With reference to the Call for Inputs and questions requested by the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, for preparation of final thematic report in this context, Croatian Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (hereinafter: MDFYSP), submits consolidated answer, as follows:

1. ***Context, awareness and attitudes underpinning the sale and sexual exploitation of children*: What are the current challenges, trend and emerging threats defining the scope and extent of the sale and sexual exploitation of children? What progress has been made in shifting the language and the narrative around these issues by the wider community of experts and practitioners? What are some of the good practices of raising public awareness and sensitization on issues of sale and sexual exploitation of children at the local, national regional and global level?**

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| In the modern era of digitalisation of society, various pornographic content, which is available to children, poses a special risk to the growth and development of children, as well as the online harassment of children. A number of researches have been conducted concerning above-mentioned topic and wider public awareness has been raised considerably. Public awareness was also raised after the implementation of the national campaign “NO to online hate speech” (during 2014 and 2015), which was a follow-up to the on-line campaign of the Council of Europe “No Hate Speech Movement”. The general goal of the national campaign was to use proactive action online and in the community, in order to inform and sensitize the public, especially children and youth, about respecting human rights as well as the negative impact of hate speech.  Since April 2018 the *Days of media literacy* have been held as a part of the effort to raise public awareness through campaigns on the need to protect the children.  The website medijskapismenost.hr produces content which primarily supports parents, guardians and teachers in raising their own media literacy, as well as the media skills and knowledge of children. The portal was launched by the Agency for Electronic Media and UNICEF in collaboration with the Academy of Drama Arts, Faculty of Political Sciences, Croatian Audiovisual Centre and Croatian Film Association. Along with leading domestic experts, who answer parents’ questions, numerous media workers and public figures with professional experience in the media also joined the portal, to write columns about their parenting challenges in strengthening children for media literacy.  The media play a large role in the shaping and implementing measures for awareness raising. The children are exposed to the media from an early age, for a significant amount of time, therefore they play an important role in the upbringing of children. The impact of media can be controlled, to a point, by media-literate and competent parents who can select the content to which the child will be exposed. One learns from the media, and thus the media influence knowledge. Media literacy, as stated previously, deals with the issue of impact of media content as an important way of understanding the consequences of media exposure. The media construct reality, and the quantity of violence shown creates an illusion that we live in a violent world, showing pornography creates a false impression in children about intimate interpersonal relations, and with their stereotypes they construct a world that is not real, but it serves as a type of indoctrination and disinformation.  For these reasons the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter: MoI), in collaboration with the local administration and self-government, educational institutions, music artists, and other socially responsible persons from the public life, is conducting a national police preventative project “*I’m living a life without violence”.* The implementation of the National preventative project “*Together against hate speech”* is realized in collaboration with the competent state institutions, units of local and regional self-government, sport organizations, clubs and associations, relevant organizations of the civil society, media, educational institutions, sposrtsmen, musicians, artists, scientists and other prominent members of the community. Also, a number of activities were implemented as part of the Council of Europe “*One in five*” campaign. To raise public awareness and prevention the Croatian police uses Europol's SAY NO campaign materials.  The activities of the MoI were presented on the website [www.mup.hr](http://www.mup.hr) with the goal of preventing trafficking in human beings and educating citizens about the occurrence of trafficking in human beings. Preventive activities, undertaken by the MoI, encompass teaching staff as well as competent personnel of all educational institutions, including kindergartens as well as rehabilitation centers. Basic education is carried out as part of the system of additional professional police training, which encompasses the entire operational staff of the police, on recognizing and the consequences of sale of children, child prostitution and pornography. Collaboration was achieved with tourist workers located within police directorates which record a larger fluctuation of tourists during the tourist season, for the purpose of recognizing criminal offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and the timely reporting of their suspicions to the police. In the field of prevention, the police is conducting a national project “*Together we can do more”,* which is aimed, among other things, towards self-protective behaviour of youth in using the new media for preventing sexual exploitation of children online. Also, the project “*Together”* is being carried out, aimed towards encouraging society to a responsible reaction in order to contribute towards the reduction and prevention of trafficking in human beings, as well as criminal offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse which arise from it.  In order to make information available, but also to make it easier to report criminal offences, online reporting of all types of child abuse was provided through the online application called *Red Button (https://redbutton.mup.hr/).*  With the aim of identifying the cause and occurrence of sexual abuse of children, in 2017 the Central Police Directorate enabled the police officers to participate in the implementation of the scientific research project Sexual victimization of children.  The Government's Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities is carrying out campaigns aimed towards raising public awareness about the recruitment of victims of trafficking in human beings via the Internet, as well as prevention programs against trafficking in human beings, for children and youth, and prevention programs against trafficking in human beings among migrants, refugees and international protection applicants. In so doing the Office is collaborating with the MoI, Croatian Red Cross, Education and Upbringing Agency and the Ministry of Science and Education and civil society organizations. |

