



Novel Strategies to Fight Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Crimes and Protect their Victims

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D4.6 Qualitative study with key multi-stakeholders involved in THB and CSA/CSE prevention programs

Authors: Zoé Colpaert (ICMEC CH), Rumbidzai Mudzongo (ICMEC), Susan Daniel Mathuram (ICMEC), Lucía Domínguez Aguilera (UCM), Celia González Lázaro (UCM), Elena Portela Sánchez (UCM), Ángela Ramón Rodríguez (UCM)

Contributors: Ishrat Shamim (CWCS), Sergio Rivera (RENACER), Konstantina Stergiatou (KEMEA), Kristina Mišinienė (KOPZI), Cynthia Silva (APAV), Maria Pilar Marco Francia (UCM), Victor Bjorgan (SIEE)

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Responsible partner	Name	Zoé Colpaert	E-mail	zcolpaert@icmec.org
	Partner	ICMEC CH	Phone	+44 7455 219282
Contributing partners	Ishrat Shamim (CWCS), Sergio Rivera (RENACER), Konstantina Stergiatou (KEMEA), Kristina Mišiniene (KOPZI), Cynthia Silva (APAV), Maria Pilar Marco Francia (UCM), Victor Bjorgan (SIEE)			
Reviewers	Edgar Federzoni (ICMPD), Nadine El-Dekmak (VUB)			
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Abstract (for dissemination)	
<p>This report analyses the prevention programs against Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSE/A) and Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in seven countries, and provides a mapping of the myriad civil society organizations that actively participate in the prevention process. Furthermore, through this data, the report identifies the gaps and best practices in prevention initiatives in these seven countries, and offers some recommendations in order to support the future development of such initiatives in these countries and beyond.</p>	
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Executive summary

This study is the culmination of research conducted using surveys responded to by our various HEROES partners and their national networks. The research looked into the prevention programs across seven diverse countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, and Uruguay. These countries were chosen amongst countries represented in the HEROES Consortium as focal points to attain an understanding of their approaches to prevention, particularly in combating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and Child Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSEA). Our analysis encompassed a wide spectrum of stakeholders, embracing civil society, policymakers and government, educators, law enforcement, and those directly involved in child welfare. Our methodology revolved around analysing the intricacies of prevention and education programs within these countries, the collaborative dynamics of multi-agency efforts, the existence and functionality of dedicated helplines and hotlines to report these crimes, and a mapping of the myriad civil society organizations that actively participate in the prevention process. Furthermore, through this data we looked to identify the gaps and best practices in Trafficking in Human Beings and Child Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation prevention initiatives.

The analysis identifies three common gaps pivotal to addressing these crimes: coordination and communication challenges among stakeholders, a need for more extensive awareness and educational programs, and resource shortages. The report emphasizes the crucial role of effective coordination, clear responsibilities, and collaboration in enhancing prevention efforts. It underscores the necessity for widespread awareness campaigns and educational resources to empower individuals and addresses the consistent resource limitations hindering intervention efforts. Best practices include collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations, standardized protocols, and private sector engagement.

The recommendations across all seven countries highlight the urgency of comprehensive national strategies prioritizing CSE/A and THB, the establishment of dedicated hotlines, increased funding, enhanced awareness campaigns, and strengthened legal frameworks. The report further explores the vital functions of helplines and hotlines, emphasizes the importance of evaluation and monitoring for intervention efficacy, and maps civil societies, revealing shared challenges and best practices. In summary, the report underscores the critical role of sustained global efforts in safeguarding vulnerable populations, emphasizing proactive partnerships, comprehensive awareness campaigns, and standardized protocols as essential components of effective responses to CSE/A and THB.

Abbreviations

APAV	Portuguese Victim Support Association
CIG	Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality
CNCS	National Cybersecurity Centre (Portugal)
COAT	Operational Anti-Trafficking Centre
CONAPEES	National Committee for Eradication of Child and Adolescence Sexual Commercial Exploitation
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSE/A	Child Sexual Abuse/Exploitation
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSAM	Child Sexual Abuse Material
CSEM	Child Sexual Exploitation Material
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CWCS	Centre for Women and Children Studies
DSS	Department of Social Services
EKKA	National centre for social solidarity for THB (Greece)
EU	European Union
GLO.ACT	Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants- Bangladesh.
IAC	Instituto de Apoio à Criança (Institute for Child Support)
ICBF	Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar (Colombian Institute of Family Welfare)
ICMEC	International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ICSE	International Child Sexual Exploitation
ILO	International Labour Organization
INAU	National Institute of Child and Teenagers
INCIBE	Instituto Nacional de Cyberseguridad (National Institute of Cybersecurity)
INMUJERES	Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres (National Institute of the Women)
IS4K	Internet Segura for Kids
ISP	Internet Service Provider(s)
HEROES	Novel Strategies to FigHt Child Sexual Exploitation and Human TRafficking Crimes and PrOtect thEir VictimS
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development
NCMEC	National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
NGO(s)	Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
SEF	Immigration and Borders Service
SID	Safer Internet Day
SIPIAV	Integral System of Protection in Childhood and Adolescence
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime
US(A)	United States of America

Definitions

CSA: As per the EU Directive 2011/93, Article 3 defines offences regarding sexual abuse, and includes aspects such as a child witnessing sexual activities or sexual abuse, engaging in sexual activities with a child, and coercing, forcing, or threatening a child into sexual activities with a third party [1]. CSA, the acronym for Child Sexual Abuse, can be defined as any sexual activity between a child and closely related family member (incest) or between a child and an adult or older child from outside the family. It involves either explicit force or coercion or, in cases where consent cannot be given by the victim because of his or her young age, implied force [2].

CSAM: United States federal law defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving a minor (a person who is 17 years or younger) [3]. Outside of the legal system, NCMEC refers to these images as child sexual abuse material (CSAM) to most accurately reflect what is depicted – the sexual abuse and exploitation of a child or children. Not only do these images and videos document victims' exploitation and abuse, but when these files are shared across the internet, the child or children depicted on these suffer revictimization each time the image of their sexual abuse is viewed [4].

CSE: According to the EU Directive 2011/93, CSE or Child Sexual Exploitation is defined as offences concerning sexual exploitation in Article 4 and includes acts such as making a child participate in pornographic performances, knowingly attending pornographic performances that include children, making a child participate in child prostitution, and engaging in sexual activities with a child where recourse is made to prostitution. What distinguishes the concept of child sexual exploitation from other forms of child sexual abuse is the underlying notion of exchange present in exploitation. It is important to separate the two phenomena, while acknowledging that there is considerable overlap between them [1].

THB: Trafficking in Human Beings refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery, or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs [5].

1. Introduction

1.1. The issues of CSEA and THB

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Trafficking in Human Beings have emerged as critical global concerns, marked by their alarming prevalence and an unsettling upward trajectory in recent times. According to INTERPOL's International Child Sexual Exploitation Database, as of September 2023, over thirty-five thousand victims have been identified across 68 countries connected to this database, underscoring the stark reality that countless children are currently exposed to perilous situations [6]. A particularly disconcerting trend is the 87% surge in public reports of online sexual exploitation, as revealed in the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC) findings from 2019 to 2022, documented in the WeProtect Global Alliance Global Threat Assessment for 2023 [7].

Additionally, the threat of human trafficking continues to expand, with the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimating that over 40 million individuals remain trapped in modern slavery, encompassing forced labour and sexual exploitation. It is particularly distressing that nearly 12% of these victims are children, with more than half of them caught up in commercial sexual exploitation [8]. These deeply troubling trends underscore the urgent imperative for a coordinated, global approach to combat these crimes, safeguard the most vulnerable populations, and ensure that those responsible for such heinous acts are brought to justice. Effective prevention, awareness, and policy initiatives are essential tools in our arsenal to counter the rising tide of CSEA and THB, ultimately securing the well-being of those who are most susceptible to exploitation and abuse.

1.2. The importance of prevention initiatives

Prevention initiatives and awareness raising are paramount in the fight against CSE/A and THB. These efforts serve as proactive measures to stop these crimes from happening in the first place. By educating communities, parents, children, and relevant stakeholders about the risks and warning signs, we empower individuals to recognize and report potential instances of exploitation. Prevention also includes providing support and resources to vulnerable populations, addressing root causes like poverty and lack of education, and implementing strict legislation and enforcement. By fostering a culture of vigilance and accountability, prevention initiatives play a crucial role in reducing the prevalence of CSEA and THB, protecting the most vulnerable, and disrupting the operations of traffickers and predators. Moreover, strong legislative measures and effective enforcement are essential components of prevention. Strict laws and severe penalties send a clear message that CSEA and THB will not be tolerated, discouraging potential offenders. In summary, prevention initiatives should encompass a rounded approach that involves raising awareness, addressing root causes, supporting survivors, and enacting robust legislation, all working together to stop these crimes before they happen and ensuring a safer future for vulnerable individuals.

When tackling the issues of CSEA and THB, it is crucial to recognize the profound psychological impact of these crimes on victims and their communities, and the broader societal implications. Victims often endure lasting trauma, facing challenges in mental health, self-esteem, and forming healthy relationships both in their personal lives but also with external parties such as the police, healthcare providers, and other authority figures. The societal repercussions include a perpetuation of cycles of violence in families and in communities, increased vulnerability among already marginalized populations, and erosion of trust in communities. While this report only focuses on prevention and programs and efforts, it is important to insist on the fact that addressing these deeper dimensions is integral to a holistic response, also necessitating robust support systems for survivors and comprehensive efforts to reshape societal attitudes and structures. The urgency to combat these crimes extends beyond legal frameworks; it demands a collective commitment to healing, resilience, and the restoration of the well-being of those impacted.

The objective of this report is thus to review the public prevention policies in the seven countries where the project consortium operates. The primary objective is to discern the diverse approaches to prevention

concerning Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and Child Sexual Exploitation/Abuse (CSE/A) within each country. This report only looks at the prevention and awareness raising campaigns and programs about these specific crimes – it does not look at the more general socio-economic contexts that might make these programs impactful. This study entailed an examination of strategies directed at civil society, parents, educators, children, and individuals directly engaged in child protection. The aim is to bolster educational initiatives addressing risks and identifying potential signs of danger. Additionally, a comprehensive mapping of civil society organizations actively involved in the prevention and care of CSE/A and THB will be conducted. This mapping aims to uncover opportunities for collaborative efforts, such as the identification and dissemination of good practices in the prevention of THB and CSE/A.

1.3. Methodology

This report draws its insights from the qualitative data gathered through a survey on the National Prevention Programs to combat Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Human Beings (CSE/A and THB) in the seven countries in the focus (Bangladesh, Colombia, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain, and Uruguay), involving a diverse set of key stakeholders. The survey was limited to relevant stakeholders in the seven countries to establish a base for comparison thus the analysis and findings of this data are limited and not representative of all the consortium countries. This report, however, aims to be general in scope and highlight specific, country-focused best practices and recommendations found to help other countries model their own legislation and programs on these best practices. The survey can be accessed here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HEROESPreventionT4-6>. Survey questions are listed in Annex 1.

Surveyed stakeholders come from a range of backgrounds, including NGOs, educators, medical professionals, government ministries, and others who have a vested interest in addressing the multifaceted issues of CSE/A and THB. The relevance of the respondent is based on their profession: indeed, every respondent works in a field related to human or children's rights, and have knowledge, or directly participate in, or implement, prevention programs and projects in their countries. However, it is important to highlight that, due to the limited pool of participants and their varying knowledge and expertise on the issues, the answers provided might be contradictory, incomplete, or subjectively false. This does not however make their contributions invalid or irrelevant. The involvement of the stakeholders spans the crucial spectrum of designing and enacting preventive programs tailored to the contexts of the seven selected countries. A total of fifty-five individual responses were collected from the 28 organizations and institutions that participated in this study. From these responses, fifteen of them were from NGOs, two were Victim Advocate groups, six were Educators/Teachers, two were Law Enforcement Agencies and three were Government/Lawmakers. Of these respondents, twenty-seven shared information about their gender, reflecting the diverse perspectives involved in this study. Nineteen respondents identified as women, eight as men, and the preferences of the remaining twenty-eight were either unspecified or they chose not to disclose. It is worth highlighting that the HEROES project has established an extensive network comprising 27 partners distributed across 17 countries globally including the ones that are the focus of this report, however not all survey respondents are from HEROES consortium members. This expansive network played an instrumental role in making this report possible, through their collaboration with their national counterparts in the seven countries selected for this report.

The questions asked in the survey ranged from understanding the terminology used in national legislation around CSE/A and THB, who the targeted audiences of these programs are, the institutions and organisations involved in the implementation of said programs, among other questions. The range of these questions was intended to receive a broad enough scope of information from these countries to get a clear picture of the prevention initiatives available. These questions were inspired by the WeProtect Model National Response [9], a Framework that supports countries and nations in providing the best possible response to the issue of CSEA.

The subsequent actions stemming from this study will be decided by the country partners, this may include leveraging the gaps, best practices, and recommendations to shape the development of the training curricula

in these countries. Furthermore, the findings will be delivered to HEROES Consortium partners in the relevant countries who can then present it to the authorities of the seven countries, potentially influencing policy, and action.

2. Country Analysis

As a reminder, you can find the Survey questions in Annex 1. You can also access the full survey on this link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HEROESPreventionT4-6>.

