

CONCEPT NOTE



Programme: Internal Security Fund-Police

Call: Cybercrime, child sexual abuse and digital investigations, ISFP-2020-AG-CYBER

(https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/other_eu_prog/home/wp-call/call-fiche_isfp-2020-ag-cyber_en.pdf)

Submission deadline: 25/02/2021, 17:00 (Brussels time)

Project's duration: max 36 months

Project's provisional starting date: August 2021

Project's budget: 300.000€ - 4.000.000€

EU Grant: 90% of the total eligible costs of the action

Prospective partnership:

- The Smile of the Child, Greece (leading organization)
- Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
- Institute of Entrepreneurship Development, Greece
- LEA Greece (to be confirmed)
- Missing Children Europe, Belgium
- Child Rights Centre, Albania
- LEA Albania (to be confirmed)
- KEK Vonal, Hungary
- LEA Hungary (to be confirmed)
- Telefono Azzurro, Italy
- LEA Italy (to be confirmed)
- National Centre for Applied Data Analytics and Machine Intelligence, Ireland
- NGO from Ireland (to be confirmed)
- LEA Ireland (to be confirmed)
- Instituto de Apoio à Criança, Portugal
- University of Lisbon, Portugal
- LEA Portugal (to be confirmed)
- Asociația Telefonul Copilului, Romania
- Software Imagination & Vision (SIMAVI), Romania
- LEA Romania (to be confirmed)
- Magnolia, Ukraine
- LEA Ukraine (to be confirmed)

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Project's scope:

The overall objective of the proposed project is to support the fight against child sexual abuse, by providing the competent law enforcement and judicial authorities with a reliable and useful tool of reporting, which will be developed based on their actual needs and competences. Specific focus will be given to the training of professionals from the aforementioned institutions, with the use of technologically advanced equipment, ex. virtual reality.

The developed tool will be based on the good practice of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children/USA, the **Cybertipline** (<https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/cybertipline>). NCMEC's CyberTipline is the nation's centralized reporting system for the online exploitation of children. The public and the electronic service providers can make reports of suspected online enticement of children for sexual acts, extra-familial child sexual molestation, child pornography, child sex tourism, child sex trafficking, unsolicited obscene materials sent to a child, misleading domain names, and misleading words or digital images on the internet.

In 2019 16.900.000 reports were made in the cybertipline; 16.836.694 of which were from internet providers.

The Lead partner, 'The Smile of the Child' has a long-lasting collaboration with NCMEC, since 2006, and has signed a License Agreement with the Organization, which allows us to develop and use the cybertipline in Europe.

The partnership of the proposed project, which consists of public authorities, NGOs and technology companies from a high number of European countries, can ensure, on the one hand the cross-border cooperation and, on the other hand, the networking and collaboration between the public and the private sector. Each partner will contribute, based on his expertise and will benefit by participating in a transnational effort to eliminate online exploitation of children.

The participating NGOs are front line Organizations, which will have the opportunity, within the project to acquire a tool that will support their everyday work, enhance their collaboration with the public sector and serve their fundamental mission, to support all children in danger and/or need.

The law enforcement authorities, which will join the project's consortium, will use their participation as a means to have the first say in the development of a tool of which they will be the end beneficiaries and to tackle from the beginning potential failures, such as dysfunctional format of reports and hard to use final data coming from the operators of the reporting tool.

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The contribution of the participating technology partners is significant and highly valued and they will use their long lasting experience and expertise, in order to develop a successful tool, adjusted to the prerequisites and provisions of an EU co-funded project.

Within the foreseen dissemination and networking activities, the partnership will also focus on advocacy towards the competent institutions of the EU, in regards to the ePrivacy Directive, it's devastating effects in the fight against child sexual abuse and the proposed solution long term legislation on the detection and reporting of child sexual abuse material and grooming online.

Work Packages:

WP1. Management and Coordination of the Action

WP2. Needs assessment on the final format and content of the tool

WP3. Development of the tool

WP4. Pilot testing of the tool in the participating countries

WP5. Training of law enforcement and judicial authorities on the tool, using virtual reality

WP6. Evaluation

WP7. Dissemination and networking activities