1. ***Risk factors, root causes and demand for the sale and sexual exploitation of children*: What are the root causes and origins of demand for the sale and sexual exploitation of children? What tools are available to States and non-State actors to effectively address the underlying causes of sale and sexual exploitation of children, beyond training and awareness raising? What are the remaining challenges and obstacles in overcoming this scourge?**

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| All competent personnel (health care, social services institutions, educational institutions, religious institutions, humanitarian organizations, civil society organizations), who in the course of their work become aware of a criminal offence perpetrated against a child, are obliged to report it to the police without delay, and all other citizens are obligated to notify the Centre for Social Welfare about the violation of children's rights, and especially about all forms of physical and psychological violence, sexual abuse, neglect, child abuse or exploitation.  The following Protocols were adopted in the Republic of Croatia on a regional level about conduct in cases involving violence:  - Protocol on Procedure in Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect  - Protocol on the Procedure in Domestic Violence Cases  - Protocol on the Procedure in Cases of Violence amongst Children and Youth  - Protocol on the Procedure in Cases Sexual Violence.  All of the listed Protocols distinguish children as an especially vulnerable group which is exposed to violence and their goal is to improve the wellbeing of children by preventing violence against children, and by ensuring that all of the pending proceedings, as well as all decisions which are to be adopted, are in the best interest of the child. The Protocols contain obligations for competent bodies, forms and manner of collaboration among all competent bodies and other factors playing a role in the protection of children who have been exposed to violence.  After a multi-annual fight against trafficking in human beings, a complete system has been established in the Republic of Croatia, which encompasses activities from the moment a victim of trafficking in human beings is identified all the way to her/his complete integration/reintegration into society. Within the system of prevention of trafficking in human beings, a collaboration has been established between the competent bodies of the state administration and the civil society organizations. Constant upgrades of the already established system, and the adjustment to new trends of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings, is of critical importance for the further development of the system, therefore the Government of the Republic of Croatia adopted in May 2018 a new National Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings for the period from 2018 to 2021, and the work experience of all competent bodies of the state administration, civil society organizations and international organizations has been embedded into the measures and activities. The drafting of indicators, guidelines and tools for identifying victims of trafficking in human beings among migrants and international protection applicants, as well as the drafting of indicators, guidelines and tools for identifying children who are victims of trafficking in human beings, has been envisaged within the National Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings 2018 - 2021.  With the aim of identifying victims of trafficking in human beings and providing assistance and protection, the MoI has, in all of already detected cases of trafficking in human beings, applied the rules of conduct which were adopted in the national program, , which primarily includes providing assistance and protecting the victims of trafficking in human beings in collaboration with the competent ministries, as well as non-governmental and civil society organizations, primarily the Croatian Red Cross, and others.  In that regard, a core Operational Team was established at the National Committee for the Suppression of Trafficking in Humans, whose members are also representatives of the MoI, who are obligated to be ready to coordinate the undertaking of specific activities during each individual identification of a victim of trafficking in human beings and to provide assistance and protection.  Also, in all police directorates and regional Offices for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime of the Police National Bureau for the Suppression of Corruption and Organized Crime, police officers have been designated to deal with the suppression of trafficking in human beings and to participate directly in identifying the victim and discovering the perpetrator of this type of organized crime, in each individual case.  Police youth officers and investigators for youth are also engaged in all cases where the victim of trafficking in human beings is a child or an underage person, for the purpose of a quick provision of assistance and protection. Aside from the mentioned criminal police officers, an educational program was carried out within a special program for border police officers who are participating actively in the detection of these criminal offences, or victims of trafficking in human beings and their voluntary and safe return, when dealing with victims - foreign nationals.  The MoI has equipped 60 rooms for interviewing children all over Croatia through the project “*Strengthening capacity in the field of suppressing sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and providing police assistance to vulnerable crime victims”,* partly with their own resources. The rooms are specially equipped with child friendly furniture, interviews with traumatized children are conducted by specially trained officers for youth who have been trained on how to conduct interviews with children, based on the principles of best practices of police agencies around the world.  In the field of international protection of migrant children, from 2015 the International and Temporary Protection Act has been in force, which prescribes the procedure for the approval of international protection in the Republic of Croatia. The new Protocol on Procedure towards Unaccompanied Minors regulates the actions of all participants in the protection of unaccompanied minors who were found to be illegally transferred over the border. The goals of the new Protocol are the implementation of an uniform practice for all competent bodies and institution in the Republic of Croatia in order to provide timely and effective protection of the best interests of the child, as well as a clear definition of obligations of all participants in the treatment of unaccompanied minors, during police procedures, accommodation, international protection, integration, family reunification or integration into Croatian society, ensuring quality health care for unaccompanied minors, robust and effective national system through good collaboration of all competent bodies in the treatment of unaccompanied minors. Pursuant to the new Protocol, a decision was adopted on the establishment of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in order to promote interdepartmental collaboration of the state administration bodies and other participants involved in the protection of unaccompanied minors, and it is comprised of representatives of all participants involved in the protection of unaccompanied minors. |

