

**United Nations Study on Violence against Children**

Response to the questionnaire received from the  
Government of the Republic of ESTONIA

**United Nations Secretary-General's Study  
on Violence against Children**

**I. Legal framework**

**II. Institutional framework and resources to address violence against children**

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**I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

International human rights instruments

**Question No 1**

The Republic of Estonia acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in September 1991 and the Convention entered into force on 20 November of the same year. In September 2003 Estonia signed two optional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Optional Protocol and Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict), and on 2 June 2004 the parliament ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

On 10 March 2004 the parliament ratified the three optional protocols of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

In addition, the following Conventions have entered into force in respect of Estonia: the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and

Fundamental Freedoms and the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment together with its two protocols. The Estonian Penal Code contains the following crimes directed to the protection of the rights of the child: infanticide (§ 116); enslaving of a child (§ 133 (2) 2)); abduction of a child (§ 134 (2) 2)); taking hostage of a child (§ 135 (2)); unlawful deprivation of liberty of a child (§ 136 (2)), rape of a child (§ 141 (2) 1)); satisfaction of sexual desire committed against a child by violence (§ 142 (2)); compelling a child to engage in sexual intercourse (§ 143 (2)); sexual intercourse with child (§ 145) and satisfaction of sexual desire with child (§ 146), sexual enticement of children (§ 179); child stealing (§ 172); sale or purchase of children (§ 173); alteration of decent (§ 174); disposing minors to engage in prostitution (§ 175); aiding prostitution involving minors (§ 176); use of minors in manufacture of pornographic works (§ 177); manufacture of works involving child pornography or making child pornography available (§ 178); sexual enticement of children (§ 179); exhibiting violence to minors (§ 180).

The text of Penal Code is available: [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

#### Legal provisions on violence against children

#### **Question No 2**

The Constitution provides that nobody shall be subjected to torture or to cruel or degrading treatment or punishment (§ 18).

The text of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia is available: [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

Different laws and regulations have complementarily regulated the protection of children against different risks. The protection of children against violence and mistreatment has been regulated by a package of laws that comprises the Child Protection Act, Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Juvenile Sanctions Act, Family Law Act, Social Welfare Act, Code of Enforcement Procedure and Act to Regulate Dissemination of Works which Contain Pornography or Promote Violence or Cruelty.

The texts of Child Protection Act, Code of Criminal Procedure, Juvenile Sanctions Act, Family Law Act, Social Welfare Act and Act to Regulate Dissemination of Works which Contain Pornography or Promote Violence or Cruelty are available:

[www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

The **Child Protection Act** provides the main principles of the treatment of a child. According to the act every child shall be treated as an individual with consideration for his or her background, age and gender. It is not allowed to humiliate, frighten or punish a child in a way that abuses the child, causes bodily harm or otherwise endangers his or her mental or physical health. In case an adult has treated a child in a prohibited manner, the social services departments are competent to intervene in order to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, to apply for punishment of the person at fault under administrative or criminal procedure. A child who has suffered violent treatment or mistreatment shall be provided with necessary assistance. An adult who has treated a child violently shall also receive counselling in order to prevent further mistreatment. Law provides that instruction shall not involve violence, either physical or mental (§ 40).

The Child Protection Act also defends a child from economic, physical, as well as mental exploitation. A separate section provides protection against sexual abuse. A child shall be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation, *inter alia* it is prohibited for an adult to induce a child into sexual activities, to use a child as a prostitute, to use a child for pornographic purposes (§ 33).

The **Social Welfare Act** lays an obligation on local authorities to organise the welfare services of children and to create favourable surroundings for the development of children, they will also take measures to prevent the cases of the abuse of children, as well as to render the necessary help.

The **Penal Code** proceeds from the principle that human life shall be under equal protection irrespective of the age, gender and other criteria of the person. It means that the standards of punishment generally do not differentiate between infanticide and causing damage to the health of the child on the level of the special part of law. The only exception is § 116, where the killing of the newborn child takes place during

delivery or immediately after delivery it is regarded as mitigating circumstances for the mother. The punishments for the intentional crimes of violence are the following:

§ 113 of Penal Code (**manslaughter**): **6 to 15** years' imprisonment

§ 114 of Penal Code (**murder**): **8 to 20** years' or **life** imprisonment

§ 118 of Penal Code (**causing serious damage to health**): **4-12** years' imprisonment

§ 121 of Penal Code (**physical abuse**): **pecuniary punishment** or up to **3** years' imprisonment

§ 122 of Penal Code (**torture**): **pecuniary punishment** or **up to 5** years' imprisonment

When punishing for a certain offence one should consider § 58 of the Penal Code (aggravating circumstances), according to which the commission of the offence against a person who is less than 18 years of age shall always be regarded as aggravating circumstances.

It is prohibited by the Child Protection Act to humiliate, frighten or punish the child in any way which abuses the child, causes bodily harm or otherwise endangers his or her mental or physical health (§ 31). According to the Family Law Act a parent has the right and duty to raise a child and to care for a child and a parent shall not exercise parental rights contrary to the interests of a child (§ 50). According to § 54 of the same act a parent can be deprived of his or her parental rights when the parent abuses his or her parental rights or is cruel to a child. § 121 of the Penal Code criminalizes physical abuse.

The Estonian laws do not provide physical punishment of a person. It is not possible either to punish with death penalty, since Estonia has abolished death penalty.

Responsibility under penal law starts as of the age of 14. A person under that age shall not be punished for misdemeanours or offences, but juvenile sanctions can be applied to them (warning; scolar sanctions; directing to the psychologist, narcologist, social worker or other specialist; conciliation; obligation to live with a parent, step-parent, guardian or in a family with a curator or in an orphanage; community service; probation; participation in youth or social programs, as well as the courses of medical treatment; directing students to schools with special educational conditions). If a

minor, i.e. a person between the age of 14 up to 18, commits an offence the maximum punishment is 10 years' of imprisonment, for adults the maximum punishment is 20 years' or life imprisonment.

Article 34 of the Child Protection Act regulates the punishment of child. According to the law a child who has committed a legal offence is personally responsible for his or her actions unless otherwise provided by law. If a child who has committed a criminal offence is punished, criminal punishment, particularly imprisonment, shall be used only as a measure of last resort and is to be avoided. In the case of a child who has committed a criminal offence, measures such as counselling, probation, reconciliation, curatorship and educational programmes for the prevention of legal offences shall first be applied.

The **Victim Support Act** regulates the organisation of victim support and the payment of state compensation to the victims of crime.

As to other relevant sources for child protection the following instruments can be noted:

- State Crime Prevention Strategy until 2005, approved by the Government of the Republic on 11 July 2000
- The Main Targets of Crime Control until 2003, approved by the Government of the Republic on 24 July 2000
- The Trends of the Development of Criminal Policy until 2010, approved by the decision of the parliament on 21 October 2003.
- The Strategy of Guaranteeing the Rights of the Child, approved by the Government of the Republic on 16 October 2003
- Regulation of the Minister of Social Affairs of 31 July 1998 "Establishment of Legal Instruments Ensuing from the Juvenile Sanctions Act"
- "Instructions of the Treatment of Children Having Committed an Unlawful Act and Needing Help" approved by the Decree of 7 October 2002 of the Director General of the Police

The Chancellor of Justice as an independent public official in his or her activities is also engaged in the protection of the rights of the child. The Chancellor of Justice has taken action against violence against children on his own initiative, as well as in the form of responding to petitions. In the legislative proceeding concerning petitions for children the Chancellor of Justice proceeds from the Child Protection Act, under which everybody has the obligation and therefore the right to notify of a child needing help. The Chancellor of Justice proceeding from his competence also conducts regular visits into different childcare institutions, where one of the main problems is always to find out about the treatment of children by other children, as well as by employees in the institution. In the course of the visits a reception of individuals is always conducted, so that people staying or working in the said institutions can trustworthily turn to the Chancellor of Justice. In the request for information sent at the stage of preparation of the visits the questions concerning the safety of children has always been included. On one hand the Chancellor of Justice makes an attempt to find out whether there has been violence between children and whether the employees of the institution have done anything about it. On the other hand the supervision is always directed towards the behaviour of the employees with children: if the sanctions applied to the breaches of order are appropriate and pedagogical.

The text of the Chancellor of Justice Act is available: [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

### **Question No 3**

The Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act obligates the school to guarantee for a student during the time of his or her staying at school the mental and physical security and the protection of his or her health. The school compiles a timetable corresponding to the rules and standards of health protection. The school shall take measures for the prevention of mental and physical violence in co-operation with parents (guardians, curators), the owner of the school and as necessary with the police, as well as with other authorities and experts. The procedure of reporting of cases endangering the mental and physical security of the students and the employees of the school shall be established in the rules of procedure of the school.

The annual program of School Peace supports the idea of a school without violence is available at [www.koolirahu.ee](http://www.koolirahu.ee)

The text of Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act is available [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

### **Question No 7**

Teasing has not been directly regulated in the Estonian laws, but sections on sexual harassment regardless of the place of occurrence and of the status of the parties, including in the relations between a student and a teacher, can be found in the Penal Code, as well as the Child Protection Act.

Article 33 of the Child Protection Act stipulates that the child shall be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation; the following is prohibited for adults

- 1) Inducement of a child to engage in sexual activity;
- 2) Exploitative use of children in prostitution;
- 3) Exploitative use of children for pornographic purposes.

The following articles of the Penal Code are relevant in this regard:

§ 142 (2) Satisfaction of sexual desire by violence **if committed against a person of less than 18 years of age, is punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment (otherwise up to 3 years' imprisonment).**

§ 143 (2) Compelling a person to engage in sexual intercourse **if committed against a person of less than 18 years of age, is punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment (otherwise up to 3 years' imprisonment).**

§ 145 An adult person who engages in sexual intercourse with a person of less than 14 years of age shall be punished by up to 3 years' imprisonment.

§ 146 An adult person who involves a person of less than 14 years of age in satisfaction of sexual desire in a manner other than sexual intercourse shall be punished by up to 2 years' imprisonment.

### **Question No 8**



In Estonia there are no harmful or violent traditional practices, for that reason there is no specific regulation either for regulating violent traditions. In relation to all acts of violence a general prohibition is in force.

### **Question No 9**

Violence directed towards the children of aliens or refugees has not been regulated with any special laws or certain sections. All the provisions regulating matters connected with the acts of violence apply to everyone.

### **Question No 10**

There are no differences in the Estonian legislation as to the definitions of violence ensuing from the gender or sexual orientation of the victim. There are differences in respect of the age of the victim and correspondingly proceeding from that there are differences as to punishments.

### **Penal Code**

#### § 141. Rape

(1) Sexual intercourse with a person against his or her will by using force or taking advantage of a situation in which the person is not capable of initiating resistance or comprehending the situation is punishable by 1 to 5 years' imprisonment.

