experiencing homelessness prior to abuse, including young person who disclosed they were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender • Children from black and minority ethnic communities perceived as 'westernised' and abused by a family member or extended family member

⁸⁴⁷ NGO STELLIT, "Child prostitution in St. Petersburg with the involvement of foreigners: Research report".

⁸⁴⁸ ECPAT International (2012), "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Russian Federation", 11, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/A4A_V2_CIS_RUSSIA.pdf

⁸⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁵⁰ "Rise in sexual abuse of minors in Turkey sets alarm bells ringing", Today's Zaman, 7 June 2008, accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.todayszaman.com/national_rise-in-sexual-abuse-of-minors-in-turkey-sets-alarm-bells-ringing_144149.html

⁸⁵¹ UNICEF, "UNICEF in Turkey: Country Profile", accessed 15 June 2015, http://www.unicef.org/turkey/ut/ut2_2010.html#nt23

⁸⁵² NGO ICC, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁸⁵³ LA STRADA Ukraine (2014), "Sexual exploitation of children in Ukraine: situation and counteraction", 24.

⁸⁵⁴ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring status of action against commercial against sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine", 11-12.

ANNEX 7.

Status of key international and regional conventions and extraterritorial legislation in European countries

S Status of Key International and Regional Conventions and Extraterritorial Legislation (as of 5 May 2015)								
Country	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child	UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons	Optional Protocol to the	ILO	CoE	CoE	CoE	Extra-territorial Legislation
Albania	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES
Andorra	X	X	X	X	Only signed	X	X	YES
Armenia	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Austria	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Azerbaijan	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Belarus	X	X		X				YES
Belgium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES
Bosnia and Herzegovina	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Bulgaria	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Croatia	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Cyprus	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Czech Republic	X	X	Only signed	X	X		Only signed	YES
Denmark	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Estonia	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Finland	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
France	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Georgia	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Germany	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Greece	X	X		X	Only signed	X	X	YES
Hungary	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Iceland	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Ireland	Only signed	X	X	X	Only signed	X	Only signed	YES
Italy	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Kazakhstan	X	X		X				YES
Kyrgyzstan	X	X		X				YES
Latvia	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Liechtenstein	X	X	Only signed	X	X		Only signed	YES
Lithuania	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Luxembourg	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Macedonia	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	NO
Malta	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Moldova	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES

**S Status of Key International and Regional Conventions and Extraterritorial Legislation
(as of 5 May 2015)**

Country	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child	UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress & Punish Trafficking in Persons	Optional Protocol to the	ILO	CoE	CoE	CoE	Extra-territorial Legislation
Monaco	X	X	X	X	Only signed		X	n/a
Montenegro	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES
Netherlands	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Norway	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Poland	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Portugal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES
Romania	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Russia	X	X		X			X	YES
San Marino	X	X		X		X	X	n/a
Serbia	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Slovakia	X	X	X	X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Slovenia	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
Spain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	YES
Sweden	X	X		X	Only signed	X	X	YES
Switzerland	X	X		X	X	X	X	YES
Tajikistan	X	X		X				YES
Turkey	X	X	Only signed	X	X	Only signed	X	YES
Turkmenistan	X	X		X				n/a
Ukraine	X	X	Only signed	X	X	X	X	YES
United Kingdom	X	X		X	X	X	Only signed	YES
Uzbekistan	X	X		X				YES
Vatican City/ Holy See	X	X						n/a

ANNEX 8.

