

APPROACHES TO ADDRESS ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN UKRAINE

ANALYTICAL REPORT

on the results of studying cases, evaluating the effectiveness of practices, approaches, tools and analysis of the results of the Empowering Law Enforcement in address Online Violence against Children Project in Ukraine



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The case study of the Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project aims to evaluate and analyse the use of best practices implemented in Kyiv, as well as in Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts. Using the experience and disseminating the products developed during the project will help strengthen the effectiveness of governance in combating online violence against children and protecting children in cyberspace. Raising awareness of partners and implementing effective tools to respond to violence will contribute to child safety.

The publication highlights the best approaches, methods and tools created to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders in this area. Based on the evaluation of the cases and the experience of project implementation, recommendations that are useful for key partners in their work in all regions of Ukraine have been developed. The publication is based on the results of a study conducted by Labor and Health Social Initiatives (LHSI).

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PROJECT MAP

Title: Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children

Financial support: European Union

Project implementers: All-Ukrainian Charity “Child Well-being Fund Ukraine”, All-Ukrainian Public Center Volunteer NGO, Labor and Health Social Initiatives (LHSI)

Project duration: 36 months (January 2022 to December 2024)

Project coverage: Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts, Kyiv.

Project goal: to introduce modern standards and effective tools in the law enforcement system to protect children in the digital world.

Project objectives

1. Improving professional knowledge of law enforcement agencies in combating online violence against children.
2. Improving intersectoral cooperation to prevent and respond to cases of online violence against children in a timely manner.

Target groups and beneficiaries

- Law enforcement agencies: at least 600 representatives from the three target oblasts
- Children and their parents/guardians: 10,000 boys and girls aged 10-18 and their parents/guardians from the three target oblasts
- Service providers: 300 school teachers, psychologists, professionals of social services and civil society organisations
- Local stakeholders: 60 local decision-makers, including child protection services, civil society organisations and local internet providers.

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ABBREVIATIONS

SES	State Emergency Service
EU	European Union
CMU	Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine
Ministry of Social Policy	Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine
MES	Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
National Police	National Police of Ukraine
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
CSO	Civil society organisation
UN	United Nations
PP	patrol police, including school police officers and educational security officers
DLS	difficult life circumstances
ESS	educational security service
TC	territorial community
SW	social worker
SSC	Social services centre
CSS	Centre for Social Services
JP	juvenile prevention
LHSI	Labor and Health Social Initiatives
ICDI	International Child Development Institute

GLOSSARY¹

(TERMS USED IN THIS PUBLICATION)

Bullying (harassment) – an act of participants in the educational process, namely a psychological, physical, economic or sexual violence, including through the use of electronic communications, committed against a minor or underage person or by such a person against other participants in the educational process, which could have caused or caused harm to the mental or physical health of the victim.

Gender-based violence – violence that is committed against people because of their gender or that affects mainly people of a certain gender. It is an extreme manifestation of gender-based discrimination, which most often affects women.

Online child abuse – any form of aggressive, manipulative or exploitative behaviour towards a child that occurs through digital means and platforms. This may include cyberbullying (psychological pressure, intimidation or humiliation), sexual exploitation, recruitment for illegal activities, dissemination of personal data, and other forms of offensive behaviour. Such behaviour may have significant negative consequences for a child's mental, physical and emotional health.

Information and telecommunication systems – a set of information and electronic communication systems using information processing technology with the use of hardware and software.

Cyberbullying (cyberharassment) – an act (action or omission) of participants in the educational process, namely a psychological, physical, economic or sexual violence with the use of electronic communications, committed against a minor or underage person and (or) by such a person against other participants in the educational process, which could have caused or caused harm to the mental or physical health of the victim. Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It may occur on social media, messaging platforms (messengers), gaming platforms and mobile phones. It is a repeated behaviour aimed at intimidating, provoking anger or humiliating those against whom it is committed.

Cyberviolence – violence in cyberspace.

Cyberspace – an environment (virtual space) that provides opportunities for communication and/or implementation of social relations, formed as a result of the functioning of compatible (connected) communication systems and electronic communications using the Internet and/or other global data transmission networks.

¹ The project implementers (All-Ukrainian Charity "Child Well-being Fund Ukraine", All-Ukrainian Public Center Volunteer NGO, Labour and Health Social Initiatives) used the terminology defined by the current legislation of Ukraine and international terminology generally accepted in the EU countries in accordance with the scope of the project, while one of the achievements was the introduction of international approaches and standards to the definition of terms and their interpretation into the practice of state institutions.

Online violence – any aggressive, abusive or manipulative behaviour on the Internet or using digital technologies with the intent to harm, intimidate, humiliate or exploit another person, which can take the form of cyberbullying, harassment, spreading fake information, sexual violence or extortion, humiliation and other actions that violate human rights and dignity. Online violence may have a significant negative impact on the mental, emotional and physical health of victims, especially among children and adolescents.

Inappropriate content – viewing content that does not meet age restrictions.

Online grooming – the formation of a trusting relationship with a child (adolescent) by an adult or a group of adults for the purpose of sexual violence online or in real life.

Outing & trickery – obtaining personal information (texts, photos or videos) in interpersonal communication and its transmission to a public area of the Internet or by mail to those to whom it was not intended.

Personal data – information or a set of information about an individual who is identified or can be specifically identified.

Prevention – a set of measures aimed at preventing any negative phenomena and/or eliminating risk factors.

Sexting – sending personal photos or messages of intimate content.

Sextortion – establishment of a trusting online relationship with a child by strangers to obtain private materials, intimate photos or videos, blackmailing to get money or additional materials.

Stalking – attacker's actions aimed at constant surveillance and attracting attention through social media, calls (both to mobile phones and via messengers), harassment and online harassment.

Trolling – posting provocative messages to cause conflict or bully.

Phishing – a form of fraud that manifests itself in the form of certain types of social engineering attacks, often used to steal personal data of users, in particular to log into accounts and steal credit card numbers for further use for criminal purposes.

Happy slapping – creating violent content and posting it on the Internet for entertainment.

Harmful content – creating and disseminating information that may harm a child (e.g. photos/videos from the scene of disasters, torture of prisoners of war and others).

CYBERSAFE – the CYBERSAFE online tool, which is the basis for online learning and is adapted to work with adolescents, allowing to play interactive games with them. The CYBERSAFE toolkit includes a facilitator guide, as well as the international CYBERSAFE tool with four modules, animated educational videos for adolescents and parental guidelines.

Study limitations

There are currently shortcomings in the legislative regulation of cyberviolence crimes in Ukraine. As of 2024, criminal liability is established in general for criminal offences in the use of computers, systems and computer networks and telecommunications networks. If such violence occurs between family members or former family members, the Law of Ukraine “On Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence” is the fundamental act. The Istanbul Convention is an important act aimed at protecting against violence against women. However, in order to eliminate legal gaps, the legislation should be amended to provide for certain components of criminal offences in the field of cyberviolence. In combating such crimes, the proper response of law enforcement agencies and awareness-raising policies play an important role, aiming to educate the population about their rights and protection mechanisms, especially for children. Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence (translated into Ukrainian) obliges EU Member States to criminalise, inter alia, the following types of behaviour: stalking, harassment, incitement to violence or hatred in the online space. The interpretation of computer crimes as covering online violence against women, girls and children reflects the degree of concern of the EU Commission about the scale of this phenomenon and the need to introduce measures to prevent it.

SUMMARY

In times of war, there is a growing need to support the protection of children's rights in all spheres of life. The Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project was aimed at creating a comprehensive approach to protecting children from online violence, prevention and risk mitigation in the context of war. The project approach is based on the adaptation of the international CYBERSAFE tool and includes advanced training for professionals working with children and also law enforcement officers, the introduction of child-friendly protection mechanisms, as well as raising awareness of cybersecurity issues among all stakeholders.

The partnership and professionalism of the national and regional partners ensured the transfer of knowledge and skills through the adapted CYBERSAFE toolkit. Participants of the training events were able to immediately apply the knowledge gained in practice. The training sessions for police officers held in different cities of Ukraine provided comprehensive training on identifying and responding to cases of online child abuse. In particular, emphasis was placed on developing and testing training programmes that include the basics of responding to crimes, including the identification of victims and perpetrators, as well as child-friendly interviewing practices for child victims. Success in establishing and implementing complaint mechanisms that are child-sensitive and allow children to report harmful content without hindrance lays the foundation for protecting their rights and responding to their needs. Interviews of child victims show positive changes in attitudes towards communication and response mechanisms, which is progress in ensuring their safety in digital and online environments. Significant progress has been made in raising awareness among law enforcement officers and service providers about the specifics of working with children (especially adolescents), which has become an important step in creating a safe online environment.

According to the criteria selected by the research methodology, the most successful cases are:

CYBERSAFE: Addressing online violence against women and girls among young people (13–16 years old) (advanced training and professional development of specialists working with children and other child protection entities to combat online violence against adolescents with a focus on gender aspects), which was based on an adapted tool and developed CYBERSAFE materials;

institutional capacity building of law enforcement agencies (implementation of a comprehensive training programme for law enforcement officers to prevent and combat online violence against children);

UNSEE non-bot chat: a child-friendly mechanism for filing complaints about online violence against children.

Despite the difficult conditions of the war, the project provided high-quality results, which confirmed the relevance of preventing online violence against children in the modern digital world. The project made a significant contribution to integrating CYBERSAFE values and approaches into the prevention of online violence against adolescent girls, improving the skills

and knowledge of law enforcement officers, enhancing synergies through cross-sectoral work and improving mechanisms for protecting children's rights at the local level. Successful cases are the basis for further development and dissemination of practices throughout Ukraine. The application of the tools developed by the project will allow for a more effective response to the problems of violence in the online environment, which should help protect children in the modern digital world.

The main target audience of the project is stakeholder groups of professionals who work directly with children: police officers, juvenile prevention officers, cyberpolice officers, educational policy officers, social workers, social educators, practical psychologists of educational institutions, students, students of initial training, advanced training courses and police officers in service training, students of basic and higher vocational education with the relevant field of study, representatives of interested governmental and non-governmental organisations, school police officers from among patrol police officers, a wide range of educators and representatives of other relevant actors, including parents, who ensure child protection, provide information and perform educational and preventive work in educational institutions with students in grades 1-11 to prevent violence against children and promote safe behaviour on the Internet.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are children of different age groups (the project activities were carried out with a slight focus on the needs of the adolescent girls group), girls and boys aged 10 to 18, their parents and guardians from all regions of Ukraine, law enforcement officers, representatives of local authorities and civil society organisations.

The project established effective cooperation between the police and other stakeholders in the pilot regions, which contributed to increased protection and support for children who may potentially be at risk of online violence. Positive feedback from participants and partners indicates the high quality of the services provided under the project and the improved knowledge gained during trainings and workshops.

Successful cases create the basis for further dissemination of project achievements throughout Ukraine, providing access to the knowledge and resources necessary to improve the online safety of adolescents. The cases can serve as a model for other regions, which will help create a safe digital environment for young people in all parts of the country. The experience of trainings in three pilot regions involving representatives of law enforcement agencies and social services shows that a cross-sectoral child-centred approach at the community level can become a powerful programme to combat online violence. After mastering the educational programmes developed within the project, adolescents will be able to recognise the signs of online sexual violence and be aware of the possible consequences for all parties involved, as well as know how to prevent and respond to such cases. Based on the results of the case studies, it can be argued that they not only contribute to the formation of responsible behaviour among adolescents but also help create a safe digital space for everyone.

