



**Promoting integrated European policies
on missing and sexually exploited children**

AGENDA

- **CONTEXT OF CHILDOSCOPE-PROJECT**
 - **OBJECTIVES OF CHILDOSCOPE-PROJECT**
 - **OUTCOME**
 - **PART I: EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA IN 15 EU MEMBER STATES**
 - **PART II: DIRECTORY OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**
 - **PART III: CO-OPERATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT & CIVIL SOCIETY**
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Athens, 29-30 Octobre 2004
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CONTEXT

- Resolution on the contribution of civil society in finding missing or sexually exploited children
- Initiative of the Belgian Presidency
- Council meeting - Justice, Home Affairs & Civil Protection, Brussels, 27 and 28 September 2001
- Council of the E.U. invites the Commission to draw up a study with the following objectives :

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CONTEXT

- actual extent of phenomenon of missing or sexually exploited children (part I)
- existence, role & structure of organisations actively supporting the search for missing or sexually exploited children & arrangements for their involvement and co-operation with competent authorities (part II)
- legal issues arising from the involvement of such organisations, in particular issues of competent authorities sending confidential information to such organisations, impact of the involvement of such organisations on criminal procedure, and data protection rules (part III)

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CONTEXT

- IRCP-Ghent University & Child Focus joined forces
 - Merged project:
 - STOP Programme JAI/2002/STOP/108 (15 EU Member States)
 - DAPHNE Programme 02/037/YC (15 EU Member States + Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland & Romania)
- 👉 AGIS-PROJECT: STUDY ON THE ACTUAL EXTENT OF THE PHENOMENON OF MISSING & SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN IN THE 10 NEW MEMBER STATES
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OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- PART I: actual extent of phenomenon of missing or sexually exploited children
 - PART II: existence, role & structure of organisations actively supporting the search for missing or sexually exploited children & arrangements for their involvement and co-operation with competent authorities
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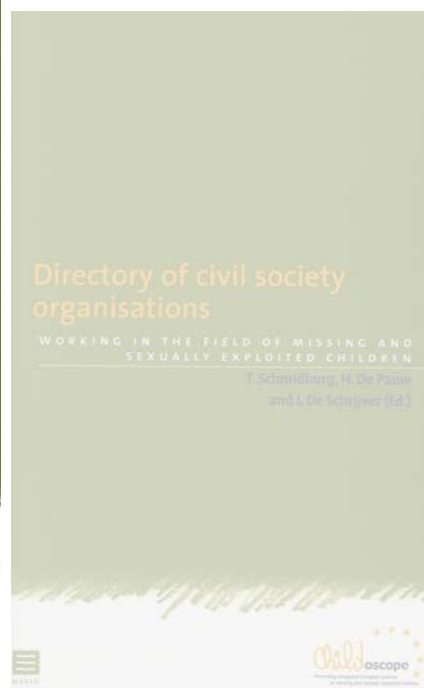
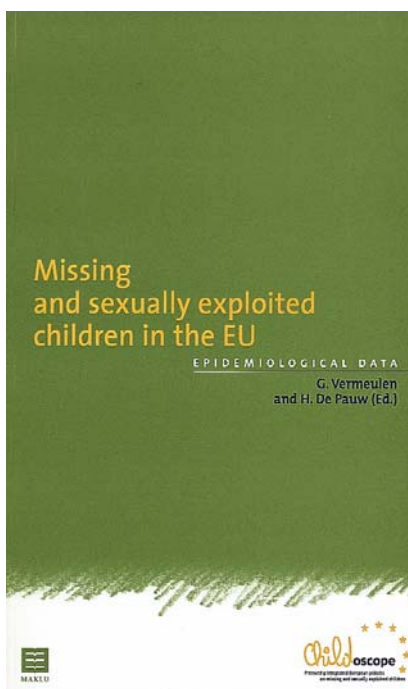
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OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- PART III: legal issues arising from the involvement of such organisations, in particular issues of competent authorities sending confidential information to such organisations, impact of the involvement of such organisations on criminal procedure, and data protection rules

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PART I - OBJECTIVES

Extent phenomenon missing & sexually exploited children:

- state of the art in 15 EU MS:
 - definitions on types of missing & sexually exploited children
 - all national available figures on (missing and) sexually exploited children
 - insight in way national data collection is organised
 - shortcomings and weaknesses applied working methods
 - in order to ameliorate organisation data collection
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PART I - OBJECTIVES