2.1. Prevention and Protection programs to all audiences

This section focuses on the prevention and protection programs and the targeted audiences in each country. In this section we look at which level of government are these programs created and implemented, the various agencies and organisations involved in the implementation and which audiences are targeted for these programs. The survey responses collected provided the general insight into each country's initiatives and level of action regarding prevention and protection. For a more in-depth exploration of the legal landscape surrounding CSE/A and THB within these countries (specifically Bangladesh, Colombia, Greece and Spain), you may find valuable insights in the HEROES Deliverable 4.3, the "Analysis of the Law Enforcement National Strategies for response to missing children reports".

2.1.1. Bangladesh

National Level

Bangladesh holds an annual national level campaign on July 30th in support of the global campaign against human trafficking entitled "World Day against Human Trafficking". This global campaign was developed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013 with the purpose of highlighting the situations and protections available for victims of human trafficking [10]. This campaign is aimed towards children, parents, educators, community leaders and the different government stakeholders, they are actively involved to achieve its purpose every year. Each year, there is a theme centred around human trafficking, this year (2023) the UNGA declared that it was "Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind". During the year 2022, there was a national consultation hosted in Dhaka, Bangladesh to address the theme "Use and Abuse of Technology". This event was led by the Ministry of Home Affairs and supported by the Counter Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group of the Bangladesh United Nations Network [11].

There are several governmental entities who are involved with the prevention efforts of Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs
 - The Ministry oversees the internal security and domestic policy of Bangladesh. They are involved in international and national level campaigns and collaboration to prevent human trafficking and child sexual abuse.
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
 - Providing services to vulnerable populations in the country is an important priority to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in Bangladesh. They have worked with other ministries such as the Ministry of Social Welfare to provide safety and resources to victims of trafficking and child sexual abuse.
- Bangladesh Police
 - Survey Respondents found the Bangladesh Police to play a vital role at the Thana/Union level to sustain security and protection of victims.

Educational Sector

Many respondents have stated that regional level campaigns aim to have their audience of teachers and parents in mind to spread awareness. Breaking the Silence an NGO based in Dhaka, Bangladesh whose work focuses on combating CSA affirmed that the country's national curriculum textbook has mentioned the issues centred

around Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. These initiatives work to reach the educational sector and students through different sources in Bangladesh. To address the risk factor of tactics used to lure children and youth into human trafficking, a global prevention campaign was developed by the United Nations Drugs and Crime sector with Daffodil International University. They invited university students to attend workshops with speakers presenting the warning signs and understand Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Bangladesh [12].

Offender Preventive Communications

Preventative communication through intergovernmental streams makes proactive work in countries, but other levels of action such as community discussion also creates an impact on the child safety work. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bangladesh work in coordination within the community and United Nations Organizations. Survey respondents stated that this has helped to have effective communication while ensuring the language is victim-centred and contains necessary information for learning. An offender preventative initiative that is developed through international efforts is the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants – Bangladesh, known as the GLO.ACT Bangladesh. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) states that, “Through targeted, innovative, and demand-driven interventions, the project aims to support the Government of Bangladesh and civil society organisations (CSOs) to fight the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling more effectively across the country. The project works on developing evidence-based information on trafficking and smuggling patterns and trends, legislative review and harmonization, capability development of criminal justice actors, and international cooperation [13].” The law’s purpose is to be multidisciplinary in prevention efforts. In recent weeks, under the GLO-ACT, UNDOC held a capacity-building workshop with law enforcement to address improving human trafficking investigations by aiming to focus both on national and international legislation and understand the complexities of these cases. These past few years, the initiative has worked in coordination with many ministries within Bangladesh’s government to develop national dialogues such as the 2022 theme “Use and Abuse of Technology”, consultation workshops for different child safety stakeholders, and international affairs discussions on Exploitation with other countries such as Malaysia, and Costa Rica [14]. However, it is important to note that the GLO-ACT efforts are centred around the issue of human trafficking and not Child Sexual Abuse Exploitation.

2.1.2. Colombia

National level

The responses provided on whether Colombia has a prevention program to raise awareness about THB and comprehensive sexuality education were very mixed, although the majority (4 people) provided a positive response. They mentioned that the level at which this prevention program was developed was: 2 people responded, “at national level”, 1 person “at community level”, and 1 person selected the box “other”, referring in the latter case to airport campaigns (“old”) and some actions to prevent fraud using ICTs. On the other hand, 1 person answered “No” to the question as to whether there were any prevention programs to raise awareness about THB and comprehensive sexuality education, followed by another person who answered, “I do not know”. The information obtained was very mixed, which pointed to a lack of coordinated efforts amongst the different stakeholders, or a lack of knowledge around niche interventions that are less known nationally.

Four survey respondents stated that a national (governmental) institution supervises the creation of public policies and the coordination of national actions focused on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings through comprehensive sexual education. The answers on which national institution is in charge mentioned mostly the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF in Spanish), but also the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour for CSE/A. To a lesser extent, other responses indicated the National Inter-Institutional Committee to implement the Public Policy for the Prevention and Eradication of CSE/A. However, one other respondent said that there was no national (governmental) institution supervising the creation of public policies and the coordination of national actions focused on the protection of children

against sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings through comprehensive sexual education, and another one checked the box “I do not know”.

Educational sector

The subsequent question asked whether the police in that country offers prevention programs on comprehensive sexuality education and CSE/A for citizens, with the majority (5 respondents) agreeing for both CSE/A and THB, and another respondent ticking “I do not know”. They specified that these prevention programs are disseminated at the unit and police level through police academies, while others mentioned that these are shared at national, departmental, and municipal level. As to whether Colombia has public educational policies targeted towards comprehensive sexuality education and trafficking in human beings, many respondents answered “yes” for both THB and CSE/A, specifically referring to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Interior in the case of trafficking, the Governors at the departmental level and in the cases of CSEA including the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF). Another respondent answered “no” and another “I do not know”. One of the other questions asked whether they had training programs for intervention, and discrepancies arose between the different respondents. Three of them indicated “yes” for both THB and CSE/A, one of them indicated “no”, and another “I do not know”.

Five survey respondents stated that their country had prevention campaigns targeted towards comprehensive sexuality education for both THB and CSEA, although one mentioned only for THB. They mentioned that the entities that supervise these campaigns were at the national level by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of Labour and Interior, the Ministry of Health, as well as the Attorney General’s Office with the “Futuro Colombia” program (translated as “Colombian Future”) and the ICBF. At the departmental level, one respondent mentioned that it would be carried out by the Governors. Likewise, one of the respondents mentioned that at the national level it was carried out at airports, but this was an old initiative.

They also mentioned that the campaigns were aimed at the following people: five respondents pointed to children, another five respondents also pointed to parents, three pointed to educators, another three respondents pointed to health professionals, and another four respondents indicated “other” referring to tourists, travellers, citizens in general and justice, equality, and equity services.

In the case of accessibility to public information from previous campaigns, the answers were divided, with 50% responding “yes” and the other half, “no”. In the responses that marked “yes” the respondents mentioned that the campaigns tried to use inclusive, simple, and accessible language for the public and conveyed a clear message about the risks. They also mentioned the application of graphic and audible devices in the mass media, as well as templates that allow access and replication of the information to the public. Another respondent mentioned that this information was learned as people get older.

Offender Preventative Communication

The next question referred to the publication of preventive communications to deter offenders and potential offenders. The majority (5 respondents) agreed, while one respondent disagreed. Those who indicated “yes” specified the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of Labour and Interior, and the Ministry of Health, as well as the Colombian Welfare Institute as supervising entities at the national level. At the departmental level they again mentioned the Governorates. To a lesser extent they mentioned the Colombian Migration authorities

Technology Sector Proactiveness

In the question *“Do national and international technology companies operating in the country, which provide interaction services with underage users, have actions within their corporate responsibility program, or which are mandatory by law, for the prevention and care of comprehensive sexual education and human trafficking (including child sexual abuse and exploitation material)?”* we found 50% of the answers divided into “yes” both for THB and CSE/A and the other responded “I do not know”. In the responses that indicated “yes”, the actions detailed were the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies; the Ministry of

Commerce, Industry and Tourism; or Internet service operators that should develop strategies to prevent online CSEC. Another person mentioned the Colombian Law 679/2001 by which a statute is issued to prevent and counteract exploitation, pornography, and sexual tourism with minors, in development of article 44 of the Colombian Constitution. In addition, 2 people specified that there is national legislation obliging technology companies to act. In the responses that indicated "yes", the actions detailed were the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies; the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism; or Internet service operators that should develop strategies to prevent online CSEC. Another person mentioned the Colombian Law 679/2001 by which a statute is issued to prevent and counteract exploitation, pornography, and sexual tourism with minors, in development of article 44 of the Colombian Constitution. In addition, 2 people specified that there is national legislation obliging technology companies to act and remove CSEA and Trafficking content. Although the respondents did not give exact information on the proactiveness of the technological sector they did provide information on the government initiatives and frameworks available. This might show that there is a need for more efforts to be made around enforcement by companies.

2.1.3. Greece

Local Level

Survey respondents stated that municipalities and city councils played a role in implementing prevention campaigns at the local level. This helps to organize resources as NGOs bring prevention campaigns to communities.

National Level

According to survey respondents, these organizations had prevention campaigns on the national level:

- The Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
 - Formerly known as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, oversees labour relations, social security, social solidarity, demographics, and other health and safety causes.
- The Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs
 - The ministry is responsible for the educational policies of Greece's education systems and the religious affairs of the country. They also work with the directorate general for social welfare and child protection.

Both institutions have aimed their campaigns for social workers, law enforcement, and legal professionals while also prioritizing audiences of children, parents, and the community. Survey respondents have reported they have made it suitable for different ages and cultures with different visual elements for campaigns.

Regional Level

Survey respondents reported this organization to have prevention campaigns on the regional level:

- Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings
 - They are an independent authority with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting on issues related to human trafficking. The national rapporteur on THB and the Ministry of State coordinate together for governmental policies to improve the field.

Government Institutions

Survey respondents reported that the above-mentioned government institutions were involved in Greece's child sexual abuse exploitation and Human Trafficking prevention initiatives. For Child Sexual Abuse efforts, the state minister and child protection units in the regional level were highlighted. Other entities were the Climate Crisis and Civil Protection Ministry, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, National centre for social solidarity for THB (EKKA), National Network Orestis, Prosecutor of the Supreme Court, Ministry of Migration and Asylum, and the Ministry of Citizen Protection.

The police are on the frontlines of this immense issue with some divisions organizing prevention programs to bring forward proactive solutions. The Cybercrime division of Greece of the Hellenic Police participates in informational events and campaigns for combating CSAM, and they are formatted within a simple structure and language to be understandable for the target group of minors. A similar campaign held by the police is the Anti-trafficking unit's National Level awareness campaign to advocate against the issue of human trafficking to audiences of professionals and the public. Other divisions reported to hold police prevention programs are the Juvenile Unit for Attica which operates in Athens and regionally upon request, the Subdivision of Organized Crime and Human Trafficking or Security Division in Attica, the Subdivision of Organized Crime and Human Trafficking of Security Division in Thessaloniki, and the Subdivision of Organized crime and Human Trafficking of Security Division in some regional cities.

Educational Sector

The educational policies and initiatives are overall organized by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs in Greece. They set policies, guidelines and oversee the curriculum that schools across the country are required to follow. Survey respondents reported that at the regional level education directorates work on implementing and monitoring educational policies, at the local level schools (including primary and secondary schools) implement educational policies into their institutions and educators are responsible for incorporating CSE/A and THB prevention education into their classroom curriculum and activities. Within the community, Non-Governmental Organizations in the national or regional level have targeted initiatives for students or frontline professionals to get the opportunity to educate themselves more effectively.

Non-Governmental Organizations

NGOs create and organize prevention campaigns aimed at children, parents, educators, medical professionals, law enforcement and the public. They work to make their resources easy to understand, provide concise information, ensuring age and gender sensitivity and targeted illustrations. "The Smile of the Child" is a non-governmental organization that implements an education campaign named "It Remains a Secret". The purpose of the education campaign is to have an open dialogue with different institutions involved within the child safety field such as prosecutors, judicial officers, national police, academics, medical and nursing staff, and other Non-Governmental Organizations. They also work to strengthen prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse and exploitation cases. To make the information accessible, survey respondents also reported the educational materials are tailored for children while making sure audio/visual resources are efficiently accessible to parents and the public. These formatting and accessibility procedures are used by the organization currently.

Technology Sector Proactiveness

Companies involved in the technology field are foreseen to be more and more involved through the years in CSAM preventative measures as more offenders use their platforms to commit these crimes. Survey respondents described that informational technology companies had acted in reporting/highlighting suspicious behaviours of Child Sexual Abuse Material, organized seminars and collected statistics, and provided more security preferences and control options for parents to restrict inappropriate content/websites. A large prevention campaign organized in Greece was the partnership with the organization "The Smile of the Child" to develop a technology team for children. It was established in 2007 and still operates today to provide cost-free technological upgrades of the organization's networks and services. The infrastructure available to the organization provides comprehensive services such as the activation of Amber and Missing alert systems, the EMASS system (formerly known as ECASS) which is a European tool for addressing cases of missing children and coordinating cross-border cooperation and the search and rescue team, "Thanasis Makris", a free mobile application used for the Missing Alert app created by "The Smile of Child" organization's Viber chatbot and much more. These initiatives through collaboration and security management have led to enable immediate and effective support and rescue of children in danger in Greece.