INTRODUCTION

Context: the Internet opens up a wide range of opportunities for children, in particular development, education, communication, creativity, entertainment, but also conceals threats, such as cyberbullying, sexting, sextortion, cybercrime, misuse of personal data, inappropriate content and others. Cybersecurity issues are particularly relevant in times of war, as children are exposed to disinformation, psychological influence of enemies, cyber espionage, interception of personal data and various types of online violence.

■ The Project addressed the following problems

1. Lack of or insufficient training materials:

- Lack of training programmes for law enforcement officers on the prevention and detection of online violence against children
- Low capacity of law enforcement officers to effectively prevent and detect online child abuse.

2. Poor coordination between institutions:

- Lack of a clear algorithm for interaction between police, social services and other stakeholders, including CSOs
- Low level of their influence on local violence prevention strategies, which does not ensure children's access to protection 24/7.

3. Insufficient child-friendly complaint mechanisms:

- Only 4.02% of children report dangerous content to the police; the majority do not respond or choose other means of response.

4. Low awareness of service providers and law enforcement officers in the relevant area:

- Insufficient training in working with children, which makes it difficult to respond effectively to their problems and needs in a timely manner.

■ Implementing partners

1. **All-Ukrainian Charity “Child Well-being Fund Ukraine”** (responsible for the overall project management and implementation of the Children's Complaints Platform):

- 16 years of experience in preventing physical, psychological and sexual violence against children;

- over 20 years of experience in training professionals working with children, youth and families; its adaptation to international methodologies;
- experience in implementing three EU-supported projects.

2. **All-Ukrainian Public Center Volunteer NGO** (responsible for the development of training courses within the project):

- 25 years of experience in the development and implementation of socially significant projects and initiatives in the field of child protection, in particular in the context of preventing violence against children, child abuse, as well as the development of child-friendly justice; development and implementation of effective social prevention tools, including for police officers.

3. **LHSI** (responsible for implementing international instruments, strengthening cooperation at the local level, as well as analysis and case studies):

- over 15 years of experience in implementing child protection projects in Ukraine, including EU-supported projects;
- experience in adapting international practices of child protection to be applied in Ukraine.

Target audience of the project: all interested professional groups, such as juvenile prevention police officers, school police officers, cyberpolice officers, cadets of higher education institutions of the MIA, social workers, social work professionals, social educators, practical psychologists of educational institutions, students of basic and higher vocational education in this field of training, representatives of interested government and non-governmental organisations in the pilot regions.

SECTION 1.

KEY RESULTS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 2022, the project carried out a Child Cybersecurity Rapid Assessment², which was used to improve its work plan, clarifying the pilot regions of implementation and identifying the need for new approaches related to the war.

■ Key issues of children's online safety during hostilities

Access to harmful content: viewing text, video and audio information about physical violence, rape, death, destruction, as well as content with profanity can cause aggression, sleep disorders, depression, somatic pain, mental and psychological disorders in children.

Recruitment for hostilities: involving children through online channels or social media to provide information, logistics and other services to the armed forces, which violates the rights of the child under the UN Convention.

Destructive and suicidal groups that persuade children to perform dangerous tasks and self-harm, the ultimate goal of which may be suicide.

Human trafficking, to which adolescent girls and women forced to leave Ukraine are particularly vulnerable, with an increased risk of sexual exploitation.

■ Factors contributing to the spread of online threats to children's safety during wartime

Distraction: physical threats become a priority for physical protection, while virtual threats are overlooked.

Limited time for children's education and leisure due to domestic problems and lack of resources for parents significantly affects their psychological support.

The focus of law enforcement officers on physical security is mainly aimed at maintaining physical security and providing humanitarian assistance to the population.

Low level of awareness: children and their parents are unaware of criminal threats in the digital space, including cyberbullying, offensive acts and others.

Insufficient information support: most children and parents do not know where to turn

² <https://lhsi.org.ua/doc/Швидка%20оцінка%20ситуації%20щодо%20кібербезпеки%20дітей.pdf>

for help in preventing and responding to online crimes. The mechanism of reporting to the police is considered inaccessible, non-transparent and ineffective.

The absence of coordination and continuous monitoring of the situation with online violence during the active phase of the war makes it difficult to address cyberviolence and conceals its scale.

The needs analysis shows that children and parents need more information and awareness about protecting children from dangerous content and contacts online. Experts unanimously emphasise the need to increase attention to children's cybersecurity even under martial law, as threats are constantly growing due to the effects of war and the internal displacement of large numbers of people.

Project planning included the recommendations developed as a result of the rapid assessment.

National level

- Review of the legal framework: develop a national mechanism for preventing and responding to cases of online violence against children, revise the National Strategy for the Protection of Children's Rights in the Digital Environment.
- Conduct an information and education campaign for parents and caregivers to inform them about potential online risks for children, with a focus on the increased threats during the war.
- Professional development of law enforcement officers: train representatives of the national police, juvenile prevention and school officers in modern methods of responding to online violence.
- Development and implementation of mechanisms for monitoring cases of online violence against children and responding to their complaints.

Local level

- Development of local prevention strategies: review existing local strategies or other documents on child safety and prevention of online violence and develop new ones as needed.
- Professional development of social services, education and NGO staff working in the field of child protection.
- Adaptation of international practices in Ukraine and testing of international tools for the prevention of online violence against children at the local level.
- Involving young people in information campaigns by promoting the creation of digital messages on the prevention of online violence, disseminating information about assistance resources (hotlines, chatbots and websites).
- Informing families, including displaced families, about the risks of online violence

and human trafficking by developing mechanisms for disseminating such information.

As of the end of 2024, the key result of the project is a reduction of online violence by strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat online violence against children, developing and applying effective mechanisms and practices amid the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

The project demonstrated the productivity and adaptability of its activities, which is reflected in changes in existing approaches to combating online violence against children in the current environment. Thanks to the project, law enforcement officers improved their knowledge and acquired relevant skills. The project also strengthened interagency cooperation and improved mechanisms for protecting children online. Despite the delay in the start of the project caused by unforeseen circumstances of the war, the team and partners were able to ensure high quality of the activities, which confirmed the flexibility of the project strategy and the effectiveness of the solutions applied in practice.

■ Main achievements of the project activities

One of the significant achievements of the project is the integration of the value-based approaches of the international CYBERSAFE model and the creation of an appropriate system of partnership and cooperation in the target regions. Among other things, the international CYBERSAFE manual and online tool were adapted as part of the project toolkit for conducting classes and interactive prevention games with adolescents. The toolkit consists of four components: a manual for face-to-face training, online tools, animated videos and parental guidelines.

Навчання протидії сексуальному онлайн-насильству щодо дівчат-підлітків Поради для батьків і опікунів



У цьому розділі представлений до вільного використання Збірник (Toolkit) з профілактики онлайн насильства щодо дівчат-підлітків «Профілактика сексуальних домагань у мережі Інтернет по відношенню до дівчат-підлітків», що базується на досвіді кількох наших проєктів. Збірник забезпечує підготовку до проведення та тренінгів з цієї теми з метою заспокоєння підлітків до безпечної та відповідальної поведінки та матеріалів для роботи з підлітками й батьками.

До Збірника увійшли:

1. Посібник «Навчання протидії сексуальному онлайн-насильству щодо дівчат-підлітків. Посібник для спеціалістів, які працюють з дітьми». Посібник рекомендовано до видання Вченою радою Факультету педагогічних наук Львівського національного університету імені Івана Франка. Він також пройшов апробацію в усіх трьох плотних областях проєкту — Київ, Вінницька та Львівська області. Вище над цим описом ви можете передивитись та завантажити Посібник.
2. Буклет «Поради для батьків і опікунів з протидії онлайн-насильству сексуального характеру». Вище над цим описом ви можете передивитись та завантажити Буклет.
3. Два анімаційні навчальні відео для дітей (дівчата та хлопці): **Які наслідки публікації оголеного селфі дівчини без її дозволу та Що робити, якщо твої оголені селфі опинились в мережі.**
4. Також до Збірника входить адаптований українською мовою міжнародний онлайн інструмент роботи з дітьми **CYBERSAFE (4 модулі)**, над яким працювали міжнародні та національні експерти.

One of the key results of the project is the Toolkit to Prevent Online Violence Against Adolescent Girls, training materials on the prevention and detection of online violence against children, materials for trainings and others.

Intermediate results of the project activities include the following.

- Development and testing of training programmes: the trainings covered key issues of responding to crimes, identifying victims and perpetrators, and child-friendly interviewing practices for child victims. Positive feedback from participants and partners confirms the high quality of the trainings.
- Testing and implementation: the programmes are adapted for face-to-face and online learning and are available for use by law enforcement agencies in different regions.
- Inter-agency cooperation: an event was organised for representatives of the National Police of Ukraine, the MIA, specialised higher education institutions of the MIA, NGOs and governmental organisations to share experiences and adapt international standards for combating online violence against children.
- Formation of working groups: two working groups were created with the involvement of experts – one to develop a prevention programme for children of different age groups, and the other to develop a programme for initial specialised training and advanced training of police officers on child protection in cyberspace.
- Development of the programme “Your Online Safety: Preventing Online Violence Against Children and Developing Safe Online Behaviour” to be used by juvenile prevention police officers, school police officers and cyberpolice representatives in conducting educational and preventive classes with students in grades 1-11 of educational institutions.
- Development of a training manual “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Protection in Cyberspace”
- A team of trainers was created to test the materials of the above manual.
- The manual “Your Online Safety” was approved for use in the educational process; leaflets for children and adults were developed; by the end of 2024, the training manual “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Protection in Cyberspace” is expected to be approved for use in the educational process.

■ Knowledge improvement

Staff training: trainings were held for law enforcement officers and professionals working directly with children, and a series of training events and workshops on child cybersecurity were held for police officers from the city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts.

Evaluation of results: the data collected confirms the success of the awareness-raising and professional skills development programmes and shows the positive impact of the trainings on preparing staff to work with children in the face of online threats. From the start of the project to 1 July 2024, 10 trainings for law enforcement officers and parents were held, with 424 participants.

■ Online complaint tool/mechanism: development and implementation

The online complaint mechanism, developed with the help of UNSEE non-bot chat, which is an ad-hoc software, is a convenient and accessible tool for children which notifies of dangerous content and sends a complaint about online violence against them. About 1,000 children from Vinnytsia Oblast, Kyiv and Lviv were informed about the capabilities of this mechanism already at the testing stage. As of November 2024, more than 500,000 children and relevant stakeholders from all over Ukraine have been informed about the UNSEE non-bot chat, which enables them to quickly and anonymously complaint about inappropriate content.

■ Supporting local cooperation and initiatives

The project formed local working groups that developed local action plans to prevent online violence against children, for the partial implementation of which a grant modality was used, in particular, competitions were held and mini-grants were provided to local NGOs to support local initiatives aimed at preventing child abuse in the digital environment. As a result of the competition, six organisations received funding: two from Kyiv, one from Zolochiv (Lviv Oblast) and three from Vinnytsia Oblast. Quantitative indicators: six organisations were selected for funding, where two were from Kyiv, one from Zolochiv (Lviv Oblast) and three from Vinnytsia. Three multi-sectoral action plans were developed and implemented; one NGO project was implemented at the local level, and 5 are pending. Educational and awareness-raising activities reached 793 children and 875 adults in 2023; 183 children and 268 adults in the first half of 2024.

