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**Children's rights in relation to the digital environment**

The safety of child on the internet is considered a challenge today. The internet and technology are developing very fast compared to the time the society needs to get to know the risks.

The use of computer equipment and broader access is increased. The children and young people who are sailing online are discovering a new world of information, games, communication and further development of knowledge. It is also necessary to protect children beyond the access to the right information. In this regard, the strengthening of the work of state institutions, civil society organizations and families is of paramount importance for the creation of mechanisms that prevent the possibility that children are abused and exploited during their online navigation, as much as the policy creation and working practices how we can all work together to protect children better.

The new Law 18/2017 "On the Rights and Protection of Child", which has been approved in the Parliament in February 2017 defines the rights that every child enjoyed and child protection through the implementation of a comprehensive legal framework, the measures to secure the child the exercise of rights based on its highest interest. At the same time in this law were forecasting the efficient mechanisms and well-functioning of responsible institutions laden with concrete measures for promotion of the respect and protection of children rights. The law provides for the first time a comprehensive system for the protection of children being redefined clearly the function of institutional mechanisms and structures of the protection of the children at central and local level, which is coordinated with the new law of social services and the new legal reality and administrative of territorial division of the country.

Article 27, of the Law no. 18/2017 "On the Rights and Protection of the Child", addresses the protection of the child from access to material with harmful or illegal content on the Internet. For the first time, what is meant by "harmful content for the child" is included, including all those images, images and any other material circulating on the Internet that violates the dignity and rights of the child. The law imposes the obligation that all internet delivery centres, educational institutions, and any other public or private institution providing Internet access to apply technical instruments and other measures to protect children from access to illegal content and or harmful, according to the legislation in force.

Currently, the Council of Ministers draft decision "On measures to protect children from access to illegal and / or harmful content on the Internet”, according to Article 27 of Law no. 18/2017 "On the Rights and Protection of the Child", defines measures to the protection of children from access to illegal and / or harmful content on the Internet. The purpose of this draft decision is that the information that is obtained or obtained should be used solely to determine the child's needs and to protect it from harm, and in any case the privacy and the child's identity will be protected. Child protection is a shared responsibility and includes all structures and services, children and their family.

 This draft decision defines also the obligations and responsibilities of the institutions charged with its implementation regarding the use of the Internet service. These institutions apply access control and verify whether there are any harmful and / or illegal content, preventing access to the site by children and adults when there are children in the same environment where the internet service is provided. This draft decision is proposed for consideration and approval in order to determine the appropriate measures for children to be safe when sailing online.

A very important document on child policies is the National Agenda for the Right of the Children 2017-2020, approved by Decision of Council of Minister No. 372, dated 26.04.2017. The main vision is to create favourable conditions for the healthy physical and psychosocial development of children, social inclusion and participation in all processes, based on the best interest of the child. The Agenda presents a multidisciplinary and systematic framework that should / will be integrated into all national, local child-related documents, plans and other activities in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The strategic pillars of the Agenda are: (i) Good Governance in Promoting, Respecting and Protecting Children's Rights; (ii) Elimination of all forms of violence against children; and (iii). Friendly Systems and Services for Children and Adolescents: Development and Education, Justice, Health and Nutrition, and Social Protection. **This document is the first one that has been consulted with children.**

A report on the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the National Agenda for the Rights and Protection of the Child is being drafted. There has been prepared tools for gathering information regarding to the implementation of the Agenda from different institution and local government regarding the implementation of defined objectives from this document. There were held consultative meetings with several line institutions and Child Protection Units from the municipalities and administrative units of the country.

Also in this Strategic Document, the National Agenda for Children's Rights 2017-2020, in the second Strategic Pillar; Eliminating all forms of violence against children in Objective 4: Improving Access to Child Protection Services, namely in Field 4.6 Protection of children in the electronic and digital environment, there are many measures that have been envisaged regarding to the protection and online safety of children.

In order to implement the Cooperation Agreement "On Online Children's Safety in Albania" that has been signed in February 2016, on 6 February 2018, within the framework of the International Secure Internet Day 2018, the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and CRCA Albania, signed an Action Plan 2018-2020 " For the safer internet for children in Albania" with respective tasks for each of them, including National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, as the regulatory authority in the cyber security field. The Strategic Plan serves as a guide where the goals, objectives, work and activity of institutions, organizations, industry and all social actors interested in child safety on the Internet are defined over the next two years.