Offender Preventive Communications

ICMEC has not found any relevant information or any survey reports about Offender Preventative Communication.

2.1.4. Lithuania

National Level

Lithuania's national efforts are reported to be coordinated from the ministries of the Lithuanian Government and with other international organizations to maintain efficient resources for child sexual abuse prevention. Survey respondents reported these governmental entities to be involved with the prevention efforts of Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs
 - The Ministry oversees public safety, border protection, migration control, public administration, and local/regional initiatives for the country. The current minister has devised joint resolution discussions with other ministries, and joint conferences within the EU level especially the European Commission to combat child sexual exploitation rates. The current minister has devised joint resolution discussions with other ministries, and joint conferences within the EU level especially the European Commission to combat child sexual exploitation rates.
- The Ministry of Education and Science
 - Different state policies on education, science and studies fall under this government institution. The ministry is involved with child safety preventive campaigns such as helping start the Safer Internet Project in Lithuania in 2005.

Educational Sector

In March 2023, Minister A. Bilotaite of the Ministry of Internal Affairs started discussions on future plans for preventive measures with the Minister of Education and Science. The ministry also discussed in the same year on holding a conference with other child safety specialists and non-governmental organizations to lead the implementation of preventative programs focused on educating children and their parents with skills to be proactively safe in digital environments. [15] Survey respondent did not report any preventative measures in the educational sector. The educational sector is also required to check their employees background through the Register of Suspects, Accused and Convicted for any crimes related to child sexual exploitation.

Offender Preventive Communications

ICMEC has not found any relevant information or any survey reports about Offender Preventative Communication. However, ICMEC, in collaboration with HEROES partner KOPZI, organised a virtual roundtable on Offender Behaviours in August 2023, aiming at providing an understanding on online offenders, and the potential ways of working with these offenders to prevent (further) offending. This initiative stemmed from conversations with national partner KOPZI on the lack of knowledge and conversations around CSEA offenders and joined over 170 participants joining from a wide variety of NGOs, social services centres, prosecutors and other court officials, police, military, and churches, from Lithuania and beyond.

2.1.5. Portugal

National level

According to the surveys provided, on the question "Does your country have a prevention program to raise awareness on THB and CSE/A?", there was consensus as in 5 of the surveys the respondents stated that there are prevention programs for both THB and CSE/A. These programs are applied at the national level and by different NGOs. Regarding the question, "Does a national (governmental) institution oversee creating public policies and coordinating national actions focused on the protection of children against CSE/A or THB?", the

answers were affirmative for both THB and CSE. Additionally, respondents provided several national institutions that oversee policy creation such as: National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People; Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality as coordinator of the Action Plans against THB; CIG - Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality among others.

Educational Sector

In relation to public policy prevention programs, respondents were aware of some aimed at CSE, others at THB and others at both crimes. They are carried out by the judicial police and the Immigration and Borders Service (SEF). They were also asked “Does your country have educational public policies against the CSE/A and THB?” The responses were disparate as two respondents answered negatively, another two stated that there are policies for both THB and CSE/A, one respondent only referred to THB policies and, finally, two respondents stated that they had no information on this topic. Regarding the question “Does your country have prevention campaigns against CSE/A and THB?”, respondents affirmed that the campaigns were aimed at both CSE/A and THB and were aimed at children, parents, educators, and medical professionals. Furthermore, the information is accessible to all audiences and is shared through websites, other languages, braille, media, etc.

Offender Preventive Communications

Another question that was asked was: “Are preventive communications published to deter offenders and potential offenders?”, to which four of the respondents answered negatively and three said they did not know about the subject.

The role of ISPs and the industry

To the question related to national or international companies that offer protection services against THB and CSE/A, most respondents were unaware of the subject and only 2 knew of companies that offered protection services from abuse such as The Portuguese ISP (Altice).

2.1.6. Spain

Level of action

In the survey, six of the respondents stated that prevention programs are organised at “national level”, while two of the organizations responded that in Spain prevention programs are carried out at the regional level. Finally, one respondent stated that in Spain there are no prevention programs. Some respondents answered “other” at the level of prevention programs and said that “prevention programs are developed by NGOs, so their influence is very limited”. Moreover, other respondents answered that, both national and regional programs are carried out, and that it depends on the city: for example, Madrid has both.

Educational sector

There are many discrepancies regarding answers on this item. Some responded that there are national programs focused on protecting children and providing comprehensive sexuality education and human trafficking (both). However, some said that such educational programs are offered only in the case of sexual abuse, and others said that or only in cases of human trafficking. Finally, one respondent stated that there was no program focusing on sexual education, and another one was unaware of such.

Offender Preventive Communications

Regarding whether preventive communications are published to deter criminals and adults with a sexual interest in children, most people say that they do not know. This is a problem because many responses could be influencing the survey results. This is a problem because the responses might influence the survey results in that it may appear that there is no information or action on the issue which may be objectively false. However, others claim that preventive communications exist for both human trafficking (THB) and child sexual exploitation (CSE). Many responses indicated that these preventive measures to deter criminals do not exist. Ultimately, these responses cannot provide a definitive answer to the question since there are conflicting

responses and even organizations dedicated to prevention do not have accurate knowledge about the presence of these communications.

2.1.7. Uruguay

National level

At the national level, the formation of the National Council for Prevention and Combat of Human Trafficking and Exploitation created by Law 19643 under the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), illustrates the dedication of the government to addressing these issues. Additionally, the INAU National Institute of Child and Teenagers and the Ministry of Interior's inter-institutional Table emphasize the multi-agency approach required to tackle these crimes effectively. Different organisations are involved in the creation and dissemination of preventive communications on the topics of THB and CSEA. Specifically, the Integral System of Protection in Childhood and Adolescence (SIPIAV), the National Committee for eradication of child and adolescence sexual commercial exploitation (CONAPEES) and INMUJERES participate in awareness raising efforts. However, disparities in communication strategies targeting the public and potential offenders highlight the need for more effective dissemination of preventive information. Although not all the results of the survey confirmed it, protection systems worked in coordination with different sectors for THB and CSE/A. However, despite some contradictory answers from the survey answers most respondents answered that professionals in the child protection system do not have training programs for intervention when dealing with CSE/A and THB.

On an international level, Interpol's engagement in educational initiatives, particularly in schools, demonstrates the necessity of holistic approaches involving prevention and education programs for teachers and students. However, the lack of proactive involvement from Uruguayan national and international technology companies in prevention and care efforts is a significant concern. Bridging this gap is crucial to utilizing technology for the greater good, aiding in the prevention of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Prevention and Education Strategies

When considering prevention and education strategies to combat CSE/A and THB it is imperative that these programs are catered directly to children, parents, carers, teachers, and others who deal with children. When the relevant organisations are looking at ways to collaborate to achieve a multi-sectoral approach to prevention programs, they should consider the gaps and strengths of these organisations.

2.2. Collaboration around Prevention

In this section, we examine the diverse organizations engaged in executing prevention and protection initiatives within each country. We delve into the dynamics of collaboration between governmental organizations, non-governmental entities, and various groups working in unison to achieve the overarching goals of combating CSE/A and THB. Additionally, we examine the pivotal role played by initiatives promoting safer internet usage in this comprehensive effort. Through this lens, we aim to show the web of coordinated efforts and partnerships that contribute to a safer environment for vulnerable populations across these countries.

2.2.1. Bangladesh

Organizational

The 2012 Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act is a law in Bangladesh that criminalizes sex trafficking and labour trafficking and prescribed penalties of five years to life imprisonment and a fine [16]. Various survey respondents have stated that the law gives government institutions such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Government of Bangladesh the ability to reduce instances of human trafficking and child exploitation. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also done collaborative work in the past with the Counter Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group of the Bangladesh UN Network

on Migration to develop the National Consultation on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. They continue to work with UNDOC to host more initiatives with the Bangladesh GLO-ACT. The U.S. Government reported Bangladesh's Department of Social Services developed effective shelter homes and services while in partnership with an international organization and stated, "DSS formally launched its revised comprehensive victim services guidelines to ensure minimum standards of care in government-run shelters [17]." Similarly, survey respondents reported that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs uses their mandate to work on protection of children against CSE/A and THB as part of their governmental services.

Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day reported that Bangladesh does not formally have a Safer Internet Day or Committee. However, it is a day that has been celebrated in the past in Bangladesh through different schools and organizations. Survey respondents did not confirm an answer [18].

2.2.2. Colombia

Organizational

The first question in this section referred to the operating of the protection system in coordination with the different actors in the country for identification, asking whether they thought these systems work. In the answers provided the respondents indicated "yes" for both THB and CSE/A. Among the different entities that supervise the coordination that these respondents believe operate, we received the following answers: they mentioned ICBF at the national level and articulated in each corresponding department; that there were also intersectoral governmental committees responsible for the two policies regulated in the laws 985/2005 for THB (Ministry of the Interior) and 1336/2009 for CSE/A (Ministry of Labour and ICBF). Another respondent also mentioned the Operational Anti-Trafficking Centre (COAT) promoted by the Ministry of Interior. Another respondent referred to "Fundacion Renacer", UNICEF and "Red PaPaz" at the national level.

Safer Internet Centre

In the following question on whether Colombia had a safer internet centre in cases of CSE/A, 3 respondents answered "yes", compared to 2 who denied it and another who indicated they did not know. However, an internet search showed that Colombia has a Safer Internet Centre coordinated by the NGO Te Protejo [19], where they "share the cultural adaptation of the resources developed by the Marie Collins Foundation, which provide guidance and support on what to do when our daughter or son is a victim of online sexual abuse." Moreover, they provide parents and carers with a newsletter and a webinar to raise awareness about these resources.

2.2.3. Greece

Organizational

At the national level, survey respondents reported that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs had a significant role in coordinating the overall child protection system. While at the regional level, social welfare departments or child protection agencies part of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs collaborated to provide support and resources. Subdivisions of police organizations and departments collaborated to make widespread preventative measures. At the local level, municipalities and local social welfare services played a role to coordinate efforts within their respective communities. There is no designated coordination body functioning to make collaboration efforts with different professional/fields in the country. However, there were multidisciplinary teams which consisted of professionals from varying sectors, all the way from healthcare to education, collaborating to address causes of Child Sexual Abuse or Human Trafficking. Such as for Human Trafficking efforts, the national referral mechanism and juvenile protections and domestic violence specialized units worked together and for Child Sexual Abuse efforts, the national network Orestis and Child Protection units collaborated to facilitate larger initiatives. The National centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA) was reported to have supported collaboration for cases of Child Sexual Abuse.

Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day reported that Greece does have a Safer Internet Centre (Greek Safer Internet Centre) [20] and the centre worked with many stakeholders such as the public sector, technology, and the government. They organized events with schools and other organizations to promote safe internet use among children.

2.2.4. Lithuania

Organizational

The Ministry of Internal Affairs attends conferences and discussions organized by the European commission to administer and develop legislative proposals within the different EU Member States. Through this initiative, Lithuania developed joint efforts with not only the national Child Rights protection services but the legal system as well [21]. The Ministry's efforts also focus on collaboration with the other ministries in Lithuania. It has organized for a conference to sign a joint resolution focusing on strengthening the fight against sexual exploitation of children at the local and state level [22]. A new proposal by the Lithuania Government administers an independent EU Centre for combating sexual abuse against children. The centre will work to provide reliable reports and statistics of the prevention/campaign work being done. They will also be working with law enforcement to provide resources to victims [15].

Investigations

The Lithuanian Police and other organizations work with Europol and Interpol to analyse law enforcement practices and improve database use for background checks on potential child sexual offenders. In the European Commission's 2013 report on the Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online, it stated that the "officers of the Cyber Crime investigation board of the Lithuanian Criminal Police Bureau are provided access to the ICSE database managed by Interpol. Three officers of the board have graduated from the training of the work with the ISCE Database [21]."

Safer Internet Centre

Safer Internet Day reported that Lithuania does have a Safer Internet Centre (Draugiškas Internetas) and the centre works with many stakeholders such as the public sector, technology, media, and civil society. This year marks their 20th anniversary of Safer Internet Day Initiative. The coordination of their centre is now led by the National Education Agency and continue to work with the same partners [22].

2.2.5. Portugal

Organizational

According to the survey, one of the questions asked was, "Does the protection system work in coordination with different actors in the country to identify possible cases of CSE/A and THB (Health centres, schools, NGOs, etc.)?". The respondents answered that it worked in both cases and indicated some institutions that supervised the coordination such as the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality as the coordinator of the national action plans against THB and the National Referral Mechanism, for THB, the entity at a national level is CIG. To the respondents' knowledge there was no entity that oversees CSE/A; THB-CIG; CSE/A - no coordination specific, however, APAV does lead the support regarding CSE/A in the most coordinated way possible.

Safer Internet Centre

To the question of whether the country has Safer Internet Centre in cases of CSE/A, 90% of those surveyed answered affirmatively. Indeed, Portugal has a Safer Internet Centre called "Centro Internet Segura" coordinated by the National Cybersecurity Center (CNCS) [23].