1. ***Children′s vulnerability to sale and sexual exploitation, including in the context of cross-border challenges, technology and innovation*: What is the available evidence about children’s vulnerability to sexual exploitation, including about existing and emerging drivers of risk (e.g. precarious socioeconomics situation, migration, conflicts and violence, climate change and natural disasters, digital space)? What groups of children (including on the ground of gender, age, disability and social groups) are especially vulnerable to exploitation in general and/or specific forms thereof?**

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| As part of the MoI activities, persons under the age of 18, who are involved in prostitution, are monitored through a number of criminal offences under the name: *Child solicitation committed to its detriment* and they are treated exclusively as victims. Apart from 2013, when the realization of the operational action regarding the criminal offence of the exploitation of children for pornography identified a large number of children who were involved in prostitution, and who were identified as victims of the aforementioned criminal offence: *Solicitation,* there is no record of an increase in this type of criminality against children. According to the last statistical review of the number of the relevant criminal offences, 13 criminal offences were recorded in 2017, and 2 criminal offenses in 2018.  The Public Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Croatia pointed out in the last Report on the state and trend of reported criminality in 2018, regarding prosecutions and convictions for committing criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and criminal offences against sexual freedom, within the chapter: *Criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and criminal offence against sexual freedom,*that in 2018 in the Republic of Croatia the public prosecutor’s offices had 295 charges filed against the perpetrators of criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, as well as against perpetrators of the criminal offence against sexual freedom. These criminal offences represent 7,72% of the total number of charges filed against adult perpetrators of criminal offences against children (3,818). In relation to these criminal offences the public prosecutor's offices have received 240 new complaints in 2018 (188 against perpetrators of criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and 52 against perpetrators of criminal offences against sexual freedom).  Regarding the criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children from the Criminal Code (hereinafter: CC), the largest number of newly received complaints relates to the criminal offence of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 15, from article 158 of the Criminal Code CC/11(92), the criminal offence of child pornography from article 163 CC/11(48) and the serious criminal offence of sexual abuse and exploitation of children from article 166 CC/11(23), whereas in criminal offences against the sexual freedom the criminal offence of lewd conduct from article 155 CC/11(21) and the criminal offence of sexual harassment from article 156 CC/11(15) are prevalent.  33 complaints were received during 2018 against young adults for criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children. In the complaint structure the criminal offence of sexual abuse of a child under the age of 15 from article 158 CC/11(14), the criminal offence of child pornography from article 163 CC/11(11) and the serious criminal offence of sexual abuse and exploitation of children from article 166 CC/11(8) are prevalent. During the last reporting period, i.e. during 2018, 34 young adults were charged for these criminal offences, ring the last reporting period, or in 2018, 34 young adults were charged with these criminal offenses: for the offense referred to in article 158 of the CC, 11 persons; for the criminal offense referred to in article 163 of the CC 13 persons; for the criminal offense from article 166 of the CC 10 persons.  In the period from 2016 until the end of 2018 a total of 29 children were identified as victims of trafficking in human beings. Thirteen users are involved in the assistance program through the temporary accommodation service (according to the provisions of the Social Welfare Act), thus placed in shelters for victims of trafficking in human beings, educational homes, homes for children without adequate parental care and service providers for taking care of children and youth without adequate parental care, which are led by civil society organizations and foster families. For others, the measures of family-judicial protection (special custodians, supervision of the provision of parental care) were pronounced in accordance with the provisions of the Family Act. In total 1 child - a foreign national was identified as a victim of trafficking in human beings. Types of abuse which the child victims suffered were: abuse of children for pornography, serious criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, sexual abuse of a child under the age of fifteen, enticing a child in order to satisfy sexual urges, exposure of children to pornography, trafficking in human beings, extortion, threats, child solicitation, attempt to commit a criminal offence, threat of rape, illegal transfer of persons across state border, conspiracy to commit criminal offences against the Republic of Croatia, sexual act through abuse of office.  In the period from 2016-2018 the Republic of Croatia, as a transit country, has been facing a significant migrant wave heading towards the countries of Western Europe, which is connected to the migration movements in the Middle East and beyond. Certain percentage of migrants are children, and the serious problem which the institutions of the Republic of Croatia face is difficult identification, as well as the illegal and unlawful movement connected to the criminal involvement of individuals in the form of smuggling, which threaten the rights of migrants - primarily rights of an existential nature.  Unaccompanied minors are singled out as an especially vulnerable group. Even though they are not significantly represented in the migrant population, the state administration and public authority bodies of the Republic of Croatia pay special attention to them. Through the implementation of the international standards, especially EU standards, the Protocol on Procedure towards Unaccompanied Minors was adopted in 2018. |

1. ***The overarching legal-normative framework, commitment and institutional capacity*: What progress has been made in global, regional and national legislative frameworks to address children’s vulnerability to sale and sexual exploitation, and to address impunity? To what extent do these frameworks adequately address or take due account of the challenges posed by transnational internet and financial flows, and their implications for accountability and challenging impunity?**