(2) The same act, if:

- 1) committed against a person of less than 18 years of age;**
  - 2) committed by two or more persons;
  - 3) serious damage is thereby caused to the health of the victim;
  - 4) it causes the death of the victim;
  - 5) it leads the victim to suicide or a suicide attempt, or
  - 6) committed by a person who has previously committed rape,
- is punishable by 6 to 15 years' imprisonment.

**§ 142 (2) Satisfaction of sexual desire by violence if committed against a person of less than 18 years of age, is punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment (otherwise up to 3 years' imprisonment).**

**§ 143 (2) Compelling a person to engage in sexual intercourse if committed against a person of less than 18 years of age, is punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment (otherwise up to 3 years' imprisonment).**

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**§ 146 An adult person who involves a person of less than 14 years of age in satisfaction of sexual desire in a manner other than sexual intercourse shall be punished by up to 2 years' imprisonment.**

**Within the meaning of the offences provided above, a person is deemed to be incapable to comprehend if he or she is less than 10 years of age.**

There are also differences of the age and of the relation between the victim and criminal in the chapter of the Penal Code covering the necessary elements of the offences against the family and a minor (§ 144 and §§ 169-174).

**§ 144 A parent, a person with the rights of a parent, or a grandparent, who engages in sexual intercourse with his or her child or grandchild shall be punished by up to 3 years' imprisonment.**

#### **Question No 11**

Relevant information about the legal regulation of the topic of children and violence has been presented in the Estonian report on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as in the report on the Social Charter.

#### **Question No 12**

The Chancellor of Justice has conducted two major projects and analyses – one on the topic of school violence and the other on the topic of the mental health of children. In 2002 the Chancellor of Justice made the analysis on the topic of school violence. In order to raise awareness about the right of the child to a safe school environment the Chancellor of Justice convened a round table, where the problem was discussed from different viewpoints and as the result of the discussions the Chancellor of Justice sent a memorandum with his proposals to several ministers, county governors, the representative bodies of local self governments and teachers. In 2003 the Chancellor of Justice continued his analysis on the same topic and concentrated on the problems of the mental health of minors. The Chancellor of Justice has sent an inquiry to relevant institutions emphasising the importance of the school and social network beside the role of the family at the prevention and taking notice of psychological problems of the child, as well as reacting them adequately.

#### Courts tasked with addressing violence against children

#### **Question No 13**

There are no special courts for minors in Estonia, but the bodies conducting proceedings have been orientated towards specialisation, the aim is that only preliminary investigators, prosecutors and judges with special training would deal with minors. Since work with juvenile criminals is a priority the Prosecutor's office shall have to:

1. Guarantee the specialisation of prosecutors dealing with juvenile crime;
2. Diminish the length of criminal proceedings in the cases of minors;
3. Apply less frequently the arrest of minors in criminal proceedings and reduce its length;
4. Pursue criminal punishment for persons having for the first time committed a crime only in cases of utmost necessity. Preference shall be given to the termination of the proceeding together with sanctions applied or to sanctions applied at the discharge from punishment.

The State Audit Office of Estonia has assessed the special treatment of minors in the criminal proceeding in 2002.

There are juvenile committees that co-ordinate work in the field of crime prevention carried out with minors within its administrative territory.

Hearings of juvenile committees shall be closed.

A juvenile committee shall review material collected concerning a juvenile offence matter, shall hear the testimony of the minor and his or her legal representative and, if there are victims or witnesses, their testimony if possible.

A minor, his or her representative and a person who submits an application for a juvenile offence matter to be heard or a representative of the institution which submits an application shall be present at the hearing of the juvenile committee.

#### Minimum age for sexual activity

#### **Question No 14**

In § 145 and § 146 of the Penal Code punishments have been provided for engaging in sexual intercourse with a minor, i.e. with a person of less than 14 years of age. Thus, the minimal age for starting all kind of legal sexual life is over 14 years of age. It is not important whether one has to do with a male or female person and whether the person is heterosexual or homosexual.

#### **Question No 15**

§ 3 of the Family Law Act provides that a person of 18 years of age shall be of age to marry, but in exceptional cases it is possible also for persons of 15-18 years of age to get married. A minor between fifteen and eighteen years of age may marry with the written consent of his or her parents or guardian.

If a child has one parent or if the other parent is missing or a guardian has been appointed to the other parent due to his or her restricted active legal capacity or if one

parent is deprived of parental rights, the consent of one parent is sufficient for the minor between fifteen and eighteen years of age to marry.

If even one of the parents or a guardian does not consent to the marriage, a court may grant permission to marry on the application of one parent or the guardianship authority. A court shall grant permission to marry if the marriage is in the interests of the minor.

In case of a person under 18 years of age getting married, the person's desire supported by a parent's consent shall be considered in the first place.

#### Sexual exploitation of children; Pornography and harmful information

#### **Questions Nos 16 and 17**

Pursuant to the Penal Code the following criminal offences shall be punishable. At all those criminal offences one proceeds from the principle that a child-victim itself is always innocent.

§ 172 Concealed or unconcealed kidnapping of another person's child of less than 14 years of age from a person under whose care the child legally is, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment.

§ 173 Sale or purchase of children is punishable by 1 to 5 years' imprisonment, if the same act is committed by a legal person it is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

§ 174 A person who substitutes a child of another or his or her own child for a child of another person with the intention to alter the descent of the child shall be punished by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment. The same act, if committed in order to receive an estate or aimed at other personal gain, or it causes alteration of the citizenship of the child, is punishable by 1 to 5 years' imprisonment.

§ 175 A person who by inducement, threat or any other act influences a person of less than 18 years of age in order to cause him or her to commence or continue

prostitution, but the act does not have the necessary elements of an offence provided for in § 133 or 143 of this Code, shall be punished by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment.

§ 176. Aiding prostitution involving a person of less than 18 years of age by mediation, provision of premises or in any other manner is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 5 years' imprisonment. The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

§ 177. Use of a person of less than 18 years of age as a model or actor in the manufacture of a pornographic or erotic picture, film or other work is punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

§ 178. A person who manufactures, stores, hands over, displays or makes available in any other manner pictures, writings or other works or reproductions of works depicting a person of less than 14 years of age in erotic or pornographic situations shall be punished by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

§ 179. A person who hands over, displays or makes otherwise knowingly available pornographic works or reproductions thereof to a person of less than 14 years of age, engages in sexual intercourse in the presence of such person or knowingly sexually entices such person in any other manner shall be punished by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

§ 180. A person who hands over, displays or makes otherwise knowingly available works or reproductions of works promoting violence or cruelty to a person of less than 18 years of age, kills or tortures an animal in the presence of such person without due cause or knowingly exhibits violence to him or her in any other manner shall be punished by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. The same act, if committed by a legal person, is punishable by a pecuniary punishment.

Dissemination and exhibition to minors of works which contain pornography or promote violence or cruelty is prohibited according to the Act to Regulate Dissemination of Works which Contain Pornography or Promote Violence or Cruelty. For the purposes of the Act:

- 1) “Dissemination of works” means the sale, rental or transfer in any other manner of works or copies of works produced in any form;
- 2) “Exhibition of works” means presentation of works or copies of works either directly or by technical means;
- 3) “Pornography” means a manner of representation in which sexual acts are brought to the foreground in a vulgar and intrusive manner and other human relations are disregarded or relegated to the background;
- 4) “Promotion of violence or cruelty” means depiction of violence or cruelty, which exceeds the limits of justified self-defence in an approving manner for the purpose of promoting violent or cruel behaviour among people.

Transmission of television or radio broadcasts which contain pornography or promote violence or cruelty, by persons who have the right to transmit television or radio broadcasts in Estonia, is prohibited.

Police officials and the officials of the dissemination department of the Ministry of Culture exercise supervision over compliance with the requirements provided for in the Act.

### **Question No 18**

There is the Act to Regulate Dissemination of Works which Contain Pornography or Promote Violence or Cruelty prohibiting the dissemination and demonstration to the children of works, which contain pornography or promote violence or cruelty.

According to the Advertising Act advertising, which is contrary to good morals and customs, calls on people to act unlawfully or to violate prevailing standards of decency or which contains such activities shall be prohibited. First and foremost advertising, which calls on people to behave violently or incites violent behaviour in

order to achieve an objective or in choosing the manner in which to achieve an objective, or which contains any direct statement or visual presentation regarding a sexual act, inappropriate nudity or socially unacceptable sexual behaviour shall be prohibited.

It is prohibited by the Child Protection Act to produce or distribute pornographic materials, printed matter and films for or among children. Also the use of children in the production and distribution of obscene materials is prohibited.

#### Reporting obligations relating to violence against children

#### **Question No 19**

The Child Protection Act requires every person to immediately notify the social services departments, police or some other body providing assistance if the person knows of a child in need of assistance. The social services departments have the right and are required to act immediately, regardless of the region or group to which the child belongs.

At the moment, there are no sanctions against non-notification, but in the framework of the conception of the new Child Protection Act amendments for including sanctions against non-notification are to be proposed.

Non-notification of offences, for which over 5 years' imprisonment is foreseen as a punishment shall be punishable pursuant to criminal procedure with a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' punishment.

#### Complaints procedures

#### **Questions No 20 are 21**

Everyone has the right of recourse to the Chancellor of Justice in order to have his or her rights. The said restriction that everyone has the right of recourse to the Chancellor of Justice only for the protection of his or her own rights is not understood



so formally in case of children. For example a family physician applied to the Chancellor of Justice expressing concern about an abused child, this confirms the readiness of doctors to fulfil the reporting obligation as regards a child in need of assistance.

The Chancellor of Justice pays special attention to persons who cannot themselves sufficiently stand for their rights or whose freedom is limited. These are children, patients in psychiatric hospitals, persons in special care homes or general care homes, prisoners, conscripts. Therefore the Chancellor of Justice and his advisers visit orphanages, psychiatric institutions, prisons and military establishments in order to have direct contact with persons in these institutions. *Inter alia*, a petition to the Chancellor of Justice made by persons staying in orphanages or youth homes shall immediately be sent to the addressee by the institution concerned at the expense of that institution and without inspecting the contents.

Every person is required to immediately notify the social services departments, police or some other body providing assistance if the person knows of a child who is in need of protection or assistance. The social services departments shall act immediately, regardless of the region or status of the child.

If an adult has treated a child in a prohibited manner, the social services departments are competent to intervene in order to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, to apply for punishment of the person at fault under administrative or criminal procedure. A child who has suffered violent treatment or mistreatment shall be provided with necessary assistance. On the decision of a competent employee of the social services department, a child who is in danger shall be placed in safe environment immediately until such time as the danger passes or a decision regarding the care of the child is made, without request of the consent of the child's parents or caregivers.