■ Monitoring

- The project was monitored on a regular basis. Participants of trainings and webinars were surveyed. Focus groups were held by police trainers to assess the implementation of the programme “Your Online Safety”.
- Monitoring participants’ knowledge: tools were developed to assess the level of knowledge and skills, and feedback was arranged between participants and trainers from among the police and lecturers of higher education institutions of the MIA system.
- Defining criteria for collecting data on practices related to training professionals and their cooperation, use of the CYBERSAFE tool and effectiveness of the training campaign.

- A final conference is planned at the end of the project. It will present the key results of the project, experience gained and best practices for improving children's online safety and responding effectively to online violence.
- Media monitoring was conducted on an ongoing basis, analysing audience preferences and interests. Its results were reflected in reports summarising the effectiveness of information campaigns. In particular, during the monitoring, LHSI recorded the number of online sessions using the CYBERSAFE tool. All the products developed were sent to the National Service for further distribution in Ukraine.

SECTION 2.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROJECT PRIORITY AREAS

Area 1. Provide law enforcement professionals and service providers with the knowledge and capacity to combat online child abuse

By **providing law enforcement officers and social and educational service providers with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively combat online violence against children**, the institutional capacity of the relevant authorities in the three pilot oblasts was significantly strengthened and their skills to respond to current digital security challenges were improved.

Given the martial law in Ukraine, which was introduced in 2022 due to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the project implementation plan was updated, including the timing of activities and changes in target regions. During the first phase of the project, the groundwork was laid for establishing cooperation with key agencies responsible for children's safety in the digital environment, including the development of the programme "Your Online Safety" programme for schoolchildren in grades 1-11. Over the course of the project, cooperation with key stakeholders in this area was continued and strengthened, including piloting the above programme, enhancing the professional knowledge of police officers from the three pilot oblasts and creating a child-friendly complaint mechanism to combat online violence. The cooperation also included a series of training events for police officers, and the development and testing of a draft training manual to prepare employees of various structural units of the National Police to ensure the safety of children online.

A number of important steps were taken to **improve cross-sectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to online child abuse** in Ukraine in 2022-2024. In particular, cooperation was established with the main project beneficiaries and other agencies working in this area. Kick-off meetings and SWOT analyses were held in the city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts to develop regional child safety strategies and plans. This allowed for the formation of local cooperation algorithms between the police, social and educational institutions, and other stakeholders working to combat online child abuse and prevent online violence. Further development and strengthening of cooperation is ensured through the implementation and support of these strategies in the three regions mentioned above.

■ Situational analysis

During 2023-2024, law enforcement agencies were forced to shift their priorities to situations related to military operations. As part of the project, the research entitled "Situational Analysis" and "Rapid Assessment of the Cybersecurity Situation for Children Aged

10-18” was conducted. The research revealed the link between general violence, including war-related violence, and online violence against children, and identified actions that legal representatives and children’s rights advocates can take to prevent it.

A rapid assessment of the cybersecurity situation for children aged 10-18 was conducted by professionals with experience in sociological research in the field of child protection. The results were published on the project partners’ website and disseminated online through social media and other online resources. The results were first presented on 1 June 2022 on International Children’s Day, while the second presentation was in July during an online roundtable for representatives of the National Police. The research recommendations were used in working meetings in the target regions of the project.

The main achievements are the materials and toolkit “Preventing Online Sexual Harassment of Adolescent Girls”, including the adaptation of the international CYBERSAFE toolkit to combat online violence against adolescent girls to the Ukrainian context.

At the beginning of the project, an online training “Preventing Online Sexual Violence against Children” was held, which was attended by 90 police officers and human rights activists from the city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Lviv Oblasts. Participants learned about the Dutch experience in combating cyberviolence against children, as well as the new CYBERSAFE tool for preventing online violence, which was organised by LHSI together with its partner organisation ICDI from the Netherlands. The training discussed four main types of online sexual violence, ways to detect and report them. Given the recommendations of international experts, the project prepared a set of materials (tools) for local professionals and human rights defenders.

The project created a set of materials, including animated training videos, parental guidelines, a manual and CYBERSAFE, an interactive online tool, which is adapted for use by children (adolescents), conducted after school hours by a trained professional. The manual consists of two parts: “Online Sexual Violence, Consequences and Responses”, which includes instructions for holding trainings and using the CYBERSAFE online tool, and “Training Plans”, containing four training sessions that address different types of online sexual violence against girls.

With the support of international experts, an online training “Preventing Online Sexual Violence against Children” was held, which was attended by representatives of the National Police of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Cyberpolice Department of the National Police of Ukraine and specialised higher education institutions of the MIA system. The training identified key topics for cybersecurity training and advanced training programmes for law enforcement officers. Ten working meetings were held with experts to agree on the topics of the training manual and prepare proposals to the MIA. A “Training of Police Officers of Preventive Activities, Investigation and Inquiry Units, Cyber Police to Ensure the Safety of Children in Cyberspace” training manual was developed, tested and recommended for use in the educational process.

■ Development and piloting of prevention and training programmes

To be used by law enforcement officers in their work with children of different age groups

The concept of a programme to prevent online violence against children was developed, on the basis of which a relevant programme was created and piloted with training events for police officers. The programme targets juvenile prevention officers, school police officers and cyberpolice.

During the development of the programme concept, 5 online working meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and the #stop_sexting project, as well as consultations with experts. A draft manual “Your Online Safety” for students in grades 1-11 was developed.

To train law enforcement officers

As part of the project, three-day training sessions were held in each of the pilot regions, where 50 police officers (12 men and 38 women) learned about the educational and preventive programme “Your Online Safety” and prepared for its piloting. The training materials include training sessions, presentations and knowledge assessment forms.

The **level of knowledge** of the participants significantly improved according to the survey: Lviv – 82.3%, Vinnytsia – 96.8%, Kyiv – 89.6%. The participants rated the trainings as useful by 100% (Lviv and Vinnytsia) and 83.3% (Kyiv), and expressed the need for additional trainings to deepen their knowledge.

■ Training

- **Training for juvenile prevention officers** was conducted in response to a request from the Juvenile Prevention Office of the Department of Preventive Activities of the National Police of Ukraine in 2023 for **28 juvenile prevention officers** from all regions of Ukraine. The training focused on preventing online violence against children.
- **Training for trainers** from among the representatives of higher education institutions with specific training conditions (MIA) who implement initial and advanced training programmes for police officers and representatives of the National Police of Ukraine responsible for developing advanced training and in-service training programmes (**25 trainers trained**).
- **A series of 10 webinars** conducted by experts from the Cyberpolice Department, specialised higher education institutions of the MIA system and NGOs, which was found to be useful and effective by over **90% of participants**.

- A series of training webinars was additionally held for police officers, including “Digital Safety of Children: Basic Rules and Principles of Protection” and “Methods of Building Online Relationship between Criminals and Children”, conducted by experts from the Department of Cybercrime Counteraction of the Educational and Research Institute No. 4 of the Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs.

Learning results:

Kyiv: training for police trainers and lecturers (**25 participants**)

Main results:

- **93.6%** knowledge level after the training
- **96%** of participants received the necessary information to improve their skills in training police officers to ensure the safety of children in cyberspace
- all **100%** of participants highly appreciated the training.

Vinnitsia: training for juvenile police officers (**26 participants**)

Main results:

- **86%** knowledge level after the training
- **100%** of participants confirmed that they had improved their knowledge of children’s age-related characteristics and highly appreciated the practical component of the training.

The results of testing the manual in higher education universities:

- 6 universities covered
- 1,551 students of higher education, students of initial vocational training, advanced training courses and police officers in the framework of in-service training took part in interactive classes as part of the programme piloting,
- 83 classes on 31 topics were held.

Teaching of children in educational institutions by professionals who have undergone training

During 2022-2023, police officers conducted 18 classes for children in grades 1-11 in educational institutions of the pilot regions (Lviv and Vinnitsia Oblasts and Kyiv) (330 children were reached, including 162 girls and 168 boys). Methods for educational and preventive classes for children of all ages were finalised and approved. Cyberspace safety leaflets for children and booklets for parents were developed..

Area 2. Improve intersectoral cooperation in Ukraine to prevent and respond to online child abuse.

■ Development of local policies to combat online violence among and against children

Development of three regional strategic plans for the promotion of online child safety

During the project implementation, regional strategies for children's digital safety were developed based on a preliminary SWOT analysis. Regular meetings of regional working groups were held to discuss the results of the analysis of project partners in the target regions. All the strategies were created in the same format and had similar activities.

The project provided technical support to the target regions to participate in working group meetings and implement activities aimed at strengthening cooperation in combating online violence against children. A series of working meetings were held with representatives of local agencies, including police, social services and other organisations. As a result of the meetings, work plans were developed and the need for additional technical assistance was identified.

■ Competitive selection of projects among NGOs

The project provided ongoing technical assistance to the regions to prepare SWOT analyses and identify local priorities. A national expert was engaged to conduct a series of consultations, develop a SWOT analysis methodology and matrix, and organise a meeting with local and national partners to agree on plans and a strategic vision for their implementation.

■ Development of action plans to implement local strategies to combat online violence against children

Each target region of the project developed and implemented a local action plan to prevent online violence against children based on a SWOT analysis. The plans were prepared and finalised with comprehensive consultative and technical support.

To ensure the effective implementation of the project's planned activities, monitoring took place on an ongoing basis. In the first year, the main form of monitoring was a survey of participants in trainings and webinars using a specially designed form that allowed regions to report according to project indicators.

Regional plans monitoring results: by the end of 2023, 793 children and 875 adults were covered by educational and information activities:

- **Kyiv** – 146 children (44 boys and 82 girls) and 125 adults (78 women and 47 men);
- **Lviv Oblast** – 165 children (106 boys and 59 girls) and 288 adults (155 women and 112 men);
- **Vinnitsia Oblast** – 482 children (212 boys and 270 girls) and 462 adults (259 women and 203 men).

Among children, the gender ratio was 47 percent boys and 53 percent girls, and among adults – 42 percent men and 58 percent women.

■ Supporting the implementation of the developed local action plans by providing grants to six local civil society organisations

As part of this activity, a call for proposals was organised for local civil society organisations working to prevent and combat online violence against children and raise awareness of digital safety among children and parents. Six project proposals were submitted at the first stage of the competition, of which three were selected for funding. These projects were implemented in Kyiv, Zolochiv (Lviv Oblast) and Vinnitsia. In the second stage of the competition, eight project applications submitted by organisations in Kyiv and Vinnitsia were considered, of which the competition committee selected three for funding.

The local initiative supported under the grant is the **Brave project implemented by the Masha Fund**.

Project goal: combating gender-based violence, raising awareness of digital safety for adolescent girls and their parents.

Target audience

- direct beneficiaries: adolescent girls (12-18 years old) who have experienced gender-based violence, parents and guardians of girls who acquire skills to ensure the safety of children in the digital environment
- indirect beneficiaries: the public, who should be aware of the problems of gender-based violence; children and adolescents who actively use the Internet during the pandemic and war; the audience of social media, especially Instagram, where the project plans to post educational videos

Activities

The project was implemented in the following stages:

- creating a detailed content plan with key topics on violence prevention and digital safety;
- developing videos (36 videos were filmed and edited, which were actively distributed through social media, attracting new subscribers);
- consultations with experts, involving psychologists, to improve the quality of the content.

During the project period, the main objectives of raising awareness of gender-based violence and digital safety were achieved. The main activities included the creation and distribution of short videos on social media.

