

# ANNUAL REPORT

250.000 children are reported  
missing in Europe every year,  
1 child every 2 minutes.



**Missing  
Children  
Europe**



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Children  
Europe**

Missing Children Europe (ASBL) is a European federation with 30 NGO members in 25 European countries who work on the ground with children who run away and families affected by all categories of child disappearances.

Runaways, parental abductions and missing unaccompanied migrant minors make up over 80% of missing children cases in the EU, yet awareness and support systems for these vulnerable categories of missing children are lacking in many member states. All categories of missing children require solutions that consider the cross border nature and effective long term perspective of the problem. The issue of missing children is not confined to national borders and therefore requires a European support system and European policies to effectively tackle these issues. This is the role played by Missing Children Europe. We work to provide better data, better services and tools, influence policy and raise awareness of children who go missing. We have a long way to go but we believe that together, we can create a safer Europe for children.

## **What we do:**

- › **Services and tools**
- › **Research and evidence**
- › **Awareness and prevention**
- › **Policies and laws**

### Colophon

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## Foreword



The plight of missing children and their families has been a particularly important issue for the European Commission. Missing Children Europe has been a close ally and a champion in these matters. They have worked to ensure that we join forces across the EU, pool resources, provide quality services, and enhance cooperation.

We have taken some important steps forward in 2013. We used the third conference on missing children to take stock of the situation and to assess how we can further boost and strengthen the 116 000 European hotlines for missing children. The excellent cooperation between Vice-President Reding and Missing Children Europe in hosting these yearly conferences has contributed to increased efforts and considerable progress in improving the service of existing hotlines and launching new ones. This was underpinned by the Commission's financial support to the hotlines: Euro 4.5 million were earmarked to this end for 2013-2014 alone.

Ever since the adoption of the revised Universal Service Directive in 2009, the European Commission has called on Member States to fulfil their obligation to have an operational hotline for missing children. Missing Children Europe through its active network of organisations and 116 000 operators can offer further assistance and guidance.

The Commission also concluded an EU-wide study on missing children. The data collected revealed that in 2011, a quarter of a million cases of missing children were officially reported in the EU, underlining the importance and magnitude of the problem.

The 2011 EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child reinforced the EU's commitment to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of the child through 11 concrete actions that contribute effectively to children's well being and safety. The Commission will step up efforts to establish an integrated approach to child protection, forming a safe environment for children in all situations, including when they go missing. To this end, the Commission will prepare EU guidance on child protection systems to provide information on relevant EU legislation and policies, clarify where the EU can support national child protection systems and illustrate good practice.

I am convinced that the Commission and the European Parliament will continue to ensure that missing children remain high on the agenda of EU policy in the years to come. We have already set this out through the new generation of EU funding programmes. The Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme is crucial in these efforts: The EU will continue to give funding for quality organisations and projects providing support services for child victims of violence.

I would like to thank Missing Children Europe and all its members for their valuable work over the years to promote the protection of children and their rights.

### **José Manuel Barroso**

President of the European Commission

## The road ahead



When Sir Francis Jacobs, then President of Missing Children Europe, called me last year asking whether I would consider presenting myself to take over his mandate, I said I would sleep over it and come back to him within a few days. In reality though, I had made up my mind very soon after that call: I knew Missing Children Europe from my time as Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, where I prioritised the protection and the promotion of the rights of every child in Europe as a transversal objective throughout all actions undertaken. I had witnessed how the organisation had grown under the leadership of Sir Francis. I also was familiar with the issue of missing children, and the need for preventive and responsive measures to be developed in a sustainable and pan-European manner for the problem to be addressed effectively. A lot had been done but so much more remained to be achieved. And the responsibility for this needed to be shared by many stakeholders: governments, law enforcement authorities, social and child care services, international organisations, and civil society alike. It was a challenge I could not resist and I accepted the invitation.

The first action I undertook after my election by the General Assembly was the launch of a strategy review. The goal was to listen to the members and partners of Missing Children Europe as well as the other stakeholders active in related fields, to define where we, as a group, could have the most impact. The process was revealing. Not only was Missing Children Europe recognized by the 72 interviewees as a professional, effective and supportive organisation, but feedback also led the way to drafting a sound and comprehensive roadmap for the years to come.

The strategy adopted on this basis by its members for a period of three years is built around three thematic priorities: runaways, parental abductions and missing unaccompanied migrant minors. These groups of "missing children" jointly constitute the largest proportion in the caseload of hotlines for missing children, and are those for whom we, as a pan European umbrella organisation of NGOs, are best

placed to make a difference. Our work will be structured on the basis of four strategic pillars: quality services & tools, evidence & research, awareness & prevention and policies & laws. A list of thirteen specific objectives will constitute the building blocks of our consecutive work programmes. In developing these, we will not limit ourselves to the borders of the EU, but will open up cooperation with organisations active in the broader Europe. We will aim to empower and protect, through the work of our members and under the leadership of the Board.

Above all, the strategy puts the child at the heart of our mission. It looks at why an individual child goes missing, and what happens when it does. It aims to respond to the immediate needs of the child in safeguarding his or her rights, and preventing future disappearances once it has been found. It understands the complexity of the problem of missing children – to which no 'one size fits all' remedy can be applied. It understands that none of this can be done alone, and should be coordinated in an embedded and comprehensive way, by working with others in developing an integrated child protection approach.

Every missing child has a hidden story, a silenced future and a muted dream. I am committed to bringing them back and to offer them a future where they feel safe and understood.

With your support, we can truly change Europe to become a better and safer place for children. We can give all children a chance to dream the world of tomorrow on the soft pillow they deserve.

### **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**

President of Missing Children Europe,  
UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children,  
Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

## Stakeholder Testimonials

"Missing children are a particularly vulnerable group to trafficking in human beings. Indeed, child trafficking is closer to our societies than we might think. More so, during these difficult times of global socio-economic turbulence, when traffickers will target the most vulnerable of our societies: our children. We are joined by the same objective: to ensure that our children are safe and that they are protected from criminals who deprive them of their most basic human rights. And we all agree that above all children, regardless of their immigration status, should be firstly and most importantly treated as children. I am proud to say that the EU has come a long way to this uphill struggle of addressing child trafficking, but we have still a great deal to do."

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**PhD Myria Vassiliadou**, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission

"Over the past several years, Missing Children Europe's tremendous drive and tenacity has made a real difference. It is a privilege to partner with such an energetic, strong and reliable organisation. Effective child protection systems that truly prevent, protect and empower children from disappearing require a multi-jurisdictional integrated approach. Providing legal support across a range of jurisdictions and specialisations has been a great privilege for Allen & Overy. We look forward to continuing to do so."

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**Helga Van Peer**, Partner, Allen & Overy

"2013 was another busy year for all of us working with missing and exploited children. It seems unreal that a child goes missing every 2 minutes in the EU and that we still fight multiple networks instigating severe sexual abuse of babies and children in the off- and on-line world. But that is a fact. At the same time it is some consolation that Missing Children Europe continues to play a key role as one of the 'solid rocks' in the defense against these atrocities. This organisation and their dedicated staff remain a true example of the spirit that is needed and will continue to be needed to protect the most valuable asset of our societies: our children. The European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) has been working closely with Missing Children Europe during 2013 in order to do our part as the 'Law Enforcement' area of this operation, and have again been impressed by the dedication and professionalism we have met with. Our work is not done yet – I doubt it ever will – but with partners like Missing Children Europe, we know we have a fighting chance!"