The purpose of this Action Plan are dealing with • Increasing of the safety of children during their online navigation by creating a broad collaboration, exchange and coordination platform that enhances the security of identifying, reporting and restricting access to sites that are inappropriate or illegal for children and adolescents in Albania; • Strengthening the legal framework and public policies for child safety on the internet; • Supporting of the National Reporting and Information Platform (www.ISIGURT.AL), which provides access to children, parents, teachers, stakeholders, etc. to report, inform and raise awareness of security, risks and exploitation and abuse online;• Exchange of information between institutions, organizations and the internet industry to increase child safety on the internet; • Strengthen dialogue between state institutions, civil society, internet industry and communication to enable children to be protected from violence, bullying, abuse and online exploitation;• Intensify local and national efforts to increase child protection and safety in the internet;

The plan was widely prepared and consulted with representatives of public institutions, civil society and internet industry in Albania.

In the framework of the Safe Internet Week, State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child in cooperation with National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security held an informative and sensitizing meeting with 7th grade students in the 9-grade schools. This activity aimed at informing and raising students and teachers on the secure Internet.

State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child participated in a workshop organized by UNICEF in cooperation with National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security, within the framework of the "I'm online safe" initiative to discuss the findings of the study "National Assessment of Legal, Institutional and Human Resources to Address Abuse and sexual exploitation of children online ". The findings were discussed with governmental institutions and stakeholders and concrete recommendations were identified to improve the protection of children from online violence.

On 26 November 2018, has been organized Summit Viral, an event organized by UNICEF. The Summit aimed to generate and disseminate innovative ideas to inspire and stimulate immediate action and to contribute to the implementation of the Albanian Government Action Plan for a Better and Safer Internet for Children. State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child participated in this summit.

According to DCM no. 141/2017, the National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cyber Security has developed a platform for blocking access to illegal content sites for institutions tasked with protecting and promoting child rights.

State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child takes action when in the media appearing news that violates the child's interest

In January 2018, the Broadcasting Code of Audio-visual Media was adopted. State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child has been in continuous cooperation with the Audio-visual Media Authority (AMA) regarding the issue of respecting children's rights in the media. In the framework of the "Broadcasting Code" review process, the Agency has encouraged and has been part of all consultative meetings during the code review process with the aim of improving it and for safer protection of children who are part of audio-visual media reports.

State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child monitors daily media for the purpose of identifying and referring cases of violation of children's rights in print and audio-visual media reporting. Cases of violation of rights are referred to the responsible authorities with a view to improving the media situation of child case reporting.

During 2018, 9 cases of flagrant violation of the right of the child were recorded during media reporting. For 4 cases identified in media audio-visuals, State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child has filed a complaint with the AMA, which has reacted by sending an official TV report, drawing attention to the violation of children's rights. For other 4 cases identified in online port reporting, State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child has submitted a complaint to these portals.

The problems identified in media reporting are mainly:

- Interviewing child victims of sexual abuse.

Identification in these cases is usually indirect, because even though the face may be covered, interviews by name, surname, voice, and figure of the child's parents make it possible to identify indirectly abused children. During the interview, details are given about the child's residence, affecting their confidentiality and privacy, which undermine the child's victim's image.

- Identification of children in contact and in conflict with the law.

Their identification increases the risk of involvement in other offenses and potential revenge on them. Such public information, which makes children identifiable when they are a victim / author of a serious event, affects their rehabilitation afterwards.

- Mediating the history of children who have suffered family and social trauma.

There are investigating shows, where media with the desire to track and re-unify children and family, have published details of children life without first adopting the child or their current family. This has violated the privacy of the child and has prompted the complainants of the family.

State Agency for the Right and Protection of Child participated in the roundtable organized by the Audio-visual Media Authority on the subject of "Hate speech in audio-visual media". The purpose of this roundtable was to sketch the situation through presentations by field scholars and experts who shared their analytical views about hate speech in audio-visual media, a topic that attracted the attention of multiple chapters. Parts of this roundtable were lecturers of the Department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Tirana, members of the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Media, Public Television, Television, International Organizations etc.