2.2.6. Spain

Organizational

Considering if the protection and coordination system between different agents in cities work to detect cases of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, such as schools, health centres, NGOs, there were various opinions from the respondents. The majority say that the protection and coordination system does work in cases of THB and CSE/A. However, others affirm that it only works within the realm of THB (possibly because that is the field of expertise of the respondent, and they are not familiar with other areas like child sexual abuse). Others say that the protection system does not work. In this, there seems to be subjectivity and personal evaluation of whether the system works or not. Some responses were incomplete as they state that there are collaborating entities, but they do not specify which ones.

There are some NGOs that work together with the government, such as towns on the topic of CSE and the Ministry of the Interior for THB. For example, the National Strategy was approved by the Ministry of the Interior for the prevention of THB (2021-2023), as well as a National Strategy approved by the Ministry of Social Rights to prevent and combat violence against children. Moreover, at national level is organised the Conferencia Sectorial de infancia y adolescencia, however, at the regional level, the survey did not mention any initiative.

Safer Internet Centre

In the survey provided one of the questions referred to whether Spain has a Safer Internet Centre, a service that is of great importance in cases of online sexual abuse and exploitation. Those who answered that the country does have a secure Internet centre were those who work with it in their daily lives and have knowledge that there is a prevention task on the network. Organizations like ANAR or Guardia Civil work daily with cases of sexual abuse, and know these crimes are also carried out through the Internet. Other institutions are not aware of this, so they answer that they do not know. Most of them are in this category, as perhaps in their work environment, they do not delve deeply into internet security.

From an internet search, Spain indeed has a Safer Internet Centre called Internet Segura for Kids (IS4K) [24], coordinated by the Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE), entity also in charge of the Hotline.

2.2.7. Uruguay

Organisational

In Uruguay, collaborative and multi-agency work is a cornerstone in addressing CSE/A and THB. Governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with non-governmental entities like "Protect Our Children", ANONG (National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations), ATTS (Association of Telephone and Telecommunications Services) and international organizations such as UNICEF, play integral roles in designing and implementing comprehensive prevention and protection initiatives. These efforts extend to the educational sector, where collaboration between these organizations aims to raise awareness, educate both students and professionals, and establish standardized protocols to recognize, report, and prevent CSE/A and THB within educational institutions. However, streamlining these collaborative efforts remains a challenge, underscoring the need for more structured coordination and communication among these stakeholders.

Safer Internet Centre

Moreover, there is no Safer Internet Centre in Uruguay, despite it being an example of international best practices to raise awareness on the topics, especially CSEA, and no hotline to report THB cases, according to survey respondents. Uruguay does however actively participate in the global efforts to promote online safety and does acknowledge and observe Safer Internet Day, underscoring the importance of digital safety awareness. Together with the Ceibal Foundation working with the AGESIC (National Agency for E-Government and the Information Society) and the INJU (National Institute for Youth), and with the support of

Plan Ceibal (a national digital inclusion programme) and ANTEL (the National Telecommunications Supervisor), these organisations organize and implement a project involving teenagers from different educational institutions, programs, and ages in understanding the use of social media and the internet, and their knowledge and perceptions about different issues such as online reputation, digital footprint, etc [25]. Collaborative efforts like these are crucial in addressing the risks of online exploitation, which are increasingly prevalent in today's digital age. Uruguay's participation in Safer Internet Day demonstrates its commitment to fostering a safer online environment for its citizens, particularly susceptible populations such as children and teenagers.

2.3. Helplines and Hotlines

In this section, we explore helplines and hotlines, critical pillars in the collective efforts to combat CSE/A and THB. We delve into whether each of the countries has established dedicated helplines and hotlines, highlighting their operational procedures, areas of focus encompassing CSE/A and THB, and the specific agencies or organizations responsible for their management. Moreover, we examine the strategies employed to promote these helplines and hotlines, ensuring they effectively reach and serve their intended audiences. These vital communication channels serve as lifelines for victims and concerned individuals, offering immediate support and a pathway to safety and protection.

A hotline typically functions as a dedicated service for urgent or crisis situations related to CSE/A and THB, providing immediate intervention and support. Examples of intervention and support include hotlines specifically designed to address emergency situations involving the exploitation of children or instances of human trafficking. In the specific case of online child sexual abuse and exploitation material, a hotline is an organisation that takes reports of CSAM and analyse the imagery in order to have it removed from the internet – this is this definition that is used in this report. A helpline within the realm of CSE/A and THB serves as a broader support system, offering information, guidance, and assistance on these critical issues. Both hotlines and helplines are indispensable tools in connecting individuals with the specialized help and resources necessary to combat CSEA and THB, each catering to the specific urgency and nature of the challenges at hand.

2.3.1. Bangladesh

Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

Children in Bangladesh have at their disposal a dedicated helpline providing them support. The service works 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, including on national holidays. The number that they can dial is 1098. It is operated through Bangladesh's Ministry of Social Welfare in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Promotional Campaigns

Survey respondents reported that the helpline has promotional campaigns being made to get awareness out about the helpline. This is done mostly through internet advertisements and professionals in Bangladesh's child safety network.

2.3.2. Colombia

Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

The respondents reported unanimously that the country has a child helpline. Respondents were then asked if the helpline was part of a national network that includes educational centres, churches, police, prosecutors, among others; to which four respondents indicated "yes", whilst two disagreed indicating "no".

Regarding whether the country has a hotline or portal for reporting child sexual abuse material, one respondent stated that there was an information portal, three respondents stated that there was a hotline, and two respondents did not know. An internet search showed that Te Protejo hosts the Colombian Hotline to report child sexual abuse material and other forms of abuse that target children, such as cyberbullying, sale of illicit

products to minors, child labour and sexual exploitation, and others. In the case of those who responded “yes” to the hotline, two of them affirmed that these were part of INHOPE. Similarly, in the case of having responded with a hotline or information portal, a total of three respondents indicated that the country had promotional campaigns about the existence of these platforms. The next question asked was whether Colombia had a hotline in this case for trafficking, to which the majority (five respondents) indicated “yes” for both adults and children, and one respondent indicated they did not know.

Promotional Campaigns

Regarding this last question asking if Colombia had promotional campaigns about the existence of the child helpline, the majority (5 respondents) agreed that it does, but 1 respondent said that it does not.

Of these five respondents all indicated that the country had promotional campaigns about the existence of the hotline.

2.3.3. Greece

Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

Greece has 4 main helplines, the National SOS helpline for children - 1056, the European hotline for missing children - 11600, the European helpline for children and adolescents - 116111, and the National hotline for missing adults - 1017. There is also an existing chat for children facing danger - 1056. They operate every day of the year, 24 hours a day.

Promotional Campaigns

Survey respondents reported that the helplines had promotional campaigns online and through word of mouth being made to spread the word about their respective operating helpline.

2.3.4. Lithuania

Child Sexual Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

Lithuania has a child Helpline. Children in need of support can dial 116111 to reach the service and it can be dialled any day from 11:00am – 11:00pm. Children at risk can also online chat any day from 5:00pm-11:00pm. It is operated through the organization Vaiku Linija that is part of the Child Helpline International network. The country also has an internet hotline part of INHOPE’s hotline network, and the Lithuanian hotline is overseen by the Republic of Lithuania.

Promotional Campaigns

Survey respondents reported that the helpline had promotional campaigns being made to get the word out about the helpline. However, they found there were no promotional campaigns on the internet hotline organized by INHOPE and the Republic of Lithuania.

2.3.5. Portugal

Child abuse and trafficking hotline and helpline

Regarding the question on the existence of helplines for children and the answer was unanimously affirmative. Furthermore, they agreed that these services are found in schools, churches, police, etc. When asked, “Does your country have a hotline or reporting portal, to report child sexual abuse material (CSAM)?”, five respondents respond affirmatively to the existence of a hotline that is promoted and is part of INHOPE. It was also asked, “Does your country have a hotline to report instances of trafficking?”, the responses included 2 respondents who answered negatively, 4 respondents who affirmed yes for both children and adults and one respondent who did not know about the subject.

Promotional Campaigns

The answers provided in the survey indicated that there are promotional campaigns on helplines. Regarding the advertising of said line, in 4 answers it was affirmative, in 2 answers it was negative, and one did not respond.

2.3.6. Spain

Child Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

From the survey, it is unclear whether Spain has a hotline or support number for individuals in situations of abuse involving children or human trafficking. Many of the survey respondents said that it does exist, but many others said that it does not. Therefore, its existence is not clear, and we also see the limited information available about accessible resources. From an internet search, Spain does have a Helpline, ANAR, which is an NGO providing a Telephone Helpline for Children and Adolescents with an “immediate response to any problem that may affect a minor: relationship difficulties, violence in its different forms, and psychological problems, among others. Any child or young person can dial our number, which is free and confidential, and they will find a psychologist on the other end who will listen to them for as long as they need, who will guide them through their problem and help them find a solution” [26].

Those who respond that there is a helpline for possible victims, say that these helplines do not provide assistance through educational centres, churches, the police, or lawyers, while others say that they do. Again, there is a significant discrepancy among the responses because if it is known that a helpline exists, one should know what services it offers. On the other hand, in one question (specifically question 15), it is asked whether the country has a helpline or an information portal to report cases of child sexual abuse. Again, there are many discrepancies among the respondents. The majority claim that there is a hotline, many others that there is a reporting portal, and others that there is neither one nor the other. And there is also a lack of knowledge. However, from a quick internet search, it is clear that Spain has a Hotline, the Instituto Nacional de Ciberseguridad (National Institute of Cybersecurity) INCIBE, hosted at the government level [27]. We can see that in a topic of great relevance like child sexual abuse, not all people (even if the sample size is very small as in this case) have common knowledge about the matter, specifically whether there is any method, such as a hotline or a reporting portal, to report matters of great importance.

Promotional Campaigns

To those who responded that the country has a hotline or a reporting portal, they were asked whether there were promotional campaigns for the existence of that helpline or portal for children. Those who answered yes to the question, the majority said that there were promotional campaigns for the available resources. But others responded that there were no such promotions. This has a subjective component because there may have been promotional campaigns, but the respondents were unaware of them. Another assumption is that those who said there are promotional campaigns consider it so because they have had access to the information through their work or research on the topic, but there may not have been effective efforts to publicize the available means to report cases of sexual abuse.

2.3.7. Uruguay

Child Abuse and Trafficking hotline and helpline

Only one helpline is available to Uruguayan citizens. As part of the Child Helpline International network, Línea Azul receives, through the number 0800 5050 and the INAU website, and reports related to situations of violence and violation of rights experienced by children and adolescents. The helpline works in coordination with other actors to better respond to the child’s needs. In addition, it carries out and/or coordinates the actions that allow a holistic approach aimed at providing timely and effective responses [28].

Promotional Campaigns

However, survey respondents suggest that there are promotional campaigns for this service, but they need enhancement to reach a wider audience and ensure individuals are aware of available support. We can indeed find promotional campaigns on the hotline and helpline, such as promotional videos and webinars on YouTube – but they might not reach the optimal number of viewers. [29]

2.4. Evaluation and Monitoring, and barriers to implementation

In this section, we delve into the crucial process of evaluation and monitoring and barriers in the implementation of prevention initiatives in the realm of CSE/A and THB. We examine the methodologies and tools employed by the various countries to assess the effectiveness of their initiatives, and understanding the barriers to success, ensuring that they are on the right path to safeguarding their populations. Evaluation and monitoring, and an awareness of challenges, are pivotal components in the ongoing effort to adapt, enhance, and fine-tune these programs, ultimately contributing to more comprehensive and successful strategies in the fight against CSE/A and THB.

2.4.1. Bangladesh

Bangladesh's government and Non-Profit sectors are actively working to reduce Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking. Their work has been recognised internationally through various United Nations Organizations and different leaders and national organizations. However, there are barriers to their work that hinder the process. Some of the barriers that Child Safety Network professionals face when working with victims is that communication can sometimes be difficult due to low literacy rates. When helping victims break away from the cycle of abuse, it is most likely that they are living in abject poverty leading them to only be able to survive off the scarce resources they have. Some victims may also be living or be surrounded by community leaders who are influential in their communities and are also involved in child abuse and trafficking, this barrier may make it difficult for professionals to reduce child sexual abuse and/or human trafficking in those communities. When helping victims break away from the cycle of abuse, it is most likely that they are living in abject poverty leading them to only be able to survive off the scarce resources they have. Some victims may also be living or be surrounded by community leaders who are influential in their communities and are also involved in child abuse and trafficking, this barrier may make it difficult for professionals to reduce child sexual abuse and/or human trafficking in those communities. Survey respondents stated that the barriers they faced when managing CSE/A Prevention Campaigns in Bangladesh were the lack of information and research. It was also reported that miscommunication played a role as the communities sometimes did not receive the information accurately or in a way that was applicable to them.