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**Troels Oerting**, Assistant Director, Head of European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) and Chair of the European Financial Coalition against commercial sexual exploitation of children online

"When talking about Europe's future these days, all we hear about is the crisis, competitiveness and debts. It is like there's nothing more to life than economics. The value of our children cannot be expressed in pounds or euros, yet protecting them from disappearance and sexual exploitation is absolutely invaluable for any self-respecting society. So especially in these times, it is vital that people and organisations put our children central to the issue, on a national and an international level. To be a part of this is what really keeps me passionate and engaged."

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**Heidi De Pauw**, CEO of Child Focus and Vice President of Missing Children Europe

"Missing Children Europe is making a difference for Europe's children. Missing Children Europe's leadership in prevention, advocacy and in the fight against child abuse and violence is historic and unprecedented. I was honored to be a part of some early meetings of the European federation and saw the potential. But I have been amazed by the progress across Europe. The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children is proud to be Missing Children Europe's partner. And I count myself as one of Missing Children Europe's most devoted friends and supporters."

---

**Ernie Allen**, President of International Centre of Missing and Exploited Children

"It's been a year since the Board appointed me as Secretary General of Missing Children Europe. A year of growth, change and much progress, including several things I'm particularly proud of. First, the comprehensive strategy and clear vision developed with input from our stakeholders, allowing us to focus our resources where they can have the biggest impact. Second, the expansion of the membership and – equally important – the increased exchange and interaction we are facilitating between them. Third, the availability of the 116 000 hotlines for missing children in almost all EU member states. Fourth, the integration of a mediators' network specialized in addressing cross-border family disputes into the structure of Missing Children Europe's mandate. Last but certainly not least, I'm particularly proud of the wonderful team of dedicated and hardworking professionals and volunteers I have the honour to manage, under the leadership of an active Board and an inspiring President. My first year as Secretary General has been a rewarding and engaging experience, no doubt with much more to look forward to."

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**Delphine Moralis**, Secretary General, Missing Children Europe

# Missing Children Europe





1. Handover ceremony and launch of Missing Children Europe's strategy for 2014-2017, October 2013
2. Skiing for Missing Children Europe, March 2013
3. Golfing for Missing Children Europe, May 2013
4. Running for Missing Children Europe, October 2013
5. Supporting Committee volunteers meeting, November 2013
6. General Assembly, March 2013



7. Meeting of the Patrons' Council, March 2013
8. European Financial Coalition against commercial sexual exploitation of children online 1st awareness raising conference, October 2013
9. "116 000 hotlines: innovative approaches and challenges to finding missing children" conference, June 2013
10. Members of the Secretariat attend a 116 000 European missing children hotline conference in Greece, October 2013
11. Panel at the 3rd 116 000 conference organised by the European Commission together with Missing Children Europe for International Missing Children's Day, June 2013





**Missing Children Europe**

**250.000 children reported missing in Europe every year.**

**One child every two minutes.**

**Our mission**

Missing Children Europe's mission is to contribute to the development of comprehensive child protection systems that prevent, support and protect children from any violence, abuse or neglect that leads to or results from them going missing

The European federation for missing and sexually exploited children, representing 30 organisations from 25 European countries

**Our focus**

-  Runaways leave their home or institution to escape violence, abuse or neglect
-  The majority of parental abductions is committed by the mother or custodial parent
-  Unaccompanied migrant minors arrive in the EU to escape war, conflict, natural disasters, prosecution, etc.

**Our values**

**T**ransparency  
**R**eliability  
**A**daptability  
**C**ommitment  
**E**fficiency

**Our principles**

- *An embedded approach*
- *Partnership & complementarity towards a holistic approach*
- *European Added Value*
- *Quality before quantity*

**€ 116000** 

Free emergency hotlines for missing children in 29 European countries

 NETWORK OF CROSS-BORDER MEDIATORS

75 bi-cultural mediators for international parental abductions

 European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online

 Together against sexual exploitation of children

Monitoring effective transposition of EU legislation on sexual abuse

**Key projects**

**All children should be able to rely on effective and holistic systems of protection, where all measures are taken to empower and protect them from harm**

With the support of the Daphne Programme of the European Commission

# 1 Missing Children Europe

## 1.2 Background

Each year, well over 250.000<sup>1</sup> children slip through the net of child protection systems in Europe as they go missing following a wide range of situations of conflict, violence and abuse. Missing Children Europe wishes to contribute to the creation of child protection systems capable of addressing these issues.

Missing Children Europe has developed rapidly since it obtained its financial and administrative independence from Child Focus in 2008. The organisation established itself as a trustworthy and reliable partner, considered

highly by stakeholders and members alike. The limited resources available have however led to a rather 'ad hoc' and organic development, without clear mid-term vision. This is why the Board of Directors decided that a strategic review was to be undertaken, taking into account the output of a SWOT analysis and stakeholder consultation. The review is led by a Strategy Working Group composed of Maud de Boer Buquicchio (Incoming President), Heidi De Pauw (Vice President), Ernesto Caffo (Board member) and Delphine Moralis (Secretary General).

<sup>1</sup> 250.000 children are reported missing in the EU each year, see i.a. [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/missing\\_children\\_2013\\_lanzke\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/missing_children_2013_lanzke_en.pdf). Many missing children are not reported or do not feature in the statistics available

## Vision

Every two minutes, a child is reported missing in the EU. The cause as well as the effect of the disappearance of a child includes many different situations of violence and abuse, including sexual exploitation. Missing Children Europe's vision is that all children should be able to rely on an effective and holistic system of child protection, where all measures are taken to empower and protect them from any harmful situation that may lead to, or result from them going missing. Missing Children Europe is convinced that children are best protected when empowered to be strong and self-confident individuals.

## Mission

Our mission is to contribute to the development of effective and holistic child protection systems to:

- > prevent children from going missing,
- > support missing children and their families, and
- > protect children from any risk of violence and abuse that may lead to or result from going missing.

## Principles

We believe that best use is made of our resources if we enhance the specificity of our work, by focusing on the problem of missing, including high quality responses to upstream and downstream causes and effects of the problem.

### An Embedded approach

Missing Children Europe has historically been (one of) the only European umbrella organisation focusing on the specific issue of missing children. Missing Children Europe's work related to missing children is seen by stakeholders and members as its strongest feature, including in particular its work regarding the 116 000 hotline for missing children, operational in 27 of 28 EU Member States, as well as in an increasing number of non-EU countries. The issue of missing children has, thanks to the work of Missing Children Europe, been picked up by other stake-

holders, making it essential for Missing Children Europe to deepen its expertise and understanding of the problem, improve its services and cooperate with others, if it wishes to maintain its leading role.

The sexual exploitation of children is a concern which Missing Children Europe shares with many other national, European and international umbrella organisations. The expertise and active role of other organisations dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse as well as the very specific historical origin of Missing Children Europe's dichotomous mission has generated reflection on the necessity and legitimacy of Missing Children Europe's work regarding the sexual exploitation and abuse of children.