Overview of NPAs in Europe relevant to SECTT

COUNTRY	SPECIFIC NPA against CSEC or SECTT	NPA against human/child trafficking	NPA on CHILDREN's RIGHTS/ISSUES	OTHER NPAs (e.g. against SEXUAL ABUSE, VIOLENCE or OTHER CSEC MANIFESTATIONS)
Albania		<p>The National Action Plan on the Fight against Trafficking in Persons for 2011 – 2013, is accompanied by the Plan of Action on the Fight against Child Trafficking and the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking.⁸⁵⁵</p> <p>The drafting and adoption of the new National Strategy and Action Plan 2014 -2017 to combat trafficking in human beings was underway (as of October 2014).⁸⁵⁶</p>	<p>The National Strategy for Children for the period 2005 – 2015 and the related National Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Strategy include only limited measures on CSEC.⁸⁵⁷</p>	
Armenia		<p>The National Programme on the Fight against Human Exploitation (Trafficking) for 2013-2015 includes some measures targeting children.</p>	<p>The National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Rights of the Child for 2013-2016 includes only limited measures against CSEC.⁸⁵⁸</p>	
Austria		<p>The Third National Action Plan against Human Trafficking for the period of 2012-2014 includes a separate goal and several measures targeting children</p>		

⁸⁵⁵ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Albania", 18.

⁸⁵⁶ "Statement by Mr. Ervin NINA, Councillor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Albania to the United Nations at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly on Agenda items 105 & 106 Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice International Drug Control", 9 October 2014, accessed 14 November 2015, <http://www.ambasadat.gov.al/united-nations/en/statement-mr-erwin-nina-councillor-permanent-mission-republic-albania-unit-ed-nations-third-committee>

⁸⁵⁷ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Albania", 17.

⁸⁵⁸ — UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2013), "Concluding observations on the initial report of Armenia submitted under article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third-session (27 May – 14 June 2013), CRC/C/OPSC/ARM/CO/1, 2, accessed 14 June 2015, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fARM%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en

Azerbaijan		The National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2018 includes some measures targeting children	
Belarus		The Program to combat crime and corruption for 2013-2015 includes measures aimed at combating human trafficking, but does not appear to target children.	The National Plan of Action on the Improvement of the Situation of Children and Protection of their Rights for 2012-2016 includes a chapter with measures to protect children from violence, human trafficking and all forms of exploitation. ⁸⁵⁹
Belgium	It used to have a NPA against CSEC (adopted in 2001) but was never implemented.	The Action Plan in the Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings 2015-2019 contains only limited measures targeting child trafficking for sexual exploitation	
Bosnia		The Strategy to counteract trafficking in human beings in Bosnia Herzegovina for 2013-2015 includes some measures to prevent online child sexual exploitation and child trafficking.	
Bulgaria	Bosnia used to have a specific NPA against CSEC (until 2005). ⁸⁶⁰	The 2014 National Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings contains a number of activities to address trafficking in children for sexual purposes.	The National Strategy for Child Protection 2008-2018 (Child Strategy) and related National Programme for Child Protection target child victims of violence generally and do not specifically target CSEC manifestations or CSEC victims. ⁸⁶¹

⁸⁵⁹ ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ СОВЕТА МИНИСТРОВ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ. 12 марта 2012 г. № 218 Обутверждении Национального плана действий по улучшению положения детей и охране их правна 2012–2016 годы, accessed 20 April 2015, www.novopolotsk.by

⁸⁶⁰ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Bulgaria", 18.

⁸⁶¹ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Bulgaria", 19.

Croatia	The National Plan for the Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2015 includes measures to address child trafficking.	The National Plan for Children's Rights and Interests 2006-2012, includes measures on Trafficked Children. ⁸⁶² A draft Strategy for the Rights and Protection of Children 2013-2022 is yet to be approved. ⁸⁶³	
Czech Republic	Used to have a NPA against CSEC (until 2008). ⁸⁶⁴	The NPA on Trafficking for 2012-2015 contains limited measures targeting children. ⁸⁶⁵	The National Strategy on Prevention of Violence against Children in the Czech Republic for the period 2008 to 2018 and related implementation plans contain only some measures against CSEC, including SECTT. ⁸⁶⁶
Denmark	The Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2011–2014 includes measures against child trafficking for sexual and other purposes. ⁸⁶⁷ The new Danish Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for 2015-2018 (NAP) is being drafted. ⁸⁶⁸	The National Plan of Action against Child Sexual Abuse first, adopted in 2003, has been updated in May 2011 with the new National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Child Sexual Abuse valid for the period 2012-2014. The National Strategy provides for a number of measures to address aspects of CSEC, including SECTT. ⁸⁶⁹	

⁸⁶² EU Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion (2014), "Investing in Children: Breaking the cycle of disadvantage A Study of National Policies, Croatia", accessed 4 November 2015, http://europa.eu/epic/docs/countries/hr-investing-in-children-2013_en.pdf

⁸⁶³ Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014), "Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Croatia", adopted by the Committee at its sixty-seventh session, CRC/C/HRV/3-4.