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| The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto represent an exceedingly important international document in this field, because it characterizes trafficking in human beings as the most flagrant violation of human rights.  The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children provides an internationally recognized definition of trafficking in human beings which was fully transposed and incorporated into the legislation of the Republic of Croatia. This definition has also been completely harmonized with the definition of trafficking in human beings from the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, with the Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA on trafficking in human beings from 19 June 2020 and with the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine of the Council of Europe, which relates to the transplantation of organs and tissues of human origin.  The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is also a significant document, because its provisions are aimed towards setting high standards in providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings, and not solely towards criminal prosecution and sanctioning perpetrators.  The Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims and replacing Council Framework Decision EU 2002/629/JHA on trafficking in human beings from 19 June 2002, is an important document at the EU level. The Directive provides, among other things, more stringent sanctions for the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings and confiscation of proceeds and confiscation of items from persons convicted of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings, and it also recommends that the member states adopt measures for reducing demand for all forms of exploitation.  The Directive 2012/29/EU on victims of criminal offences is an important document, as well as EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings2012-2016, the Council Directive 2004/81/EC of 29 April 2004 on residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings.  From the police perspective, as an indispensable factor in maintaining the state of security and managing internal affairs, numerous activities have been undertaken since 2016 in the Republic of Croatia concerning respecting, protecting and realizing the rights of children. In that regard, in the repressive segment of police jurisdiction, an operational structure was formed within the criminal police system which is in charge of cybercrime. It, among other things, investigates and monitors crime committed against children through computer systems (sexual exploitation of children, involving children in criminal activities, extremist movements and similar). At the same time, the police system of the Republic of Croatia is increasing its activities in the field of detecting and preventing modern risks to children and youth the origin of which is digital environment; it should be noted that these police activities are of interdepartmental nature and are undertaken in collaboration with other bodies of the state administration and public authority, primarily with the representatives of the educational system and civil society organizations.  The collaboration was established among the Croatian police and police departments from other countries in researching criminal offences against children, which is carried out through activities of international police collaboration, primarily through INTERPOL, EUROPOL and SIRENE channels. The Republic of Croatia participates in operational activities which are undertaken by INTERPOL and EUROPOL, and in the work of international police associations with the goal of identifying child victims of sexual exploitation. Also, the police actively participate in the development of INTERPOL's ICSE database, and they participated in the establishment of the *Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online.* Data are exchanged at the bilateral levels and joint police actions are coordinated in various aspects of violation of children’s rights, but primarily regarding online sexual abuse of children. The collaboration is particularly pronounced during international police actions and within the framework of realizing specific projects which were designed around the thematic backbone of suppressing trafficking in human beings.  Legal framework in the Republic of Croatia prescribes certain criminal offences with the aim of providing appropriate protection to children and minors against prohibited behaviour which affects their bodily integrity, health, unhindered sexual development, upbringing and the harmonious development of personality. The following Acts are valid in this field: Criminal Code (Official Gazette, 125/11, 144/12, 56/15, 61/15, 101/17, 118/18); Juvenile Courts Act (Official Gazette, 84/11, 143/12, 148/13 and 56/15); Execution of Sanctions Imposed on Minors for Criminal Offences and Misdemeanour Act (Official Gazette, 133/12); Criminal Procedure Act (Official Gazette, 152/08, 76/09, 80/11, 91/12, 143/12, 56/13, 145/13, 152/14 and 70/17); Law on Combating Drug Abuse (Official Gazette, 107/01, 87/02, 163/03, 141/04, 40/07, 149/09, 84/11, 80/13); Act on Police Duties and Powers (Official Gazette, 76/09, 92/14); Asylum Act (Official Gazette, 79/07, 88/10, 143/13); Foreigners Act (Official Gazette, 130/11, 74/13, 69/17, 46/18); Anti-discrimination Act (Official Gazette, 85/08, 112/12); Gender Equality Act (Official Gazette, 82/08, 69/17). Pursuant to Free Legal Aid Act (Official Gazette, 143/13) the right to secondary legal assistance (exemption from court fees, exemption from legal fees and representation by a lawyer) is made possible for victims of criminal offenses in civil court proceedings to exercise the right to compensation for damage caused by the perpetrator of a criminal offense. The right to secondary legal assistance is granted without determining the financial status of the victim of the crime of violence and is not conditioned by the prior determination of the criminal liability of the responsible persons.  The Act which brings a wider range of measures for the protection of rights and welfare of children is the Family Act (Official Gazette, 103/15), and it also defines the institute and essence of parental care. The Family Act is based on the principle of primary protection of the child's rights and welfare.  The Electronic Media Act (Official Gazette, 153/09, 84/11, 94/13 and 136/13) prescribes that it is not permissible to air segments on audiovisual or radio programs of an especially immoral and pornographic nature, and that audiovisual or radio programs, which can harm seriously physical, mental and moral development of minors are not allowed. |