Moving away from the specific 'issues-based approach' with 'missing' and 'sexual exploitation or abuse' as two distinct areas of focus, the new strategy promotes a more embedded and integrated approach, centered around missing children, with a clear focus on the upstream and downstream causes and effects of child disappearance, including sexual exploitation.

### Partnership & complementarity towards a holistic approach

The disappearance of a child is not an isolated or stand-alone event. It is embedded in a series of different factors and events related to the child's physical and psycho-social wellbeing, family environment, socio-cultural community and socio-economic context. Each of these aspects and dimensions involves different stakeholders concerned with different aspects of and responsibilities regarding the problem. Any effective response to the disappearance of a child must therefore take this broader context and multiplicity of actors into account. This is why the new strategy of Missing Children Europe aims at improving its partnership approach. Missing Children Europe wishes to connect the dots between the different complementary players whose work can impact the child at risk of going missing. In doing so, Missing Children Europe wishes to contribute to the development of effective child protection systems, in line with current European and international policy recommendations and developments.

### European Added Value

Children go missing everywhere, and the disappearance of a child is not confined within national borders. As a federation composed of grassroots organisations, Missing Children Europe wishes to focus on those fields where European coordination, harmonization, and representation constitutes an added value over the work of national stakeholders. The new strategy furthermore looks at expanding the geographical scope of Missing Children Europe, in those cases where a pan-European approach (rather than an EU approach) brings additional safeguards to the well-being of children in Europe.

### Quality before quantity

A lot has been done in previous years to develop responses to missing children, including in particular the development of 116 000 hotlines and child alert systems. With the hotline being close to operational in all EU Member States and child alert systems being on the rise across the EU, Missing Children Europe is keen to enhance the quality of services delivered by the stakeholders involved.

The four principles underlying Missing Children Europe's strategy are reflected in Missing Children Europe's ambition to:

1. generate tangible added value over the work undertaken by national stakeholders;
2. generate tangible added value over the work undertaken by other European stakeholders;
3. focus on those areas of work where European coordination is needed to address the problem.

## 1.3 2013 highlights

**620+ likes on Facebook and 700+ followers on twitter since May 2013**

**100 delegates attended the European Financial Coalition's first awareness raising event**

**56 participants attended the Missing Children Europe breakfast briefing**

**Missing Children Europe's 116 000 hotlines responded to 250.012 calls**

**3.580.505 Missing Children Europe posters shared since the launch of the notfound.org campaign in 2012**

**A total of 226 remunerated staff members and 332 volunteers worked on the 116 000 hotlines operated by Missing Children Europe members**

**Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia and Sweden launched the 116 000 missing children hotlines**

**220.500 raised in private donations**

**72 organisations were consulted through a survey launched to feed the development of Missing Children Europe's 2014 – 2017 Strategy**

**1<sup>st</sup> Strategic Assessment on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children released by the EFC**

**Network of mediators for cross-border family conflicts added to the scope of Missing Children Europe projects**

**2 new staff members hired for the General Secretariat of Missing Children Europe**

**6 new countries were integrated in our #Notfound project**

**Over 60.000 Euros raised through the Skiing for Missing Children Europe fundraising event**

**116 000 case management system project successfully launched with roll out planned for 6 Member States**

**Bi-monthly Member webinars and newsletters were launched to facilitate sharing of best practices**

**2 new organisations became members of Missing Children Europe**

**12 new members joined the European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online**

**100+ delegates from all EU MS attended the Highlevel Conference on missing children organised with the European Commission and Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU**

**Launch of the Child Rights Manifesto to engage new members of the European Parliament together with 13 other child rights organisations**

**84% of stakeholders surveyed believe Missing Children Europe is a strong proponent in the prevention and fight of child disappearances**

## 1.4 Members of Missing Children Europe

### 30 national child rights NGOs in 25 European countries

Missing Children Europe represents NGOs that are involved in the prevention and combat of missing and/or sexually exploited children. Missing Children Europe represents 30 organisations from 23 EU Member States + Switzerland and Serbia.

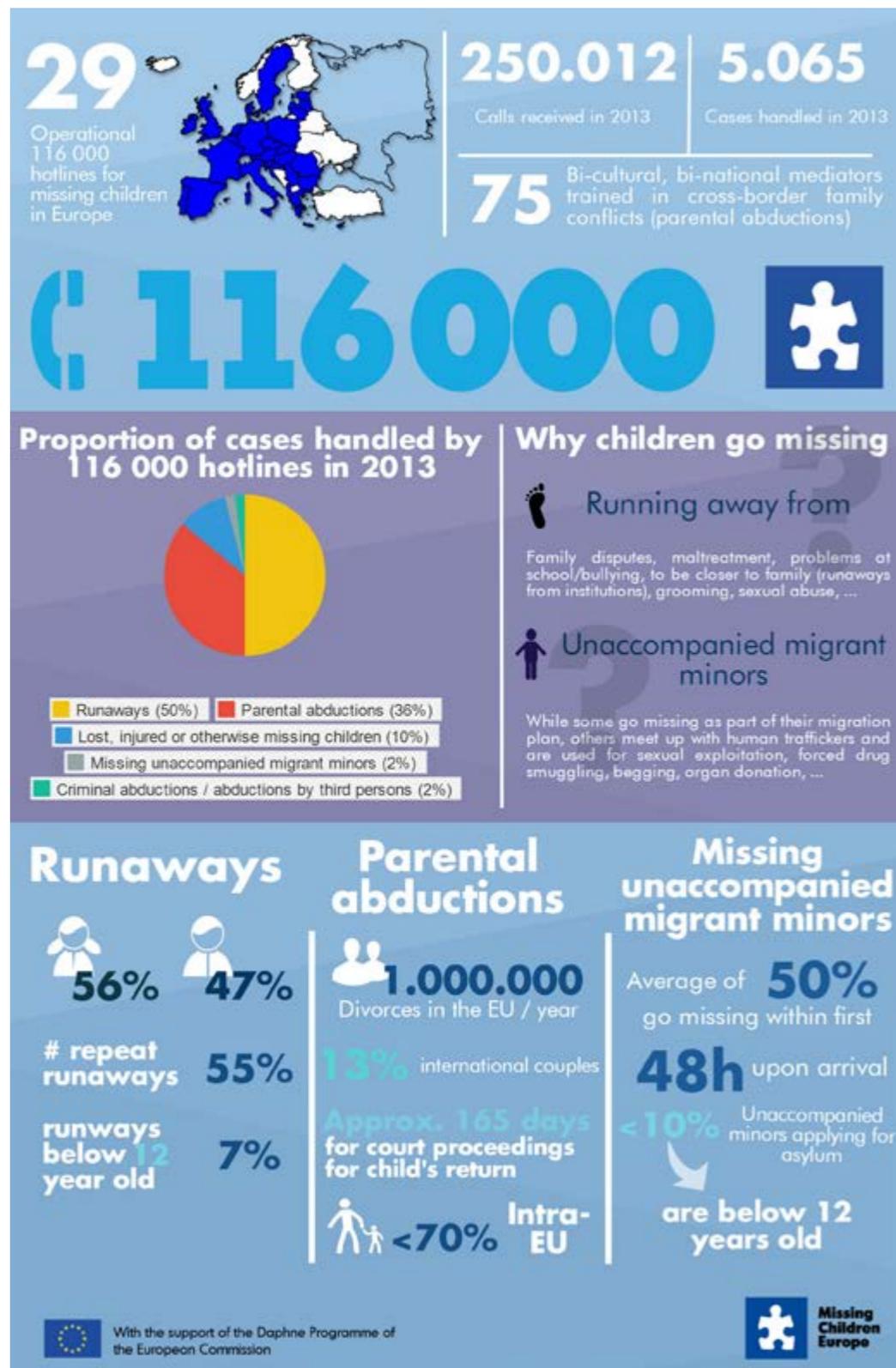


#### Applicant members



# Missing Children





## 2 Missing Children

### 2.1 Definitions<sup>1</sup>

#### Runaways (national / international)

Minors who run away from home, from the institution where they have been placed, or from the people responsible for their care.