Key results: more than 50,000 views of standard and more than 4.7 million views of the short videos “Dangers of Neural Network”, which demonstrates the audience’s significant interest in them, increases the number of subscribers and intensifies communication between adolescents and parents on online safety.

Total number of beneficiaries:

- **direct – 878,041 people,**
- **indirect – 2.2 million people.**

Cooperation with government agencies: interaction with the juvenile police and cyberpolice allowed to reach a wide audience and raise awareness among children and parents.

Success stories: the video “Dangers of Neural Network”, which has received 4.7 million views, has significantly raised awareness of the viewers about the safety of using technology.

Major challenges: technical problems, including lack of access to the Internet due to power outages, which was overcome by using generators.

Sustainability of results: the project involves the creation of educational resources that will be available after its completion, as well as the activation of a community that will support its goals.

Conclusions: by raising awareness and protecting adolescent girls, the Brave project will help them resist violence in real and digital environments.

SECTION 3.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT RESULTS

National level

- **Partnership:** launched cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the #stop_sexting educational project and Internews Ukraine NGO to consolidate efforts to combat online violence.
- **Cooperation with the cyberpolice:** deepened cooperation with the Cyberpolice Department in joint efforts to combat online violence against children.
- **Cooperation with the Juvenile Prevention Office** of the Department of Preventive Activities of the National Police of Ukraine in joint activities for juvenile police officers to prevent online violence against children.
- **Cooperation with universities** to develop and pilot training tools for law enforcement officers to prevent online violence against children.
- **Launched cooperation with the National Service** of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the **Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine** on the introduction and dissemination of the CYBERSAFE toolkit.

Local level

- **Established cooperation** with all key stakeholders and local experts on combating, preventing and responding to online violence against adolescents. Training was provided to law enforcement officers and social sector professionals, educators, parents and all stakeholder groups working on the application and dissemination of the CYBERSAFE tool to children, with a focus on gender issues and the specifics of working with adolescent girls.
- **Development of three regional strategies for children's digital safety** during the course of project implementation.
- **Competitive selection of projects prepared by NGOs.**
- **Development of action plans to implement strategies** to combat online violence against children at the local level.
- **Supporting local initiatives by providing grants.**

Interaction with civil society organisations

Project results that significantly improved cooperation between the police and other stakeholders:

- **A clear algorithm** of interaction between the police and civil society organisations in cases of suspected online violence against children.
- **24/7 support for victims;** access to support and protection services at the local level.
- **Strengthening coordination** between institutions working with children to improve the quality of care.

Evaluation of the partnership

1. **Relationship between beneficiaries** is well established, as evidenced by positive feedback. This contributes to ensuring sustainable project results.

2. **Interaction with public authorities:** the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine and higher education institutions of the MIA system (Dnipro State University of Internal Affairs, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, Lviv State University of Internal Affairs, National Academy of Internal Affairs, Odesa State University of Internal Affairs and Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs) are involved in the implementation of the project objectives. This partnership allowed for the introduction of modern approaches to combating online violence against children in line with international standards with the support of the MIA Department of Education, Science and Sports, the Cyberpolice Department of the National Police of Ukraine and the Cybercrime Office in Kyiv.

3. **Cooperation with other organisations,** such as the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and the #stop_sexting educational project aimed at protecting children from online violence against children, and partnership with Internews Ukraine NGO, facilitated educational activities for police officers.

4. **Developing cooperation with other partners:** numerous links were established to join forces in combating online violence against children, including educational initiatives for law enforcement officers and the development of specialised programmes.

5. **Dissemination of knowledge** among the MES and social service departments that distributed the CYBERSAFE toolkit. The project held an online workshop for educators on the training and use of these materials.

■ Communication strategy

At the beginning of the project implementation, a communication strategy and plan were developed to highlight the project activities and deliver key messages to the target audience. The information campaign helped disseminate information among regional coordinators and local NGOs working in the project regions. Special attention was paid to training and consulting local service providers and stakeholders on combating online child abuse.

The main channels of communication included websites and social media pages, where information about the project, reports, trainings, workshops, etc. was published. All of its products, including banners, training materials for police officers needed to work with children, animated videos, information materials for parents, etc. were approved for use. The project activities were also regularly covered on the Facebook pages of the partners, such as the Juvenile Police of Ukraine, the patrol police of Lviv, Vinnytsia Oblasts and Kyiv.

During 2022-2024, 18 materials were published highlighting the key aspects of the project to improve online child safety, including trainings, workshops and programme testing that took place in Lviv, Vinnytsia and Kyiv. Key events included webinars and trainings that improved police officers' knowledge of online safety.

In general, the publications demonstrate the project's active work to raise awareness and improve the skills of law enforcement officers in combating online violence against children, and each stage is marked by a significant contribution to forming a safe digital environment.

SECTION 4.

OVERVIEW OF THE BEST CASES

The success of the implemented practices and lessons learned from them demonstrates the effectiveness of the project activities and confirms the public demand for action in the relevant thematic area. The selected cases include good training practices, the creation of effective complaint mechanisms, and successful local initiatives that can be scaled up and applied at the national level. The results indicate that effective approaches can be scaled up and implemented in other regions of Ukraine to improve the fight against online violence against children.

■ The cases were selected based on the following criteria

EFFECTIVENESS: how effective and successful are the project products developed within its framework? Why was it proposed to choose this particular case as the most successful?

RESULTS: what are the results of the case and do the activities achieve the goals set by the project?

RELEVANCE: is the activity relevant to the case? Does it meet social needs?

IMPACT: what is the impact of implementing the products developed within the case on empowering to prevent and overcome violence?

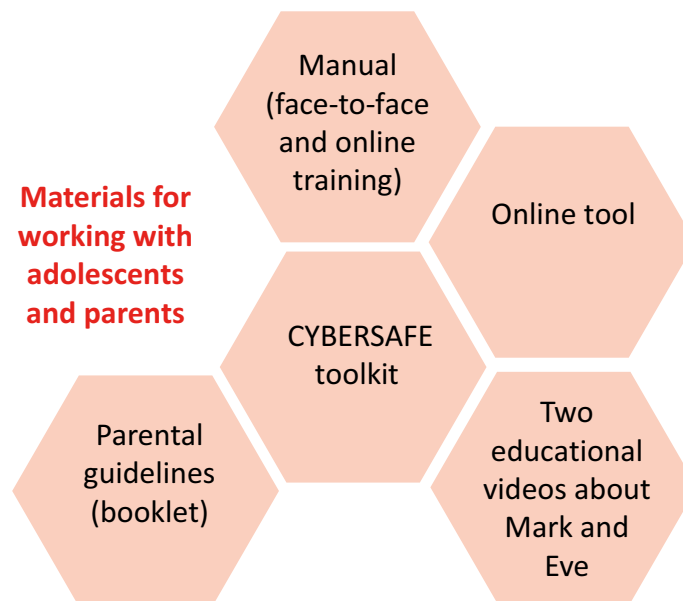
SUSTAINABILITY: do the programmes/products/tools/practices implemented within the case ensure the sustainability of the results?

■ Based on the results of the interviews, the most successful cases can be identified as follows:

- CYBERSAFE: COMBATING ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST ADOLESCENT GIRLS
- TRAINING TO BUILD THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
- UNSEE NON-BOT CHAT – A CHILD-FRIENDLY COMPLAINTS MECHANISM

Case 1. CYBERSAFE: COMBATING ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST ADOLESCENT GIRLS

The case is based on the [CYBERSAFE toolkit](#) with an adapted online tool, around which a system of training on combating online sexual violence against adolescent girls is built. [CYBERSAFE](#) is an interactive game-based learning tool used in workshops and trainings with adolescents, providing opportunities for online and face-to-face learning, and containing video content and materials for working with parents or guardians.



The CYBERSAFE manual includes an online tool, training programmes for initial training and advanced training of relevant professionals, awareness-raising programmes and programmes for the distribution of educational and reference materials, as well as trainings for the target audience, including those working with children, as well as the functional responsibilities of stakeholders, their capacity and channels of information dissemination to the ultimate beneficiaries of CYBERSAFE (adolescents). The children's audience can be reached in schools and out-of-school institutions, vocational and higher education institutions, social and psychological rehabilitation centres, special institutions and others.

The target audience of the online tool includes police officers, school police officers, police officers of the educational security service, representatives of juvenile prevention, professionals of services for children's affairs, social educators, social workers, teachers, doctors, child psychologists, parents, guardians, foster parents and other professionals working with children and separately with adolescents aged 13-16.

Component	Цільова аудиторія	Ultimate beneficiaries	Tool/practice	Coverage
What?	Who is studying?	To protect whom?	What is the product?	Where?
Training programme (initial training)	Representatives of juvenile prevention, social educators, social workers, parents, guardians and foster parents, teachers, child psychologists, other professionals working with adolescents	Children aged 13-16	- Educational and methodical manual for facilitators "Training to Combat Online Sexual Violence against Adolescent Girls" - Trainings for children aged 13-16 on combating online sexual violence against girls	Three pilot oblasts
Advanced training programmes	Representatives of juvenile prevention, social educators, social workers, parents, guardians and foster parents, teachers, child psychologists, other professionals working with adolescents	Children aged 13-16	- Educational and methodical manual for facilitators "Training to Combat Online Sexual Violence against Adolescent Girls" - Trainings by school police officers for children aged 13-16 on combating online sexual violence against girls - Classes with IDP adolescents in temporary shelters and those in DLS - Classes with children in social rehabilitation centres and relevant modules – Responsible parenting courses	Three pilot oblasts
Educational programmes	For all target audience groups	All groups of the target audience (adolescents aged 13-16, children, youth)	Video lectures and video tutorials as tools for facilitators	Three pilot and all other oblasts
Programmes for the distribution of educational and reference materials	For all target audience groups	All groups of the target audience (adolescents aged 13-16, children, youth)	Guidelines, booklet "Advice to Parents and Guardians on Combating Online Sexual Violence"	Three pilot and all other oblasts

CYBERSAFE online tool

CYBERSAFE is an innovative educational and preventive digital tool (an app installed on a smartphone) that demonstrates how to use online resources safely, promotes non-threatening communication, safe and healthy relationships and gender equality online, based on real cases of sexual violence against girls. The programme is aimed at developing a conscious responsible attitude to online communication among adolescents.

CYBERSAFE focuses on online safety for adolescents aged 13-16, with a focus on girls' safety.

The programme helps girls and boys who actively use the Internet and may be victims of offenders or witnesses of online violence to understand and experience each of these roles.

Important elements of the programme and its features: CYBERSAFE covers the four main types of sexual violence that adolescents can experience in the online environment.

- **Sharing non-consensual sexual images** – learning about the consequences of such behaviour and understanding the inadmissibility of consent.
- **Exploitation, coercion and threats** – understanding the risks of manipulation that can occur in the online environment.
- **Sexual intimidation** – identifying and responding to it.
- **Unwanted sexualisation** – discussing the objectification and sexualisation of young people in the online space.

The **knowledge transfer methodology** is based on the promotion of CYBERSAFE to learn how to safely use and respond to the four main types of online sexual violence.

Learning structure and methods: the programme includes workshops that can be delivered in a school or other learning environment. The following learning approaches are used:

- real-life scenarios to help adolescents understand and discuss problems;
- anonymous voting sessions to identify participants' opinions;
- group discussions to develop critical thinking; role-playing games that allow participants to practice different situations and responses to them.