⁸⁶⁴ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Czech Republic", 15.

⁸⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁸⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 18.

⁸⁶⁷ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Denmark", 16.

⁸⁶⁸ Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2014), "Report submitted by the Danish authorities on measures taken to comply with Committee of the Parties Recommendation CP(2012)4 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Being", 9, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/docs/CommitteeParties/Reply_REC/CP_2014_4_RR_DNK_en.pdf

⁸⁶⁹ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Denmark", 15.

Estonia		The Strategy of Children and Families for 2012-2020 and its Action Plan for 2012-2015 encompass some measures targeting unaccompanied and trafficked children.	The Development Plan Against Violence 2010- 2014 includes measures against child sex trafficking and child safety on the Internet.
Finland	Finland used to have a NPA against CSEC (adopted in 1999).	The Revised National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2008 includes measures targeting children needs to be updated.	
France	A specific NPA against SECTT was adopted in 2006 but it was never implemented. ⁸⁷⁰	The National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2014-2016 includes measures targeting children.	The Fourth Interministerial Plan on Violence against Women 2014-2016 contains some measures against prostitution of young people and child, early and forced marriage.
Georgia		The National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2015-2016 includes measures targeting children.	
Germany	The Plan of Action 2011 of the Federal Government of Germany for the Protection of Children and Teenagers from Sexual Violence and Exploitation contains measures against SECTT.		
Greece		There is no current anti-trafficking NPA; however, trafficking is included in the national action plan for human rights. ⁸⁷¹	

⁸⁷⁰ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: France, 15.

⁸⁷¹ U.S. Department of State (2014), "Trafficking in persons report: Greece", accessed 4 November 2015, <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2014/226730.htm>

Hungary	The National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2013-2016 does not address specifically child victims of trafficking. ⁸⁷²	
Ireland	The National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in Ireland 2009-2012 includes measures targeting children. It is currently being updated. ⁸⁷³	
Italy	Italy has yet to adopt a specific NPA against human trafficking with measures targeting children.	The Bi-annual National Plan of Action on Children and Adolescence addressed some aspects of CSEC but has been discontinued (expired in 2011). ⁸⁷⁴
Kazakhstan	The Action plan on combating and preventing crimes related to trafficking in human beings for 2012-2014 includes limited measures targeting children.	
Kyrgyzstan	The Action plan against human trafficking 2013-2016 includes some measures to address child trafficking. ⁸⁷⁵	

⁸⁷² UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014), "Concluding observations on the report submitted by Hungary under article 12, paragraph 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography", CRC/C/OPSC/HUN/CO/1, 2, accessed 14 November 2015, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fHUN%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en

⁸⁷³ The Irish Immigrant Support Services, "PQ: Human trafficking", 23 September 2014, accessed 14 November 2015, <http://www.nascireland.org/parliamentary-questions/pq-human-trafficking-5/>

⁸⁷⁴ Save the Children Italia (2014), "I diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza in Italia: 7° Rapporto di aggiornamento sul monitoraggio della Convenzione sui diritti dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza in Italia 2013-2014", 27, accessed 27 October 2015, http://www.gruppocrc.net/IMG/pdf/7o_rapporto_CRC.pdf

⁸⁷⁵ U.S. Department of Labour (2014), "2013 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. The Kyrgyz Republic". http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/kyrgyz_republic.htm#ENREF_31.

