III Plan of Action Against Sexual Exploitation of Children in Spain [2017-2020]

Activities report 2019

[Executive summary]

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PRESENTATION

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

A HIDDEN REALITY

Over the last years important efforts have being carried out in tackling sexual exploitation of children (SEC) in Spain. Nevertheless, an analysis of the context shows up an increase of detected cases related to violence and, specially, sexual violence against children, which includes SEC.

However, considering the clandestine nature of crimes related to this form of violence and, in many occasions, social tolerance, collected data do not reflect the real magnitude of the problem.

In this regard, official stats report on a negligible part of children and adolescents involved in sexual exploitation situations in Spain. In 2018 according to the data from the Ministry of Interior, 113 children were victims of crimes related to "corruption of minors" and 6 were victims of trafficking for sexual purposes. In fact, as reported by the United States of America State Department within its global report on trafficking of human beings, Spain is considered a country of origin, transit and destination for victims of trafficking, especially women and children with sexual purposes, which, according to specialized entities in the attention to victims, they can represent a much higher percentage of victims been detected by the system, without forgetting sons and daughters of these women, which become direct victims of trafficking.

On the other hand, the everyday and generalized use of ICT, shows up the need of focusing on how this social context can affect in a way or another what children

experience online. Only in 2018, Ministry of Interior, reported on 2.319 victimizations against children, being the 35,2% of all the registered cases, sexual crimes.

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is another suppressed reality in Spain. In spite of the estimated number of tourists and travelers traveling and/ or arriving at the country with sexual purposes, nowadays it's not considered a crime in itself under criminal law in the country, yet.

Beyond data, sexual exploitation of children has an impact at all levels in the life of boys and girls victims, in both the short and long term, with an immediate consequence: the violation of children's right to a life free from violence.

This fact emphasizes the urgent need to continuing working in an integral framework which incorporates improvements in acknowledge of the problem; in its prevention through awareness raising on the issue and training all agents involved, including children victims and/ or survivors of SEC; in the attention to children victims by creating and developing specialized resources and attention services; in developing mechanisms incorporating boys' and girls' perspective.

Considering all the above, in 2019, FAPMI-ECPAT Spain has continued its work on building an integrator and holistic reference framework which, according to the international, regional and state standards, guarantees children's right to be protected against any form of sexual exploitation.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES

III ACTION PLAN AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

TOGETHER AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Becoming the national group in Spain of ECPAT International and The Code, has broaden the commitment of the Federation in the fight against maltreatment, specifically, against sexual exploitation of children.

This commitment has resulted in the development of three action plans, which deployment implies a set of complementary strategic guidelines involving entities, institutions and companies linked to the problem of SEC, expressed through the development of FAPMI-ECPAT Spain's Program for the Prevention of SEC.

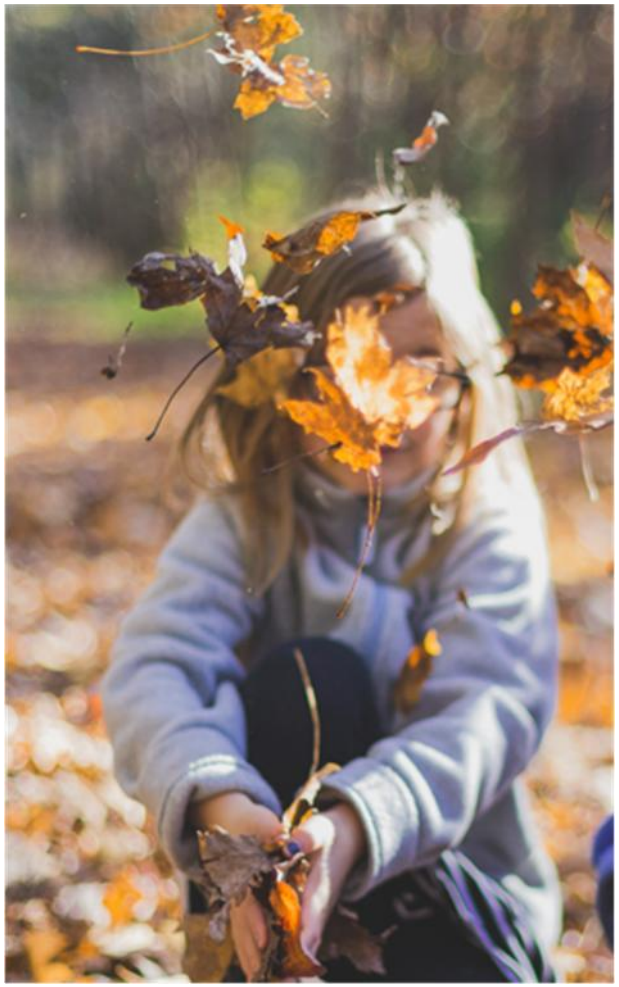
According to that, main activities and goals of the implementation of this Program are analyzed below.