1. **New and innovative strategies to effectively prevent and protect children from sale and sexual exploitation: How adequate is our global multi-stakeholder response to this complex phenomenon (States, NHRIs, domestic and international policy-makers, international and regional human rights mechanisms, CSOs, private sector)? How adequate are current systems and strategies to protect children effectively? What are the current global and domestic human rights and protection challenges in the context of evolving global developments? Are there sufficiently accessible complaints mechanisms available to victims and their representatives?**

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| In the period since 2016 a continuous harmonization of procedures with the EU Directives has been underway in the Republic of Croatia, not only through their implementation in procedural rules but also by way of practical operationalization of EU standards, with which the rights and interests of children are protected or advanced in a narrower or broader sense, regardless of which procedural status of a child they relate to (child victims, witnesses, suspects or defendants in criminal proceedings). We should point out here some of the EU documents which are of special significance to these human rights: Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and Council from 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty - on the basis of which a novelty was introduced into police proceedings in the Republic of Croatia in the form of recording the interrogation of a minor suspect with the mandatory presence of an attorney; then the Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography; Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and Council of 25 October 2012 on establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, and Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings.  The Ratification Act of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure, adopted with the goal of upgrading the existing national system for the protection of children rights, or protecting and assisting the victims of violations of these rights, allows the submission of complaints that can be filed by or on behalf of an individual or a group of individuals who claim to be victims of violation of any right, committed by a country, party to the Optional Protocol, which has been ascertained according to the instruments that the relevant country is a party to. The above mentioned by all means represents a significant step towards the improvement of children’s rights in the Republic of Croatia, taking into consideration that it allows children to address the UN Committee on the Rights of Child, if they were unable to realize the protection of their rights within the national system.  Some of the priorities for action, concerning the more effective promotion and protection of children's rights in the Republic of Croatia through the implementation of international and national standards in the field of children’s rights, have been defined in the National Strategy on the Rights of Children in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014–2020 (hereinafter: Strategy). The Strategy encompasses four fundamental strategic goals – Ensuring children friendly services and systems, Elimination of all forms of violence against children, Ensuring the rights of children in the most vulnerable situations, and Ensuring the active participation of children. One of the Strategy areas relates to *Protection against violence outside of the family and school, in the media space and against electronic violence,* and it contains two measures which are aimed towards the media promotion of zero tolerance towards violence against children in the community, in the media and electronic violence, or towards a consistent application of the law and development of effective instruments for sanctioning non-compliance with the law regarding violence in the media space and online.  Furthermore, the implementation of projects initiated by civil society organizations, which are aimed towards prevention of all forms of violence against children (including the prevention of electronic violence against and among children and youth, or the protection of children from dangers to which they are exposed while using the computer, the Internet and other means of long distance communication) is continuously financially supported. The civil society organizations, within the framework of their projects, carry out various preventive activities, which include, for example, educational workshops in schools, training for students and parents, specialized lectures for parents and educators, online campaigns and counselling centres, printing and distributing educational materials, student public actions in the local community and education for volunteers. |

1. ***Data and monitoring*: How effective are current tools and monitoring systems, including collection, analysis and publication of routine data, in supporting the prevention of and response to the sale and exploitation of children?**