Latvia		The National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2020 includes limited measures on children. It also provides for training for the tourism industry.	
Lithuania		The Action plan for the implementation of the National Crime Prevention and Control Programme 2013-2015 includes limited measures on children.	
Luxembourg	The NPA against CSEC adopted in 1996 has never been renewed.		The Plan of Action on the Sexual and Emotional Health (“Santé Affective et sexuelle”) for 2013 – 2016 includes measures to prevent prostitution.
Moldova		The National Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings 2014-2016 includes measures targeting children. ⁸⁷⁶	The National Strategy on Child and Family Protection 2014-2020 (approved in June 2014) contains some measures against CSEC. ⁸⁷⁷ The National Programme on Ensuring Gender Equality for 2010-2015 contains a chapter with specific objectives and actions to stop violence and human trafficking, targeting in particular women, girls and boys. ⁸⁷⁸
Montenegro		The Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2018 includes measures targeting children.	The National plan of Action for Children 2014-2017 includes measures to enhance protection of children CSEC, including from online risks and child trafficking.

⁸⁷⁶ National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2014), “National Report on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2013”, accessed 6 November 2015, http://antitrafic.gov.md/public/files/NAP_Report_final_ENGL.pdf

⁸⁷⁷ UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2013), “Concluding observations on the initial report of the Republic of Moldova submitted under article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (16 September–4 October 2013), CRC/C/OPSC/MDA/CO/1, 3, accessed 14 November 2015, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fOPSC%2fMDA%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en

⁸⁷⁸ ECPAT International, “Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Moldova”, 17.

Netherlands	A specific National Plan of Action against Child sex tourism was adopted in 2013. ⁸⁷⁹	The Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2011-2014 does not pay specific attention to minors. The Action Plan to Combat Trafficking by Loverboys for 2011-2014 contains measures to address sex trafficking of young people.	The Action Plan against Child Abuse for 2012-2016 and the 'Children Safe' Action Plan for 2012-2014 include measures to address child pornography.
Norway		The Government's Plan of Action against Human Trafficking (2011–2014) has a chapter on children	The National strategy to combat violence and sexual abuse against children and youth (2014–2017) contains measures to prevent online sexual exploitation of children
Poland		The National Plan of Action against Trafficking Human Beings for 2013-2015 includes some measures targeting children.	The National Action Plan for Children 2004-2012 "Poland for Children" addresses factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children to CSEC but does not contain substantive measures devoted specifically to this. ⁸⁸⁰
Portugal		The Third Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2014-2017) contains some measures targeting children.	The Office of the Prosecutor General had established a Plan of Action on online crimes against children. ⁸⁸¹

⁸⁷⁹ Interim report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, November 2014, p. 24.

⁸⁸⁰ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Poland, 13.

⁸⁸¹ Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online, "2014 Reporting Form: Portugal", 1, accessed 14 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/global-alliance-against-child-abuse/docs/reports-2014/ga_report_2014_-_portugal_en.pdf.

Romania	It used to have a NPA for the prevention and combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation (until 2007). ⁸⁸²	The National Strategy against Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016) includes specific measures on assistance and protection of child victims. ⁸⁸³	The National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Child Rights 2014-2020 the corresponding operational plan for 2014-2016 address factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children to CSEC but do not appear to contain substantive measures devoted specifically to this.
Russia	The NPA against CSEC drafted in 2009 has yet to be approved. ⁸⁸⁴		
Slovakia		The National action plan of the fight against Human Trafficking for the years 2011 – 2014 includes special protection measures on children. The new National Program to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2015 – 2018 is being drafted. ⁸⁸⁵	The National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017 includes some measures to address child trafficking and CSEC.
Slovenia	The Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for 2015-2016 includes measures targeting children.	The Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 includes some measures against sexual violence, trafficking and online sexual exploitation/child safety.	

⁸⁸² The International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC), „PROject of Technical assistance against the labour and sexual Exploitation of Children, including Trafficking, in countries of Central and Eastern Europe - PROTECT CEE: Romania”, accessed 28 October 2015, http://www.un.ro/_documents/IPEC_ROMANIA_2000-2009.pdf

⁸⁸³ European Commission, “Together against human trafficking. Romania”, accessed 14 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/content/nip/romania_en

⁸⁸⁴ ECPAT International, “Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Russian Federation”, 14.