Reporting of the cases of violence at school shall be provided in the rules of procedure of the school.

**Question No 22**

In the action plan of the year 2004 of the Strategy of Guaranteeing the Rights of the Child, the establishing of a system of reporting of a child in need of assistance has been foreseen on the basis of short telephone number. At the beginning of the year 2004 a project was conducted to elaborate working principles of the short telephone number for reporting of a child in need of assistance. At the end of the year there has been planned a training for dispatchers and for 2005 it is being planned to test the short number for reporting of a child in need of assistance in the City of Tallinn. Together with the launch of the short number a notification campaign will be launched.

On the public home page of police [www.pol.ee](http://www.pol.ee) there functions MURELINK (trouble link), where on one hand children can write about their problems and on the other hand everyone has a possibility to inform the police about abused children and ask police for advice in case of problems.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has an agreement with Tartu Support Centre for Abused Children for the notification of the public on such topics as violence against children, the procuring of children and young people, as well as on sexual exploitation. The skills and knowledge in that field of specialists dealing with children is being improved. The NGOs have issued leaflets with information as to where to turn to in case of violence against children, where to lodge an appeal, where to get assistance and treatment from. The NGOs also examine complaints, provide information about the rights, obligations and possibilities to get assistance. In all cities and rural municipalities there are social workers or specialists of child protection, who will help and give information. A special form of reporting of an abused child has been worked out. In co-operation of police, local self-governments and social institutions notification campaigns of children and young people are launched to explain to how to behave as a victim of abuse and how he or she can get assistance from police and from other organizations. Conferences, forums, and information days are conducted on the level of the state, self-governments, as well as third sector. In higher education establishments lectures concerning the said topic are held and also specialists are trained for that. The problems of the abuse of children are also covered in the media, for instance a full-length movie has been shot on the problems of violence against children.

Television chat show series “Rusikas” (Fist) appeared for the first time in the autumn of the year 1998 went on in 1999, as well as in 2000. The “Rusikas” (Fist) was the result of co-operation between the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, Estonian Television and the Swedish Save the Children Organisation “Rädda Barnen”. The programme was meant primarily for young people aged 12-16, but also for parents and teachers.

Purpose of the show series is to:

- Show the problems of teenagers
- Try to find solutions to the problems
- Discuss and learn to contemplate problematic situations of life: how would you solve such situations
- Inform about where and who to turn to for assistance in case of problems
- Involve in the preparation of the show adults (psychologists), as well as young people themselves, thus improving co-operation between the two generations

### **Question No 23**

In legal instruments concerning children the relevant principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have been taken into account. In any kind of undertakings involving children the interests of the child are considered in the first place.

- Prevention activities in the field of sexual abuse of children have been considerably improved at the national as well as at international level. For three years the “trouble link” for children has been working on the public web site of the police, where abused children and their family members have had a possibility to turn to etc. Among the staff of the Central Criminal Police an IT crimes service works. The specialists have accordingly got a special schooling on how to deal with the detection and proceeding of children’s pornography spreading in the Internet.
- Children, who have suffered abuse, shall get special protection and support in the framework of criminal proceedings. In police institutions to date 5 specially

furnished interrogation rooms for abused children have been created in order to prevent additional traumas to the child in the course of the questioning and to grant in all respects the consideration of the interests of children in criminal proceedings. The rooms have been furnished with the corresponding video technology and the video recording of the interrogation of the child will be attached to the criminal case as physical evidence. In the severe criminal cases, where the child has fallen victim to sexual violence the preliminary investigation proceedings are carried out by police officials specially trained for that purpose. In order to render assistance to the child and his or her family child psychologists, child psychiatrists, paediatricians and social workers are involved. No data are disclosed concerning the child who has fallen victim and/or about his/her family members.

Penal procedure (misdemeanour procedure and criminal procedure):

It is allowed in the interests of a minor to:

1. Proclaim the court session in camera

The following is required in the criminal matters of minors:

1. Participation of a counsel
2. Appointment of a probation officer

In criminal matters of minors:

1. In case of failure to appear on the summons of the body conducting proceedings the parent, guardian or curator shall be fined;
2. Procedure expenses may be born by the parent or other person responsible for upbringing.

When solving the cases of child abuse a social worker, psychologist, and medical staff and as necessary other specialists shall be involved. A minor shall always be interrogated in the presence of a teacher, psychologist or parents. A social worker shall assume custody over the family to do the counselling for the family. In addition individual therapy and counselling in respect of the abuser shall be conducted.

#### **Question No 24**

In 2002 there was in the Estonian courts one criminal conviction pursuant to § 143 (2), in 2003 there were criminal convictions as follows: one pursuant to § 136 (2), three pursuant to § 141 (2) 1), six pursuant to § 142 (2), one pursuant to § 146 and also one pursuant to § 179.

In accordance with the State Compensation of Victims of Crime Act, victims, as well as the dependants (incl. children) thereof have been payed compensations for the damage arising from the incapacity for work of the victim or the death of the victim.

Pursuant to the new Victim Support Act (entered into force partly on 1 February 2004) all persons, who have fallen victims to negligence, mistreatment or physical, mental or sexual abuse have the right to victim support. In addition to expenses related to the recovery of physical health also expenses related to the recovery of mental health shall be compensated for (psychological counselling and psychotherapy).

It is relevant that statistics on family problems/family therapy covering all family problems should be presented as well. While viewing the percentage of violence across the years a fluctuation between 12% up to 22% can be noted.

2003 – 617 cases

2002 – 446 cases

2001 – 554 cases

2000 – 365 cases

1999 – 185 cases

In connection with half of the cases of violence (sexual abuse, physical mistreatment, emotional mistreatment, mental mistreatment) legal proceedings are initiated in co-operation with local self-governments.

### **Question No 25**

In relation to children, who have committed a violation of law sanctions provided in the Juvenile Sanctions Act shall apply with the purpose of application thereof not

being a punishment, but assistance to the offender and the prevention of further violation of law.

The text of Juvenile Sanctions Act is available: [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

## **II. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RESOURCES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

### **Questions Nos 26 and 27**

To prevent violence against children the Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as other ministries and governmental authorities (incl. county governments) work on the state level, on the local level child protection officials of self-governments and in the third sector associations of child protection work.

On 16 October 2003 the Government of the Republic approved “The Strategy of Guaranteeing the Rights of the Child” providing national purposes for fostering the protection of the rights of the child up to the year 2008. A chapter in that document also covers measures for the prevention of the abuse of the child and for rendering comprehensive assistance to an abused child.

For the said strategy each year the inter-ministerial working group compiles an action plan with specified activities. The working group comprises representatives of the Ministries of Social Affairs, Education and Research, Culture, Justice, Internal Affairs, Finance and the Bureau of the Minister of Population and Ethnic Affairs. As from 2005 it has been planned to compile also an action plan for non-profit associations to fulfil.

The compiling of action plans of the strategy, as well as the compiling of reports to the Government of the Republic is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Pursuant to the Child Protection Act state child protection is co-ordinated by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

### **Questions No 28 and 29**

The topic of violence (incl. violence against children) is dealt with by a number of ministries (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Education and Research), police forces, child protection officials of local self-governments, asylums, juvenile committees, non-government organisations. Those activities and human resources are financed from the state budget, the budgets of local self-governments, as well as different funds.

### **Question No 30**

Several foreign organisations, such as Save the Children Sweden, King Badouin Foundation, World Bank, World Childhood Foundation, the German Greve Fond Aus Grosser Freude E.V, the Swedish Socialdepartement, George Soros Foundation, the Phare Program of the European Union and UNICEF have allocated monetary support to Tallinn Children Support Centre for fight against the mistreatment of children.

The majority of allocated grants were used for the realisation of the main activities (counselling, asylum, day centre etc.). Also studies in the field of child abuse were carried out, books and leaflets were compiled. During the year of the establishment of the Support Centre and the two following years the support of foreign organisations to the activities of the Support Centre amounted to 100-70 per cent. Within the last two years the percentage of financing has dropped by 0-40%. Local financiers fund the majority of the projects at the moment.

### **Question No 31**

Estonia has since 1998 supported the UNICEF with the following amounts of money:

1998 250,000 EEK

1999 300,000 EEK

2000 600,000 EEK (300,000 EEK out of it as advance payment for the activities of 2001)

2002 300,000 EEK

2003 300,000 EEK + 500,000 purpose-oriented granting to Iraq

2004 planned 300,000 EEK

### **Question No 32**

The activities of the Chancellor of Justice, who also fulfils the tasks of the Ombudsman, have been specified above. Up to the present the activities of the Chancellor of Justice have been oriented in two main directions. Two major projects, as well as analyses specified above have been carried out and secondly; the Chancellor of Justice solves cases connected with violence against children in the form of the processing of petitions.

### **Question No 33**

In the Parliament there works a Social Affairs Committee whose field of activities embraces *inter alia* the proceeding of draft acts treating child protection. The Social Affairs Committee when proceeding draft acts develops co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as with the governmental authorities of the area of government thereof, and with institutions under administration thereof, as well as with the Union for Child Welfare and other NGOs of that field.

### **Question No 34**

On 27 January 2004 a session of the parliament took place on the subject “The Situation of Children and the Guaranteeing of the Rights of Children in Estonia”. A proposal to carry out such a session was made by the Union for Child Welfare to the Social Affairs Committee of the parliament. The Union for Child Welfare in co-operation with the Estonian Association of Foster Homes Board of Directors, Tallinn Children Support Centre, as well as with Tallinn Centre for Children at Risk submitted for the preparation of the session to the Social Affairs Committee their opinion on the principal problems in the social and educational field and proposals for improving the situation. In the theses to the Social Affairs Committee it was noted that in the work with abused children the co-ordinating role of the state is failing and the rehabilitation of abused children is born mainly by non-profit associations, which,



however, due to insufficient and inadequate funding do not manage to meet the demand. The conducting of an extraordinary session of the parliament is of great importance for a better understanding, as well as solving of the situation of children and problems related with them and for the development of the society.

### **III. ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

#### **Question No 35**

Academic institutions, women associations, associations of students, charitable organisations, religious associations, as well as non-profit associations have been engaged in the topic of violence against children. Individual, as well as family counselling is being dealt with, trainings and family events are being carried out and articles are being published in newspapers, studies are being conducted; services, as well as material assistance are being offered etc.

Here the activities of some association can be given as an example.

The Estonian Children's Fund organises since 2001 support groups for the parents of children with activity and attention disorders, as well as teachers. There is a strong connection between children with activity and attention disorders and violence and aggressiveness: in case a child with activity and attention disorders is not treated properly it will be violence in respect of him/her. Also several studies have confirmed that children with activity and attention disorders tend to surpass others by their aggressiveness, proceeding from that there is a greater probability of their becoming criminals. The topic of violence has been treated by the Children's Fund also in their leaflets: "When the Father of a Child Drinks", "Depression and Youngster", "Divorce and the Child".