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| The Act on the Legal Consequences of Conviction, Criminal Records and Rehabilitation (Official Gazette, 143/12, 105/15, 32/17) and the Regulation on Criminal Records prescribe the delivery of data from the criminal records, regarding the register of sexual offences against children.  The competent organizational entity of the MoI at the national level (Department for juvenile delinquency and criminality against youth and families) is conducting supervisory-guidance activities of the police organizational units at the regional and local level in order to evaluate and monitor the status of crimes against children, especially all types of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and violation of children’s rights. The statistical data on the regional distribution, sexual and age structure, as well as kinship of child victims and perpetrators, is monitored through annual statistical reports of the MoI, and the data are made available to the governmental and non-governmental bodies, the media and scientific institutions.  A coordinated conduct of police officers for youth and police officers specialized for the suppression of trafficking in human beings and the work of the border police has been established in order to prevent and suppress trafficking in human beings, especially children.  On the basis of the Official Statistics Act, annual Program of Statistical Research, and the Law on Croatian Register of Persons with Disabilities, the Croatian Institute for Public Health and the Public Health Service carry out statistical research in the field of health care, in order to monitor and evaluate the heath condition of the population, organization and the work of health services. The Public Health Service is responsible for planning the official statistical research from the field of health care, its implementation, gathering and processing of data, as well as for publishing and dissemination of results. The results are published annually in the Croatian Health Statistics Yearbook and thematic reports, which are available on the Institute’s website ([www.hzjz.hr](http://www.hzjz.hr)).  The Croatian Bureau of Statistics (CBS) gathers statistical data in the field of crime statistics by way of regular statistical research. It also monitors closely the convicted perpetrators of criminal offences of sexual abuse and exploitation of children ([CBS data are available by clicking on the link:](file:///C:/Users/natalia.ferreira/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/I6SSUMVO/CBS%20data%20are%20available%20by%20clicking%20on%20the%20link:%20%20https:/www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2018/10-01-01_01_2018.htm) <https://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/publication/2019/SI-1650.pdf>). The statistical data relate only to the perpetrators of criminal offences. The CBS does not gather or process statistical data on the victims of criminal offences. |

1. ***Institutional accountability*: How fare are responsibility and accountability of each and all pertinent actors being enforced an upheld (including corporations in the tech, travel and tourism and other sectors)?**