#### National or international parental abduction

Parental abductions are cases where a child is taken to or kept in a country or place other than that of his/her normal residence by one or more parents or persons with parental authority, against another parent's will or against the will of the person with parental authority.

#### Abduction by a third person

Abduction of minors by anyone other than the parents or the persons with parental authority.

#### Missing unaccompanied migrant minors

Disappearances of migrant children, nationals of a country in which there is no free movement of persons, under the age of 18 who have been separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult, who by law is responsible for doing so.

#### Lost, injured or otherwise missing children

Disappearances for no apparent reason of minors who got lost (e.g. little children at the seaside in summer) or hurt themselves and cannot be found immediately (e.g. accidents during sport activities, at youth camps, etc.), as well as children whose reason for disappearing has not yet been determined.

<sup>1</sup> Definitions used for the different categories of missing are based on:

- Childscope: definitions based upon the definitions used by various organisations active in the field of missing children. These definitions have been discussed and agreed upon with all academics, NGO representatives and law enforcement authorities

- involved in the Childscope project.
- The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
- Council Resolution 97/C221/03 of 26 June 1997 on unaccompanied minors who are nationals of third countries;
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and

- Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
- United Nations, General Assembly, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions, A/56/333.

## 2.2 116 000, the European hotline for missing children

**116 000 is the European hotline number for missing children: through this number parents and children alike, whether in their home country or in another European country, can get free emotional, psychological, social, legal and administrative support. The service works in complementarity with law enforcement, and helps runaway children as well as families of missing children during the extremely stressful event of a child disappearance.**

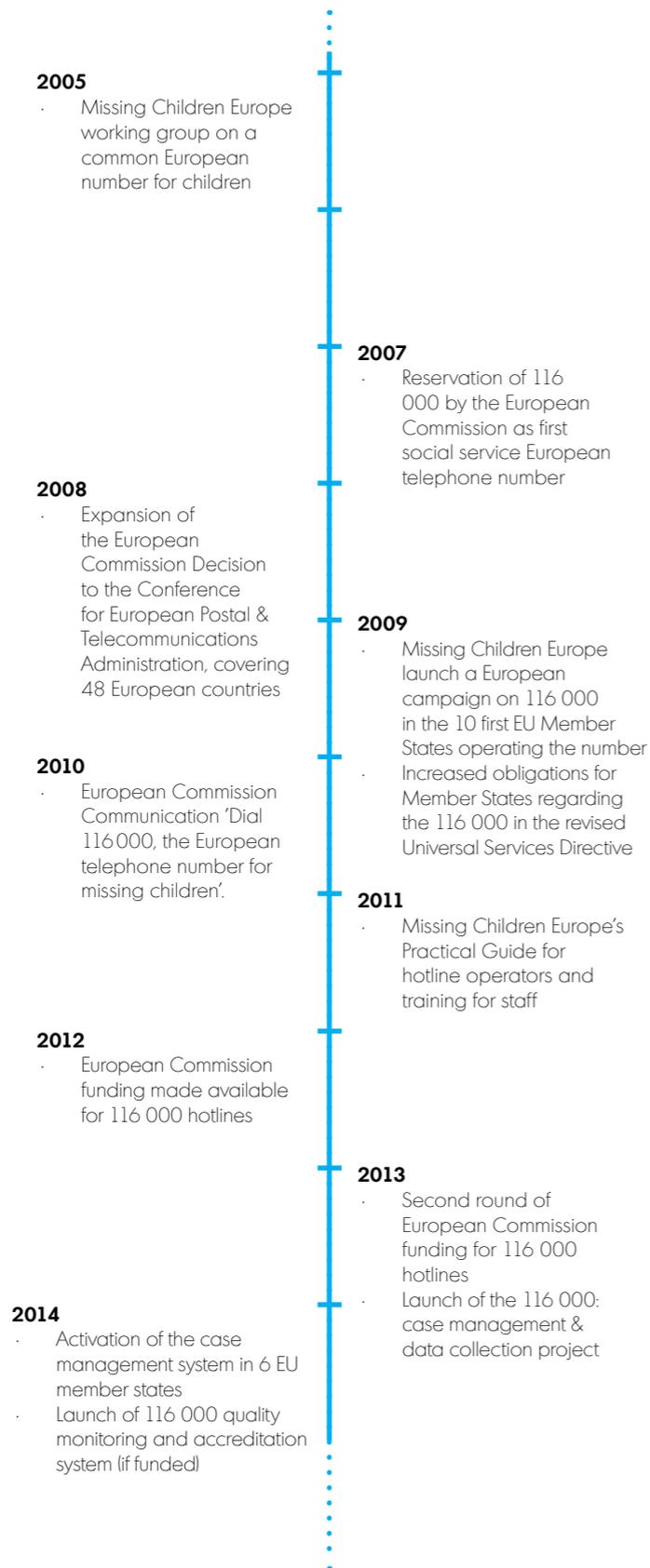
Research shows that the first hours after the disappearance of a child are of vital importance. Having the same easy to remember and cross border telephone number at the disposal of parents across Europe is therefore extremely important so immediate action can be taken by the responsible local authorities.



The hotline is now operational in 27 EU member states. It is also available in Albania and Serbia. In 2013, the hotline was run by a member of Missing Children Europe in 18 countries. Four more hotlines joined Missing Children Europe in 2014.

### 116 000 missing children hotline success story

15 year old Cathy, called the 116 000 hotline in Belgium, saying that she didn't want to go home. She had just been discharged from the hospital where she had ended up after suffering severe physical abuse from her father. The case manager talked about the possible alternatives with Cathy. Cathy eventually decided that she would file a report with the police. The police found her an emergency shelter for the night, and put her in contact with a youth service. The next few days, Cathy stayed in contact with the case manager to ask for information and to discuss her possibilities and ideas for the future. Over time, she started to feel responsible for her life again and started making decisions to achieve her dreams. It was a tough ride but in the end Cathy made it. She was placed in a good institution and enrolled herself in a new school to become a beautician. 11 months later, the case manager closed the case, with the knowledge that Cathy was finally on the right track. Cathy remained ever grateful to the case manager who helped her find the way to the right organisations and to a safer, happier life.