- long-term objectives:
 - establishment EU monitoring center on missing and sexually exploited children
 - ensure centralisation and administration of fundamental reliable and comprehensive data
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PART I - METHODOLOGY

- identification of 1 academic expert in each EU Member State
- national report on extent of phenomena in 15 Member States by academic experts
- comparative study of all national reports
- recommendations concerning data collection on national & European level

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PART I - NATIONAL REPORTS

- Definitions for each type of sexual exploitation of children and missing children in order to check to what extent the figures/statistics can be compared
- Comparison of research definitions with national (criminal law)
- Criminal justice system: Opportunity/legality, Parajudicial settlement & Private crime in order to facilitate the correct interpretation of the figures/statistics

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PART I - NATIONAL REPORTS

- Organisation of data collection:
 - Availability (LE, NGO, GO & surveys)
 - Centralisation
 - Computerisation
 - Directly available
 - Unit of counting
 - in order to make an assessment of the organisation of data collection in the different countries
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PART I - NATIONAL REPORTS

- Year of reference for each type of sexual exploitation of children and missing children in order to check to what extent the figures/statistics can be compared correctly
 - All available figures and statistics of each type sexual exploitation of children and of each type of missing children in different countries = attempt to give an overall picture of the real extent of the phenomena of sexual exploitation of children and missing children in the European Union
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PART I - COMPARATIVE STUDY

- comparative tables including all information available in national reports:
 - definitions/criminal justice system
 - organisation of data collection
 - actual figures
- in order to formulate conclusions and recommendations concerning the actual extent in the 15 EU MS

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PART I - CONCLUSIONS

- in general more data available on sexual exploitation (minors) than on missing minors
- various definitions LE/NGOs/GOs
- relatively big difference of year(s) of reference between and within MS
- data from justice authorities in most MS not available or difficult to access
- apparent lack of detail/precision data stored by various actors
- information largely decentralised/fragmentary
- almost no info on pending/completed cases/convictions
- data on offenders very basic & breakdown mostly limited to age & gender

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PART I - CONCLUSIONS

- important differences between Member States regarding
 - private/public crime
 - (para-)judicial settlement
 - legality vs opportunity
 - state of the art phenomena
 - figures and data in general largely unavailable
 - most national reports show rough estimates only
 - at present impossible to give credible estimates
 - still: unique overview & essential basis for future progress
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PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

►► Impossible to give a credible estimation of the actual extent of the phenomena concerned in 15 EU-Member States

- Need for collection and administration of statistical data (reliable, comprehensive & comparable)
 - Minimum set of common variables on various levels
 - Need for profound methodology
 - National focal points & EU-monitoring centre
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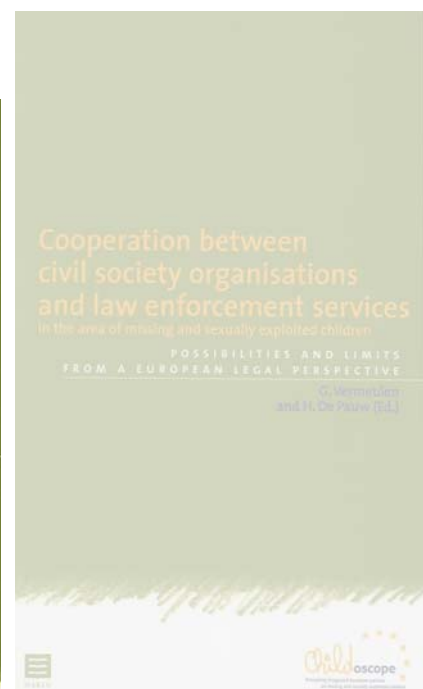
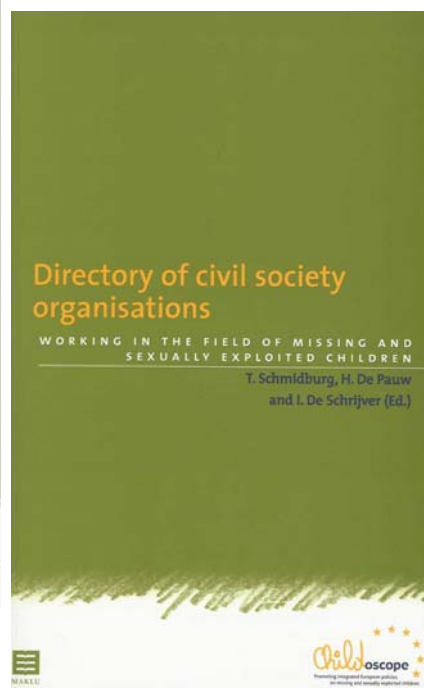