2.4.2. Colombia

Regarding the evaluation, the question asked was whether there was national research on the response to prevention and research on comprehensive sexuality education and CSE/A offences. Among the responses we received two "yes" both for THB and CSE/A, three "I do not know" and one "no". At the same time, most respondents (five) affirmatively shared that they were aware of possible obstacles in the implementation of prevention programs. On the other hand, one of them indicated "no". They specifically mentioned the lack of resources of the responsible territorial entities, as they refuted the existence of a national policy defining the criteria for prevention. Likewise, professionals working with victims or potential victims were not trained for the specific work with these victims of both THB and CSE/A. Likewise, according to the survey respondents, who are professionals in the field of children's rights and the fight against CSE/A and THB, professionals working with victims or potential victims were not trained for the specific work with these victims of both THB and CSE/A. On the other hand, the lack of budget or the difficulty of implementation in conflict zones,

remote areas or in migratory contexts was also mentioned, as well as the lack of training for judges. Finally, there were political difficulties that made it impossible to maintain the program.

2.4.3. Greece

Survey respondents from Greece stated that the barriers they faced were a lack of clear referral path for Child Sexual Abuse, professionals being overburdened by the number of cases they do not have time to identify and address, the lack of training of different professionals encountering children who are victims of human trafficking, the lack of information or training for professionals on the frontlines who meet parents/guardians and children with disabilities and/or other characteristics that make them particularly vulnerable, the delay in introducing standard child protection procedures in critical sectors, and the lack of unification in the procedures for investigating and substantiating complaints or reports resulting in different protocols being applied by different people and calling the child to repeated statements/assessments that re-victimize them. The survey respondents also listed barriers revolving around the delays in early detection of incidents and in pre-trial/adjudication of related cases resulting in secondary victimisation and long-term suffering for victims. Legal frameworks were also critiqued for their ambiguous and contradictory forecasts rendering their implantation ineffective and institutional provisions voted on to not be implemented over time. Services for victims were another part of large barriers reported, stating that there was an institutional deficit of child protection services, specialized therapeutic intervention for victims and their families and the actions of services based on their traditional practices did not prioritize the needs of the children nor the principles of “child-friendly services”.

2.4.4. Lithuania

Survey respondents stated that the barriers they faced when managing CSE/A Prevention Campaigns in Lithuania were the lack of resources and coordination. They stated that the lack of coordination between state institutions and non-governmental institutions makes it difficult to properly plan effective campaigns and prevention initiatives. Professionals expressed the lack of finance and personnel to support preventative initiatives. The social barrier in the country is that child sexual exploitation is not a priority topic or issue for discussion or focus for resources.

2.4.5. Portugal

In the survey provided, question number 17 asked: “Is there research (with analysis) conducted at the national level on the response to the prevention and investigation of crimes of CSE/A and THB?”, 2 respondents answered in the negative, 2 respondents answered, “I don’t know”, and 2 respondents referred only to THB indicating the places where it could be found [30]. It was also asked if there are obstacles in the application of the programs and, although 3 respondents affirmed that there were obstacles, only one respondent explained one of them, such as: no coordination to operate a national level program - meaning that some schools ask for them from some NGOs like APAV (for example they have a prevention program regarding CSE/A directed to children) but it is not mandatory and does not happen equally throughout the country.

2.4.6. Spain

Some of the survey respondents stated that there were no barriers in the implementation of prevention programs, however, other survey respondents stated that there were barriers. Some examples of barriers they provided included: prevention awareness not reaching its target (evidenced by the lower funding specifically allocated for prevention initiatives), a lack of coordination between institutions (which is the biggest problem in Spain), language barriers, and victim detection rate even with awareness raising efforts on the crimes. One pitfall noted in the survey is that some respondents said there were barriers in the implementation of programs but did not specify which ones. Those who encountered barriers in the implementation of programs worked on cases of THB and CSE/A or exclusively on THB cases.

2.4.7. Uruguay

Efficient prevention programs against child sexual abuse (CSA) and trafficking of human beings (THB) in Uruguay face several significant barriers. The lack of technical resources, financial support, and logistical challenges due to inadequate budgetary allocations hinder the implementation and effectiveness of prevention initiatives. Furthermore, some cultural aspects fail to address the issue effectively. Furthermore, some cultural aspects such as silencing victims due to for example due to the identity of the perpetrator being a family member, not taking CSE/A as a serious danger to children and youth and a general lack of protection of children and youth fail to address the issue effectively. The insufficiency of economic resources and inadequate training of professionals further impede efforts to combat CSE/A and THB. Better structural support, enhanced application of communication and investigation technologies, continuous educational campaigns, and extended public asset campaigns are essential needs. Particularly critical is the importance of emphasizing protection in childhood, as adult behaviours are profoundly influenced by the educational foundations and values instilled during the first years of life. Overcoming these barriers is crucial to create a safer environment for the vulnerable and curb the alarming prevalence of child sexual abuse and human trafficking in Uruguayan society. However, it is important to note that the survey responses contained some contradictory answers and discrepancies probably due to lack of information and knowledge of the entire efforts around prevention. People who had knowledge of CSE/A because of their position frequently answered just about CSE/A and did not include THB and vice versa. However, it is important to note that the survey responses contained some contradictory answers and discrepancies probably due to lack of information and knowledge of the entire efforts around prevention. People who had knowledge of CSE/A because of their position frequently answered just about CSE/A and did not include THB and vice versa

Evaluation and monitoring efforts revealed varying levels of research, underlining the need for consistent and comprehensive research to inform prevention strategies effectively. The identified barriers, including financial constraints, logistical difficulties, cultural normalization of crimes, and the need for more technical and human resources, present critical challenges that must be addressed to bolster prevention and care efforts. However, the survey respondents mentioned a few research initiatives that could help better understand the issues of CSEA and THB in Uruguay, for example an organisation called El Paso civil association [31] and a thesis paper on victims of trafficking for sexual purposes detected by care services versus those reported and investigated by the criminal justice system [32].

3. Mapping of Civil Society

In this section, we looked at a comprehensive exploration of civil society organizations dedicated to or involved in some way in combating CSE/A and THB in the varying stages from prevention, awareness, detection, intervention, investigation, support, etc. This mapping includes a diverse array of entities, such as NGOs, human rights advocates, legal aid providers, governmental organizations, research institutions, and more. This list is not exhaustive, as it reflects input from survey respondents and online searches. National partners are encouraged to explore further for additional relevant organizations contributing to the multifaceted efforts against CSE/A and THB. These entities play a pivotal role in shaping responses, from prevention initiatives to legal advocacy and victim support, highlighting the collective impact of their collaborative efforts.

Table 1: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Bangladesh

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	Centre for Children and Women Studies (CWCS)	NGO	National level- Thana level	Website: https://cwcsbd.org/ Awareness workshops with professionals and the public, Conferences on Human trafficking initiatives, Counter Trafficking School Campaigns Gender sensitivity training for police and community, orientation sessions on child rights for police Advocacy to combat gender violence in areas of Satkhira district, worked with South Asia network for the SAARC Convention, research projects on topics related to human trafficking and sexual exploitation Healthcare services-oriented with referral systems for victims, gateway to employment and economic empowerment initiatives for survivors
2	Action against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC)	Bangladesh Chapter of ATSEC	Regional Level	Website: https://atsec.tripod.com/atsecbangladeshchapter/id1.html Research studies, resource mobilization such as trainings, seminars and workshops Advocacy and awareness raising events, regional events Under Nationwide Campaign for Prevention of Trafficking in children and Women project, under combat Child and Women Trafficking Project
3	Ain O Shalish Kendro	Legal aid and Human Rights Organization	National level	Website: https://www.askbd.org/ask/human-rights-awareness-hra-unit/ 60 voluntary groups known as Manobadhikar Nattya Parishads (MNPs) are formed and trained by the Unit on human rights, gender issues and theatre skills. These groups then organize community level action theatres on specific local incidents of human rights violations in order to facilitate local action and response.
4	Dhaka Ahsania Mission	NGO	National Level	Website: https://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd/ Ahsania Mission Children city works to rehabilitate most vulnerable street children allowing them to get more opportunities of success, humanitarian services to marginalized women and

				children especially pregnant mothers who are victims of rape and sexual violence
5	Justice and Care	Charity Organization	National Level	Website: https://justiceandcare.org/what-we-do/bangladesh/ Overseeing the resources and safety of survivors, court services, social services, raising awareness with local leaders,
6	Rights Jessore	Human Rights Organization	National Level, predominately in the south-western region	Website: https://rights Jessore.org/ Rights Jessore helps in creating environment of prevention, protection and prosecution for the victims of human trafficking through formation of forums, capacity building, networking and documentations of violations
7	BLAST	Legal aid Organization	National Level	Website: https://blast.org.bd/ Legal Aid, Public Interest Litigation, Capacity Building, Advocacy campaigns, research
8	Criminal Investigation Department (CID)	Governmental Organization	Global / Gov. Level	Criminal Investigations centre Initiatives with local leaders and NGOS to spread awareness
9	INCIDIN Bangladesh	Research and Capacity building organization	Regional Level	Website: https://www.incidinb.org/ Core support model under SIDA CSO Program (2022-2026), Save the children international, one stop digital service centre to address trafficking during Covid-19, campaigns addressing child labour in agricultural supply chains, the freedom fund, initiatives targeting end of sexual exploitation of children in Bangladesh
10	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association	Legal aid Organization	National Level	Website: https://bnwla-bd.org/ Legal service, Public Interest Litigation, Rescue, Release and repatriation of the victims, advocacy, lobby and social mobilization
11	Breaking the Silence	NGO	National Level	Website: https://breakingthesilencebd.org/wedo.html Community based child protection, referral social services and capacity building Empowerment and awareness building campaigns, promoting community-based child protection

Table 2: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Colombia

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism	Governmental Organization	National level	Website: https://www.mincit.gov.co/
2	Colombian Institute of Family Welfare – Directorate for Childhood and Adolescence or Protection	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.icbf.gov.co/ Government entity that works for the integral protection of early childhood, adolescence, and the well-being of families in Colombia. Giving extra attention to those in condition of threats or violation of human rights. Collaborated with the Program for Alliances for Reconciliation (PAR) as part of security and coexistence strategy for Venezuelan immigrants. Strengthened the support it provides to Venezuelan migrant children, youth, specifically in regard to prevention of violence.
3	National Police	Governmental Organization	National Level	Colombia's national police oversees the investigations of child sexual abuse cases and works with other governmental organizations to make proactive measures
4	Red Tamar	Intersectional Service Committee	National Level	Website: https://www.crc.org.co/ Inter-congregational network committed to the prevention of human trafficking from the perspective of human trafficking with a focus on evangelical mission
5	Ministry of Interior	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.mininterior.gov.co/ Responsible for the enforcement of both law and administration of justice
6	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/ministro Collaboration with international partnerships for social justice causes such as Human trafficking Responsible for international relations of Colombia
7	Ministry of Education	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/portal/secciones/English-version/The-Ministry/ At the forefront of the educational sector, intersects educational policies and the education system to provide students with efficient wellbeing and enrichment
8	Ministry of Health and Social Protection	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.minsalud.gov.co/English/Paginas/inicio.aspx Overseeing the health services policies and initiatives, public intervention programs to support people in critical condition
9	Attorney General's Office	Governmental Organization	National Level	

10	Public Defender's Office	Governmental Organization	National Level	
11	Asociación Afecto	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://afecto.org.co/quienes-somos-y-que-hacemos/</p> <p>For child abuse advocacy- group trainings (diplomas, courses, one day training, free courses, online resources, and business training), mobilization of public opinion, creation and implementation of campaigns and investigations, promotion of public policy and actions for their benefit</p> <p>Good treatment week campaign for professional advocacy and training with the audience of journalists, social communicators, lawyers, dentists, psychologists, social researchers and child safety professionals</p>
12	Alianza por la Niñez Colombiana	NGO	National & International Level	<p>Website: https://alianzaporlaninez.org.co/</p> <p>Focused on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation and national/international political advocacy</p> <p>Let's vote for children campaign was made to influence governmental decision makers and public voters to elect rulers who included child rights in their governmental plans, The childhood I propose campaign was made to collect proposals from parents, caregivers, children and various allied working to help children in Colombia</p>
13	Fundación Renacer	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.fundacionrenacer.org/</p> <p>Therapeutic care to children and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence, 2 specialized care canter in Cartagena and 1 in Riohacha, legal advice to families to families and girls, boys and adolescents who have been victims of CSEC and sexual violence</p> <p>Prevention and care strategies to government and mayor's offices, educational advocacy resources (virtual courses, seminars, workshops, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the public sector), support in the construction of local public policy plans, accompanying police, prosecutor's office and judges to prosecute CSEC cases</p>
14	Red PaPaz	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.redpapaz.org/</p> <p>Virtual Courses, resource centre for parents and schools to learn parenting skills, creating protective environments and formation of family-school alliances</p>