FAPMI-ECPAT Spain's strategic guidelines in the fight against SEC.

- Promoting and disseminating of research, tools and knowledge on SEC in any of its forms;
- Providing information, awareness raising and prevention;
- Training for the improvement of the attention to victims
- Advocacy
- Promoting alliances
- Positioning FAPMI-ECPAT Spain as the reference entity in Spain in the fight against SEC.

OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES

2019 IN NUMBERS



IN **2019**

MORE THAN **50.000** **PROFESSIONALS AND PEOPLE**

WERE TRAINED AND SENSITIZED.

WE HAVE COLLABORATED WITH MORE THAN **2.000**

PROFESSIONALS, ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

AND WE HAVE WORKED WITH MORE THAN

1.900 **CHILDREN.**

A TOTAL OF MORE THAN **250.00** **PEOPLE**

HAVE BENEFITED FROM OUR ACTIVITIES.

STRATEGIC GOAL 1.

Promotion and dissemination of research, instruments and knowledge about child sexual exploitation in all its forms.

Over 2019, we have continued working in social awareness raising, and the improvement of scientific evidence on the problem of child sexual exploitation. This work has been done through different simultaneous ways: through gathering and dissemination of research and studies through the Federation's communication channels (virtual documentary center, social networks, website), and the call for awareness and training activities on the problem for different agents.

It has to be highlighted the development of different studies which analyses the current situation of SEC in Spain and assesses the activities carried out by FAPMI-ECPAT Spain according to its quadrennial action plan for the prevention of SEC (2017-2020). These activities have contributed to a larger body of information available.

In addition, a very important work of dissemination of contents and international and national proposes has been done, which impacts and motivates changes in tackling sexual exploitation of children in our country. According to that, more than 500 reports from different sources, both national and international, have been identified and disseminated.

We have also developed activities in different areas regarding identification and dissemination of good

practices related to prevention, detection and reporting; protocols and interinstitutional coordination; professional training; and legal framework. On the other hand, within this strategic goal and as part of the activities related to the promotion of research, it has to be highlighted the development of a research regarding sexual self-produced images by children, started in 2018 and which will be published at the beginning of 2020.

Experiences of online exchange of child sexual abuse images by children

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ABSTRACT

This study approaches the phenomenon of self-produced images with sexual content by children.

The study has been carried out with a sample of N=990 boys and girls using a questionnaire self-administered including a series of dichotomic answers and open questions. The questionnaire has been administered among child population age 6 to 18, form different social contexts: educational, protection, functional diversity.

Results show a prevalence of 3,01% of boys and girls which have produced and disseminated sexual self-produced images of themselves at some point. Within them, girls represent a higher percentage in the production of these images.

Main motivation of the participants in producing and sharing these kinds of images were social acceptance (in this case the content of the material was erotic) through social networks (33,3%). It has to be highlighted that a significant percentage of 13,3% of boys and girls have shared these kinds of images obligated by the recipient.

In no event, participants appreciate negative consequences from production nor dissemination of these images.

Discussion comes with the aim of contributing to the development of more appropriate ways of education in the prevention of risk situations derived from sexual self-production images for children, families and professionals.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2.