⁸⁸⁵ European Commission, “Together Against Trafficking in Human Beings. National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms. Slovakia”, accessed 10 June 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/content/nip/slovakia_en

Spain	The Third Plan of Action against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescence expired in 2013.	The Integral Plan Against Trafficking in Persons expired in 2012. ⁸⁸⁶ FAPMI-ECPAT Spain is currently working with the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality on the Draft of the new Comprehensive Plan to Combat Trafficking in Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation 2015-2018	Second National Strategic Plan for Children and Adolescents
Sweden	The Action Plan against sexual exploitation of children expired in 2012	The National Action Plan against Trafficking, Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children for 2014-2015 envisages measures against SECTT, namely the realization of a national information campaign on the topic and involvement of the private sector, including hotels, taxi, restaurants.	
Switzerland		The National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for 2012-2014 includes only limited measures targeting children.	

⁸⁸⁶ Proyecto Esperanza, "La protección a las víctimas de Trata en España aún es insuficiente", <http://www.proyectoesperanza.org/la-proteccion-a-las-victimas-de-trata-en-espana-aun-es-insuficiente/>

Turkey	The 2008 Anti-Trafficking NPA is currently under review. ⁸⁸⁷	The National Child Rights Strategy and a related Action Plan for 2013-2017 address factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children to CSEC but do not appear to contain substantive measures devoted specifically to this.	The draft Information Society Strategy and Action Plan for 2014-2018 does not currently include any CSEC-related strategies, apart from awareness- raising activities on online child safety.
Ukraine		The National Programme to combat trafficking in human beings for 2013-2015 includes measures targeting children	The National Plan of Action for Children to Implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for 2010-2016 contains tailored provisions against CSEC. ⁸⁸⁸
UK	The Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation Action Plan adopted in 2011 includes measures though 2014 but does not address all CSEC manifestations.	The Government's Strategy Against Human Trafficking adopted in 2011 has a chapter on child trafficking. The Government's Modern Slavery Strategy adopted in November 2014, includes several specific measures targeting children vulnerable or subjected to child sexual exploitation.	The National Plan on the work of the National Group on Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People (valid until 2015) contains measures to address child sexual exploitation.

⁸⁸⁷ Information received from ICC, the ECPAT group in Turkey.

⁸⁸⁸ ECPAT International, "Global monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children: Ukraine", 12.

ANNEX 9.

Awareness raising, training and education in European countries

Countries that conducted awareness-raising, educational and training activities on SECTT in last 5-10 years	Countries that did NOT conduct awareness-raising, educational and training activities on SECTT in the last 5-10 years
Albania – limited	Armenia (on human trafficking with no focus on children)
Azerbaijan – some	Belarus (mostly on human trafficking with no focus on children)
Austria – several (ongoing)	Bulgaria (mostly on human trafficking with limited focus on children)
Belgium – several (ongoing)	Croatia (capacity building and awareness raising focused on human trafficking and sex tourism, not on children and SECTT);
Denmark – some (not sustained)	Czech Republic (awareness raising focused on human trafficking and sex tourism, not on children and SECTT; some initiatives on child sex trafficking)
Estonia – some	Georgia (mostly on human trafficking with little focus on children)
Finland – some (ongoing)	Greece (awareness raising focused on human trafficking and children's rights, not SECTT nor CSEC)
France - several (ongoing)	Hungary (on human trafficking with no focus on children)
Germany - several (ongoing)	Latvia (awareness raising focused on human trafficking and sex tourism, not on children)
Ireland – limited (ongoing)	Kazakhstan (human trafficking and CSEC, with no focus on SECTT)
Italy – several (ongoing)	Kyrgyzstan (children's rights)
Luxembourg – several (ongoing)	Portugal (mostly on human trafficking)
Moldova - some (not clear if they are still ongoing)	Romania (mostly on human trafficking including child sex trafficking)
Montenegro - some	Slovakia (mostly on human trafficking)
Luxembourg – several (ongoing)	Turkey
Norway - limited	
Poland – several (ongoing)	
Spain – several (ongoing)	
Sweden – several (ongoing)	
Switzerland – several (ongoing)	
UK - several (ongoing)	
Ukraine - some	

ANNEX 10.