## Highlights from 2013

- › Mapping, analysis, designing, testing and finalisation of the "116 000: case management & data collection" software: A questionnaire was disseminated to hotlines, aiming at mapping the existing Client Relationship Management & data collection systems and assessing the needs of the hotlines. The results of the survey were presented at the Annual Conference on missing children organised by the European Commission jointly with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU and Missing Children Europe. In terms of the software selected, 22 applications were received from which Infront was chosen as the client relationship management software developer for the state of the art product which will be rolled out in 6 EU countries.
- › Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia and Sweden were recent additions to the 116 000 hotline network. The European missing children hotline is now available in all member states except Finland.
- › Missing Children Europe undertook visits to missing children hotlines in France, Lithuania and the Czech Republic to stimulate and support their development as well as to share best practices developed by 116 000 hotlines across Europe.
- › Missing Children Europe assisted hotlines from 10 EU states in applying for funds under the EC JUST/2012/ DAP/SOG/116 call for action grants through a series of conference calls and e-mails, coordinated with the European Commission.
- › Missing Children Europe cooperated closely with the European Commission and the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in organising the third conference on missing children entitled "116 000 hotlines: innovative approaches and challenges to finding missing children", which took place in Brussels on the 4th of June, 2013. The event was attended by participants from all EU Member States.
- › Support was provided to the South Eastern Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (SEEC) in its efforts to facilitate implementation of the 116 000 hotline in the Balkan region. Support included the development of a common action plan, as well as several steps towards hotline implementation, including the translation of the practical guide for hotline operators to Russian, organisation of a study visit for the Croatian hotline to Greece and the development of awareness material for Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, etc.
- › The 116 000 contact booklet enhancing effective cross border cooperation was updated, and the new hotline developments were integrated into the www.hotline116000.eu website.

## Achievements

**116 000 hotline active in 27 EU Member States since the expansion of the hotline to Croatia, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Sweden in 2013**

**"116 000: case management & data collection" software developer chosen**

**"Despite having joined Missing Children Europe quite recently I can still say that the work we have done and progress we have made over the past 6 months has been both substantial and inspiring.**

**The 116 000 hotline is now active in 27 out of 28 EU member states. We are developing a client relationship management tool that will ensure that each hotline will be able to record and track cases in the same way and I, personally, am looking forward to focusing on the new projects we are**

**5.065 cases dealt with by hotlines**

**3<sup>rd</sup> conference on the 116 000 hotline organised with European Commission**

**developing in line with our thematic focus on missing unaccompanied migrant minors, parental abductions and runaways.**

**The 116 000 network is continuing to grow and the work that we are now doing together is, and will continue to prove significant as we move forward into 2014. I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead."**

**John Murphy,**

116 000 Project Officer, Missing Children Europe

**Lithuania and Cyprus were added to Missing Children Europe's member network, increasing Missing Children Europe's reach**

## Coming up

- › Launch of the case management system in 6 EU countries operating the 116 000 missing children hotline.
- › A new project to develop a "service quality monitoring & certification system for the 116 000 hotlines" has been submitted for funding together with associate partners from Belgium, Greece, Italy, Portugal, the UK, Estonia, Cyprus and Latvia. The project will, if adopted:
  - › Set up an accreditation mechanism based on monitoring & evaluating 116 000 hotlines.
  - › Evaluate all operational hotlines against the defined mechanism.
  - › Define – together with each hotline – a strategy to improve their services.
- › Social media and youtube campaign asking the public to save the 116 000 hotline number on their mobile phones for International Missing Children's day.
- › The hotlines from the Czech Republic, Croatia, Serbia and France apply for membership of Missing Children Europe.

## Research: Missing children in the European Union: Mapping, data collection and statistics

Missing Children Europe worked closely with ECORYS, the consultancy selected by the European Commission to draft the study on "Missing children: mapping, data collection and statistics". The report sheds light on important incoherencies related to the collection of data, as well as to the procedures applied at local and national level:

- › None of the Member States are able to provide data on the underlying causes of the disappearance, nor on the type of abuse inflicted on the child during the period of disappearance;
- › About half of the Member States distinguish runaways from the overall group of missing children, and only 9 out of 27 Member States surveyed is able to provide data on runaways;
- › Only 5 Member States are able to distinguish children running away from home to those running away from care institutions;
- › Only four countries have legal or procedural regulations on missing migrant children.

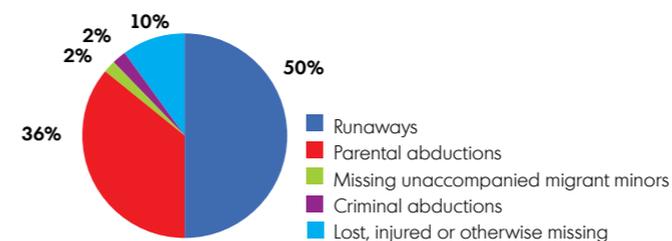


"For Croatian citizens, the year 2013 is a very important year because of its inclusion into the EU. Personally, it will also be remembered for the first call we received on our 116 000 hotline. All those efforts in implementing and launching the hotline, while we constantly worried about its relevance in Croatia paid off after that first call from the mother of a 12 year old boy with special needs and other health issues. He had missed his bus to school, had tried to walk there and had gotten lost. We spoke to the mother for over 2 hours while the boy was missing. After several hours of looking for him, the boy was found in town by a sales lady who heard an announcement about the boy on the radio. After her son returned home, the mother called us and said something I will never

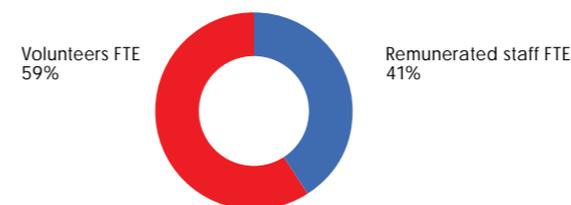
forget, "Thank you for calming me down. Talking to you made it seem like everybody was actively involved in looking for my son. That was very comforting and I really needed that". With the help of Missing Children Europe and the Smile of the Child, our hotline operators follow instructions and advice on how to support family members and it was priceless to have that quality and knowledge available immediately upon the launch of the hotline. With the 116 000 hotline, we have really started something valuable, especially in times when security is a growing concern for our children."

**Tomislav Ramljak**, Executive director of the Center for missing and exploited children, responsible for the 116 000 hotline, Croatia.

Proportion of different categories of missing children cases reported by 116 000 hotlines



Reported staff versus volunteers among 116 000 hotlines



Key challenges reported by 116 000 hotlines



## 2.3 Cross border mediators' network

In 2012, Child Focus created the European Network of International Family Mediators (EU-NIM), in cooperation with the German NGO MiKK. The network gathers over 75 cross cultural family mediators from most EU Member States and candidate countries. Missing Children Europe took over the management of this network in 2013. Under the guidance of a task force, the new project officer, Hilde Demarré, will work on the further growth and development of awareness raising campaigns and a pre-mediation service for families in need of professional help to solve their cross-border conflict.

International parental abductions constitute over 30% of the cases dealt with by the hotlines for missing children (116 000) and require a specific international approach. An agreed solution regarding the custody of the child can be particularly helpful for securing the child's right to maintain personal relations on a regular basis and direct contacts with both parents. Solutions that are agreed on by both parents also tend to be more sustainable since they are more likely to be adhered to by all parties. Among the different forms of alternative dispute resolution methods, mediation has particular advantages, and bi-cultural co-mediation is specifically effective.

### Highlights from 2013

- > A meeting on mediation in cases of international parental abductions took place in Brussels on 19 December 2013, with as an aim to define the next steps and approach in integrating the mediator's network in the structure of Missing Children Europe.
- > A session on international parental abductions was put together on the occasion of the First International Conference on Missing Children & Adults organised by the Institute of Criminal Justice Studies / Centre for the Study of Missing Persons from the University of Portsmouth.