PART I: FOLLOW-UP

- AGIS-project: same research in 10 New EU Member States
- DAPHNE (IRCP):
 - profound methodological preliminary study required for EU/international monitoring function
 - elaboration methodological roadmap
 - for the collection, administration and dissemination of reliable statistics (and legal information)
 - on sexual exploitation children, missing minors and trafficking in human beings

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PART II: OBJECTIVES

- Lack of information on private or public organisations
- Few details on how they operate
- Lack of information concerning practical or operational resources of these organisations
- Need for identification of civil society organisations active in the field of sexual exploitation and/or missing children, their modi operandi, sphere of activities etc.

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PART II: OBJECTIVES

- Objective: overall view of civil society organisations, their role and structure as well as their involvement and co-operation with the official authorities (national approach) in 15 Member States & CR, H, P & R
- Identification of NGO- and Law Enforcement expert
- Detailed questionnaire to existing organisations
- Directory, CD-ROM & website

WWW.CHILDSCOPE.NET

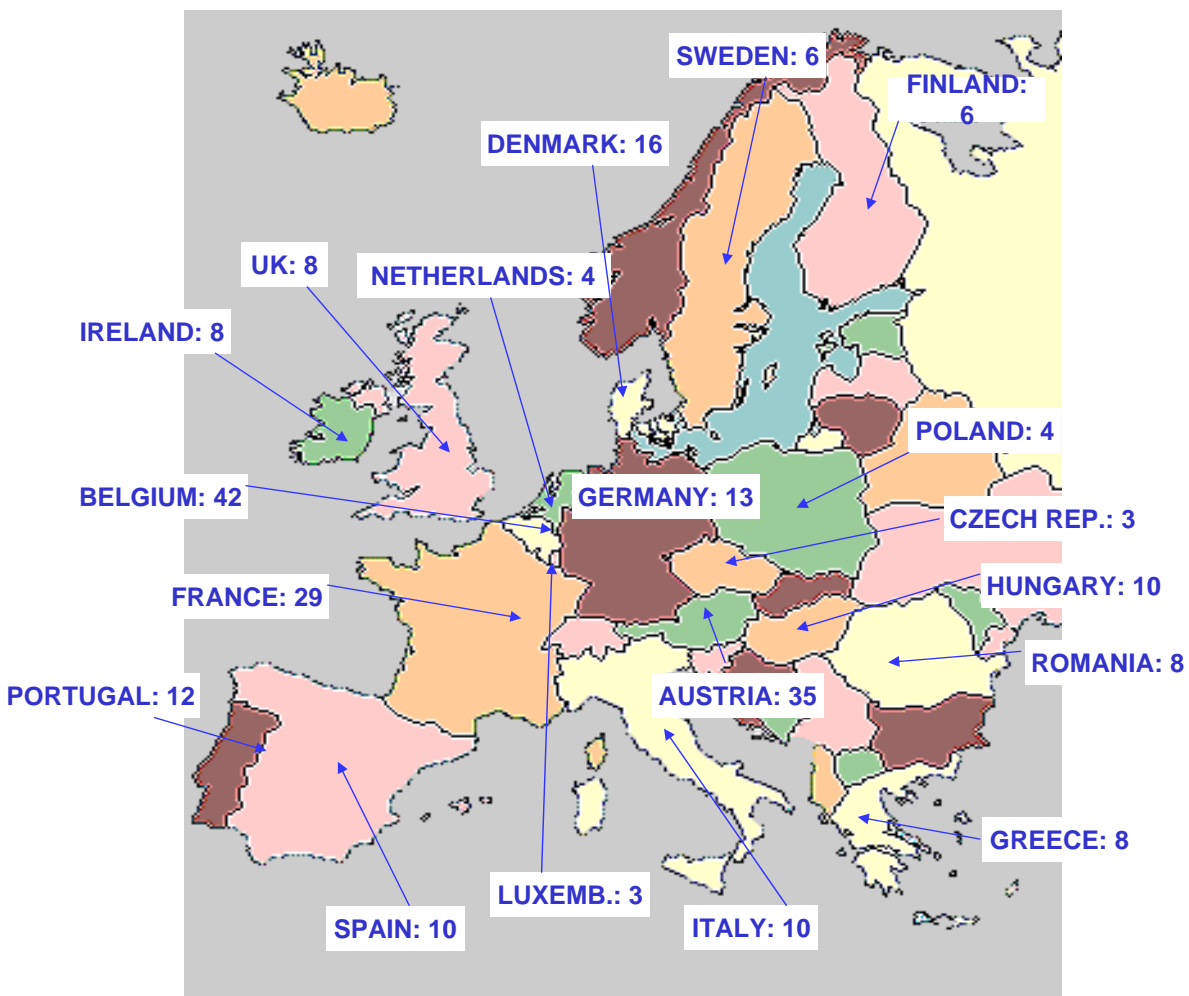
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PART II: RESULTS