Learning results

After participating in the workshops, adolescents will be able to:

- recognise the signs of online sexual violence;
- understand the emotional impact of sexual violence and its consequences for all participants;
- know how to prevent sexual violence in the online environment;
- be able to respond appropriately to cases of violence and provide support to victims;
- know where to go for help and how to act.

CYBERSAFE toolkit adapted for Ukraine

The programme was developed by International Child Development Initiatives, the Netherlands. Adapted and translated by LHSI The toolkit was developed with the financial support of the European Union.

CYBERSAFE toolkit components

- The CYBERSAFE Guide for Workshop Facilitators, which provides detailed instructions and materials for workshops with adolescents.
- The CYBERSAFE online tool, which is an interactive platform that complements the workshops with videos and enables to practice solving real-life scenarios.
- Two thematic animated videos “Hi, I’m Eve” and “Hi, I’m Mark”
- Tips for parents

Purpose: the CYBERSAFE toolkit is a resource for professionals working with children and young people to promote online safety and to combat any form of online violence, including sexual harassment.

Training programmes

The **CYBERSAFE online tool** which is the basis for online learning and is adapted to work with adolescents, allowing to play interactive games with them. The CYBERSAFE toolkit includes a facilitator guide, the international CYBERSAFE tool with four modules, animated educational videos for adolescents and parental guidelines.

The **training programmes** are structured courses on theoretical and practical aspects of the topic of online sexual violence for the preparation of professionals working with children and facilitators.

Advanced training programmes are additional courses that allow experienced professionals and facilitators to update their knowledge and skills in this area.

Awareness-raising programmes are activities aimed at raising awareness of online violence among adolescents and their parents through all possible target groups and information channels.

Programmes for the distribution of educational and reference materials include the creation and distribution of booklets, information leaflets and other resources containing important information about online safety.

■ Educational and methodical manual “Training to Combat Online Sexual Violence against Adolescent Girls”

This manual was created to raise awareness and train professionals working with adolescents. The pilot sites for its testing were the city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts.

The development and adaptation of the manual was driven by the need of professionals and facilitators for specific knowledge and skills required to effectively teach safe and respon-

sible behaviour in the online environment to adolescents aged 13-16, as well as to prevent online sexual violence.

Contents of the manual

1. Training material for facilitators

Part 1. Online sexual violence, consequences and counteraction:

- describes the problem of online sexual violence against girls;
- provides instructions on how to use the CYBERSAFE online tool;
- includes practical recommendations for trainings.

Part 2. Training plans.

Contains four plans, each focusing on one of the main types of online sexual violence against girls.

2. CYBERSAFE online tool as part of the manual

An interactive gaming tool for use during trainings that allows adolescents to learn in a playful way how to recognise and respond to online violence.

3. Training scenarios (ready-to-use materials)

Trainings based on developed scenarios/plans that cover key aspects of online sexual violence are an urgent need for the development of a digital safety system due to the extremely rapid pace of information dissemination and the significant coverage of children from early school age with digital technologies. Each training is focused on discussing specific cases, which allows participants to gain a deeper understanding of the issue. Trainings are aimed at encouraging adolescents to actively discuss and address issues related to online safety.

3. The animated educational videos “Eve’s Story” and “Mark’s Story” were created to help adolescents understand the problem of online violence and also became part of the Facebook and YouTube promotional campaign. The scenarios were developed based on focus groups with the involvement of the target audience, which allowed to take into account the experience and views of the participants.

4. Tips for parents include specially prepared materials and guidelines on how to keep children safe in the digital world. A booklet “Advice to Parents and Guardians on Combating Online Sexual Violence” was developed and distributed to support parents.

Algorithm for developing training programme content

1. Situational analysis. Data collection (e.g. “Rapid assessment of the situation with cybersecurity of children aged 10-18” involving professionals with experience in sociological research)
2. Stakeholder analysis
3. Development of programme content
4. Publication and discussion of the first results
5. Presentations for law enforcement officers
6. Online training and feedback
7. Preparation of a toolkit: creation of a collection of materials based on international experience and adapted to local conditions according to the results of the needs analysis
8. Evaluation and adjustment: changes to the programme based on the recommendations of international experts and the results of its testing
9. Implementation
10. Update
11. Dissemination

Example of practical results

As part of the CYBERSAFE programme, four trainings were held in Kyiv and Lviv with 608 participants. The trainings covered the following topics: dissemination of non-consensual sexual images; exploitation, coercion and threats; sexual harassment; unwanted sexualisation and others. The CYBERSAFE tool and videos for professionals working with children were also presented. The trainings covered key aspects of online sexual violence and helped raise awareness among participants. The trained professionals, including teachers, child psychologists, social workers and activists, will be able to further teach adolescents to recognise types of online violence, ways to avoid and stop it; to maintain safe online behaviour and to be ready to ask for help and support victims. Each training session was focused on discussing specific cases, which helped participants understand the problem more deeply and facilitated active discussion of ways to address issues related to online safety.

*The **animated educational videos** published on LHSI’s corporate YouTube platform helped children better understand the problem of online violence and gained popularity among the audience (more than 4.7 thousand views as of November 2024).*

Handouts for participants of educational events: CYBERSAFE manual, guidelines and educational information for parents and guardians.

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

A comprehensive programme to build the institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies to prevent and overcome online violence against children

The comprehensive programme encompasses the following components: training programs, initial and advanced training programmes, online courses/webinars, educational programmes and programmes for the distribution of educational and reference materials.

Target audience – students of basic and higher vocational education in the relevant field of study in higher education institutions with special conditions of study that train police officers of the MIA of Ukraine, law enforcement officers, including juvenile prevention police officers, school police officers, educational security inspectors, cyber police officers and others.

Ultimate beneficiaries – girls, adolescents, students in grades 1-11 and young people.

A separate area of work under the case is the dissemination of knowledge by integrating the programme into the educational, methodical and organisational aspects of the MIA system of higher education institutions; into the curricula of higher education institutions with special conditions of study that train police officers of the MIA system, training plans of initial training, training plans of advanced training courses, other service training plans, etc.

Programme development algorithm:

1. Preparation of the concept
2. Participatory involvement of all stakeholders in its discussion
3. Preparation of the programme plan and content
4. Expert discussion of the content by modules
5. Programme development
6. Coordination of the programme with the relevant law enforcement agencies
7. Training for the target audience
8. Testing
9. Refinement based on the results of testing
10. Piloting and refinement of the programme based on its results
11. Control over the level of assimilation of acquired knowledge
12. Verification of the use of the acquired knowledge in the current work with ultimate beneficiaries

As part of the comprehensive programme, training products were developed to ensure the sustainability of the results.

Component	Target audience	Ultimate beneficiaries	Tool	Coverage
<i>What?</i> Training programme of initial professional training and advanced training	<i>Who is studying?</i> All police officers, juvenile police officers, cyberpolice structural units, investigators, inquirers, students of higher education institutions of the MIA system	<i>To protect whom?</i> All groups of children whose protection is mandated by the relevant law enforcement agencies	<i>How? What is the basis?</i> Training manual “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Safety in Cyberspace”	<i>Where?</i> Six higher education institutions from different oblasts of Ukraine
Online courses / webinars	Juvenile police officers (watchdogs), educational security service professionals	All groups of children whose protection is mandated by the relevant law enforcement agencies	Programmes of online courses / webinars	Three pilot and all other oblasts
Educational programme	Juvenile police officers, other stakeholder groups*	All groups of children, parents, educators	Educational and preventive programme “Your Online Safety”	Three pilot and all other oblasts
Distribution programme for all materials, including educational and reference materials	All stakeholder groups All groups of children	All groups of children, parents, educators, other stakeholder groups	Educational and reference materials (leaflets / sticker packs for children, booklets for adults)	Three pilot and all other oblasts

**The materials for educational and preventive work with children and youth can be used by all stakeholder groups: juvenile prevention police officers, school police officers, educational security service, cyberpolice officers, social workers, social educators, practical psychologists of educational institutions, students of basic and higher vocational education in the relevant field of study, representatives of interested NGOs and others.

■ Training manual “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Safety in Cyberspace”

The training manual is intended for teachers who provide professional training for police officers and is aimed at strengthening the training and methodical tools for training police officers of preventive, investigation and inquiry units, and cyberpolice officers on ensuring the safety of children in cyberspace. The training manual consists of general and special parts formed as of training sessions, which are structured according to the content of the training sessions, as well as a description of the forms used and the specifics of their conduct (description of exercises, duration, appendices and comments for trainers). The general part covers 12 modules (topics), which in the special part are grouped according to the specifics and functions of preventive police units (4 topics), police officers of investigation and inquiry units (2 topics) and cyberpolice officers (2 topics).

The training modules in the general part of the manual are designed to train officers of various structural units of the National Police of Ukraine. The modules encompass the following issues:

- children’s online safety and challenges, in particular during martial law;
- online risks and dangers faced by children;
- basic rules and approaches to digital security;
- the child protection system and the interaction of police units in responding to cases of online violence against children;
- protecting children from violence in cyberspace.

The modules proposed for study within this special part are designed to train specific categories of police officers (juvenile prevention officers, investigators and inquirers, cyberpolice officers) to acquire knowledge in the field of online child safety and the necessary response within their competence.

The topics proposed in the manual for teaching should be selected with due regard to the knowledge and experience by police officers and can be used in a differentiated manner in both initial and in-service training, namely advanced training.

Results of piloting the training based on the materials of the training manual: *the draft manual for training police officers to ensure the safety of children in cyberspace was piloted in higher education institutions with specific learning conditions that train police officers and teach disciplines on relevant topics. The piloting covered 1,551 students of higher education, students of initial vocational training, advanced training courses and police officers who took part in interactive classes as part of their training as part of the programme pilot.*

■ Online courses for law enforcement agencies on preventing and responding to online child abuse

Based on the content of the draft police training manual and its piloting, the topics and concept of three online courses for law enforcement officers were developed. The topics and content of the online courses were agreed and approved by the project stakeholders, namely the Juvenile Prevention Office of the Department of Preventive Activities of the National Police of Ukraine.

Online courses

1. **Online course “Educate and Protect: Effective Prevention in the Work of Juvenile Police Officers to Protect Children from Violence in Cyberspace”.** The aim of the course is to increase the competence of juvenile police officers in their effective educational and preventive work on child safety in cyberspace. The online course consists of 4 topics, each containing test questions to test knowledge, as well as a final test, based on the results of which professionals will be able to receive a certificate of successful completion of the course.

2. **Online course “Preventing Online Violence Against Children”.** The aim of the course is to increase the competence of juvenile police officers in identifying and effectively responding to dangerous situations involving children in the online environment. The online course consists of 5 topics. For each topic, test questions were developed to test knowledge, as well as a final test, which will allow professionals to receive a certificate of successful completion of the course.

3. **Online course “Basics of Cybersecurity in Personal and Official Affairs: Practical Advice”.** The aim of the course is to provide juvenile police officers with basic knowledge and skills to protect personal and professional information in the digital environment. The online course consists of 3 topics.

Online courses on online child safety for a distance learning platform for juvenile prevention workers

1) Online course “Educate and Protect: Effective Prevention in the Work of Juvenile Police Officers to Protect Children from Violence in Cyberspace”.

- the essence of prevention activities, types and principles of prevention;*
- basic conditions for effective educational and preventive work;*
- formats of preventive activities with children, parents/persons in loco parentis and teaching staff of educational institutions;*
- resources for planning preventive measures to protect children from violence and exploitation in cyberspace.*

2) Online course “Preventing Online Violence against Children”:

- risks and dangers that a child may encounter;
- peculiarities of violence against children in cyberspace;
- signs (indicators) of a child being in a dangerous situation;
- peculiarities of establishing contact and an age-appropriate interview with a child victim of cyberspace violence.