Good practice examples on recovery and reintegration of child victims of sexual exploitation (all manifestations associated with SECTT)

Country	Description of the practice
Albania	In 2009, UNICEF and CRCA/DCI Albania established the Albanian National Child Helpline (ALO 116), a national, 24/7, free of charge service for children across the country. The main goal of the helpline is to protect the rights of children at risk and in need, while ensuring that they have access to a range of prevention and protection services in the context of a broader child protection system and referral mechanism. In three years of work, ALO 116 has received more than 400,000 phone calls from children from all over Albania. The Helpline also deals with cases of child sexual abuse, including SECTT and other manifestations of CSEC. ⁸⁸⁹
Belgium	In cooperation with the NGO-led Esperanto Centre, Belgium has established Centres for Observation and Orientation of unaccompanied minors, which have developed specific protocols and training of centre staff for detection of child victims of trafficking. ⁸⁹⁰
Bulgaria	The Coordination Mechanism for Referral and Care of Unaccompanied Children and Child Victims of Trafficking Returning from Abroad established in 2005 has led to significant improvements, bringing a systematic approach to child trafficking. Although effective implementation of this national coordination mechanism faces various challenges, this instrument provides a detailed framework for inter-institutional cooperation, outlining the responsibilities of state and NGO actors, supported by high-level political commitment. Grounded in a child-rights approach, the coordination mechanism details procedures for individual case assessment, while also utilizing a relatively well established system for interim care. ⁸⁹¹
Denmark	The Team for Sexually Abused Children at the University Hospital in Copenhagen has provided treatment to children aged 11-16 who were exposed to online grooming. The psychological treatment of victims focuses on the grooming process and the different relations in the child's life more than on the physical abuse in itself. Psychoeducation was used as a means to help the child understand the process of grooming. Treatment was also provided to the child's parents, who often feel cheated by the child and the perpetrator, paying special attention to helping them understand the manipulation implicit in online grooming. ⁸⁹²
France	The Préfecture de Police de Paris/Brigade de Protection des Mineurs (Child protection unit), in collaboration with ECPAT France and other state actors, has developed a booklet to sensitize police officers (the most likely to be the first contact with possible child victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation) to the importance of recognizing the signals that should alert them. The booklet explains which institutions (both state and non-state) local police needs to inform or can involve when they observe signals of trafficking in children for sexual exploitation and contains a flow chart illustrating the steps that should be taken in the detection and referral of a child victim of trafficking. The booklet also provides basic guidelines on how to conduct an interview with a possible child victim of sexual exploitation. Training sessions to improve implementation were also organised. ⁸⁹³

⁸⁸⁹ UNICEF/Protecting Children from Violence in South East Europe/CRCA, "Alo 116: We always answer when a child calls!", accessed 15 June 2015, <http://www.alo116.al/sites/default/files/uploade/ALO%20116%20Facts%20and%20figures.pdf>

⁸⁹⁰ European Migration Network (2014), "Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, in International Protection and Forced Return Procedures" (EMN Study), 18, accessed http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn_synthesis_identification_victims_trafficking_final_13march2014.pdf

⁸⁹¹ Child Trafficking in the EU, "Description of Good Practice", accessed 16 June 2015, <http://childtrafficking.eu/child-victims-assistance-and-reintegration/good-practices/bulgaria/4-description-of-good-practice/>

⁸⁹² This practice was mentioned at: ROBERT, "Psykologisk behandling af børn udsat for "online grooming" – overgreb via internettet.", accessed 16 June 2015, http://www.childcentre.info/robert/database/?id=10602&op=view_entry&entry_id=129

⁸⁹³ France Expertise International (2012), "Identification of victims of Human Trafficking in Bulgaria, France, Greece, Romania, the Netherlands and Spain. Good practices report", 28, accessed 14 November 2015, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/09a.france_national_report_trafficking_study_en_version_nov2013.pdf.