Table 3: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Greece

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	Smile of the Child	NGO	National level	Website: https://www.hamogelo.gr/gr/en/pou-eimaste/ For child victims of violence and/or suffering from health problems, offering therapy, medical examinations, accommodations for families with children facing health problems, prevention and intervention services Chat services, helplines, summer homes for children, CAC – The child advocacy centre, day-care homes
2	Diotima	Women's Non-Profit Org	National level	Website: https://diotima.org.gr/ Current projects include being involved in the role of art in creating social impact, legal and psychological services for gender-based violence survivors in the regions of Attica and Central Macedonia, awareness campaigns about online sexual harassment, workshops and teacher training on information young people about issues and refugee support services
3	Arsis	NGO / Social Services	Regional Level Operating in Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Alexandroupoli, Kozani and Tirana (Albania)	Website: https://arsis.gr/en/ Prevention of Youth Marginalisation campaigns, elaboration of policies to defend youth rights and active social support for disadvantaged young people
4	Praxis	NGO	National Level	Website: https://praxis.gr/ Mobile Unit Program works to do information-prevention screening for HIV and Hepatitis B & C , Thessaloniki Polyclinic gives primary holistic health services for vulnerable social groups, Community center in Athens , open homeless day centers , child protection interventions , and in coordination with the UN Refugee agency to help give resources to refugee children at risk including Gender based violence survivors
5	Blue Refugee Center	Victims' shelter/services	Regional Level	Website is not present More info: https://www.solidaritynow.org/en/blue-refugee-center/ Support hub for refugees and asylum seekers in Greece with services such as psychological support, legal counselling, employability services, cultural mediation, support for parents and children, non-formal education and recreational activities, internet corner and child friendly space
6	Equal Legal Aid	Legal Aid	National Level	Website: https://www.equallegalaid.org/ Providing legal aid and support at any stage of the asylum procedure, such as preliminary legal counselling, preparation for the asylum interviews, preparation for the

				admissibility interviews, representation before the Appeals committee and before the courts, and assistance with subsequent applications
7	Irida Women Center	Women's Non-Profit Org	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.iridacenter.org/our-mission-and-values/</p> <p>Safe, participatory and inclusive space for women from across the world</p> <p>Their data states they have served over 1615 women and 709 children 0-5 years old through protection sessions, legal sessions and skill building activities for their future</p>
8	Safer Internet Center	SID Greece Chapter	National Level	<p>Website: https://saferinternet.gr/index.php</p> <p>Part of Panhellenic school network, information brochures and webinars on child safety and safe internet usage, booklets and training materials for educators and parents</p>
9	National centre for Social Solidarity (EKKA)	Human Rights Organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://ekka.org.gr/index.php/en/</p> <p>In coordination with Greece's ministry of social cohesion and family affairs</p> <p>Shelter services, crisis management, training for adults and support resources</p> <p>Psychological support and counselling via specialized hotline (through the national child protection helpline 1107) for children facing sexual abuse</p>
10	Greek National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings	Service center	National Level	Referral system to keep track and provide services to Trafficked victims
11	The rapporteur for Unaccompanied children	Service Center	National Level	Referral system used by professionals in child safety to keep track and provide resources to unaccompanied children
12	Network for Children's rights	Victims' Services	Regional Level	<p>Website: https://ddp.gr/en/</p> <p>Culture lab has had creative and learning support teams</p> <p>Their initiatives include work with the youth centre and the child protection unit</p>
13	A21 Greece	Human Rights Organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.a21.org/content/greece/gr4wco</p> <p>Informative presentations on human trafficking, student programs to raise awareness at schools, walk for freedom: annual day of global and local awareness on Human trafficking, human trafficking 24hour hotline, training of professionals, legal assistance, short term accommodation hostel for rescued victims, Freedom centre: day centre for survivors, restorative services, housing and resettlement services</p>
14	Center for Family and Childcare	Victims' Services	Regional Level	Website is not present

15	Cyber Crime Unit	Government Organization	National Level	<p>https://www.astynomia.gr/hellenic-police/special-services/cyber-crime-division/?lang=en https://www.astynomia.gr/hellenic-police/special-services/cyber-crime-division/?lang=en</p> <p>Greece's cybercrime division investigates reports and suspicions on the internet for CSAM or child sexual abuse cases</p> <p>Sometimes hold information sessions with other sector professionals to keep communication of current initiatives</p>
16	KEMEA	Think Tank	National Level	<p>Website: https://kemea.gr/en/</p> <p>Legislations, national contact, research and training programs, conferences</p>
17	KMOP	Victims' Services	International Level	<p>Website: https://www.kmop.gr/human-trafficking/</p> <p>Education hub includes access to educational programs, resources and trainings such as vocational and educational training</p> <p>Policy centre involved in technical assistance projects, and reframing welfare index</p> <p>Social action campaigns and international research</p>
18	Ministry of Citizen Protection/ Anti-Trafficking unit of the Hellenic Police	Government Organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.astynomia.gr/odigos-tou-politi/chrisimes-symvoules/eboria-anthropon/</p> <p>Main human trafficking and sexual violence government institution</p>
19	SOS Villages	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://sos-villages.gr/</p> <p>Alternative care through youth shelters, SOS Baby hostel, SOS Children's villages</p> <p>Prevention care through child and family support centres, learning and pedagogical support centres, day centre for the disabled, and interventions in the local community</p>
20	Eliza	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://eliza.org.gr/en/</p> <p>Hospital-based child protection unit</p> <p>Annual campaign for world day for prevention of child abuse and advocacy through sports campaigns and ads</p> <p>Safe touches initiatives involved in giving teachers and parents training in schools through digital technology</p>
21	Subdivisions against organized crime	Government Organization	National Level	Website not present
22	Safeline	Hellenic Safer Internet Center	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.safeline.gr/</p> <p>Open Complaint line to the Greek police, legislation initiatives, and annual reports</p>

23	SaferInternet4kids	Public Entity	Local Level	<p>Website: https://saferinternet4kids.gr/</p> <p>Webinars, pamphlet resources, presentations, helpline and safe line to report anonymously</p> <p>Resources for children, teenagers, parents and teachers</p>
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Table 4: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Lithuania

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	KOPZI	NGO / victim shelter	National level	<p>Website: https://anti-trafficking.lt/</p> <p>Provides educational and preventative activities at the local and national level.</p> <p>Safe housing services, psychological and legal services</p>
2	Vaiku Linija (Child Line)	Emotional Support/ Psychological service	National level	<p>Website: vilnius@vaikulinija.lt</p> <p>Events frequently organized with professionals and the public for advocacy and implementation of new initiatives.</p> <p>Current initiatives involve: Volunteering promotion project, social campaign on internet usage, No bullying campaign , “Safer Internet” Emotional support lines project</p>
3	Draugiškas Internetas	Lithuania chapter of Safer Internet Project	National Level	<p>Website: info@draugiskasinternetas.lt</p> <p>Video materials, posters, interactive educational games, recommendations for teachers and parents</p> <p>Learning materials to primary education, basic education, secondary education ages</p> <p>Youth ambassador program for children 12-18 to get involved with the initiative</p>
4	Uzoveja (Child House)	Help Center	Regional Level	Website does not work
5	Save the Children Lithuania	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://gelbekitvaikus.lt/</p> <p>Support for families by strengthening their parenting skills and through psychological, social and financial support.</p> <p>Advocacy on the rights of the child in Lithuania, Children’s Day canters</p> <p>Past events included solidarity run in Lithuanian educational institutions, safe school project to different schools, student groups against violence</p>
6	Lithuanian National Association Against Human Trafficking	Human Rights Organization	National Level	<p>Website: www.stop-trafficking.lt</p> <p>Providing comprehensive psychological, social and legal assistance to victims of human trafficking, public awareness campaigns through organizational collaboration or outreach</p>
7	IOM Lithuania	Human Rights Organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://lithuania.iom.int/</p> <p>Crisis response management given in organization and to other partners, global partnerships has led to initiatives focused on proactive advocacy on social justice issues</p>

Table 5: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Portugal

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	Akto – Human rights and Advocacy	NGO	National level	Website: https://www.akto.org/pt/quem-somos/ Education, promotion and intervention in Human rights and democracy Part of Rede Social, Plataforma de Apoio Aos Refugiados networks
2	Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings	NGO	National Level	Website: https://www.otsh.mai.gov.pt/en/apresentacao/ Produce, collect and analyse information and knowledge about the trafficking in human beings' phenomenon and other forms of gender violence Project “Improved prevention, assistance, protection and (re)integration system for victims of sexual exploitation” working to coordinate with Directorate-General for Health, Institute of Employment and Professional Training, Family Planning Association, O Ninho, Fundação Madre Sacramento-Ewuiipo de Intervenção social, Obra Social das Irmãs Oblatas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to learn better prevention strategies to support programs and measures aimed for victims Project Working together for an inclusive Europe, ongoing with professional audience
3	Family Planning Association	NGO	National Level	Website: https://apf.pt/ Advocacy with student audience to talk about children and young people protection policies, sex education and resources, and online sexuality/image
4	APAV	NGO/victims' rights	National Level	Website: https://apav.pt/apav_v3/index.php/en/ Project InfoVictims III, tools developed in different formats for professionals, public and more through website and app, informing victims' rights Court based support services for victims and witnesses of crimes, Digital resources for raising awareness and educating for relationships
5	Safe Internet Center	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.internetsegura.pt/ Hotline, Youth participation through the Digital Leaders Initiatives (educational program for teachers and students) Organized several awareness sessions in schools with the cooperation of National ICT Competence centres, and sessions about digital security for young people aged 18 during National Defence day https://www.betterinternetforkids.eu/en-US/sic/portugal
6	Judiciary Police	Governmental Organization	National Level	Criminal Investigations centre

9	Comissão nacional de promoção dos Direitos e Proteção das Crianças e Jovens (National Commission for the promotion of rights and protection of children and youth)	Network Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.cnpdpcj.gov.pt/inicio Children's rights through the child protection policy and more international policies, current legislation and passed laws in the country to help progress, The national council of children and young people is composed of children and young people between 8 and 17 from all over the country, collaborated with the project to lead resourceful guides made for children
10	Instituto de Apoio à Criança	NGO	National Level	Website: https://iacrianca.pt/ Inside the organization, continuous IAC Training to be updated with the evolving field changes, reflecting on organizational structure efficiency programs Project initiatives include targeting professionals and caregivers with family foster care advocacy, working with NGOs in other countries to gain more data and information on children support lines effectiveness, and organizing different support offices and resources kit for children and justice system professionals
11	EPCAT Portugal	Network Organization	National/International Level	Website: https://www.ciaforg.net/pt/ CIAF is an integrated family support centre within EPCAT Portugal with the goal of preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children and ESCCA in travel and tourism Collaboration with Join the code initiative, the code is developed by EPCAT with Scandinavian tourism companies and now join the code focuses on training tourism companies to be aware of child safety training

Table 6: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Spain

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	A21 Spain	NGO	National level	Website: https://www.a21.org/content/spain/gr4yo0 Presentation workshops with diverse audiences about the problem of human trafficking, awareness program with activities and information to mobilize public for action, walk for freedom annual event, and professionals' training to bystander intervention and human trafficking intervention in their workplaces no matter the sector
2	Agencia Española de Protección de Datos (AEPD)	Governmental Organization	National Level	Website: https://www.aepd.es/ Assisting family and children on their rights and support resources, digital family plans for digital security awareness

3	ANAR	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.anar.org/en/que-hacemos/</p> <p>Child and Teenage Support Phonenumber/Chat, Family and School Phonenumber/Chat, Missing children and Teenagers Phonenumber/chat, School bullying Phonenumber/Chat, Youth Gender Violence Phonenumber/Chat</p> <p>Study and Research centre with sociologists to complete extensive research in social research</p> <p>Foster Home and school initiatives led</p>
4	Ange Bleu	NGO	European Level (France, Spain)	<p>Website: https://angebleu.org/</p> <p>Baby clothing donations, awareness campaigns and humanitarian trips</p>
5	Cáritas Española	NGO	National Level- Catholic church entity	<p>Website: http://www.caritas.es/</p> <p>Professionals in Spain hold advocacy campaigns for the public in relation to minors risk in disasters and migration, advocacy on minor labour exploitation and in coordination with government institutions and other Christian non-profits</p>
6	Cruz Roja	NGO	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.cruzroja.es/teleasistencia/en/teleasistencia-domiciliaria.html</p> <p>Home based telecare service to provide medical attention to those in need</p>
7	Guardia Civil	Law enforcement	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.guardiacivil.es/en/</p> <p>State's Defence and Security Corps, carries out the full spectrum of police task such as criminal investigations, and administrative policing</p>
8	National Rapporteur against human trafficking	Governmental Organization	National Level	<p>Referral system to keep track of services being provided and organized to serve all victims</p>
9	Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)	Education	Regional Level	<p>Website: https://www.ucm.es/</p> <p>Panda Project, working to help support children's rights as part of the UN's sustainable goals, coordinated with Universities and their faculty of social work, social workers/organizations and police officers in field of child welfare and protection</p>