3) Online course “Basics of Cybersecurity in Personal and Official Affairs: Practical Advice”:

- concepts and types of personal data and personal information on the Internet;
- basic principles of cyberhygiene, security of devices and information;
- general advice and recommendations on personal data protection.

■ Educational and preventive programmes

The educational and preventive programme “Your Online Safety” is aimed at developing basic competencies (knowledge, skills and abilities) of safe online behaviour among children and young people, taking into account their age-related developmental capabilities.

For children in primary school (grades 1-4), the programme will help them understand safe online time, what personal information is and why it should not be shared; how to deal with online friends and strangers; what to do when something bothers them online; and how to stay safe online.

Children completing basic secondary education (grades 5-7) will have the opportunity to acquire competencies in personal information, cybersecurity rules, understand the dangers of online space and ways to protect themselves from them; be able to take care of online communication safety; learn how to create a secure account on social media, be able to identify online dangers during war and know how to protect themselves from them.

Children of high school age (grades 8-11) will acquire competences in digital identity, digital footprint and staying safe; understand what cyberbullying is and how to protect themselves from it; learn what actions are called online grooming, sexting and how to stay safe from their influence; be aware of the peculiarities of cyberhygiene and verification of information for accuracy; be able to identify online dangers during the war and know how to protect themselves from them.

In general, the programme “Your Online Safety” is aimed at media socialisation of children and young people in the modern world. In 2022-2023, the programme was tested by police officers with students in grades 1-11 in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia Oblast, Lviv and Lviv Oblast, and Kyiv.

The results of the programme testing proved its relevance and revealed the practical interest of students, police officers and teachers. The programme is flexible, adaptable to the

use of forms and methods of work, ways of interacting with children of different age groups. The methodical support of the programme is well developed, which enables to prepare for practical training in a short time.

The programme presents developed thematic classes with children of different ages in accordance with the basic competences of safe online behaviour. Each class has a certain duration, a defined goal, a plan and a course of the class with information messages for the students prepared for each stage, methodical explanations for the presenters, various materials for conducting exercises with children and a list of references with links to electronic versions.

The programme will be useful for juvenile prevention police officers, cyberpolice officers, school police officers from among patrol police officers, as well as a wide range of educators, in particular practical psychologists, social educators, classroom teachers and representatives of other entities that conduct educational and preventive work in educational institutions with students in grades 1-11 to prevent online violence against children and to form their safe online behaviour.

General information on the results of the programme piloting in educational institutions of the three pilot regions

The materials for educational and prevention classes for children of all ages were tested in educational institutions in the pilot regions of the project from November 2022 to March 2023. 50 juvenile and patrol police officers, who had previously undergone appropriate training, conducted classes with children in grades 1-11 in community educational institutions. A total of 18 classes were held in three pilot regions (4 in Lviv and Lviv Oblast; 9 in Vinnytsia and Vinnytsia Oblast; and 5 in Kyiv). A total of 330 children (162 girls and 168 boys) were reached.

The manual includes 4 types of leaflets and 2 types of sticker packs for children of different ages on preventing online child abuse and their safety in the digital environment, as well as booklets for adults who care about children's safety online.

CASE 3. UNSEE NON-BOT CHAT – A CHILD-FRIENDLY TOOL TO COMPLAINT ABOUT ONLINE VIOLENCE AMONG AND AGAINST CHILDREN

The **UNSEE non-bot chat** was developed and launched to combat violence in Ukraine. It is a child-friendly tool for complaining and receiving assistance in cases of online violence, which will allow children to quickly and anonymously complaint about inappropriate content.

In cooperation with the Juvenile Prevention Office of the National Police of Ukraine, the project created an online tool (online mechanism) for complaining about harmful online content to combat violence against children.

Creating the UNSEE non-bot chat:

In 2022, the current situation in Ukraine regarding complaints and existing mechanisms for responding to online content harmful to children, including violence in the digital environment, was analysed in detail.

As part of this study:

- the experience of other countries, including their online complaint mechanisms, was analysed;
- the tools/mechanisms/algorithms currently available in Ukraine for complaining about harmful content in the digital environment were studied;
- the analysis included the Ukrainian legislation regulating the mechanism for complaining about online content harmful to children, how the relevant agencies respond to such complaints and what the interaction between them is, and whether there are gaps in the legislation that complicate/reduce the effectiveness of the above processes;
- an online survey among children was conducted, involving 223 children aged 10 to 18.

Based on the results of this study, it was decided to develop the UNSEE non-bot chat on the Telegram platform, which is the most popular among adolescents. Three focus groups with children in the project regions were held to discuss the name and design of the bot, with 39 children participating. The format and name of the non-bot chat were also discussed and agreed upon with representatives of juvenile prevention and project partners.

The bot called “UNSEE non-bot chat” was developed with two options:

- answering questions using programmed algorithms;
- online communication with a professional.

Algorithm for developing the online mechanism:

1. Preparatory stage (analysis of international experience and existing complaint tools in Ukraine; research of Ukrainian legislation on responding to harmful content and shortcomings in its application; expert interviews with representatives of various agencies involved in the safety of children in the digital environment; an online survey of children).

2. Creating the concept of the UNSEE non-bot chat and developing a child-friendly interface.

3. Testing;

4. Implementation.

UNSEE non-bot chat development process

Initial stage

Platform: an online complaints mechanism called the “UNSEE non-bot chat” was developed in cooperation with the National Police of Ukraine and other stakeholders. The mechanism is aimed at combating online violence against children.

Development and implementation

- **Selecting a platform** based on a preliminary analysis, given the popularity of social media among adolescents (Telegram was chosen).
- **Development of the mechanism**
 - **Name and avatar:** in focus groups with 39 children, the name “UNSEE” was chosen as it attracts the attention of adolescents. An updated avatar was proposed to make the chat more attractive.
 - **Functionality:** the mechanism has two functions, which are an automatic chatbot to answer questions and the possibility of online communication with a professional.
 - The **content and design** were developed in cooperation with the Juvenile Prevention Office. The procedure for transferring information and storing personal data was determined.

Testing and launch

- The **test version** was in operation from September to December 2023. Representatives of the juvenile police informed about 1,000 children about the launch of the non-bot chat.
- **It can be accessed via a direct link in Telegram @Unsee_nebot or scanning a QR code.**



Test results (September-December 2023)

- **Users:** 704 unique visitors (a visitor with a unique IP address)..
- **147 requests for live communication**
- **49 complaints and appeals,** namely:
 - 28 – about channels, chatbots, chats, individual accounts on Telegram;
 - 4 – about online and offline bullying, 2 – about video content (YouTube, TikTok), 1 – about coercion to share intimate photos;
 - 2 – about creating fake accounts;
 - 1 – about the immoral lifestyle of the child’s parents, 2 – about computer problems (viruses, virus chatbots).
- **Response and follow-up:**
 - 14 complaints were referred to the police, while one of the mothers was counselled;
 - 4 complaints about specific Telegram channels and chats were referred to the Cyberpolice Department;
 - 1 complaint about the broadcast of a violent online game on TikTok is under law enforcement supervision;
 - 1 complaint received a response about no corpus delicti;
 - 1 user provided contact details for communication with the police; all others did not.

Background to the development of the UNSEE non-bot chat

Results of an online survey of children aged 10-18: 65% understand what harmful content is, but 40% have never reported it to anyone; 21.5% were not sure about the effectiveness of the response; 46.6% believed that it was “none of their business”. The analysis showed that the existing mechanisms for complaining about the content do not take into account the needs of children and are mainly aimed at adults.

Project Coordinator Olena Shypilenko noted, “the development team was impressed by this research result, and it prompted us to expand the original task, because UNSEE is not just a way to complain or report violations. It is a channel of communication with adults, in particular psychologists, social workers and police officers, who will listen carefully, give advice and reassurance, and if there is a crime, open a case.”

The non-bot chat has been in full operation since 2024. Two operators provide consultations to children.

Non-bot chat testing

Representatives of the juvenile police informed children about the UNSEE non-bot chat during classes, in the course of which about a thousand of them were granted access to it. During the testing period (September - December 2023) alone, 704 unique visitors (users) used the non-bot chat, 147 of whom requested a live chat. The operators recorded 49 complaints and appeals, including cases of bullying, harmful video content, fake accounts, coercion to share intimate photos, viruses, etc. Some complaints were referred to the Cyberpolice Department and other law enforcement agencies.

Technical and advisory support by the National Police

The online mechanism was developed in cooperation with police representatives, in particular, a representative of juvenile prevention was a member of the working group on its elaboration. Regular meetings were held with regional police representatives to inform them about the specifics of the non-bot chat. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Juvenile Prevention Office.

Asier Santillán, Head of Section European Integration, Governance and Rule of Law, Civil Society at the EU Delegation to Ukraine, said that this mechanism would help not only law enforcement agencies protect children's rights but also create a culture of digital self-defence.

"After all, a responsible approach to the environment, including the digital one, is not only about awareness and compliance with safety rules but also about the readiness of teenagers themselves to contribute to the common cause," Asier Santillán said.

"Unsee is our step towards teenagers, to whom we want to say: 'Don't leave criminals invisible and unpunished! We are on your side, let us know and we will take the initiative'," said Vasyl Bohdan, Head of the Juvenile Prevention Office of the National Police of Ukraine.

As of 10 October, 1,459 appeals were received, 184 complaints were registered by the operators, 54 of which were referred to the police (some users complained about individual Telegram channels or posts); 7 posters of online fraud cases were recommended to file an online appeal to the cyberpolice.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Successful cases create the basis for further dissemination of project achievements throughout Ukraine, providing access to the knowledge and resources necessary to improve the online safety of adolescents. The cases can serve as a model for other regions, which will help create a safe digital environment for children. The experience of trainings in three pilot regions involving representatives of law enforcement agencies and social services shows that a cross-sectoral child-centred approach at the community level can become the basis for combating online violence. This experience should be replicated throughout Ukraine, providing access to training and resources that raise awareness of online safety among children and adolescents. After mastering the educational programmes developed within the project, they will be able to recognise the signs of online sexual violence, be aware of the possible consequences for all parties involved, as well as know how to prevent and respond to such cases. The skills acquired by adolescents will allow them to support victims of online violence, and successful cases will not only help them develop responsible behaviour, but also help create a safe digital space for everyone.

Case 1. The CYBERSAFE toolkit and training programme is an important tool in fostering a conscious and responsible attitude to online communication among adolescents, as well as in combating online sexual violence against girls. The programme targets adolescents aged 13-16 and helps recognise various forms of online sexual violence, including non-consensual image sharing, exploitation and intimidation. Through the use of interactive teaching methods, such as role-playing and modelling real-life scenarios, adolescents will gain practical skills that will allow them not only to identify such situations but also to respond appropriately to them.

By adapting the CYBERSAFE programme to the Ukrainian context, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to raise their awareness of issues related to combating online violence, including online sexual violence against adolescent girls, as well as learn how to support victims and seek help. An important component of the programme is the toolkit, which includes facilitator guides and an online game that helps adolescents practice solving real-life problems in different roles in a playful way, as if they were living through certain situations. This ensures the effectiveness of the training and promotes a culture of safety in the digital space.