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| The Republic of Croatia is a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography from 12 February 2002. In accordance with article 134 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia the Optional Protocol is part of the internal legal order of the Republic of Croatia and takes precedence over legislation. The governmental bodies, which are responsible for the implementation of this Protocol, act in a coordinated manner and submit reports in accordance with existing and valid laws, regulations and provisions.  Representatives of state administration bodies (the Office of Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, MoI, MDFYSP, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecutor’s Office, central state administration body in charge of supervising labour regulations), Croatian Red Cross and civil society organizations are included in the process of identifying and the system for assisting and protecting the victims of trafficking in human beings. The Office of Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia is a nationally coordinative body for the suppression of trafficking in human beings.  Through joint meetings the expert employees of social welfare institutions, county coordinators from social welfare centres, health care coordinators and members of mobile teams which are responsible for handling victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, have the option of exchanging experiences and challenges they face in work with victims of trafficking in human beings, as well as to get acquainted with news from the field of providing assistance and protecting victims of trafficking in human beings.  Health care workers are qualified to perform their tasks, and the professional training is conducted in accordance with regulations on professional training, as well as provisions of professional chambers regarding the continuous education for each individual profession.  Department for juvenile delinquency and criminality against youth and families has been established within the Police Directorate, which is engaged in monitoring, educating, establishing standards and coordinating investigations in the field of criminal-justice protection of children. The Department itself is, along with the organizational entities responsible for researching criminal offences of trafficking in human beings and cybersecurity, primarily responsible for implementing the Protocol.  Specialized police officers undergo special training (a seven-week course) in which they are educated on the legal and procedural features of treating children who are victims of crime, as well as the emotional development of a child, interdepartmental collaboration and the role and jurisdiction of other bodies which can provide assistance and support to children.  The education places a special focus on police procedure in cases of sexual abuse or exploitation of children, which also includes child prostitution and all types of trafficking in children. The police is obligated to undertake measures in order to protect the child from any additional abuse, find and keep evidence, as well as find and process the perpetrator. During the police procedure, a parent, a guardian is with the child and, if the child desires it, another person whom the child trusts. Project forensic equipment was procured as part of the IPA 2009 project for searching through mobile devices and computers, and the education of police officers was conducted on ways of finding and preserving child pornography content. With the goal of providing necessary support and assistance to a child-victim, the police collaborate with social welfare bodies with which they exchange gathered insight immediately upon discovering sexual or other more serious abuse of a child, with the goal of undertaking legal protection of the child and providing the necessary assistance to the child. In collaboration with local civil society organizations, the police releases information to the parents of child victims on associations and organizations which provide support for children, so they can turn to them if they require it.  