Providing information, awareness raising to general population, and to all significant agents and to the private sector in particularly on the problem of SEC, in order to become prevention, detection and reporting active agents.

Along 2019, we have continued with our work in the implementation of different activities aimed at the improvement of knowledge, awareness arising and active involvement in the detection and reporting of SEC among different sectors.

GENERAL POPULATION

Information and awareness raising materials on the issue of SEC have been disseminated, mainly through FAPMI's communication channels.

www.ecpat-spain.org

It has to be highlighted the dissemination of the **reporting platform on cases related to SEC** in Spain, launched in 2018 by FAPMI-ECPAT Spain.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT.

Through the implementation of [Make-IT-Safe initiative.]

111	14	101
Workshops for children	Workshops for family contexts	Workshops for professionals

27 members in Spain

7.503.667 beneficiaries*

(*) beneficiaries since the beginning of the implementation in 2015.

Private sector

Through the implementation of the initiative [Code of Conduct for the prevention of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism].

We protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

Especially, it has to be highlighted the development of the online training App for professionals from tourism and travel sector.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3.

Promoting the improvement of attention and protective measures for victims of SEC in all its forms through training of significantly groups and dissemination of tools in all levels and in all contexts directly linked to this problem.

This goal has been achieved through the identification of training materials disseminated through the Federation's virtual documentary center and social networks, and the **organization and development of different capacity building activities** for professionals linked to childhood on the issue of SEC. At FAPMI-ECPAT Spain, we believe that training for professionals who, at any given time, may have to face a case of these characteristics, is a key element for the protection and care of victims, more even considering the invisibility and lack of awareness of the phenomenon in our country.

Within this framework, several activities have been organized, both at local and state level, approaching specifically **detection, prevention and attention** to victims of SEC.

ADVOCACY

Part of the activities within this strategic goal, are about the contribution to the improvement in SEC approach and the attention to children victims.

In this regard, it has to be highlighted our contribution to the **Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the situation of SEC in Spain**, supplemented by a more than 100 pages report on the situation of SEC in the country, including different proposals which, considering the current situation observed, are necessary to improve the approach to the issue.

At the state level, we have also collaborated with the Human Rights Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, related to the contributions made to the **Human Rights and Business Action Plan**, as well as the **II National Human Rights Plan** promoted by the Government.

Children on the move: a challenge requiring comprehensive strategies for its approach

In recent years, in Spain we face a challenge for which it seems that public administrations are not responding adequately. Thousands of children have arrived in the country without reference adults, which has overwhelmed the welfare services, as well as the State's response to the needs of these children, with the consequent violation of their fundamental rights.

Bearing in mind the complexities associated with vital contexts of these children, the need for joint and coordinated action by all agents involved has been revealed, from public administration, educational, social and health services to entities responsible for the protection of children.

Within this framework, we have participated in the working group on unaccompanied migrant minors promoted by Childhood Observatory, through which we have sent different contributions related to addressing this issue, always from the perspective of the protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

STRATEGIC GOAL 4.

Promoting interinstitutional coordination at local, state and international level and the collaboration of all social agents, administration and private companies directly linked to this problem.

This goal has been achieved mainly through the promotion of the **Spanish Network Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and promotion of Children's Rights**. This initiative, leaded by FAPMI-ECPAT Spain, was stablished to increase and reinforce collaboration of all significant agents in the fight against SEC in Spain, and consists in a task force integrated by different profiles (civil society, professionals from different fields, organizations, universities, administrations, private companies, mass media, etc.). Its main activities are aimed at to the development of a **common frame in the fight against SEC** in Spain in its different forms, advocacy, awareness raising and prevention.

Complementary and within this goal, we have continued building alliances and promoting networking with related entities; such as EDUCO or INCIBE, at the state level, or ECPAT France at the European level, especially, highlighting collaboration in different projects.

STRATEGIC GOAL 5.

Reinforcing FAPMI-ECPAT Spain position of the main Network against SEC in Spain.