The implementation of CYBERSAFE in Ukraine is showing positive results, inter alia, through training for professionals working with young people. This programme not only raises awareness but also ensures that adolescents are actively involved in discussing important issues of online safety.

The CYBERSAFE programme has the potential to be implemented in all regions of Ukraine, which will undoubtedly contribute to the protection of children, adolescents and young people in the online environment. The MES and the National Social Service are also interested in disseminating the CYBERSAFE tool.

Case 2. Training police officers to combat online violence is the key to change in the process of keeping children safe in cyberspace. As part of the project, two manuals were developed, namely a training manual “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and

Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Protection in Cyberspace” and “Your Online Safety” for children. The first manual is intended for professional training of police officers and is aimed at strengthening the training and methodical tools for training police officers of preventive, investigation and inquiry units, and cyberpolice officers on ensuring the safety of children in cyberspace. It can be used for training sessions during the initial professional training of police officers, as well as in higher education institutions with specific conditions for postgraduate education and in-service training of police officers.

The second manual “Your Online Safety” is useful for juvenile prevention police officers, school police officers and cyberpolice officers in conducting educational and preventive classes with students in grades 1-11. That is, the first manual is used to training police officers as part of various types of training, while the second is used directly in working with children in educational institutions.

Feedback from schoolchildren, teachers and law enforcement officials indicates a positive impact of the project on the development of safe online behaviour among children, which has sparked interest and a desire to implement it in other regions of Ukraine. The project’s flexibility and adaptability allow it to take into account the specifics of the regions, making it useful for a wide range of professionals working with children and adolescents. Through the elaboration of materials such as leaflets and booklets, the training programme is made available not only to police officers and educators, but also to parents and representatives of NGOs.

The manuals “Training Police Units for Prevention, Investigation and Inquiry, and Cyberpolice Officers on Child Protection in Cyberspace” and “Your Online Safety” have significant potential for dissemination throughout Ukraine, as testing in three pilot regions has confirmed not only the relevance but also the effectiveness of the approaches used.

Given the positive results, the programme may become the basis for improving the system of educational and preventive work in Ukraine, which will provide children and young people with the necessary knowledge to use the Internet safely and prevent violence in the digital environment. Thus, the implementation of the programme at the state level will become an important step towards protecting children and ensuring their safety in the modern information society.

Case 3. UNSEE non-bot chat is an important tool created to provide adolescents with a safe and convenient way to complain about inappropriate content in the fight against online violence. Its development was based on an in-depth analysis of the needs of adolescents and the specifics of the digital environment, which allowed to create a mechanism that accounts for the specifics of their communication. The use of the popular Telegram platform makes UNSEE accessible and convenient for young people, which contributes to greater user engagement in reporting cases of online violence and dangerous content.

The results of testing the UNSEE non-bot chat show its high efficiency. In a short time, it has received a significant number of requests from adolescents, which indicates their willingness to use new tools to protect their rights to safe Internet use, not only to help them identify violations but also to foster a culture of responsible attitude towards the digital environment. Given the successful testing and positive feedback from users, UNSEE has great potential for expansion throughout Ukraine. The further implementation of the non-bot chat involves its active promotion and improvement of functionality, which will attract even more adolescents to use it. Cooperation with law enforcement agencies and psychology professionals will also

help build trust between adolescents and adults, which in turn will ensure more effective protection of children in the digital world. Thus, UNSEE's capacity may become an important element of the child safety system in Ukraine, and its continued support is important after the project is completed.

■ RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1. Scaling up the pilot project to the entire territory of Ukraine with the introduction of case-based tools/practices in the work of relevant institutions in all regions of the country. In view of this, it is advisable to consider initiating the second phase of the project by increasing the coverage of the target audience, which will increase the number of ultimate beneficiaries of the project accordingly (children, adolescents and youth). Special attention should be paid to knowledge transfer among educational security service officers.

Recommendation 2. Training police officers as agents of change in combating online violence. It is necessary to increase the level of training coverage for professionals in this area by integrating specific modules into the educational, methodical and organisational aspects of the activities of higher education institutions of the MIA system, including into the curricula of higher education institutions with special conditions of study that train police officers of the MIA system, training plans of initial training, training plans of advanced training courses, other plans, including in-service training, etc. It is also advisable to add a training format of information to the academic one.

Recommendation 3. Strengthening partnerships, engaging key stakeholders to ensure synergies. In Ukraine, it is expedient to consistently establish strategic partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure the protection of children's rights to digital safety, including projects and programmes of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Council of Europe, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, UN Women and others. In this context, a national knowledge transfer platform "STOP Online Violence" should be created to serve as a source of knowledge and a unifying platform for all stakeholders supporting children's rights to digital safety, including civil society organisations and the private sector, to share knowledge, consult and coordinate activities in the interests of children at the managerial and technical levels.

Recommendation 4. Continuous actions to achieve sustainable results. In Ukraine, attention should be paid to ensuring sustainable results based on the outcomes of project activities in the pilot regions. To achieve maximum results with the available resources, it is necessary to select priority areas for the next stages of work, where online violence prevention activities may continue.

Recommendation 5. Localisation. Given the specifics of the current state of decentralisation reform, it is necessary to develop an algorithm for distributing CYBERSAFE at the local level, i.e. at the community level, which will ensure quick results in increasing the rate of coverage of children's audience to protect them from online violence.

Recommendation 6. Institutionalisation of models/cases. To ensure positive changes, it is advisable to develop roadmaps for scaling up pilot models and successful cases. Implementation of effective case roadmaps and more focused planning of activities will ensure wider coverage of children's audiences and reduce the level of children's vulnerability. It is also important to involve parents in addressing the identified issues of online violence.

Recommendation 7. Prevention. Violence prevention is extremely important in today's digital world. Digital reality is becoming an integral part of the lives of modern adolescents, but they often find themselves in dangerous situations that are accompanied by dangerous actions. Risky digital behaviour is interconnected with the characteristics of adolescence and the environment, due to a lack of knowledge about digital danger, so it is important to use modern tools and new approaches, including those developed during the project, in preventing online violence.

Recommendation 8. Update. Given the rapid changes in the online environment, it is imperative to constantly disseminate up-to-date information about new risks and challenges. For example, an adult interfering with the content of online games for adolescents by offering to exchange their photos for bonuses to advance to the next level of the game, etc. can be considered violence.

Recommendation 9. Active participation of children and adolescents. In today's world, activities should be planned for adolescents with their participation, so they should be involved in discussions and development of effective tools to combat violence. It is expedient to involve more young people in support and partnership in peer education.

Recommendation 10. Advocacy and dissemination of information, diversification of information dissemination channels, dissemination of innovative, digital and interactive tools for the prevention of online violence should be carried out systematically, and digital literacy training should take into account the principles of digital safety and violence prevention. Information about CYBERSAFE should be disseminated by placing QR codes in public spaces, hubs and other places popular with adolescents. It is reasonable to involve socially responsible businesses, especially in IT.

Recommendations by cases

Case	Scaling	Areas for improvement
<p>CYBERSAFE: combating online violence against adolescent girls (implementation of a programme to train professionals working with children in the basics of combating online violence against adolescents (boys and girls) based on the adapted CYBERSAFE model)</p>	<p>Cover all regions of Ukraine (disseminate experience and information about the CYBERSAFE model, establish training, distribute materials and organise study visits)</p>	<p>Provide training for ESS inspectors and youth workers in agencies specialising in youth and sports development</p> <p>Train trainers to increase the reach of training to participants in the process of combating violence (local professionals, well-known persons, popular figures and others).</p> <p>Adopt a child-centred approach to protecting adolescents at the community level</p> <p>Given the experience of Kyiv, establish systemic work at the community level by preparing protocols of work according to a proven algorithm (identification of problems, beneficiaries, stakeholders, creation of a working group of services for children's affairs with law enforcement agencies, development of interaction plans, involvement of other relevant units of city executive authorities, NGOs, revision of existing products based on needs analysis, drawing up plans, ensuring constant monitoring of plan implementation, etc.)</p> <p>Involve parents and parental communities in the timely identification of children's problems related to violence and appropriate response to it</p>
<p>Building the institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies to prevent and overcome online violence against children (implementation of a comprehensive programme)</p>	<p>Cover all regions of Ukraine (replicate experience, establish training and distribute materials)</p>	<p>Improve and expand the content of the programme (increase the number of training modules in accordance with the needs of the target audience)</p> <p>Constantly update the content with due regard to changes in the online environment and the pace of information dissemination</p> <p>Train trainers to increase the coverage of training for law enforcement officers and other participants in the process of combating violence to improve the effectiveness of police work with all stakeholder groups (children, parents, foster parents, foster carers, educators, psychologists and others)</p>
<p>UNSEE NON-BOT CHAT – a child-friendly mechanism for complaining about online violence among and against children</p>	<p>Disseminate information in all regions of Ukraine about the UNSEE non-bot chat</p>	<p>Improve mechanisms for rapid response and psychological assistance</p> <p>Develop mechanisms for responding to complaints by amending the relevant regulatory legal framework</p>

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Assessment report

In accordance with the methodology, 12 interviews were conducted with key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Summary of results based on the responses

Box 1.	
Does the project achieve its goal? Does the project contribute to the introduction of modern standards and effective tools in the law enforcement system in Ukraine to keep children safe in the digital world?	Yes – 100% of answers
Does the project contribute to the introduction of modern standards and effective tools to protect children in the digital world in Ukraine's law enforcement system?	Yes – 100% of answers
In your opinion, did the project improve professional knowledge of law enforcement officers on combating online violence against children?	Yes – 100% of answers
Did the project improve intersectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to online violence against children in Ukraine?	Yes – 100% of answers
Box 2.	
What do you think was the most successful part of the project?	CYBERSAFE, comprehensive training for law enforcement officers
Please rate the level of coherence with your needs and with other initiatives in the relevant area	5 – 100% of responses on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best
Please rate how significant the impact of this activity was	5 – 100% of responses on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best
Please assess the sustainability of the results within the case activities, meaning the forecast of positive changes after the project completion?	5 – 100% of responses on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best
Box 3.	
What is the most significant result of the project?	Detailed answers
What needs to be improved?	Detailed answers
Which stakeholder groups were impacted?	Detailed answers, in general, all relevant beneficiary groups – 100% of responses
What are the shortcomings of the project?	None – 100% of answers

Box 4.	
Rate the scalability of the case from 0 to 5.	5 – 100% of responses on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best
Rate from 0 to 5 the possibility of improving the content produced within the case.	4.8 – average value, 84% of responses with a score of 5 on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value

An example of a response to a survey by a representative of the National Police

Answers to the questions of the survey conducted by Labor and Health Social Initiatives within the Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project

Box 1

1.1. Yes

1.2. Yes

1.3. Yes

1.3. Yes

Box 2

2.1. Creating the manual “Your Online Safety: Preventing Online Violence Against Children and Developing Safe Environment”. This manual is used by all juvenile prevention workers when implementing preventive measures with children and is a valuable tool in this area of work.

2.2. Estimated value – 5

2.3. Estimated value – 5. The greatest impact of these activities was felt by the juvenile prevention police officers of the structural units of the main departments of the National Police in the regions and Kyiv.

2.4. Estimated value – 5. In any case, the project activities involved a large number of stakeholders in the issue of overcoming violence against children using the Internet

Box 3

Improving (enhancing) the existing tools for implementing activities aimed at overcoming online violence against children, ongoing preventive measures in this area, as prevention should be systematic.