#### Bi-cultural family mediation success story

**History** In 2005, Johanna a 24 year old Polish woman met Richard, a 37 year old German and they fell in love. After living together, they get married in 2007 in Poland. In 2008, when Johanna becomes pregnant, the couple move to Australia where Richard gets a new job. Jacob is born there. Richard has a successful career and is happy but Johanna doesn't get used to the country and feels very homesick. When she visits her parents with Jacob in 2010, she decides to stay in Poland. But Richard is furious. He returns to Poland, counter abducts Jacob and goes to Germany, where he lives with his parents. Now Johanna reacts. She files for a return order under the Hague child abduction convention. When the German court is informed, they propose the couple to try mediation.

**Mediation** During the first session, Johanna expresses her feelings of homesickness. She is not willing to go back to Australia because of that. Richard admits that counter abduction was maybe not the best way to handle the situation. Both parties get the opportunity to listen to each other's grievances and concerns. At the end of this first mediation day, Richard agrees to let Johanna visit Jacob. During this visit, he realizes how much Jacob misses his mother. The next day, mediation starts in a more open and relaxed atmosphere. Richard agrees that Jacob needs his mother. Johanna agrees that Germany offers much more opportunities for Jacob than Poland.

**Mediation agreement** In the end, Johanna agrees to move to Germany. Richard agrees to Jacob living with his mother in an apartment in Germany that he will pay for. He will have visitation rights every other weekend and they will share parental authority. Johanna will also have the opportunity to visit her parents in Poland regularly. On the second evening, both parents consult their lawyers. The next morning, the mediation agreement is signed and sent to the German court, who can then recognize the decision. Another parental abduction case was solved thanks to the efforts of both parents and the cross border family mediators.

## Achievements

**Takeover of the crossborder parental mediation network with members from almost all EU states**

**New staff member to coordinate parental mediation network**

**Growing network of 75+ cross cultural family mediators**

### Coming up

Missing Children Europe, Child Focus and the International Centrum Kinderontvoering will develop a project aimed at providing advanced training in support of parental abduction cases, tailored to the needs of 116 000 hotlines for missing children. The objectives of this project are to:

- > Build legal capacity of 116 000 hotlines in dealing with cases of parental abductions
- > Establish pre-mediation services within the 116 000 hotlines in those Member States where pre-mediation is not available yet, allowing the essential facilitation of legal, practical and other measures in preparation of actual mediation in view of achieving an agreed solution to solve international child abduction.

**"An international child abduction is the result of an escalated family conflict. Therefore, solving the abduction will also involve addressing the underlying conflict. Mediation offers parents the possibility to take the conflict back into their own hands, to look for creative solutions and to take into account the interests of all parties involved, not in the least, those of their children. As a result mediated agreements are more sustainable over time. However, mediation is not non-committal. It requests a great deal of effort from each party to be open to the needs and concerns of the other. I congratulate every parent who is able to commit into this process and will continue to make all possible efforts to create and maintain a qualitative network of mediators to support these parents."**

Hilde Demarré, Project Officer Mediator's Network, Missing Children Europe

## 2.4 Interconnected child alert systems

**Child alert systems aim to immediately involve the public at large in the search for abducted children whose lives may be at risk, by using a wide range of information channels (radio, TV, road traffic signs, etc). They are based on a partnership between different actors, who work together in a coordinated manner in very specific cases of life threatening disappearances. A strong tool in the larger toolbox needed to respond effectively to the larger problem of missing children cases, the child alert system is launched following the decision of a mandated law enforcement agency or organisation with official status regarding missing children.**

### Highlights from 2013

- › Public and private players involved in national child alert systems for Belgium and the Netherlands attended a meeting on improving cross border cooperation organised by Missing Children Europe. The outcome included a commitment from parties in both Member States to provide a clear outline of key actors, the decision making process and functionality of the national alert system. The model will be used as an example for further work on understanding the different child alert systems and improving cross border cooperation.

### Coming up

- › A Google child alert system will be active in 4 EU Member States by the end of 2014. The model, if successful and effective, will be rolled out and shared with other national Missing Children Europe members.

The Google child alert system is based on Google Public Alerts – which are designed to show Google users emergency notifications provided by authoritative sources. A pilot project to include child alert messages in this framework has been developed in the US; Google users in the US are thus informed through the Google search or Google maps of relevant emergency alerts. The aim for the EU would be to develop it on a country by country basis, depending on the national development and organisation of child alert systems. While efforts have continued in 2013 in developing the ‘google child alert’, the actual launch of the system will take place at the end of 2014.

## 2.5 International Missing Children’s Day

**International Missing Children’s Day is commemorated on 25 May every year. The event is used by organisations around the world to bring a message of hope and support to missing children and families who have faced a child disappearance.**

- › Missing Children Europe was involved in and coordinated a ‘Big Tweet’ campaign inspired by its UK member, Missing People’s initiative, in the UK, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Slovakia. The campaign involved re-tweeting missing children cases and twitter endorsements by celebrities and famous personalities to engage their followers in the campaign using a predefined hashtag to unify tweets.

- › Data on the caseload related to missing children was collected in the framework of International Missing Children’s Day, and disseminated on the occasion of a breakfast reception as well as through the 2012 annual report. The data covered Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Portugal and the UK. The reception at which the data and results of 2012 were presented was attended by approx. 70 delegates from 22 countries in Europe.

### Highlights from 2013

- › Missing Children Europe worked with the European Commission in organising the third annual conference in the framework of International Missing Children’s Day. The event focused on the use of new technologies in addressing the disappearance of children, and was attended by approximately 100 participants. Keynote speeches were delivered by Vice President of the European Commission, Viviane Reding; Member of the European Parliament, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio and Elizabeth Canavan, Assistant Secretary Child Welfare and Protection Policy Unit representing the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- › “Where’s Billy”, an awareness raising poster on missing children was translated to several other national languages and disseminated in Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro and Serbia.
- › “Futures,” the awareness raising video for missing children and the 116 000 hotline was made available in 17 languages and used across cinema’s and on TV across the EU. It was also used in many of the viral campaigns coordinated by our members and shown on TV in France and in cinemas in Portugal.

### Coming up

The International Missing Children’s Day efforts in 2014 will feature presentations about national child alert systems and cross-border alert procedures from member organisations across Europe. Additionally a photo exhibition “Missing children: Out of focus” will also be launched at an event in Greece, together with the Greek presidency to raise awareness of the 3 thematic priority groups of missing children who are often forgotten and therefore most vulnerable to situations of harm: runaways, parental abductions and missing unaccompanied migrant minors. The photography campaign was put together by Natalie Hill, [www.nataliehillphotography.com](http://www.nataliehillphotography.com), a long term volunteer and supporter for the cause.

Several parallel campaigns will also be organised including a youtube pre-roll public appeal campaign to save the 116 000 hotline number in their mobile phones and a thunderclap campaign to empower the public to help raise awareness of the 116 000 hotlines through their social media profiles.