Students of basic schools, who tend towards either self-destructive behaviour or who are violent while communicating with others participate in the project "Pathfinder" of the Children's Fund. With the help of the project one tries to orient them towards less aggressive activities and styles of communication. The project has been in work since

1998 and is carried out by volunteers. Individual, as well as group work is being conducted with children.

In 1998-2004 the Union for Child Welfare carried out the program “Child and Violence”, which consisted in the co-ordination of violence prevention and interference projects, the conducting of trainings, seminars and conferences on the topic, the compiling and issuance of publications.

In 2001-2004 the Union for Child Welfare carried out the project “Stop Violence”. The project contained the prevention and diminishing of school violence and school teasing in 20 Estonian schools; the establishing of a condemnatory attitude in respect of violence against children, the conducting of various studies and the involvement of young people into the prevention of violence.

The media campaign “Stop Child Spanking” has been carried out in 1995, 1997 and 2000. The author of the idea was an Estonian advertising agency Zoom and it was carried out in cooperation with the Estonian Union for Child Welfare.

The overall aim of the campaign “Stop Child Spanking” was to change public attitudes toward corporal punishment and to break the common understanding that corporal punishment was an inseparable part of every-day upbringing of children.

In 1995 the message of the campaign – Stop Child Spanking – was targeted at adult population and forwarded by printed press. According to the follow-up survey the results of the campaign were positive and the campaign had brought about changes in the attitudes of parents toward corporal punishment of children.

In 1997 the campaign “Stop Child Spanking II” was carried out and the message – Stop Child Spanking- was broadened with the incitement - Better Talk to the Child- while the overall aim was the same as in 1995. The message was forwarded by outdoor media, TV, radio and printed press as well as by several thematic events organized by the member associations of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare.

In 2000 the campaign was targeted at parents of 0-12-year-olds who had communication problems with their children due to thoughtlessness and lack of experience rather than to wrong beliefs. The message of the campaign “Stop Child Spanking III” was – the child is the best you have got, take good care of him/her! - and it was forwarded by means of outdoor media, TV, radio and printed press.

In February 2000 the research company EMOR conducted a survey questioning 505 residents of Estonia aged 15-74 in order to get feedback on the campaign “Stop Child Spanking” and assess the public attitude towards corporal punishment of children. The campaign “Stop Child Spanking” of 2000 has been noticed by 79% of the residents of Estonia aged 17-74. In 1995 the same figure was 67%.

The general attitude toward corporal punishment of children had not changed considerably compared to the situation in 1995. In 2000 41% of the respondents supported corporal punishment compared to 42% in 1995. The percentage of those against corporal punishment was 55% in 2000 compared to 58 % in 1995.

Tallinn Children Support Centre is a non-governmental non-profit organisation established in 1998 preventing child abuse and rendering assistance on the professional level to the abused children and children without parental care, as well as to their family members. The Support Centre is principally focused on:

- Counselling of abused and problematic children, as well as their families individually and also in the course of group work. All consultations are confidential and free of charge;
- Training and consultations for professionals dealing with children;
- Support person service in the framework of day centre for children and young people, who are frequenters of the juvenile committee;
- Participation in the network of co-operation of different specialists (social workers, police, medical staff, education employees) and the development of the network;
- Involvement of volunteering helpers to the rendering of assistance to the children of risk families;
- Notification of the public of problems connected with children;

- Complementing of the library on the topic of child abuse.

Tallinn Children Support Centre has within the five years of activities conducted several trainings in the field of mistreatment of children.

In 1999-2003 the following below training topics concerning violence against children were treated at Tallinn Children Support Centre. It should be noted that not all trainings have been included in the list.

In 1999 the following trainings were conducted:

- 2-days training program “Abused Child” took place 10 times, 16 hours each, with the participation of 114 teachers, social workers, police officers etc.
- ”Emotional Needs of Children” took place 5 times, 4 hours each, with the participation of 97 teachers and 25 parents.
- “Fears of Children. Ways of Solving the Problems” took place 1 time 6 hours, 40 teachers participated.
- ”Family Problems. Development of Emotional Intelligence of Children”, took place 3 times, 8 hours each, with the participation of 15 teachers and 60 nursery school teachers.
- ”Mistreatment of Children. Family Relations” took place 3 times, 6 hours each, 48 teachers participated.
- ”Psychological Development of the Child” took place 2 times, 3 hours each with the participation of 36 family physicians and nurses.
- Training program in the field of sexual education for students took place 5 times, 2 hours each.
- ”Psychotherapy of Abused Children and Young People. Work with Dissociated Children” 16 hours, lecturers: Canadian psychotherapists Sandra Wieland and Lalita Salins. 20 psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers participated. Conferences conducted:
- ”The Role of a Paediatrician and Lawyer in Work with Abused Children”, 95 participants, paediatricians, nurses, psychiatrists, lawyers, juvenile police officers etc.

- “Child and Violence” III in Narva-Jõesuu. 300 participants, teachers, social workers, psychologists etc.

In 2000 the following trainings were conducted:

- 16.03 - 17.03 “Peculiarities of Communication with an Abused Child” for social workers of self-governments in Pärnu, 6 hours, 18 participants
- 29.04 "Abused Child and Depression" 9 participants, 7 hours
- 19.05 "School Teasing" training for teachers of Haapsalu, 8 hours
- 19.09 “How to Discover and Render Assistance to an Abused Child in a Child Care Institution” for nursery school teachers of Jõhvi, 22 participants, 8 hours
- 04.10 - 06.10 "Victim Support Training" for social workers, 24 participants, 25 hours
- 16.10 - 17.10 "Abuse of a Child" 12 hours
- 23.10 - 25.10 "Victim Support Training" for social workers, 26 participants, 25 hours
- 22.11 - 24.11 "Victim Support Training" for social workers, 26 participants, 25 hours
- 30.11 - 01.12 "Victim Support Training" for teachers, 18 participants, 16 hours
- 14.12 - 15.12 "Victim Support Training" for teachers in Narva, 23 participants, 16 hours

The following trainings in 2000 have taken place in co-operation with Tartu Support Centre for Abused Children and Rädida Barnen Sweden:

- 29 March Conference “Child and Violence IV” in Tartu, 145 participants, 8 hours. To improve the work of the Support Centre 32 hours of training for the staff were carried out:
- 18.02 Holding therapy – “The Syndrome of a Little Stubborn Child" training
- 21.02 Conference "Victims of Crime"
- 29.05 - 30.05 Seminar "Sexual Abuse of Children" in Laulasmaa
- 01.06 - 03.06 International Conference "Child and Violence" in Tallinn
- 04.06 - 06.06 Seminar "Co-operation in the Field of Child Abuse in Eastern and Central Europe” in Czech

- 02.08 "Summer School of School Psychologists" in Keila-Joa
- 24.10 - 25.10 Conference "Victim Defence" in Tallinn
- 24.10 - 27.10 CAP training "Prevention of Violence Against Children" in Tartu
- 25.10 - 29.10 Conference "Coordinators of Street children Program" in Slovakia
- 11.11 - 14.11 Training "Social Work with Families, where Child Abuse has Occurred" in Poland
- 16.11 - 17.11 "Short Therapy Focused on Solution" Training in Tallinn
- 21.11 "Rehabilitation of Sexually Abused Children" training in Tallinn
- 23.11 Conference "Worries of Our Child" in Tallinn
- 23.11 Probation Supervision Conference in Tallinn

In 2001 the following trainings were conducted:

- "How to Recognise an Abused Child" for social workers, 27 participants.
- "Discussion of the Cases of Abused Children", for social workers of self-governments, 26 participants.
- "School Violence", 35 students participated.
- Conference "At-Risk Child", in Tallinn, 147 specialists participated
- Seminar for students "Against School Violence", 345 students participated
- Conference "Protection of a Child against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Traffic in the Baltics", 68 participants (international).
- "Work with At-Risk Children, with their Families and the Community" 28 specialists, as well as 22 children participated (international).
- "The Role of The Teacher in the Finding Out of Abused Children and in Rendering Assistance to Them", 7 teachers participated.
- Part I of training "How to Teach Children (aged 7-10) Social Skills", 19 participants.
- Part II of training "How to Teach Children aged (7-10) Social Skills" 19 participants
- Training day of the Child Psychologist's Association "Possibilities of the Social System for Rendering Assistance to a Child and the Rights of the Child", 21 psychologists participated.

- "Work with Children, Who Have Experienced a Trauma", 12 participants (teachers, doctors, social workers, psychologists)
- "Work with Sexually Abused Children", 9 specialists participated (international).
- Seminar for teachers "How to Teach Children aged (7-10) Social Skills", 16 teachers participated
- "Work with Children, Who Have Experienced a Trauma", 14 participants (teachers, doctors, social workers, psychologists).

In 2002 the following trainings were conducted:

- Training for teachers "A Difficult Child" at Kuressaare Upper Secondary School.
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Pärnjõe Basic School, 13 children and 7 parents participated
- Training for teachers "A Difficult Child at School", Rahumäe Basic School.
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Toila Upper Secondary School, 28 children and 9 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Jäneda Basic School, 30 children and 6 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Muuga Basic School, 23 children participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Toila Upper Secondary School, 28 children and 9 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Võsu Basic School, 30 children and 13 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Pärnjõe Basic School, 13 children and 7 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Võsu Basic School, 30 children and 13 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Jäneda Basic School, 30 children and 6 parents participated
- Training "How to Teach Children Social Skills" at Võsu Basic School, 30 children and 13 parents participated

- Training “How to Teach Children Social Skills” at Hageri School, 15 children and 7 parents participated
- For police psychologists work in network training, 6 participants
- Training “How to Teach Children Social Skills” at Lelle Basic School, 25 children and 11 parents participated
- Training day for social workers, 16 participants.
- Report on Midwives Day in Tartu.
- Lecture for Valga and Põlva Committee for Drug Prevention “Psychosocial Reasons for Drug Abuse”
- Lecture for the parents of adopted children “Risks and Fears of Adoption”, 20 people participated
- Training day in Pärsti rural municipality “School Teasing, a Difficult Child”, 25 people participated
- Training for the employees of Tallinn city district governments “Social and Psychological Reasons for Taking Drugs”
- Lecture at Westholm School in Tallinn “School Teasing”, teachers participated
- Lecture at Westholm School in Tallinn “School Teasing”, teachers participated
- Lecture at Aegviidu Basic School “An Abused Child”, teachers participated
- Lecture at Käina School of Hiiumaa “Family Violence, School Violence”, teachers participated
- Lecture at Tallinn Teachers’ House “School Violence”
- Lecture at Tallinn Üldgümnaasium (General Upper Secondary School) “Communication and the Solving of a Conflict”, teachers participated
- Lecture for parents at Ristiku Basic School “Child with Problems”