Improving the skills of preventing violence against children using the digital environment through participation in professional development trainings.

All groups

None.

Box 4

4.1. Estimated value – 5

4.2. Estimated value – 5.

List of key informants

1. Representatives of the consortium members (project coordinators from the three implementing partners)
2. Child protection representative, United Nations Children's Fund in Ukraine (UNICEF), Kyiv.
3. Representative of the Juvenile Prevention Office of the Department of Preventive Activities of the National Police of Ukraine
4. Regional project coordinators (Vinnytsia Oblast, Lviv Oblast and Kyiv)
5. Representative of the Service for Children's Affairs in Kyiv
6. Representative of the Service for Children's Affairs in Lviv
7. Domestic violence representative of the Main Department of the National Police in Lviv Oblast
8. Representative of Odesa State University of Internal Affairs of the MIA of Ukraine
9. Representative of the Right to Family NGO

Annex 2. Study methodology

■ METHODOLOGY

of the research on case studies, evaluation of the effectiveness of practices, tools and experience of implementing the Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project

The Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union. The project aims to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies and civil society organisations to ensure children's digital rights and create effective modern tools to respond to child abuse. The project also aims to strengthen the role of civil society organisations in shaping policies that can improve governance in combating online violence against children and their protection in cyberspace.

Project implementers: All-Ukrainian Charity "Child Well-being Fund Ukraine", All-Ukrainian Public Center Volunteer NGO, Labor and Health Social Initiatives

Project duration: 36 months (January 2022 to December 2024)

Project geography: Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts and Kyiv. After piloting activities in three oblasts, the experience will be replicated in other regions of Ukraine.

Project goal: to introduce modern standards and effective tools in the law enforcement system of Ukraine to protect children in the digital world.

The following is provided to achieve this goal:

1. To improve professional knowledge of law enforcement officers in combating online violence against children.
2. To improve intersectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to online violence against children in Ukraine.

Situation analysis

The Internet opens up a vast world of opportunities for comprehensive personal development; it is a source of education and communication, provides platforms for creativity and entertainment, and develops digital literacy and technological skills. At the same time, the risks that threaten the lives, well-being and safety of children are increasing. Here are the most dangerous of them.

Misuse of personal data Children often do not realise that their personal information (name, address, photos, etc.) may become available for misuse through social media, forums or other online platforms and lead to unpredictable consequences, such as identity theft, cyber blackmail, etc.

Cyberbullying and online bullying, sexting and grooming, sextortion and communication with strangers on social media, etc. Children may suffer from digital violence, insults, threats or other forms of bullying (mobbing) online, which can significantly affect their mental and emotional stability.

Inappropriate content. Children may accidentally or intentionally come across materials or websites with dangerous or inappropriate content (violence, pornography, drugs, etc.).

Cybercrime and fraud. There are many risks on the Internet from fraudsters trying to take advantage of children, including phishing or other cybercrime activities.

The cybersecurity of children is especially important during the war, when they are exposed to disinformation, psychological influence of enemies, cyber espionage, interception of personal data, etc.

Ukraine is gradually working to address these issues by teaching children, parents and teachers how to use the Internet safely. The role of law enforcement agencies is increasing in investigating cybercrimes and protecting children from cyber danger, building their immunity to cyber threats by teaching them to recognise these threats and ensuring their access to support and protection in case of problems.

The issue of child cybersecurity in Ukraine requires a comprehensive approach: education, legislative regulation, and support for relevant institutions and the public to effectively protect the younger generation from online threats.

It should be noted that despite the significant challenges of martial law, Ukraine is taking important steps towards child cybersecurity. Improving the legal framework, expanding international cooperation, improving technical equipment and raising the level of education in this area contribute to strengthening the country's cyber defence as a whole, taking into account its dynamic nature, so the constant updating of protection strategies and methods remains a priority.

Goal and tasks of the study

Goal: to assess the effectiveness of practices, tools and experience in implementing the Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project, study cases (practices and application of tools), prepare a case study report to disseminate best practices in other regions of Ukraine in order to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders to combat violence against children.

Tasks:

- agreeing on tools, a case study schedule, and learning the project's experience;
- analysing its documents and drawing up the Initial Report;
- studying the project activities of the three consortium partners in terms of their thematic focus (training law enforcement representatives, adapting international instruments, grant-making, etc.);
- data collection in the three target regions of the project (city of Kyiv, Vinnytsia and Lviv oblasts);
- analysing and selecting cases based on the criteria of effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and scalability (selecting 4 cases of different thematic focus, one of which on a project-based approach);

- involving key project partners, regional coordinators and professionals from the three implementing partner organisations in collecting data to describe the selected cases;
- describing at least four best cases/practices of the project and identifying its main lessons at the national and local levels;
- preparing a report on the studied cases and conclusions (up to 30 pages in Ukrainian) and a summary of the report (up to 3 pages);
- preparing and presenting the main project cases to local and national partners.

Stages of the study

1. Analysis of project documents (desk study)
2. Verification (spot checking of reporting documents)
3. Case study (selection, study and description of cases)
4. Three semi-structured interviews with national project specialists (at least two at different levels from implementing partners)
5. Three semi-structured interviews with regional coordinators and other professionals/experts on practices and tools implemented at the regional level
6. Two semi-structured interviews with project partners and beneficiaries
7. Interviews with the communications team to select success stories for each case

Areas of case analysis

The study will clarify the main criteria for selecting cases, characteristics of practices, tools and approaches developed during the project by analysing:

- information on cases and tools for combating online violence against children in the three pilot regions;
- key advantages for disseminating effective cases and tools for combating online violence against children in Ukraine;
- the level and nature of adaptation of international experience in ensuring modern standards of initial professional training and advanced training of law enforcement officers to combat online violence;
- results of using online courses for law enforcement officers on preventing and responding to online violence against children;
- ways and methods of further capacity building activities for stakeholders.

The results of the case study will be described with due regard to the following criteria:

- relevance
- coherence (consistency)
- effectiveness
- impact
- sustainability.

Ethical aspects of the study

The study procedures provide for key ethical principles: voluntariness, confidentiality, promotion of children's rights and protection from violence, as well as protection of their personal data.

Appendices to the methods

GUIDE TO SEMI-STRUCTURED IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS

Section 1. Introduction. Introducing the purpose of the study and the interviewer. Respondent – organisation, position and functions.

Section 2. Informing the respondent about the purpose and objectives of the study, the anonymity of the data collected and discussing consent to the recording of the interview

Section 3. Description of project activities and results

Section 4. Best practices of the project, case selection by criteria

Section 5. Case description based on the evaluation questions:

RELEVANCE

- Is the activity relevant to the case?

COHERENCE (CONSISTENCY)

- How coherent and compatible are the activities in the case with other interventions in the relevant area?

EFFECTIVENESS

- Are the activities in the case achieving their goals?

IMPACT

- What is the impact of the case on the development of the relevant field?

SUSTAINABILITY

- Do the case activities ensure the sustainability of the results?

Section 6. Recommendations for replication of experience

Section 7. Surveys by box

SURVEY

Box 1.	<p>Does the project achieve its goal? Does it contribute to the introduction of modern standards and effective tools in the law enforcement system of Ukraine to protect children in the digital world?</p> <p>Does the project contribute to the introduction of modern standards and effective tools to protect children in the digital world to Ukraine’s law enforcement system?</p> <p>In your opinion, did the project improve professional knowledge of law enforcement officers on combating online violence against children?</p> <p>Did the project improve intersectoral cooperation, prevention and response to online violence against children in Ukraine?</p>
Box 2.	<p>What do you think was the most successful case of the project?</p> <p>Please assess the level of coherence of your needs with other initiatives in the relevant area?*</p> <p>Please rate the significance of the impact of the activities within this activity?</p> <p>Please assess the sustainability of the results of the case activities, meaning the forecast on positive changes after the project completion?</p>
Box 3.	<p>What is the most important, significant? What is the most significant result of the project?</p> <p>What needs to be improved?</p> <p>Which stakeholder groups were impacted?</p> <p>What are the shortcomings of the project? What are the project’s shortcomings to look out for?</p>
Box 4.	<p>Evaluate the possibility of case scaling*.</p> <p>Assess the possibility of improving the content produced by the case*.</p>

*Scores on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value

SCRIPT FOR AN INTERVIEW

Hi, <<Name>>!

My name is _____, and I am commissioned by LHSI to research the results of the Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project in order to learn from the project’s experience and select the best cases for further replication.

The purpose of the interview is to discuss the results and achievements of the project, its most successful cases and the consequences of their impact. Duration – 1.5-2 hours.

Your opinion is very important to us

Can spare time	Can't spare time
<i>Continue</i>	<i>record feedback</i> <i>record the relevance of the information</i> <i>highlight the relevant and the main things</i>
The Empowering Law Enforcement in Overcoming Online Violence against Children Project was implemented in (name) Oblast. In your opinion, what.....	
1.1 Did the project achieve its goal? Did it contribute to the introduction of effective tools in the activities of the Ukrainian law enforcement system to protect children in the digital world?	
Yes	No
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>
1.2. In your opinion, did the level of professional knowledge of law enforcement officers on combating online violence against children increase?	
Yes	No
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>
1.3 Did the project improve intersectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to online violence against children in Ukraine?	
Yes	No
Which case can you identify as the most successful and why?	
2.2. Could you please describe the case you have identified as the most successful, taking into account the following criteria?	
RELEVANCE Is the activity relevant to the case?	
COHERENCE (CONSISTENCY) How coherent is the joint activity on the identified case with other interventions in the relevant area?	
EFFECTIVENESS Did the activities in your case achieve the project goals?	
IMPACT What is the impact of the case on the development of the relevant field?	
SUSTAINABILITY Do the case activities ensure the sustainability of the results?	
<i>Record the answer and move on to the next question</i>	
Please assess how useful the activities within the case were (value of the RELEVANCE criterion)	
● On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	
Please assess the extent to which the case activity was aligned with the needs (value of the COHERENCE criterion)	
● On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	
Please assess how successful the results of the case were (value of the EFFECTIVENESS criterion)	
● On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	

Please assess the level of significance and impact of the case activities on the further work of the partners (significance of the IMPACT criterion)	
● On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	
Please assess the level of sustainability of the results of the case activities after the end of the project (importance of the SUSTAINABILITY criterion)	
● On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is the best value	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	
Please indicate which groups of beneficiaries and partners were most impacted.	
<i>Record the answer and move on to the next question</i>	
In your opinion, what actions will be a logical continuation of the case in terms of ensuring standards and effective tools in the law enforcement system of Ukraine to protect children in the digital world?	
<i>Record the answer and move on to the next question</i>	
In your opinion, what could be a logical continuation of the case for the professional development of law enforcement officers in the field of combating online violence against children?	
<i>Record the answer and move on to the next question</i>	
In your opinion, what could be a logical extension of the case for strengthening intersectoral cooperation in preventing and responding to online violence against children in Ukraine?	
<i>Record the answer and move on to the next question</i>	
Do you have any comments, observations or recommendations on the content of the case? Are there any shortcomings and/or issues you face that you think have not been discussed?	
Yes	No
<i>Record the answer</i>	<i>Say the following</i>
Rate the scalability of the case from 0 to 5	
<i>Check the box and move on to the next question</i>	
Rate from 0 to 5 the possibility of improving the content produced within the case.	
<i>Check the box</i>	
<p>Thank you for your cooperation</p> <p>Have a nice day</p> <p>Check that everything is filled in and move on to the next person's interview/survey</p>	