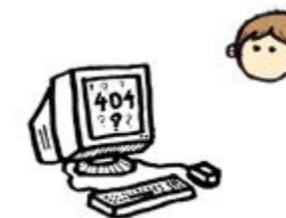
“Now that we have almost reached the goal of having the hotline operational across the EU we must focus even more on the quality of the service provided. In the past year the hotlines have strengthened their capacity, trained their staff, and raised the overall quality of their services. In Romania, for example, the hotline organised joint prevention campaigns with the police, raising awareness and enhancing cooperation. In the Netherlands, the service was extended to ensure full 24 hour availability. In Italy, follow-up care after the return of the child was developed and in Slovakia a joint information campaign was organised with travel agencies for families travelling abroad. Cross-border cooperation and an exchange of good practices among the hotlines are increasing. This is especially important as there are more and more cases of children who go missing abroad.”

**Excerpt from the speech made by Viviane Reding**, Vice-President of the European Commission, EU Justice Commissioner at the 3rd conference organised in support of the 116 000 European missing children hotlines in 2013.

“As with all child protection services, the development and reform of services can only be undertaken with the benefit of reliable data and performance measurement. I welcome the efforts being taken by the Commission to bring together comprehensive and reliable information in this area. It is only once this information is properly examined that we can make decisions on our next steps. In this regard we also need to be cognisant of the rapidly changing world we live in and to carefully consider how best to reach these vulnerable children. Keeping pace with new technologies and means of communication will be an important factor in keeping the 116 000 service relevant and worthwhile.”

**Excerpt from the speech made by Elizabeth Canavan**, Assistant Secretary, Child Welfare and Protection Policy Unit, Department of Children and Affairs, Ireland at the 3rd conference organised in support of the 116 000 European missing children hotlines in 2013.

## 2.6 Notfound.org



The notfound.org initiative invites website owners to replace their website “404 error, page not found” pages with posters of missing children cases. By doing so, useless website error pages are used for social good by helping share information about missing children by appealing to a much larger public to report any information on children who have disappeared.

The application is free and takes only a few minutes to download. You embed the Notfound code on your website and a poster of missing children gets automatically published on every 404-page of your website. It’s an easy and effective tool to raise awareness, and solve worrying cases of disappearances of children.

Since its launch in 2012, Notfound instantly went viral around the world. Missing Children Europe is grateful for the support from Famous and Amazon in making this happen. For more information or to download the app, visit notfound.org.

### Highlights from 2013

- › The ‘Notfound’ campaign was expanded to Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Spain & the UK, allowing a more targeted scope of finding missing children by focusing on local missing children cases.
- › A thunderclap campaign was coordinated on November 14th to raise awareness of the NotFound app by and to the public. Thunderclap is a crowdspeaking tool that magnifies messages of good using the power of social media. Supporters of the campaign connect their social media accounts to a particular thunderclap campaign and on the selected date, a message, in our case about the NotFound app is shared to all the social media followers of the thunderclap campaign participants.

### Achievements

**Over 4.300 websites are using Notfound on their websites**

**Notfound.org has had over 663.500 page views since its launch in 2012**

**The thunderclap campaign was shared via 274 people to 2.517.326 people**

“Using 404 pages to display missing children posters impressed me due to its huge potential. The more websites using 404 pages in this way, the greater the chance of information about a missing child becoming forthcoming. Getting more websites to apply this became a mission in which I felt I should become involved, even if only in a small way. The thunderclap campaign spreading the word about the Notfound.org project to 2.517.326 people all on the same day was one such way to help. The Notfound.org project is something so obviously worthwhile and simple, that I am almost impatient to see it expand.”

**Larry Humphreys**, avid supporter of Notfound.org and coordinator of the thunderclap campaign.



# **Sexually Exploited Children**

## 3 Sexually Exploited Children

### 3.1 Definitions<sup>1</sup>

#### Sexual abuse

- a) causing, for sexual purposes, a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities, to witness sexual activities or sexual abuse, even without having to participate;
- b) engaging in sexual activities with a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities;
- c) engaging in sexual activities with a child where:
  - use is made of coercion, force or threats;
  - or abuse is made of a recognised position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or
  - abuse is made of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, in particular because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence.

#### Child prostitution

Using a child for sexual activities where money or any other form of remuneration or consideration is given or promised as payment in exchange for the child engaging in sexual activities, regardless if this payment, promise or consideration is made to the child or to a third person.

#### Child Abuse images (child pornography)

- a) any material that visually depicts a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit conduct;
- b) any depiction of the sexual organs of a child for primarily sexual purposes;
- c) any material that visually depicts any person appearing to be a child engaged in real or simulated sexually explicit conduct or any depiction of the sexual organs of any person appearing to be a child, for primarily sexual

purposes; or

- d) realistic images of a child engaged in sexually explicit conduct or realistic images of the sexual organs of a child, for primarily sexual purposes.

#### Offences concerning child pornography

- a) acquisition or possession
- b) knowingly obtaining access by means of information and communication technology
- c) distribution, dissemination or transmission
- d) offering, supplying or making available
- e) production

#### Sexual exploitation

- a) causing or recruiting a child to participate in pornographic performances and/or in child prostitution, or profiting from or otherwise exploiting a child for such purpose;
- b) coercing or forcing a child to participate in pornographic performances and/or in child prostitution or threatening a child for such purposes;
- c) knowingly attending pornographic performances involving the participation of a child;
- d) causing or recruiting a child to participate in child prostitution, or profiting from otherwise exploiting a child for such purposes;
- e) coercing or forcing a child into child prostitution, or threatening a child for such purposes;
- f) engaging in sexual activities with a child, where recourse is made to child prostitution.

**Solicitation of children for sexual purposes**

The intentional proposal, through information and communication technologies, by an adult to meet a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities, for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities or producing child pornography, where this proposal has been followed by material acts leading to such a meeting.

**Child sex tourism**

Sexual exploitation of children by a person or persons who travel from their usual environment to a destination abroad where they have sexual contact with children.

**Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation**

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children, by means of:

- the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability; or
- the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of sexual exploitation of children.

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Definitions used for the different categories of sexual abuse exploitation are based on Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (adopted 13 December 2011) and Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (adopted 5 April 2011)



## 3.2 The European Financial Coalition against commercial sexual exploitation of children online

The European Financial Coalition against commercial sexual exploitation of children online (EFC) brings together key actors from law enforcement, the private sector and civil society in Europe with the common goal of fighting the commercial sexual exploitation of children online. Members of the EFC join forces to take action on the payment and ICT systems that are used to run these illegal operations.

**Highlights from 2013**

The European Financial Coalition's 1st awareness raising conference was held on 15 October in Brussels. The event focused on the shared responsibility of law enforcement authorities, private sector, and civil society in preventing the production and online commercial distribution of child abuse material. The EFC also presented its first Strategic Assessment of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. The report examines the disturbing trends in online child sex abuse and presents recommendations for law enforcement and their partners to prioritise activities to combat the sexual abuse and rape of children for profit.

Keynote speakers taking part in the panel discussions include Troels Oerting, Head of the European Cybercrime Centre & Chair of the EFC; Colin Whittaker, Head of Payment System Risk at Visa Europe; Cornelia Kutterer, Director of EU Institutions Relations at Microsoft, Ernie Allen, CEO and President of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children; Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, new President of Missing Children Europe, and Heidi De Pauw, Vice President of Missing Children Europe.