In 2003 the following trainings were conducted:

- 03.01. “Child with Problems in an Ordinary School” Võrusoo Basic School
- 08.01. “Child with Problems in an Ordinary School” teachers of Northern Tallinn
- 21.01. “Reasons for Violence” Loksa Upper Secondary School, report at the round table



- 31.01. “Behaviour Disorders of Children” training of the employees of the Centre for Children at Risk
- 21.02. “Child Abuse” in Tallinn Children Support Centre for 22 persons
- 27.02. “Child with Problems in an Ordinary School” for teachers of Kadrina Upper Secondary School
- 16-18.03. “School Teasing, Child with Problems” training of teachers
- 20.03. “School Teasing, Child with Problems” Vihasoo Nursery-Primary School, training of teachers
- 21.03. “School Teasing. Child with Problems” Kose Upper Secondary School
- 26.03. “School Teasing. Child with Problems” Kaiu Basic School
- 15.04. “Child with Problems” Sikupilli Upper Secondary School, lecture for teachers
- 24.04. “School violence” Gustav Adolf Upper Secondary School, lecture for students
- 29.09 “School Teasing” group work with the girls of the 8<sup>th</sup> form of Merivälja Basic School
- 10.12 “Behaviour Problems of Children” lecture and group work for parents in Kaiu Basic School
- 17.12. “Violence of Children” lecture for youth workers of Tallinn Open Youth Centre
- 19.12. “Mistreatment of Children” training for police officers in Tallinn

Tallinn Children Support Centre co-operates with other organisations of the same field, such as the Union for Child Welfare, Unicef Estonia, non-profit association Estonian Society for Birth and Breastfeeding, Union of Estonian Midwives, non-profit association Counselling Centre of Children and Youth, non-profit association Tartu Support Centre for Abused Children, Family Planning Association of Estonia, Tallinn Centre for Children at Risk, Tallinn Orphanage, Tallinn Pedagogical College, Estonian Public Service Academy, Tallinn Pedagogical University, Tartu University, Estonian National Agency for the EU Youth Program, Estonian Children’s Fund, non-profit association Crisis Program for Children and Youth.

**Question No 36**

Non-profit associations dealing with combat of violence against children can submit project applications to the Gambling Tax Act Council, who will select out of the applications more sustainable and innovative projects and fund them. Annually the Union for Child Welfare gets funding from the Gambling Tax Act Council. Projects of non-profit associations concerning violence against children are funded also in the framework of national programs, e.g. the health program of children and youth will be funded until 2005.

The Ministry of Justice proclaimed a competition for crime prevention projects forming a framework for non-profit associations, foundations, sole proprietors, as well as units of local self-governments to apply for money to finance prevention activities. The biggest possible support for one project amounts to 200,000 EEK. Altogether half a million Estonian kroons will be distributed to those dealing with crime prevention.

Such projects are treated as crime preventive, which are focused on achieving the following purposes:

- 1) Changing of attitudes towards life and habits of behaviour of young people inclined towards absence from school, addiction to pleasurable substances or other bad behaviour.
- 2) Promoting based on the initiative of population of a certain region of activities and devices hindering in the first place the commission of criminal offences against property, as well as criminal offences and breaches of public order, the dissemination of the corresponding know-how;
- 3) Social re-adaptation of persons having served a prison sentence or some other criminal punishment.

### **Question No 37**

The media has a very big role in raising the problem of violence against children and in initiating a public discussion. Up to the present that has been done mainly through the coverage of individual cases and the results of different studies, but a deeper and more consistent treatment of the topic has remained rather scanty. Very often situations arise, when the involvement in the media coverage of a child is contrary to

his/her interests, especially in case of a crisis, accident or crime. In connection with that problems arise: who is responsible for guaranteeing the child's interests in the media; is it necessary at all to cover such individual cases in the media or should not one talk about negative events related to children altogether.

The media campaigns "Stop Child Spanking! Talk to him/her" of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare to prevent corporal punishment have raised public excitement. In 2002/2003 the project "The Media and the Rights of the Child" of the Union for Child Welfare was carried out in co-operation with Unicef Estonia and it was launched with the funding of the Baltic American Partnership Program of the Open Estonia Foundation, as well as the Gambling Tax Act Council. The purpose of the project was the analysis of the situation in the Estonian media from the point of view of the protection of the rights and interests of the child; the raising in the society of the problem of the violation of the rights of the child in the media.

#### **IV. CHILDREN AS ACTORS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE**

##### **Question No 38**

Drafting the concept of child welfare, which in the future will become the basis for writing the new child welfare act and for other proposals for making amendments in the laws, among other things on the subject of violence against children, was begun early in 2004. A representative workgroup was formed to draft the concept where representatives of children from Estonian School Student Councils' Union (ESCU) and the Union of Estonian Youth Societies belong. The ESCU currently joins the School Student Councils of 256 schools and altogether 145 258 students study in those schools. The Union of Estonian Youth Societies joins 40 different young persons' unions.

For preventing school violence the students self-government bodies of schools are supported through Estonian Students Committees Union ([www.escu.ee](http://www.escu.ee)). The supporting student movement can also be highlighted ([www.tore.ee](http://www.tore.ee)) and the "School guard" project which was started in 2003. There are many active students self-government bodies on a local level.

The realisation of the project of the Union for Child Welfare “Stop violence” (2001-2004) has been based on the participation of the young people and on their involvement in prevention and appraisal on school violence and teasing, also on designing condemnatory attitudes towards violence among the young. Young people in schools have been the prepares and executers of the activities of the project, they have been involved in studies dealing with violence and teasing among primary school students. From 2001 to 2003 the student conference “Stop violence” has taken place locally in schools taking part of the project and once a year nationally the students have given a review of the work done during the year for prevention of violence. The young people have been very actively involved in preparing for and carrying out the conferences. In addition there have been traditional summer camps where 200 young people have taken part. The young are involved in the preparational process and also in carrying out the camp programme. The camp concentrates on increasing tolerance and reducing violence among the young people.

The Union for Child Welfare founded a young people’s body in June 2004, which comprised of 20 active members, aged 14-18 and the aims of which are:

- To inform itself and others of the existence of violence
- To inform itself and others that violence is not normal
- To map violence (gather information)
- To find facilities for preventing violence
- To inform itself and others of the rights of children
- To introduce the laws to the children and the young
- To distribute information

In Tallinn Children Support Centre most of the children are aged 12 to 16, the number of boys and girls has roughly been in balance. However more boys are involved in the work of the Day care centre, which is a new service offered by the Support Centre from March 2003. The children are directed to the Day care centre’s work through Juvenile Committees or by social welfare department’s letter of direction. The children’s opinion is taken more into account in the everyday work of the Day care centre, where the work methodology is to use the support person service. With regard

to this work the opinion of the child/young person is very important. Also the opinion of the children is taken into account and the children are involved in work with counselling cases. This especially applies to cases where the subject of appointing custody rights is under discussion.

In a summary, the opinion of children is taken into account and they are involved in work provided that it does not affect their rights nor be a risk to their health.

### **Question no.39**

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure there are the following articles dealing with minors specifically:

#### **§ 70. Specifications concerning hearing of witnesses who are minors**

A witness under 14 years of age shall be heard in the presence of a child protection official, social worker or psychologist. The body conducting the proceedings may involve a child protection official, social worker or psychologist in the hearing of a minor over 14 years of age.

#### **§ 290. Specifications concerning hearing of witnesses who are minors**

- (1) In the hearing of a witness under 14 years of age, he or she shall not be cross-examined.
- (2) A witness who is a minor of less than 14 years of age shall be heard in the presence of a child protection official, social worker or psychologist who may question the witness with the permission of the judge. The body conducting the proceeding may involve a child protection official, social worker or psychologist in the hearing of a minor over 14 years of age.
- (3) A judge shall make a proposal to a witness who is a minor to tell the court everything he or she knows concerning the criminal matter.
- (4) After a witness who is a minor has given testimony, he or she shall be examined by the parties to the court proceeding in the order determined by the court.
- (5) The court shall overrule leading and irrelevant questions.

(6) If the presence of a minor is not necessary after he or she has been heard, the court shall ask him or her to leave the courtroom.

**§ 291. Disclosure in court proceeding of testimony given by witness in pre-trial procedure**

At the request of a party to a court proceeding, the court may order that the testimony given by a witness in pre-trial procedure be disclosed if:

- 1) The witness is dead;
- 2) The witness refuses to give testimony in the course of examination by the court;
- 3) The witness fails to appear in the court session with good reason;
- 4) The whereabouts of the witness cannot be ascertained;
- 5) The witness cannot appear in court due to some other irremovable obstacle.

Minors also fall under Subsection 5 of § 291 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. As appearing in court could cause minors emotional distress their statements given in the pre-court procedure are used to disclose in court without the need for the minor witness to appear in court.

The text of the Code of Criminal Procedure is available: [www.legaltext.ee](http://www.legaltext.ee)

**Question No 40**

Youth unions including ESCU and the student union Open Republic are supported through the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Support students and school guard are supported through the medium of the Gambling Tax Council and projects of the third sector are also supported through the same medium.

The resources directed through the Ministry of Education and Research to support the after school activities of children and the youth amount to the sum of 65 million Estonian kroons to the 374 000 children and youth aged 7-26. Exact amount of money directly related to the fighting against violence against children cannot be pointed out because the allottees compile their specific action plans themselves.

In addition to the youth work coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Research, a part of which is increasing the children's involvement, the local governments offer for the children the possibility to be involved in activities of different forms and to different extent. For example, some bigger local governments have formed young people's municipal councils and/or taken a representative of the young people as their advisor.

## **V. POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

### **Question No 41**

On 16 October 2003 the government approved "The Strategy of Guaranteeing the Rights of the Child" stating the national aims for advancing the protection of the rights of the child until the year 2008.

Every year an action plan is compiled with specific actions for implementing the aims of the strategy. Up to now the government has approved the action plan for 2004 and the action plan for 2005 has been sent to the government to be approved.

The strategy and the action plans do not set different goals or differentiate between activities meant for boys and girls.

The action plan for 2004 dictates certain activities for the police for meeting the basic and special needs of children. These activities by the police have been planned into its budget.

The following are some of the most important activities by the police for adopting the measures provided in the plan:

For addressing the basic needs of children in-service training about family violence is arranged, for example for the police officers. In the in-service training programme also the clinical symptomology of ill treatment of children is covered so as the police

officers would be able to direct attention to the signals indicating ill treatment. To prevent the ill treatment of children, for example in the East Police Prefecture in the county of Ida-Viru including in Narva, two prostitution prevention projects for minor girls have been launched. In the co-operation of the police, the local administrations and the social departments informative campaigns for children and youth to clarify how to act as a victim of ill treatment and how to get help from the police and others are being conducted.