Table 7: CSOs involved in prevention initiatives in Uruguay

	Name	Type of Organization	Level of Reach	Prevention Programs
1	El Paso association	NGO	National level	<p>Website: https://ongelpaso.org.uy/</p> <p>For children and adolescents- El Paso Las Piedras, West and east pass projects create Psycho-social approach to sexual abuse of children by coordinating with public and private community resources, consolidating a system of care/rehabilitation and prevention, and a legal approach for justice</p> <p>Territorial Articulation Device, made up of professionals in Psychology, Social work and law to carry out awareness-raising tasks at the community level and in urban/rural areas. By strengthening local capacities and responses to facilitate detection, first responses referrals and access to women care services. Also supports the violence-free dating campaign by holding workshops in educational institutions and centres with adolescents</p>
2	INAU – Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay	Institution network/committee organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.inau.gub.uy/</p> <p>Private early childhood centres, child and family care centres, community care homes, and early childhood educator training</p> <p>Kids clubs, youth centres, labour inspection</p>
3	INISA	Institution network/organization	National/Regional Level	<p>Website: https://www.inisa.gub.uy/</p> <p>Places for kids to create and enjoy many hobbies, caregivers, social and community works, resources for children to stay healthy and happy</p> <p>Education through sports, recreation, formal and non-formal education</p>
4	ANEP	Institution network/organization	National/Regional Level	<p>Website: https://www.anep.edu.uy/</p> <p>Educational-Cultural plans aim to give students and teachers support and enrichment. Educational centres initiatives, books written, informational outreach partnerships and events</p> <p>Legal advice through the supervision of the country's legal unit/litigation unit/Notarial division and other departments</p>
5	National Council for the Prevention and Combat of Human trafficking and exploitation – MIDES (Ministry of Social Development)	Governmental Organization	National Level	<p>Website: https://www.gub.uy/</p> <p>Regional offices around the country overseeing social development initiatives</p> <p>INJU House is a space of the National youth institute which is open for all young people to express themselves and gain opportunities. Youth information centre focuses on providing scholarships and competitions to grow student engagement and learning</p> <p>Online process that offers care service for women in situations of gender-based violence, provides psychosocial-legal carefree of charge for women over 18 years of age</p>

6	UNICEF Uruguay	UN Org	International Level	Website: https://www.unicef.org/uruguay/ UNICEF works together with the State and civil society organizations to provide tools and training around the prevention of violence. Guides and materials for produced with advice for parents and caregivers on how to educate without violence
7	Fundacion Ceibal (Safer Internet Center)	Network Org	National Level	Website: https://fundacionceibal.edu.uy/ Initiative projects such as brining rural and inclusive digital education to strengthen educational systems, part of the network on alliance with digitalization of education Collaborated with 150 institutions and 27 countries with the support of partners, helped elevate new opportunities for prevention initiatives
8	Viguias	Network Org (Safer Internet center)	National Level	Website: https://viguias.org/ 4 programs to fulfil specific functions, Te protejo: to support authorities to eradicate crimes against children, Centro de conocimiento: creators of valuable and relevant content and have expert technical teams that create and review all content Tulideras: network of youth initiatives with educational institutions to strengthen the skills of young leaders, Te Guio: route that allows the org to create proactive action against aggression and violence (still in progress)

4. Country-specific Gaps, Best practice analysis and recommendations

In this section, we delve into the challenges and opportunities within each of the seven countries, examining specific gaps, best practices, and providing recommendations to combat CSE/A and THB. By taking a country-specific approach, we aim to provide insights into the distinct dynamics at play in each country, shedding light on both the obstacles and the solutions needed to address these critical issues effectively. Through this lens, we highlight the importance of tailored strategies to safeguard the well-being of the children.

4.1. Bangladesh

Bangladesh has implemented many important initiatives that can be recognised as best practices to combat CSE/A and THB. One of the most notable one is the country's participation in the "World Day against Human Trafficking", especially at the governmental level: the fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs, supported by the Counter Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group of the Bangladesh United Nations Network, organised the celebrations at the national level sends an important message around Bangladesh's commitment to fight against THB. Moreover, Bangladesh has a helpline to report instances of CSE/A and THB, which follows international best practices in terms of victim support.

However, addressing the multifaceted challenges of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Trafficking in Human Beings requires a comprehensive approach that acknowledges several important gaps. Firstly, there is a pressing need for greater promotion and access of helpline and hotline services in diverse and remote areas, ensuring that victims have accessible avenues for reporting incidents and seeking assistance. Additionally, the low literacy rates among potential victims, often resulting from the cycle of poverty, necessitate tailored educational interventions to empower individuals with knowledge and resilience. Furthermore, the entrenched culture of silence and intimidation within communities, often perpetuated by influential leaders, presents a significant obstacle. Encouraging open dialogue and providing support systems that protect those who come forward to report these crimes from retaliation are vital steps to dismantle these structures of fear. Moreover, enhancing the quality of communication and information provided by professionals, including law enforcement and social workers, is crucial. Accurate and sensitive guidance can empower potential victims and communities to recognize, report, and address CSE/A and THB effectively.

In addressing these gaps, the best practices already being implemented by Bangladesh involving community-driven awareness campaigns, collaborative partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and local leaders, and the implementation of culturally sensitive programs will ensure that the programs and initiatives are as effective and wide reaching as possible.

Recommendations include comprehensive literacy initiatives to better increase the communication between professionals and communities, strengthening legal protection for those who report abuse and exploitation, and ensuring the consistent training of professionals in handling CSE/A and THB cases. By taking a holistic approach that acknowledges these challenges and integrates these best practices, Bangladesh can make significant strides in combating these grave issues and safeguarding the well-being of its most vulnerable populations.

4.2. Colombia

Colombia has implemented some programs and initiatives that can be considered best practices, such as having multiple governmental agencies involved in the prevention and protection programs at various levels of government for wider reach. This shows that the Colombian government is dedicated to working on these issues in a multi-stakeholder approach. They have also made their prevention campaigns accessible by using simple

language, audio and graphic media and templates that allow the information to be replicated for different sectors of the public. This allows the information to be disseminated wider and achieve its intended goals.

However, the pervasive issues of CSE/A and THB requires a comprehensive strategy that considers several gaps. Firstly, there is an evident lack of coordination among stakeholders involved in prevention programs and educational initiatives for various audiences. Effective collaboration and information-sharing are crucial to maximize the impact of these efforts. Furthermore, there's a considerable lack of public knowledge regarding who is responsible for implementing these prevention programs, which hinders the overall effectiveness of such initiatives. Clarity in the roles and responsibilities of the relevant organisations is essential for building trust, engagement, and the ability to contact the right entities for assistance. Another pressing issue is the inadequate training of professionals dealing with THB and CSE/A cases, highlighting the necessity for specialized and up-to-date education and training programs. Additionally, responsible organizations often face resource constraints, which can be mitigated by increased support and funding from government agencies and other partners. Implementing programs in remote areas, conflict zones, and migratory contexts presents unique challenges, demanding creative and adaptable solutions. Lastly, political difficulties in maintaining these programs pose a serious threat, underlining the need for sustained commitment and advocacy from all stakeholders.

To address these gaps effectively, Colombia should consider best practices such as establishing a unified coordinating body, conducting public awareness campaigns, providing ongoing professional training, and securing consistent funding sources. Other recommendations include enhanced partnerships, strengthening legislation to protect vulnerable populations, and tailoring prevention programs to the specific challenges posed by remote and conflict-affected regions and migratory contexts.

4.3. Greece

When looking at the challenges associated with dealing with CSE/A and THB, Greece has taken some steps in implementing initiatives in line with best practices such as having multiple helplines dedicated for those who are missing or facing danger, the helplines operate 24/7 throughout the year for both children and adults, and the prevention campaigns organised at the municipal and city levels in collaboration with the NGO “The Smile of Child” which are made accessible and tailored to reach multiple sectors of society.

However, there are some gaps that can be addressed. Firstly, there is a need for more comprehensive promotion of the helplines and hotlines, beyond online and word-of-mouth channels, to ensure that victims and concerned individuals know about the avenues for reporting incidents and seeking assistance. Additionally, the lack of clarity regarding the entities responsible for addressing CSE/A compounds the issue, necessitating transparent and well-defined roles and responsibilities. Professionals working in this field are overburdened and thus make the identification and reporting process longer, emphasizing the need for more support and resources to manage their crucial roles effectively. Moreover, a lack of proper training for professionals dealing with victims, their families, and marginalized or vulnerable individuals, such as those with disabilities needs to be addressed. Specialized training programs should be developed to equip them with the necessary skills and sensitivity.

Further gaps include the absence of standard protocols when handling child victims' cases, from reporting crimes to the pretrial judicial system, which can lead to re-victimization. Establishing standardized procedures will help ensure the protection and well-being of child victims. Additionally, the lack of specialized, child-friendly services for both victims and their families demands urgent attention to provide comprehensive support in the aftermath of CSE/A and THB incidents. Lastly, the presence of ambiguities in legal frameworks can create obstacles to prosecuting offenders and protecting victims.

Recommendations should include a strategic and coordinated awareness campaign to promote helplines, clear delineation of roles in CSE/A and THB prevention and response, bolstering professional support and training, and developing standardized protocols. Additionally, clarifying and strengthening the legal framework can go a long way in improving the overall response to CSE/A and THB within the country.

4.4. Lithuania

In Lithuania, to tackle the challenges that come with handling issues of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Trafficking in Human Beings takes a holistic strategy that considers several noteworthy gaps. Some of the initiatives put in place in the country are in line with best practices, such as having strong collaboration efforts with INTERPOL and EUROPOL to improve the database for background checks on potential child sexual offenders, as well as having a Safer Internet Centre that works with multiple stakeholders in the public sector, media and civil society.

However, there are some gaps that should be addressed, such as, firstly a pressing need for increased emphasis on prevention programs and educational initiatives within the education sector. Equipping students with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to CSE/A and THB is fundamental. Additionally, helplines must evolve to be accessible round the clock, ensuring that victims and concerned individuals can seek assistance whenever the need arises.

To enhance the effectiveness of these helplines, more promotional campaigns are essential, raising awareness and encouraging utilization. Organizations responsible for CSE/A and THB issues face resource constraints, underscoring the need for consistent funding and support. Strengthening the coordination between government and non-government organizations can streamline efforts and optimize resources. Furthermore, prioritizing CSE/A and THB within the country's agenda is imperative.

Recommendations for Lithuania should include integrating prevention and education programs into the national curriculum, expanding helpline availability, crafting comprehensive awareness campaigns, securing sustainable funding for organizations, and fostering collaborative partnerships between government and non-government entities. By addressing these gaps and implementing these best practices, Lithuania can make significant strides in combatting CSE/A and THB.

4.5. Portugal

To address the multifaceted challenges posed by Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Trafficking in Human Beings a concerted approach that acknowledges several critical gaps is needed. Firstly, Portugal does have some strategies in place in line with best practice such as having a dedicated institution - National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality - that oversees the coordination of national action plans on THB. They also have helplines that are promoted and made available in churches, schools, and other relevant places.

However, there are some notable gaps such as a pervasive lack of adequate knowledge concerning the country's legislation pertaining to CSE/A and THB, highlighting the need for comprehensive public education and awareness campaigns regarding the legal framework in place to combat these crimes. Similarly, there is an absence of sufficient knowledge about the educational programs and prevention initiatives available on CSE/A and THB, stressing the importance of disseminating information about available resources. Furthermore, a notable gap exists in terms of national-level coordination among organizations involved in prevention programs, particularly in the failing to make these prevention programs mandatory measures in relevant sectors.

Recommendations for Portugal should encompass comprehensive public awareness campaigns on the legal aspects and available educational programs, mandatory coordination, and information-sharing mechanisms between organizations, and fostering greater awareness of the value of such programs.

4.6. Spain

A comprehensive strategy that acknowledges the several significant gaps within Spain when dealing with CSE/A and THB is needed. Spain has taken some steps in implementing best practice initiatives such as having

a hotline, which is considered one of the best ways of giving victims and potential victims an avenue for reporting. They also have multiple government agencies and organisations collaborating at different levels to implement the prevention and protection programs. This shows that there is a concerted effort to tackle these issues.

Although there are gaps that can be addressed. Firstly, there is a pronounced lack of clarity regarding the responsible entities amongst stakeholders for carrying out prevention programs and a notable absence of standardized processes across all cities. This calls for a need to establish clear guidelines and promote consistency in approaches. Furthermore, the awareness of educational programs targeting CSE/A and THB is limited, necessitating enhanced visibility, and understanding of available resources. Additionally, there's a lack of knowledge about offender prevention communications, which are influential in deterring potential perpetrators.

The availability and responsibility of helplines and hotlines require clearer communication, coupled with more extensive promotion, to ensure their accessibility to those in need. Moreover, limited funding poses a significant barrier, resulting in prevention programs failing to reach their intended audience. To mitigate these issues, it's crucial to establish more robust governmental coordination, overcome language barriers, and bolster victim detection mechanisms.

Recommendations for Spain should include the development of clear and standardized procedures, improving the dissemination of information on educational and prevention programs, allocating resources for targeted outreach, and promoting collaborative efforts across governmental and non-governmental organizations to strengthen the overall response to CSE/A and THB.

4.7. Uruguay

Uruguay has taken some steps in implementing initiatives in line with best practices such as forming the National Council for Prevention and Combat of Human Trafficking and Exploitation, which shows the country's dedication to tackling the issues. They also work in collaboration with INTERPOL to engage in educational initiatives that reach students and teachers.

However, there are some gaps that can be tackled. Firstly there is a notable lack of coordination in communication strategies aimed at reaching both the targeted audience and potential offenders, highlighting the need for more unified and effective outreach efforts. Additionally, there is an absence of adequate training for professionals involved in interventions, underscoring the necessity for specialized education and skill development programs. To enhance the fight against CSE/A and THB, it is essential to encourage proactive engagement from Uruguayan national and international technology companies, leveraging their resources and expertise in the battle against online exploitation. Furthermore, while helplines need greater promotion, there's a critical need for the creation of a dedicated hotline for THB to extend outreach to a wider audience. This can be instrumental in ensuring that assistance and information are readily available.