- +/- 240 organisations active in the field of sexual exploitation of children and missing children:
 - 17 deal with missing children
 - 151 deal with sexual exploitation of children
 - 72 deal with missing children & sexual exploitation of children

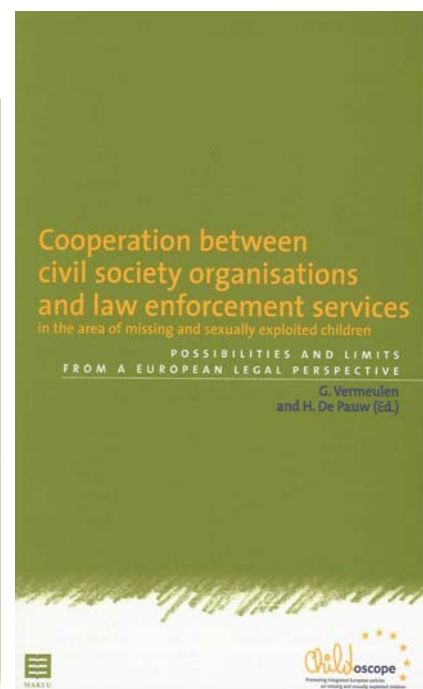
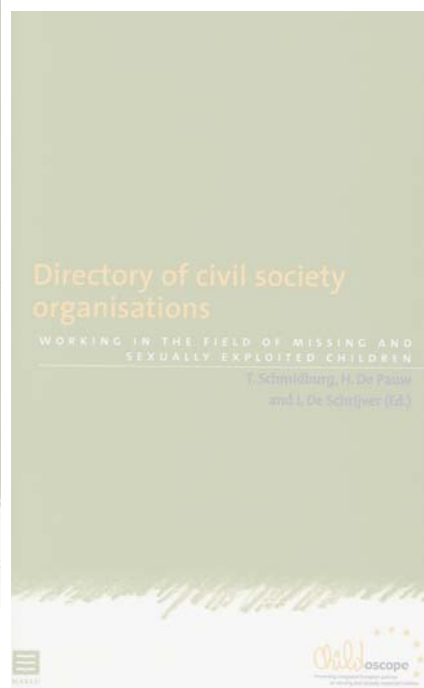
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PART II: FOLLOW-UP

- Extension of the Directory in January 2005: BULGARY, ICELAND & NORWAY (DAPHNE)
- Need for regular update and translation of database & extension in order to include all 25 EU Member States (DAPHNE-proposal - Child Focus)

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PART III: OBJECTIVES

- Examination of legal issues arising from the involvement of civil society organisations in the Member States actively supporting the search for missing or sexually exploited children (feasibility)
- Review & update of findings of research project 96/STOP/003 (systematic gathering & administration of data concerning missing minors & sexual exploitation of children (IRCP))

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PART III: METHODOLOGY

- Analysis of European standards (soft & hard law) (e.g. data protection, criminal procedure, social welfare)
- Examination of comprehensive list of desiderata of NGO against European legal standards

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PART III: METHODOLOGY

- Information-related co-operation:
 - communication/exchange of information
 - principles of protection of personal data
 - Operational co-operation:
 - standards of criminal proceedings
 - children's rights provisions
 - public and social norms
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PART III: METHODOLOGY

- practical checklist: various possibilities of co-operation between law enforcement and civil society organisations
 - services & activities: appropriate & strictly proportionate to the intended purpose
 - services & activities: subject to adequate safeguards in accordance with the principles of the European data protection convention and the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights & Fundamental Freedoms
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PART III: OUTCOME

- European Model Protocol on the co-operation between the NGOs and the judicial authorities
- Code of practice: Quality demands for NGOs to satisfy & appropriate ethics, integrity and professional standards for law enforcement

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PART III: FOLLOW-UP

- DAPHNE:
 - Childscope 7/25:
Promoting integrated European Policies on missing & sexually exploited children in CY, EE, LV, LT, MT, SK & SL

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Childoscope

Promoting integrated European policies
on missing and sexually exploited children