The special treatment of children lawbreakers is guaranteed for meeting their special needs. The police officers investigating the criminal cases of minors have covered an in-service course on “Investigating the crimes of minors”. As a result of this training it is understood that the treatment of lawbreaking minors should differ from the treatment of adults. The victims of trafficking, child prostitution, the Internet pornography and sexually abused children are given special attention in the criminal proceedings. The possibilities of the specially furnished interrogation rooms for children are used to the maximum in order to prevent the multiple traumatising of children during the criminal investigations. An investigation room for children is going to be built in the new rooms of the North Police Prefecture.

The Crime Prevention Council was formed by the order of the government where besides the Ministers of Justice, Education and Research, Culture, Internal Affairs, Social Affairs and Finance belong representatives of several authorities important from the aspect of criminal prevention like the chief of police, the state prosecutor and others. According to the decision of the parliament the patterns of development of criminal policy have been validated up until the year 2010, which among other things sets as a goal for the Ministry of Education and Science together with the Ministry of Social Affairs to develop a system, which will allow to notice and eliminate the shortcomings in the child’s environment as soon as possible.

### **Questions No 42 and 43**

The Strategy of Guaranteeing the Rights of the Child together with the action plan for assuring the rights of the child among other things also deals with actions taken to



decrease the amount of violence against children. Every year the Ministry of Social Affairs presents the government with a report on the completing of the action plans.

The strategy includes indicators to measure the achieving of goals. The government gives account to the parliament of the effectuation of the crime prevention action plan, which is based on the patterns of development of criminal policy until 2010.

The Ministry of Social Affairs finances the actions of Tartu Children's Support Centre as the contact centre of children-at-risk of the Baltic Sea countries. As a part of this financing the public, children and the youth are informed on the subjects of violence against children, pimping and sexual exploitation of children and the youth and improving of the skills of the professionals dealing with children. The Tartu Children's Support Centre reports to the Ministry of Social Affairs of the actions taken in this field.

The Estonian Union for Child Welfare presents its annual reports to the Ministry of Education and Science and to the Gambling Tax Council.

The national health programme for children and youths up to 2005 is engaged with school violence. The schools are supplied with instructions through the TORE (support students) movement on how to treat children who are violent, have behavioural and dependence disorders.

In the framework of the national welfare programmes from 2000 to 2002 there were many actions, which helped to prevent the ill treatment of children and fighting the consequences. The programmes contained activities like organising camps for children, finding ways to pass the children's free time in daycentres, dealing with the upbringing problems of children, planning the free time of the children in risk groups, organising summer camps for children with special needs, getting tutors for problematic young men, starting the work of daycentres.

The Ministry of Education and Science has developed a programme for fighting against school violence.

#### **Question No 44**

Estonia takes part in the workgroup for children at risk of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. This workgroup is involved in work in the following five fields:

Sexual exploitation

Street children and children without families

Children in institutions

Young offenders and self-destructive behaviour

Unaccompanied minors

The workgroup draws up annual action plans for each field. In addition to the workgroup, where mostly the officials from the Baltic Sea countries belong, each country has one or more competence centres. The Estonian competence centre is the Tartu Children's Support Centre.

A joint website has been created in the framework of this cooperation [www.chilcentre.baltinfo.org](http://www.chilcentre.baltinfo.org), where information about the cooperation of the Baltic Sea countries and of the above-mentioned topics is available.

#### **VI. DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH**

##### **Questions No 45-48**

In 2004 the Tartu Children's Support Centre together with the University of Tartu and with the support of the Gambling Tax Council conducted a social study of "Experiences of Sexual Abuse and Attitudes Among Estonian Adolescents". The study was conducted from April to May 2003. The respondents were 1943 16 to 19 year old students of general schools and vocational schools. The study was conducted with the purpose of finding out how much and what kind of sexual abuse the young people of Estonia have experienced, what are their attitudes towards sexual abuse and how the experiences of abuse affect their behaviour. A unit that measures verbal and physical violence was also added to the form.

The summary of the study can be found on the Internet:

<http://www.childcentre.baltinfo.org/research/researchpr/estonia/dbaFile11266.html>

In 2001 to 2003 in the framework of the project of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare “Stop violence” several studies on the following subjects have been conducted:

The Many Faces of School Violence (by Kristi Kõiv, 2001)

The Attitudes of Students Towards Teasing and the Characterisation of Teasing Behaviour (by Kristi Kõiv, 2002)

The Events Connected to Violence in the Mass Media and the Close Surroundings of the Students (by Kristi Kõiv, 2002)

I Think that... or the Possibilities of Dealing With or Preventing Violence (by Kristi Kõiv, 2003)

The studies are available on the Internet in Estonian <http://www.lastekaitseliit.ee/lkl.php/18/>

In addition to the previous studies there are the following studies conducted in the same field:

The Sexual Mistreatment of Children (by M. Rosenthal, K. Tilk, 1999)

School Teasing (by K. Kõiv, 2000)

The Mistreatment of Teenagers in Estonia: the Risk Factors and the Consequences (by K. Soo and I. Soo, 2002)

In 2000 the Estonian Union for Child Welfare conducted a survey on the mistreatment of children. The survey is available on the following webpage <http://www.lastetugi.ee/materjalid.html>

The support centre has also composed a survey “Child in an institution”, which is added to the appendices section of this study.

In its work the support centre has interviewed the children and parents about mistreatment but a study on this topic has not been produced. It can be claimed that violence is not caused by the behaviour of the victim but by the low tolerance, low consideration of others and other social skills of the violently behaving person.

#### **Question No 49**

At the moment a draft act of establishing cause of death and regulating pathological activities is being elaborated, according to the draft act an expertise by the forensic scientist and a patoanatomical autopsy is performed on the deceased with signs of violence. The patoanatomic autopsy must be carried out on the death of: a newborn child, a child under 12 months old, a child weighing 500g or more at birth or born on the 22nd week of pregnancy showing signs of life (i.e. heartbeat, breathing, foetal movement) and a stillborn child weighing 500g or more at birth.

The police begin a criminal procedure when in the case of a death of a person signs of a crime or doubt of a crime arises. The patoanatomical autopsy is carried out to determine the unclear cause of death, when death has come through illness to determine the length of the illness or if it is necessary from the point of view of the general healthcare and quality of the healthcare

#### **Questions No 52 and 53**

Three tables of crimes against minors are added to the document.

The court statistics have been presented in the first part of the study.

Next to indicators of crimes against children the number of children who have turned to a shelter or rehabilitation centre because of violence can also be displayed. These cases have been registered in 2000 to 2003 as follows:

2000 – 146 children

2001 – 134 children

2002 – 170 children

2003 – 204 children

## VII. AWARENESS, ADVOCACY AND TRAINING

### Questions No 54-55

In 2004 in cooperation of police, local governments and social institutions informative campaigns for children and youths to clarify how to act as a victim of ill-treatment and how to get help from the police and others are carried out.

The Estonian police are constantly handling the preventing and stopping of crimes against children. This year's priority of the Estonian police is intensification of fighting against drug-related crimes and crimes related to minors and family violence. The police are additionally taking part in many NGO's programmes, for example the "Child and violence" programme of the Estonian Union for Child Welfare, from 2001 the police takes part in the "Peace in school" of the Estonian Youth work Centre. The police organised a writing competition, the subject was "What I would not want to talk about...". The children submitted essays on violence and other subjects they were concerned with.

In 2000 in the framework of the "The week of supporting children – the victims" during the month of criminal prevention another subject was "Notice the mistreated child". During that week special boxes were installed in schools where the children could leave notes about their problems, staying anonymous if they wished. Police officers, school psychologists, children's welfare workers and others read the notes and helped to find solutions for their problems. Similar projects are still being conducted.

The important fields that the police deal with in the prevention work connected with children are:

- Actual protection from drugs (systematic police operations to schools, to entertainment establishments, and also active drug addiction prevention work among the youth)
- Handling the problems of school violence (in cooperation with the Estonian Youth work Centre, support students, student governments – taking part in the work of the peace in school network).

- Handling the problems of physically, sexually and/or mentally abused minors, applying the measures and intensifying the cooperation with corresponding institutions as to discover and prevent the abuse of children as quickly as possible.

The Ministry of Education and Science has during the past school year given special attention to school violence, introducing into statutes articles that aid the prevention of school violence, notifying the schools through media and accentuating successful school violence prevention programmes.

### **Question No 55**

Print media	✓
Radio	✓
Television	✓
Theatre	-
Schools	✓
Others	✓ (outdoor media)

### **Question No 56**

The Ministry of Social Affairs finances the work of the Tartu Children's Support Centre as the contact point of the Baltic Sea countries. In this framework, among other things, takes place the improving of the knowledge and skills of specialists working with children on the subjects of violence against children, the pimping of children and the youth and sexual exploiting.

The Tartu Children's Support Centre conducts the Child Assault Prevention Programme (CAP), which is supported by the Ministry of Education and Science. The Ministry of Education and Science has trained teachers, youth workers and members of the minors committees. 3% of the teachers' salary expenses, which is guaranteed by the state, is spent on additional training of the teachers therefore the number of the courses that the teachers cover is quite large. At the same time every school is free to

choose which additional training programmes to take part in, so it cannot be said for sure how much of the training has been about prevention of violence. The prevention of risk behaviour training of youth workers has been supported, among others, through the framework of the integration programme of non-Estonians. The training of youth workers is as a general rule the choice and decision of the local authorities, as the support from the Government is limited. The Government funds the training of the members of county minor committees.



**TALLINN CHILDREN SUPPORT CENTRE'S RESEARCH: CHILD IN INSTITUTION BY EXAMPLE OF SHELTER**

**ENGLISH VERSION  
SUMMARY**

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According to the Statistical Office of Estonia there were 1591 children in Estonia who used shelter services in year 2002 and the main reasons of staying there were being outside after 23 o'clock, domestic situation and drug abuse.  
 In year 2002 the number of children brought to shelter by police because of being outside after 23 o'clock, formed 30,7%. That fact is very alarming when looked from standpoint of children's social risk factors.

In years 2001-2002 from all children who turned to shelters all over Estonian, one-third that is 32% formed the same reason - being outside after 23 o'clock. Second alarming fact is fast-growing number of children who use drugs. Comparing to four last years, from year 1999 the number of children who came to shelters because of using drugs has risen, whereby in year 2002 the rate was 2,5 times higher compared to previous year.

This paper will give an overview of children who used Tallinn Children Support Center's Shelter services in year 2002. The statistics reflects the situation of children who stayed in the shelter, including the reasons and ways of coming to shelter, data about their educational level, family consistence, living place etc.