Country	Description of the practice
Hungary	<p>In Hungary, the Fót Children Centre near Budapest provides comprehensive assistance to foreign unaccompanied children, including victims of trafficking, who request asylum. An evaluation conducted in 2011 shows the following strengths of the practice: a) Ranking high in sustainability due to respective legislation and secure state budget; b) Placement of foreign unaccompanied children and victims of trafficking is well organized and immediate; c) Guardianship services are ensured; d) Approach is stated to be child participatory and gender-sensitive; e) Centre services allow for comprehensive reintegration (including access to education, language courses, psychosocial care); and f) Medical care (including psychiatric treatment) is accessible free, starting from arrival. Since 2012, a cooperation agreement between the Fót Institute and the Cordelia Foundation allows also for long-term psychosocial therapy.⁸⁹⁴</p>
Netherlands	<p>A separate identification and referral process is in place for trafficked children. Reception and counselling services are tailored and a separate policy framework applies. The guardianship agency assesses whether an unaccompanied child is a victim of trafficking in human beings, and if so, places the child in a specialized reception facility designed specifically to protect residents from finding themselves in a situation of exploitation.⁸⁹⁵</p> <p>Several specialised possibilities for sheltering of victims of child trafficking exist in the Netherlands and new ones are being developed. For instance, the Nidos Foundation supports unaccompanied minors (including possible victims of child trafficking) in finding an appropriate place to stay. Children under 12 years old are placed in foster families. Children from 12-15 years old are placed in small-scale reception units. In these centres, the conditions are made as safe and stable as possible and child care workers are available 24 hours a day to help the children to overcome daily challenges. Older children (15-18 years old) are placed in large-scale shelters, mostly campuses for unaccompanied minor aliens with 24-hour care available. 'Enclosed care' also exists for child victims of trafficking of certain high-risk groups who may need to be placed in enclosed care institutions. A special shelter (Asja) exists for child victims trafficked by so-called boyfriends (the 'loverboy' phenomenon) and hosts dozens of young girls. FierFryslân is another shelter facility specifically for girls aged 14-24 that offers advice and consultation, counselling, treatment and care, and has a number of reception centres available.⁸⁹⁶</p>
Romania	<p>The Centre for Protection of and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, working under local administration in nine counties, provides a number of services to child victims, including temporary housing, counselling, medical exams, physical protection, information on victim rights during any subsequent judicial proceedings, as well as support as the child reconnects with his or her family. All victims are also eligible for integration programmes. These programmes include an in-depth assessment of the individual child's case, drafting of a distinctive intervention plan including indicators based on medical and psychological recovery, insertion/ reinsertion into the education system or support for vocational training, reintegration into the family or a foster family, as well as other protection measures, such as legal aid and on-going monitoring.⁸⁹⁷</p>

⁸⁹⁴ Center for the Study of Democracy (2013), "Assisting and Reintegrating Child Victims of Trafficking. Improving Policy and Practice in the EU Member State's", 111-112, accessed 28 October, 2015, www.csd.bg/fileSrc.php?id=21295

⁸⁹⁵ European Migration Network, "Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, in International Protection and Forced Return Procedures", 18.

⁸⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 45.

⁸⁹⁷ ECPAT International, "Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Romania (2nd Edition)", 37.