Within this goal, it has to be highlighted the development of different **internal reports** regarding FAPMI-ECPAT Spain's activities in compliance with its Action Plan Against SEC in Spain.

We have continued participating in different forums, platforms and networks where the Federation collaborates, such as **ISPCAN, The Code, ECPAT International, Childhood Observatory** and its different task forces, **Childhood Organizations Platform** or The **Spanish Network against trafficking of human beings**, all of them entities and organizations where the Federation participates actively.

It has to be highlighted too, the attention to different enquiries, mainly technical issues on SEC aimed by professionals and/ or undergraduate students, attended through the Federation's **Orientation and Attention to citizenship Service (SOIC).**

On the other hand, we have focused on mass media through the publication of different press releases stressing the need of an improvement in the protection of children victims of SEC.

STRATEGIC GOAL 6.

Empowering children as effective agents in the prevention of SEC among their peers.

Since its start in 2015, the Federation has continued with the activities addressed directly to children, this year in six Autonomous Communities: Galicia, Asturias, Castilla y León, Murcia, Andalucía and La Rioja. The activities along 2019, were aimed at children from primary and secondary education. The objective has been their empowerment as agents with protection and self-protection capacity against the phenomenon of online sexual exploitation through the **Make-IT-Safe** initiative.

The initiative pursues the aim of training children in the identification of protective responses before possible own or perpetrated by others victimization experiences to whose they can be exposed while their exploration of the Internet and social networks, through a positive and good treatment approach.

Many of risk and sexual violence situations of which children are victims respond to the lack of awareness on the indicators and signals for tis identification preceding a situation of victimization. For this reason, Make-IT-Safe allows promoting and training children and adolescents on the keys and strategies for a safer use of ICT in order to delimit and identification any situation of abuse or violence that may occur. The initiative pursues not only training in self-

protection strategies, but the ability of children in the protection of others though sharing knowledge and possible risk and/or violence situations with their reference adults.

The effectiveness of the initiative is based on the direct work with children as main recipients, and also the work with their reference adults, which allow the development of a common and shared language between children and their families and professionals. In that way it's possible to hatch a protective network around the online victimization experiences where children as well as their reference adults handle clues, tools and strategies to preserve children's welfare.

On the other hand, it has to be highlighted, within the objectives of the Make-IT-Safe initiative, the implementation of activities aimed at the promotion of youth participation. In this case, the pilot initiative started in 2018, has continued its activities in 2019, consisting in the training of adolescents in one school from Salamanca in order to train their peers in the safety use of the Internet and social networks. A total of 50 boys and girls have been trained.

1.939 children and adolescents, trained so that they can avoid the risks derived from the use of ICT, providing them with tools and resources for their self-protection.

234 families trained through the strengthening of parental capacities to protect children and adolescents against the risks derived from ICT.

183 professionals Informed about strategies that allow them knowing the risks to which children and adolescents are exposed in the use of ICT, and to detect and act against possible risk situations.

CONCLUSIONS

MOVING FORWARD ON GOOD TREATMENT

SEC prevention program has been progressively consolidated, since the beginning of its implementation by FAPMI-ECPAT Spain in 2015, as a benchmark strategy in the fight against sexual exploitation of children in Spain.

Over the years, we have increased both the number of people who benefit from our activities and the number of activities implemented, also expanding the network of collaborators and synergies with other entities, organizations and professionals.

The aforementioned has allowed the awareness, education and training of different professional groups of all areas and levels linked both directly and indirectly with children and adolescents, in general population, and especially, of children and adolescents. All this allows us to proactively advance in the prevention of one of the most terrible violations of children's rights

However, much remains to be done. As a result of the preparation of this report, it is possible to identify the challenges and aspects that require a greater effort to achieve our ultimate objective: guarantee the effective protection of children and adolescents against sexual exploitation.

Finally, we thank all those agents, from public Administrations, entities and organizations, private sector, professionals and individuals who have contributed to the FAPMI-ECPAT Spain's labor in defending children's rights and promoting Good Treatment for children.

TOGETHER AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

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