Different comparisons and analyses made by the data of Tallinn Children Support Center's Shelter have helped to create associations and make conclusions about the children who used shelter services.

Further connection with society and those children depends importantly on efficiency of functioning of the network outside family – established support systems of governmental and local level; prevention work and network of child care specialists.

**Consequently general data of children (all together 393) who used Tallinn Children Support Center's Shelter services: in year 2002 there were at most children aged 13 years old - 18,1% and 14 years old 16,5%.**

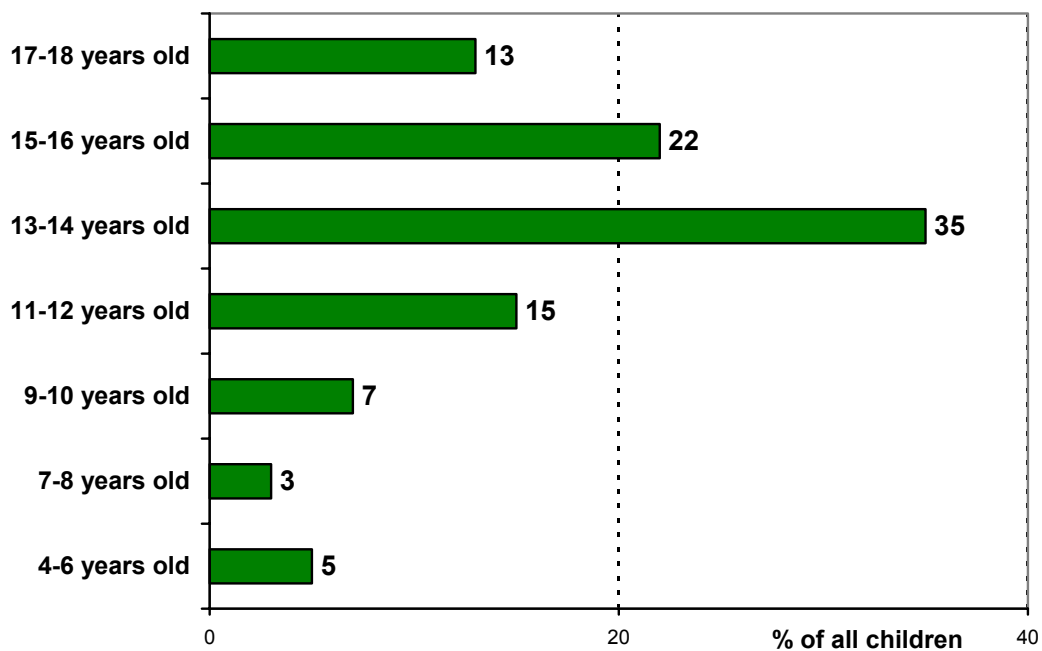
**The age group 13-14 years old formed 35%, 15-16 years old formed 22% and 11-12 years old 15%. 7-8 years old children were 3% and 4-6 years old were 5%.**

Table 1. Age of children who were in TCSC's Shelter in year 2002

Age	Number	%
4	9	<b>2,3</b>
5	4	<b>1,0</b>

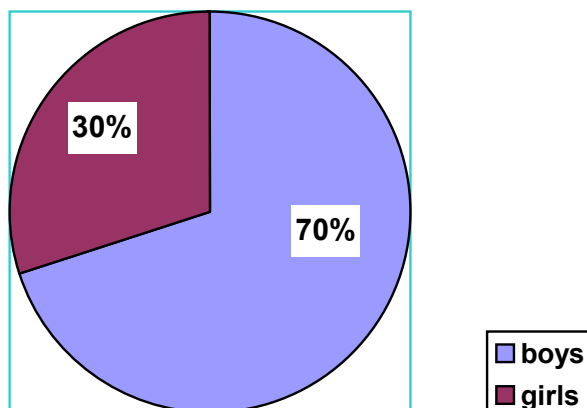
6	6	1,5
7	6	1,5
8	5	1,3
9	13	3,3
10	13	3,3
11	36	9,2
12	25	6,4
13	71	18,1
14	65	16,5
15	44	11,2
16	44	11,2
17	37	9,4
18	15	3,8
Total	393	100,0

**Figure 1. Age of children who were in TCSC's Shelter in year 2002**



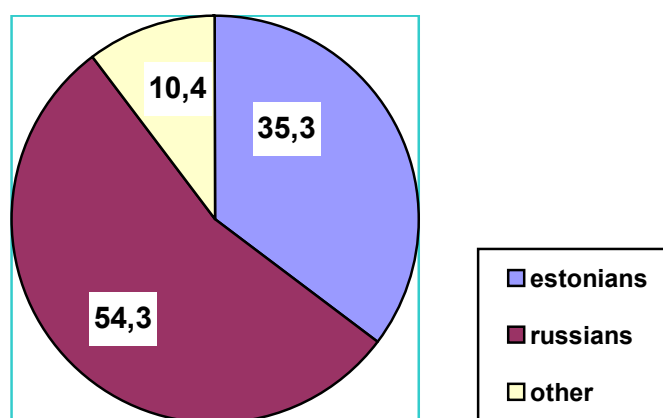
On basis of gender differences 70% of children who stayed in shelter in year 2002 were boys and 30% were girls.

**Figure 2. Gender distribution of children in the shelter**



On basis of ethnical differences 54,3% of children who stayed in shelter in year 2002 were Russians, 35,3% were Estonians and 10,4% were from other nationality.

Figure 3. Ethnical distribution of children in the shelter



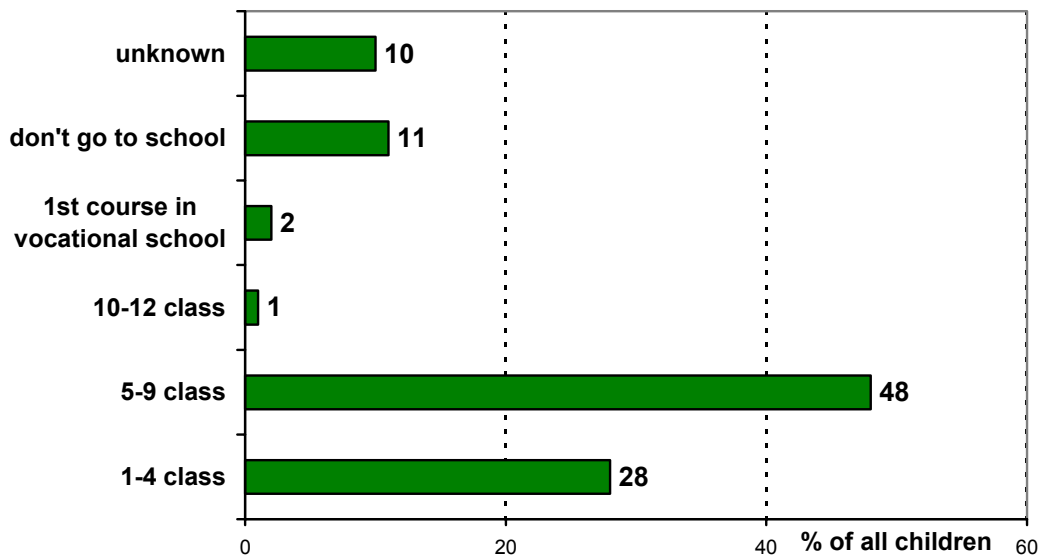
By statistics of educational institutions where children were going during their stay in the shelter we can bring forth two different indicators. Following table gives an overview of children's official school attendance – child has started to study in some educational institution and goes to school. In year 2002 8,4% of children who stayed in the shelter didn't go to school at all.

**Table 2. Educational institutions where children were going during their stay in the shelter**

	Number	%
Primary school	251	<b>64,2</b>
Special boarding school	53	<b>13,6</b>
Doesn't go to school	33	<b>8,4</b>
Vocational school	23	<b>5,9</b>
Unknown	22	<b>5,6</b>
Kindergarten	4	<b>1,0</b>
Goes to work	3	<b>0,8</b>
High school	2	<b>0,5</b>
Total	391	100,0
Unanswered	2	
Total	393	

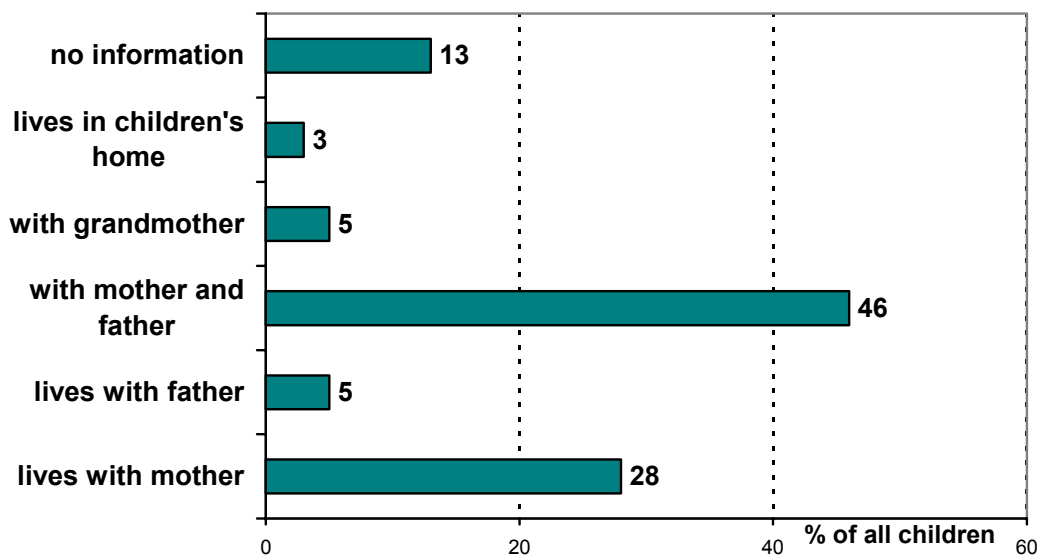
Figure 4 shows children's educational level during their stay in the shelter. Indicators are based on children's questioning by shelter workers, when they aimed to get the information in which class child attended to. By the answerers of children 10,5% didn't go to school at all. 17,1% of children attended in 4th class follows 6th class (15,1%) and 5th class (10,2%). Only 5,4% of children attended to primary school's last class. And 2,3% of children who stayed in the shelter in year 2002 were Going to I course.

