*Courtesy translation*

**Information on the protection of children’s rights in the Republic of Moldova on the theme “Information and communications technology and child sexual exploitation” pursuant to**

**Human Rights Resolution 28/19 on the rights of the child**

Legal framework

* Action Plan on the prevention and fight against cybercrime 2013-2015, adopted in 2013;
* Law no. 20 from 23 February 2009 on the prevention and fight against cybercrime;
* Law no. 30 from 7 arch 2013 on the protection of children against the negative impact of information (in force 5 July 2013).

International legal framework

* Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime from 23 November 2001, ratified by RM on 2 February 2009;
* Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse from 25 October 2007, ratified by RM on 19 December 2011;
* Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children,   
  child prostitution and child pornography, ratified by RM on 13 December 2011;
* European Parliament and European Council Directive 2011/92/UE from 13 December 2011 on the fight against Sexual Abuse of Children, Sexual Exploitation and Child Pornography;

Statistics

* In 2014, victims of crimes were 1122 children, while in 2013, 892 crimes were perpetrated against children. In 2014, 7 criminal cases were initiated for crimes against life and health (in 2013 – 20 cases), 35 criminal cases for bodily injury (in 2013 – 22). In 223 cases, children were victims of crimes related to sexual life (in 2013 – 166 cases), in 44 cases, children were abused in their families (by biological father – 14 cases, by concubine – 16 cases, by other relatives – 14 cases). In 2014, the criminal investigation bodies of the Republic of Moldova initiated 11 criminal cases on charges of child pornography (in 2013 – 15 cases) out of which 3 persons were convicted.
* In the first semester of 2015, there were 148 cases in which children were victims of crimes related to sexual life, including 24 cases of family abuse (by biological father – 7 cases, by concubine – 6 cases, by other relatives – 11 cases). In the same period, there were 12 cases initiated on grounds of child pornography.

Achievements

* Adoption of Declaration of ministers of justice and ministers of interior Facilitating International Cooperation in Online Child Sexual Abuse Investigations, during the Conference of the Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online (Washington, 29-30 September 2014);
* Signing of the Declaration calling for greater cooperation to better identify and protect abuse victims, including via Interpol’s International Child Sexual Exploitation global database (London, 10-11 December 2011);
* Attendance of international project “I-CARE” of Interpol that allows more efficient analysis of data containing child pornography;

Challenges

* Use of direct data exchange among users, leaving no traces in “History” of computers or in logos of service providers;
* Use of a new modus operandi which implies the infection of potential victim’s system with malware programmes, determining them to actions of sexual nature;
* Use by perpetrators of social networks (“odnoklassniki.ru”, “vkontakte”, “love.mail.ru”, “ilove.md:, “mamba.ru”, “loveplanet.ru”, etc.), which allows a direct contact between the abuser and victim, hidden ID and the high risk that children are exposed to when using Internet;
* Lack of shelters for children-victims, in order to help them integrate into society, lack of cooperation between Ministry of Interior and social networks operators;
* Need to incriminate the act of discussion of sexual nature between the abuser and the child;

Perspectives

* End 2015 – beginning of 2016 (Project “I-CARE” for 2 years) – Integration of a new data base version “ICSE” of Interpol, which runs an updated analysis of video records.