Country	Description of the practice
Russia	<p>a) A promising model for sexually exploited and sexually abused girls is the St. Petersburg social rehabilitation centre ‘Malookhtinskii Dom’ (House of Diligence), for girls aged 12-to-18. The Centre hosts up to 51 girls for full-time residence lasting one year. During this time social-legal problems are resolved, help in career and life planning is provided and girls can attend a course in medical and psychological-pedagogical rehabilitation. Each girl receives care and treatment according to her individual needs.⁸⁹⁸</p> <p>b) Another successful initiative in Russia is the joint project implemented by Defence for Children - ECPAT Netherlands and the regional NGO “Stellit”, which involved the development of a Toolkit and the delivery of training for social protection specialists on how to identify child victims of sexual exploitation and provide them with comprehensive assistance. In the period from 2008 to 2014 “Stellit” staff trained and provided Toolkits to more than 800 stakeholders from 25 Russian cities.⁸⁹⁹</p>
UK	<p>a) The Coalition for the Removal of Pimping (CROP) supports and works with families whose children are or have been involved in sexual exploitation and enables them to effectively support the child. CROP’s parent support unit offers a unique service that includes providing confidential and non-judgmental advice on a one-to-one basis and acting as a mediator between the child and caregiver. Such approaches are sustainable and keep the child in the family home. In cases where a child is integrated into a new setting, similar work with foster parents or other carers is important.⁹⁰⁰</p> <p>b) The Marie Collins Foundation (MCF), a charity established in 2011, works directly with children, young people and families to enable their recovery following sexual abuse involving technology. MCF also collaborates with practitioners (such as social workers and educators) and with organisations such as the police to provide training and consultancy services to ensure that they are equipped to manage the specific needs of those abused online.⁹⁰¹</p> <p>c) The Lucy Faithfull Foundation in the UK runs a ten-session course offering education, exploration and ten courses offering education, exploration and practical advice to people who have been arrested, convicted or cautioned for accessing illegal images of children online.⁹⁰²</p> <p>d) Barnardo’s SECOS (Sexual Exploitation of Children On the Streets) Project works to enable young people to exit and recover from sexual exploitation through prostitution. This specialist sexual exploitation project offers a safe, confidential environment where young people can go for help, advice and support. Project workers actively seek out young people, offering them the long-term support they need if they want to change their way of life. The project also works with schools and others to educate vulnerable young people to protect them from exploitation, including the police to bring about the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual exploitation.⁹⁰³</p>

⁸⁹⁸ ECPAT International, “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Developments, Progress, Challenges and Recommended Strategies for Civil Society”, 40.

⁸⁹⁹ NGO Stellit, Response to questionnaire for ECPAT groups on SECTT in Europe, February 2015.

⁹⁰⁰ Cody, Claire “Recovery services for child victims of sexual violence and their families – What can be offered?”, 209-210.

⁹⁰¹ ECPAT International, “Global Monitoring Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: United Kingdom”, 46.

⁹⁰² The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, “Inform Plus and Inform”, accessed 14 November 2015, http://lucyfaithfull.org/inform_and_inform_plus.htm

⁹⁰³ Barnardo’s, “SECOS Project”, accessed on 30 June 2015, <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/secos.htm>

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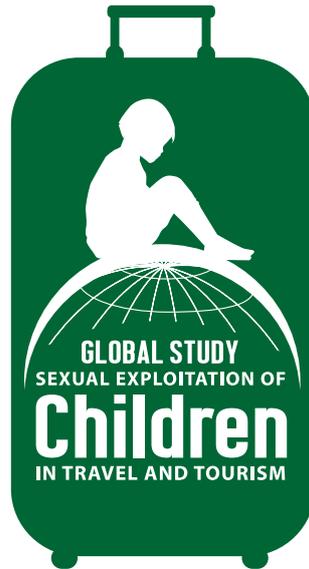
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- ECPAT Austria
- ECPAT Belgium
- ECPAT France
- ECPAT Germany
- ECPAT Luxembourg
- ECPAT Netherlands
- Nobody's Children Foundation Poland
- ECPAT Switzerland
- ECPAT Sweden
- La Strada Moldova
- International Children's Centre (ICC)
- La Strada Ukraine
- NGO Stellit
- Hope and Help NGO
- FAPMI-ECPAT Spain
- NGO Elpikir
- National Coalition for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Indonesia



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