The scarcity of resources and technology for preventive and educational programs hinders their effectiveness, necessitating an infusion of funding and technological support. Additionally, a cultural normalization of these crimes and a prevailing culture of victim-blaming pose significant challenges, emphasizing the importance of public awareness campaigns and legal measures to shift societal perspectives.

Recommendations for Uruguay should encompass streamlining communication strategies, bolstering professional training, fostering active collaboration with technology companies, creating a dedicated hotline for THB, allocating resources, and initiating campaigns to challenge cultural norms and victim-blaming. By addressing these gaps and adopting best practices, Uruguay can significantly strengthen its response to CSE/A and THB.

5. General Gaps, Best practice analysis, Recommendations and Conclusion

Across the seven countries, there are three identified common gaps that are pivotal to address in combating Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Trafficking in Human Beings, these are coordination and communication, awareness and education, and resource shortage.

A glaring common gap seen in all seven countries is the lack of effective coordination and communication among various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and law enforcement. A failure to effectively coordinate strategies can result in target audiences not being reached and therefore making prevention programs ineffective. Establishing clear lines of responsibility, sharing best practices, and fostering collaboration can significantly enhance the overall response to CSE/A and THB.

Another shared gap is the need for more extensive awareness and educational programs aimed at diverse audiences, including potential victims, professionals, and the public. Building comprehensive and accessible awareness campaigns, educational resources, and training programs is crucial in empowering individuals to recognize, report, and prevent these crimes. Resource limitations, including funding, technology, and trained professionals, consistently hinder the effectiveness of prevention and intervention efforts across the board. Investing in the expansion of resources, both financial and human, is essential to ensure that prevention programs reach their targeted audience and victims receive the support they need. Best practices that cut across these countries include fostering collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations, creating clear and standardized protocols for handling CSE/A and THB cases, and promoting proactive engagement from the private sector, particularly technology companies, to combat online exploitation.

Recommendations for all seven countries involve the development of comprehensive national strategies that prioritize CSE/A and THB, encourage the establishment of a dedicated hotline to cater for specific instances of THB and CSE/A as the hotlines currently available are for general issues, expand funding for prevention programs, promote awareness campaigns, and strengthen legal frameworks to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

In summary this report has looked into the national prevention and protection programs on CSE/A and THB across seven diverse countries and delved into a wide spectrum of topics. From the intricacies of prevention and protection programs designed to reach all audiences, to the role of collaborative and multi-agency work, and we have examined the mechanisms, challenges, and opportunities in these critical efforts. We also analysed the vital functions of helplines and hotlines, which serve as lifelines to victims. Additionally, we've explored the critical importance of evaluation and monitoring to ensure the efficacy of interventions.

Furthermore, we have delved into the mapping of civil societies and gaps, revealing shared challenges such as the need for improved coordination, education, and resource allocation. Alongside these gaps, we have also identified common best practices that can serve as guiding principles for more effective responses to CSE/A and THB. These best practices, along with tailored recommendations, underscore the importance of proactive partnerships, comprehensive awareness campaigns, and the development of standardized protocols to navigate these complex issues. Our examination reinforces the vital role of sustained global efforts in safeguarding the well-being of the most vulnerable populations and ensuring that no one is left without the protection and support they need.

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Annex A The survey questions

The survey can be accessed here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HEROESPreventionT4-6>. It is hosted on the EC Europea survey platform.

National Prevention Programs to combat THB and CSE/A in your country

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Registration

Please note that the report will not mention your name or role, and you can respond anonymously if you so choose. Only your organisation will be cited **if you agree for it to be named**.

First Name

Last name

*Role

*Organization

* Email address

Download: [Information Sheet for Participation T4.6.pdf](#) [this document can be available to those reading the survey on the Deliverable upon request]

*I hereby consent to participate in the HEROES research project in the terms described in the information sheet.

- Yes
- No

Download: [Data Protection Questionnaires T4.6.pdf](#) [this document can be available to those reading the survey on the Deliverable upon request]

*I hereby consent to the processing of personal data as specified in this form.

- Yes
- No

*I hereby consent to my organization being cited in the report as a participating organization (my name, last name and role will not be cited).

- Yes
- No

Date

If you have any questions on the survey, please feel free to contact the HEROES / Europe Program Manager, Zoé Colpaert, at zcolpaert@icmec.org.

If you would like to exercise any of your data protection rights, please contact: the Senior Vice President, Research & Operations at ICMEC, Sandra Marchenko (smarchenko@icmec.org), and the HEROES / Europe Program Manager, Zoé Colpaert (zcolpaert@icmec.org).

Introduction

The HEROES project: The HEROES project aims to fight Trafficking of Human Beings (THB), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) by developing a comprehensive solution that is based on three main pillars: Prevention, Investigation, and Victim Assistance. Its main objective is to develop technologies that will contribute to the effective response of stakeholders in all three components. Moreover, the HEROES project aspires to establish new innovative strategies that in the short, medium, and long term will improve the way in which Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) carry out criminal investigations, assist rescued victims, and prevent the occurrence of these crimes.

The Survey on National Prevention Programs to combat THB and CSE/A in your country: The goal of this questionnaire is to help the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) identify best practices and implementation barriers, in National Prevention Programs to combat THB and CSE/A in your country. The survey is based on the Model National Response developed by [WeProtect Model Alliance](#) (opening on a new window), and widened to include questions around THB.

Stakeholders in the 7 countries in focus who are required to fill it up can be professionals from NGOs, educators, medical professionals, relevant government Ministries, and others. They will then support in mapping the civil society organizations that work in prevention/care of CSA/CSE and THB to identify joint actions (e.g. good practices in THB and CSA/CSE prevention).

The National Prevention Programs to combat THB and CSE/A report will cover Bangladesh, Colombia, Greece, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay.

The goal is not to point out countries' weaknesses, but to identify gaps as well as best practice in order to learn from each country's prevention efforts, with the aim of highlighting best practices.

The benefits of participating in the current survey: The participation in the HEROES research activities is voluntary. This survey aims at identifying best practices, to then allow ICMEC to better support your organization and your country and share your country's success for inspiration to others. By participating in the survey, you contribute to the identification of best practices to improve the prevention, investigation, and assistance of victims of THB, and CSA/CSE at the global level.

Demographic and Professional Information

*What gender do you identify with?

- Female
- Male
- Other
- Prefer not to say

*In what country do you live and work?

- Bangladesh
- Colombia
- Greece
- Lithuania
- Portugal
- Spain
- Uruguay

If you chose 'Other' on the above question, please precise:

What stakeholder group(s) would better represent you?

- Educator / Teacher
- Parent
- NGO professional
- Law Enforcement
- Victim Advocate
- Medical professional
- Other
- Government / Lawmaker

If you chose 'Other' on the above question, please precise:

Using the appropriate terminology to talk about CSA/E and THB

In this survey, please note the meaning of the following acronyms:

- **CSE/A** = Child Sexual Exploitation and/or Abuse
- **THB** = Trafficking in Human Beings

*1. Is the terminology around CSE/A in your national laws in accordance with the Luxembourg guidelines? [Click here to access the Luxembourg Guidelines](#) (opening a new window).

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

*2. Is the terminology around THB in your national laws in accordance with the "Use of terms" from the Palermo Protocol? [Click here to access the Palermo Protocol](#) (opening a new window).

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

*3. Is there any binding internal instruction from the institutions of the protection system, the police, the prosecution, or the judiciary that requires the use of appropriate terminology in matters around CSAE and THB?

- I do not know
- No
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, only for THB
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A

Prevention and education programs to all audiences

*4. Does your country have a prevention program to raise awareness on THB and CSE/A?

- I do not know
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- Yes, only for THB
- No

4a. If you responded "Yes" at question 4., at what level is the prevention program developed?

- National level
- Regional/state level
- City/town level
- Community level
- Other (please precise below)

- N/A

4b. If you chose 'Other' on the above question, please precise:

*5. Does a national (governmental) institution oversees creating public policies and coordinating national actions focused on the protection of children against CSE/A or THB?

- I do not know
- Yes, only for THB
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- No

5a. If you responded "Yes" at question 5., please precise which national institution:

*6. Do the police have prevention programs for the public about CSE/A and THB?

- Yes, only for THB
- I do not know
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- No
- Yes, only for CSE/A

6a. If you responded "Yes" at question 6., please precise which police unit and level (national, regional/state, town/city, etc.):

*7. Does your country have educational public policies against the CSE/A and THB?

- Yes, only for CSE/A
- I do not know
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- Yes, only for THB
- No

7a. If you responded "Yes" at question 7., please precise which entity oversees the program, and at which level (national, regional/state, town/city, etc.)

*8. Does your country have prevention campaigns against CSE/A and THB?

- I do not know
- Yes, only for THB
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- No

8a. If you responded "Yes" at question 8., please precise which entity oversees the campaigns, and at which level (national, regional/state, town/city, etc.):

8.b. If you responded "Yes" at question 8., who are the campaigns aimed at? Please select all that apply.

- Children
- Parents
- Educators
- Medical professionals
- Other

8c. If you chose 'Other' at question 8.b., please precise:

8d. If you responded "Yes" to question 8., do the campaigns have information that is friendly and accessible to different audiences?

- Yes
- No

8e. If you responded "Yes" at question 8.d., please explain how the campaigns are friendly and accessible:

*9. Are preventative communications published to deter offenders and potential offenders?

- I do not know
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- No
- Yes, only for THB
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A

9a. If you responded "Yes" at question 9., please precise which entity oversees the communication, and at which level (national, regional/state, town/city, etc.):

*10. Do the national and international technology companies that operate in the country, which provide interaction services with underage users, have actions within their corporate responsibility program, or that are mandatory by law, for the prevention and care of the CSE/A (including child sexual abuse and exploitation material) and THB?

- No
- Yes, only for THB
- I do not know
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A

10.a. If you responded "Yes" at question 10., please detail the actions:

10.b. If you responded "Yes" at question 10., please precise whether there is a national legislation that makes it compulsory for the technology companies to take action.

- Yes
- No

Collaborative and multi-agency work

*11. Does the protection system work in coordination with different actors in the country to identify possible cases of CSE/A and THB? (Health centres, schools, NGOs, etc.)

- I do not know
- Yes, only for THB
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- No

11.a. If you responded "Yes" at question 11., please precise which entity oversees the coordination, and at which level (national, regional/state, town/city, etc.):

*12. Does the country have a Safer Internet Centre? This question is relevant only for CSE/A.

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

Appropriate training to all stakeholders

*13. Do the professionals of the child protection system have training programs for intervention?

- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- No
- I do not know
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- Yes, only for THB

Helplines and Hotlines

*14. Does your country have a helpline for children?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

14.a. If you responded "Yes" at question 14., is the helpline part of a national child protection network that includes educational centres, churches, police, prosecutors, and others?

- Yes
- No

14.b. If you responded "Yes" at question 14., is the helpline part of a national child protection network that includes educational centres, churches, police, prosecutors, and others?

- Yes
- No

*15. Does your country have a hotline or reporting portal, to report child sexual abuse material (CSAM)?

- Yes, a Hotline
- Yes, a Reporting Portal
- No
- I do not know

15.a. If you responded "Yes, a Hotline" at question 15., is the Hotline part of INHOPE? [Access INHOPE's website here](#) (opening a new window).

- Yes
- No

15.b. If you responded "Yes, a Hotline" or "Yes, a Reporting Portal" at question 15., does the country have promotional campaigns on the existence of the hotline and/or portal for children?

- Yes
- No

*16. Does your country have a hotline to report instances of trafficking?

- Yes, to report trafficking of persons (both adults and children)
- Yes, to specifically report trafficking of children
- No
- I do not know.

16.a. If you responded "Yes, to report trafficking of persons (both adults and children)" or "Yes, to specifically report trafficking of children" at question 16., does the country have promotional campaigns on the existence of the hotline?

- Yes
- No

Evaluation and monitoring

*17. Is there research (with analysis) conducted at the national level on the response to the prevention and investigation of crimes of CSE/A and THB?

- Yes, for both THB and CSE/A
- Yes, only for THB
- I do not know
- Yes, only for CSE/A
- No

17.a. If you responded "Yes" at question 17, please share some of the findings (either URL links to reports and resources or some written conclusions) below:

*18. Are you aware of any barrier in the implementation of the prevention programs?

- Yes
- No

18.a. If you responded "Yes" at questions 18., please precise:

Mapping of Civil Society Organizations in your Country

Task 4.6 will provide a mapping of civil society organizations (CSO) that work in prevention/care of CSA/CSE and THB. The goal is to identify joint actions (e.g., good practices in THB and CSA/CSE prevention).

Your support on the below questions will be key in giving an appropriate and representative mapping of CSOs in your country. The contact details you provide will receive this survey to have a wider representation.

If you have any questions on the below, please do not hesitate to reach out to zcolpaert@icmec.org.

*19. On which topic your organization focuses?

- Both THB and CSE/A
- THB
- CSE/A
- Other

19.a. If you selected "Other" at question 18, please precise.

*20. Please name the other organizations in your country (CSO or other relevant body such as law enforcement or educators), and at least five, that work in prevention/care of CSA/CSE and THB/ Please provide contact details for each (with an email address).