Measures undertaken in order to implement the Protocol also include the protection from economic and sexual exploitation of children and any other type of exploitation. The labour/economic exploitation of children is forbidden in the Republic of Croatia. Namely, article 177 paragraph 2 of the CC incriminates, among other things, forcing of a child to preform excessive labour or labour which is not suitable to his/her age. In criminal investigations regarding neglect of a child’s rights the police also investigates this type of violations of a child’s rights.  In the event that there is suspicion or awareness of any type of sexual exploitation of children, specially trained police officers for youth are involved who are sensitized to work with child victims and educated to recognize all types of sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and to conduct interviews with a child based on the principle of acquiring the best evidence, they undertake measures to protect the child victim and determine the identity of the perpetrator and his subsequent criminal processing.  In the Croatian criminal legislation, the criminal liability of legal entities is regulated by the Act on the Liability of Legal Persons for Criminal Offences (Official Gazette, 151/03, 110/07, 45/11 and 143/12, hereinafter: the Act). The liability of a legal entity, in accordance with article 5 of the Act, is based on the guilt of the responsible person, but the legal entity will also be punished for the criminal offence committed by the responsible person when it is established that there are legal or real obstacles in determining the liability of the responsible person.  The assumption of the culpability of legal entities for criminal offences prescribed by the CC, which also include criminal offences for which the criminal-justice protection is ensured by this Protocol, as well as by other laws which prescribe criminal offences, are foreseen in the Article 3 of the CC according to which the legal entity will be punished for the criminal offence of the responsible person if it violated some obligation of the legal entity, or the legal entity achieved or should have achieved illegal material gain for itself or someone else.  Articles 8 and 9 of the CC prescribe the types and amount of penalties which are imposed to legal entities for committed criminal offences. The type of penalties which are prescribed are the monetary fine and dissolution of a legal person. In addition to the penalty, the Court can impose to the legal entity one or more of the following security measures in accordance with the Article 15 of the CC: prohibition of conducting certain activities or operations, prohibition on obtaining permits, authorizations, concessions or subventions, prohibition of conducting business with the users of state and local budgets and confiscation of items.  The MoI has not recorded any cases of incriminating behaviour by legal entities in this domain of criminality. |

1. ***The way forward*: How can the impact of the mandate be further enhanced in the future? Where are the major gaps in advocacy and awareness?**

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| In the following period, it would be useful to conduct activities aimed towards additional media promotion of zero tolerance towards violence against children in the community, in the media, and towards electronic violence by emphasizing the responsibility of all members of the community for the violence against children outside of the family and school. Also, the right of a child to information in a digital environment should also be taken into account, especially considering that children today belong to a generation much more skilled in using the possibilities which the Internet provides. However, in order for them to be safe and responsible while doing so support and clear guidelines for action in the mentioned area is required.  One of the areas also needing attention in the following period is the participation of vulnerable groups of children in society. |