Figure 4. Educational level of children in the shelter



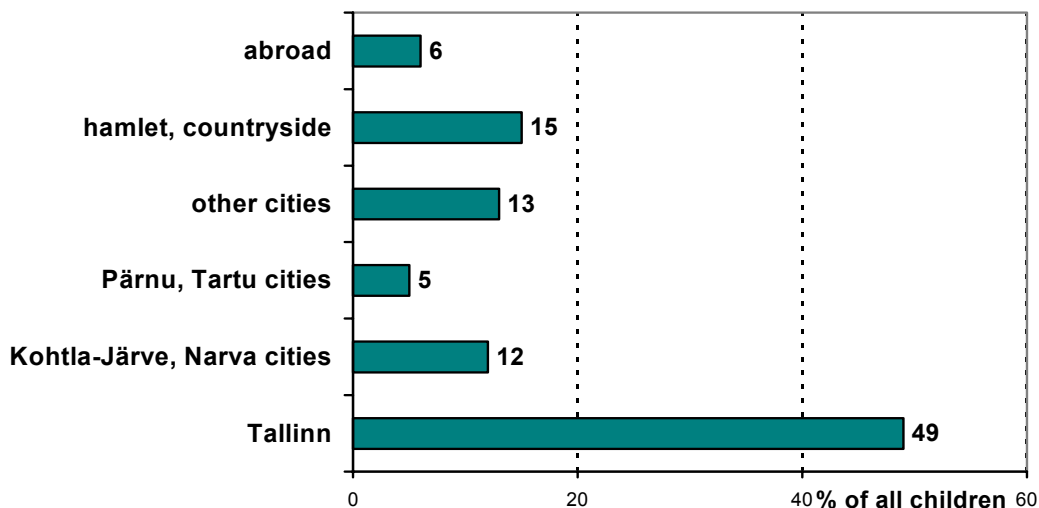
Almost half of children 45,8% that used shelter service lived according to their words together with mother and father. 28% lived with mother and 3,1% lived in children's home.

Figure 5. The composition of families, considering adults who lived together with the child



Half of the children (49,4%) who used TCSC shelter service were living in Tallinn and 12,2% were living in Kohtla-Järve and Narva City. 5,1% of children from Pärnu and Tartu City used shelter service in year 2002. 14,8% of children came from country sides and 13% from other cities.

Figure 6. Permanent place of residence of children



During the month 43% of children used shelter service for 1 day, 10,7% for 2 days and 6,1% for 3 days. At the same time 5,3% of children stayed in shelter for 30 days per month. After 1-day-staying, 22,9% of children used shelter service for 2-5 days, follows 21-31 days - 13,2%.

Table 3. Conclusion of days spent in shelter in groups

	Number	%
1 day	169	43,0

2-5 days	90	22,9
6-10 days	39	9,9
11-20 days	43	10,9
21-31 days	52	13,2
Total	393	100,0

Mostly child turned 1 time to TCSC shelter service (76,4%) during a month, 11,8% of children turned 2 times during a month.

Table 4. Number of turns spent in shelter during a month

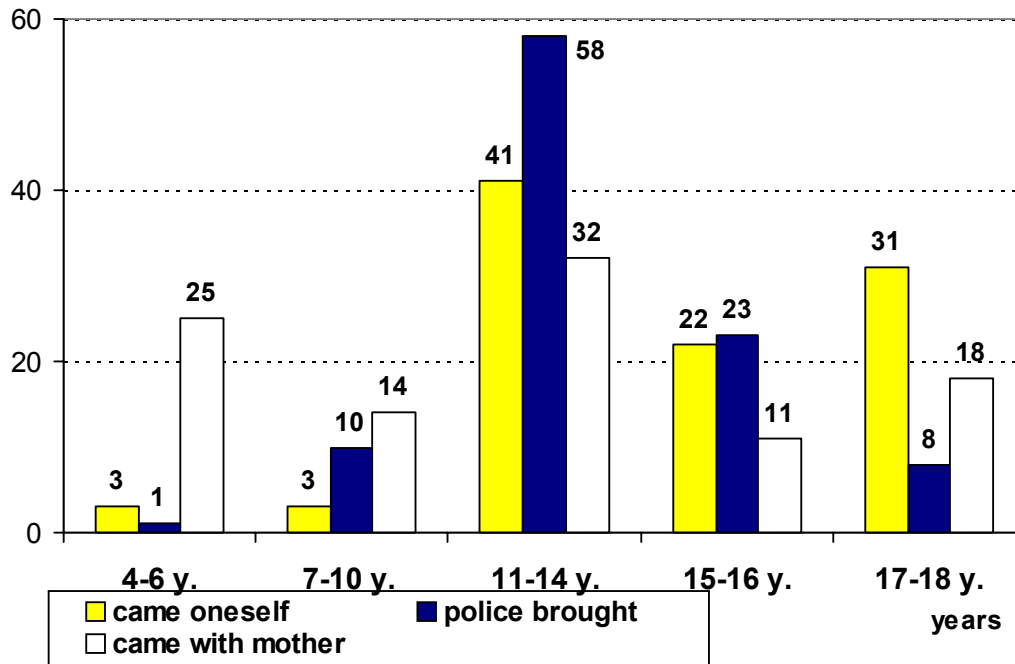
	Number	%
1	253	<b>76,4</b>
2	39	<b>11,8</b>
3	15	<b>4,5</b>
4	10	<b>3,0</b>
5	7	<b>2,1</b>
6	3	<b>0,9</b>
7	1	<b>0,3</b>
9	1	<b>0,3</b>
10	1	<b>0,3</b>
13	1	<b>0,3</b>
Total	331	100,0
Unanswered (hasn't stayed 2 times)	62	
	393	

In most cases children were brought to the shelter by police, which constitute 59,6% of all cases. Also 2nd time in month when children come to the shelter the way of coming remained the same - police brought 83,3% of children to the shelter.

Table 5. The way of coming to the shelter (1st time in month)

	Number	%
Came oneself	71	<b>18,5</b>
Some adult brought	9	<b>2,3</b>
Police brought	229	<b>59,6</b>
First aid, fire company brought	2	<b>0,5</b>
Child care worker, shelters worker brought	22	<b>5,7</b>
Came with mother	44	<b>11,5</b>
Total	383	100,0
Unanswered	16	
Total	393	

Figure 7. Distribution of the age of children by the ways of coming to the shelter (%)



Mainly the reason of coming to the shelter was being outside after 23, that constitute one-third, that's 30,7% of all cases in year 2002 (that is in accordance with data in Estonia overall), whereby the named reason has risen compared with previous year.

When in all Estonian shelters drug abuse was rising as the reason of staying in shelters in previous year, than in TCSC shelter the named problem has remained almost the same during two years period (10% of all staying in year 2002). But these numbers doesn't refer to stabilization of adolescent drug-abusers apprehended by police in Tallinn. In year 2002 there was an opportunity to direct children with apparent signs of drug abuse to Tallinn Children Hospital, to department for children and adolescents drug abusers. Children who didn't have a place to live constitute 16,6% of all cases of staying in shelter. These risk group children are closely related to their family's great socialization risks.

Special attention and immediate prevention work is needed when dealing with children who need shelter's service several times a year.

83,3% of children were brought to shelter second time by police and 16,7% of children turned themselves. 30,1% of cases the reason was being outside after 23:00 o'clock and 28,8% were under clue or drug dose.

**Table 6. The reason of coming to the shelter (1st time in month)**

	Number	%
Being outside after 23	111	<b>30,7</b>
Hasn't got a living place	60	<b>16,6</b>
Run away from home	55	<b>15,2</b>
Under clue or drug dose	36	<b>10,0</b>
Missed transportation	26	<b>7,2</b>



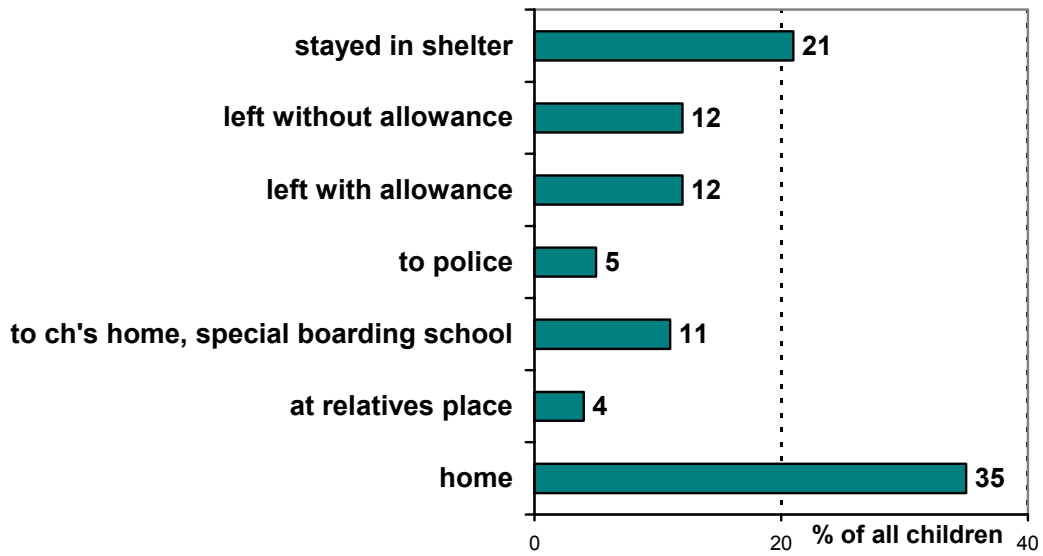
Unknown reason	22	<b>6,1</b>
Delinquency	17	<b>4,7</b>
Stealing	13	<b>3,6</b>
Begging	9	<b>2,5</b>
Sleeping in public place	7	<b>1,9</b>
Being drunk	4	<b>1,1</b>
Being with drug-dealer	1	<b>0,3</b>
Total	361	100,0
Unanswered	32	
Total	393	

Children's leaving from shelter or directing them further gives important information about children with social risk factors. According to table 7 39,5% of children goes home or to relatives place from shelter. 12,5% get away without permission. The shelter's workers do not have the rights to hold them. Only 9,2% of children were directed further to Center for Children at Risk, which is special center for drug addicted children, because of using psychoactive drugs (alcohol, drugs), in year 2002.

**Table 7. Leaving from shelter – where children go**

Went where	Number	%
Home	139	<b>35,4</b>
Stayed in shelter	81	<b>20,6</b>
Left without allowance	49	<b>12,5</b>
Left with allowance	45	<b>11,5</b>
To children's home	36	<b>9,2</b>
To police	20	<b>5,1</b>
To relatives place	16	<b>4,1</b>
To special boarding school	4	<b>1,0</b>
To hospital	3	<b>0,8</b>
Total	393	100,0

Figure 8. Leaving from shelter – where children go



Also we have done statistics that shows the relation of ethnicity and reasons of children stayed in the shelter; gender distribution of children by main ways of coming to the shelter; age distribution of children by main reasons of staying in the shelter; nationality distribution of children by main reasons of their staying in the shelter. All this is available in completed English version.