**"In 2013, INHOPE reported that 13% of websites confirmed to be hosting Child Sexual Abuse Material were commercial. In today's digital world, child sexual abuse is pre-arranged and live-streamed following an all-too-easy financial transaction. This disturbing, criminal money-making trend is one of the key challenges in the latest EFC report. INHOPE proudly contributes to the 'Strategic Analysis and Operations' of the EFC. Its mandate to take action on the payment and ICT systems that are used to run these criminal operations has never been of such critical importance."**

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Russell Chadwick, Executive Director, INHOPE

## Achievements

**The EFC launches its website and publishes its first two newsletters**

**The Head of the recently established European Cybercrime Center at Europol, Troels Oerting takes the lead as the new EFC chairman**

**The EFC Project is presented at multiple conferences and events, including at the Child Sexual Exploitation Conference organized in November by EC3 in cooperation with INHOPE, the ICT Coalition Forum in November and the General Assembly of the Swedish Financial Coalition against Child Pornography in December**

**EFC membership increases steadily: 12 new members join the coalition in its first year, expanding the EFC membership base to 30**

**The first Strategic Assessment on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is released at the first EFC awareness raising conference in October**

**A leaflet on the EFC project, its objectives and planned deliverables is developed in view of the first awareness raising event**

**The first EFC awareness raising conference, attended by nearly 100 delegates, takes place on 15 October 2013 in Brussels**

**The EFC invites other EU networks and initiatives involved in online protection of children to attend a meeting in June in Brussels with the purpose of exploring possible avenues of cooperation**

## Coming up

- › The 'Combatting Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online' training course will pave the way for improved public-private cooperation: The aim of the course will be to improve strategic, technical, operational and procedural competences in the fight against the production and dissemination of child abusive material over the internet for financial gain.
- › The fourth EFC newsletter will be sent out.
- › The publication of the recommended guidelines for Internet Service Providers to protect their services from misuse for criminal purposes, including Child Sexual Exploitation content.
- › The publication of an updated Best Practice Guide for payment system providers published under the first EFC in 2014.
- › Publication of an updated EFC Strategic Assessment on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online.
- › 2nd Awareness Raising Event to be organised in October/November 2014.
- › Meeting with other networks and organisations active in online child protection in June.

**"2013 was a successful year for the European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (EFC). The strong commitment of the civil society, Law Enforcement Authorities and the private sector in counteracting the commercial sexual exploitation of children online is evident in the high quality of the deliverables already achieved by the 5 EFC Work Packages. Under the solid guidance of a Steering Group with a unique composition and the resolute chairmanship of the European Cybercrime Centre, the EFC is becoming a significant example of an effective and fruitful public-private partnership – 12 new members have joined the Coalition in 2013 and 4 more applications are under consideration. The positive results reached in the first implementation phase of the project are promising in view of setting the basis for the EFC to become a permanent platform engaged in protecting children against such heinous sexual crimes."**

**Tania Anguelova**, Project officer of the European Financial Coalition, Missing Children Europe

### Extract from the Strategic Assessment Report produced by the EFC

- › The vast majority of Child Abuse Material (CAM) is still distributed non-commercially on the open net, using peer-to-peer (P2P) technologies. Commercial distribution persists, however, and is evolving, including new forms of activity on the hidden net.
- › The live streaming of abuse for payment is an emerging trend of particular concern, deserving of greater enforcement attention, systematic intelligence gathering, and effective collaboration of prevention measures.
- › As an increasing number of young people use Internet based services to produce sexualised content, there is a real risk that this material will find its way into commercial circulation.
- › Analysis of web search terms reveals a reduction in interest in traditionally popular "series" of images, persistence in the popularity of generic keywords for child abusive material, and increased interest in "borderline" and "barely legal" material. While more sophisticated offenders use closed online networks to access CAM, web search continues to provide an "entry level" means of access.
- › Web search analysis also reveals increasing interest in CAM in emerging markets such as Latin America. As Internet adoption continues to proliferate worldwide, the EFC can expect to see new material, new payment methods and greater levels of interest from previously underconnected regions.
- › According to data provided by INHOPE, the top countries with the highest number of servers hosting commercially distributed CAM include the United States, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Japan, The Netherlands, Ukraine, Germany, Czech Repub-

lic and Hungary. For some of these – but not all – high levels of identified commercial CAM URLs may to some extent reflect the misuse of globally popular legitimate hosting services.

› Analysis by the Internet Watch Foundation reveals that just 8 Top Level Distributors were responsible for 513 commercial CAM distribution brands in 2012, and that the 10 most prolific brands recorded in 2012 were all associated with a single Top Level Distributor. This seems to indicate that while there are large numbers of URLs being used for the commercial distribution of CAM, this may be due to a small number of extremely prolific Top Level Distributors.

More information is available on the EFC website at [www.europeanfinancialcoalition.eu](http://www.europeanfinancialcoalition.eu) or contact Tania, the project officer coordinating the day to day work of the EFC secretariat directly for more information on [secretariat@europeanfinancial-coalition.eu](mailto:secretariat@europeanfinancial-coalition.eu)

### 3.3 Advocating better European legislation to protect children from sexual exploitation

Together against sexual exploitation of children



**“Together against sexual exploitation of children” is a European project to identify the manner in which the EU Member States have been transposing the provisions of Directive 2011/93/EU on the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of Children and Child Pornography. It is a collaborative effort between Missing Children Europe, ECPAT, ELSA, eNACSO and Allen and Overy.**

#### Highlights from 2013

- › A survey on the state of national law in 11 EU Member States regarding 7 provisions of the Directive was conducted by Missing Children Europe in 2012, the results of which were presented at an expert meeting attended by NGOs, Law Enforcement Authorities and experts from across Europe. A report on the first findings was published in 2013.
- › Next steps in updating the survey for the 11 EU Member States and reviewing the national state of law in the remaining 17 EU Member States were initiated with the partners in 2013, allowing for a full review to be made available in 2014. Missing Children Europe also developed the visual identity of the project.

#### Coming up

- › The 28 reports which are to be submitted in the first quarter of 2014 will be examined and evaluated with the assistance of external experts.
- › Two types of reports will then be prepared, summarising the findings per country and per topic respectively.
- › The main findings will be presented and discussed at a new expert meeting during the first quarter of 2015.
- › The 7 topics selected for this survey relate to all 3 aspects of an efficient protection of children against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation: prevention (e.g. the screening of applicants for professional or voluntary employment involving direct and regular contacts with children or the blocking of access to web pages offering child abuse material), prosecution (e.g. the criminalisation of “grooming”) and protection (e.g. the protection of child victims in criminal investigations and proceedings).

**"Sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children cannot be dissociated from the "missing children" issue. This particular aspect of violence against children which the European Court of Human Rights rightly described as "unquestionably an abhorrent type of wrongdoing, with debilitating effects on its victim" very often is at the origin of the disappearance of the child running away from such types of situations or presents a particular risk once the child has disappeared.**

**It is therefore imperative that Missing Children Europe follows up on the efforts undertaken both by the Council of Europe and by the European Union to set higher standards for legislation on the subject in their respective member countries."**

**Francis Herbert,**

Legal Counsel and outgoing Secretary General,  
Missing Children Europe

**"Since ELSA as an association commits itself to the education of young lawyers and law students in matters of Human Rights we are more than happy to be able to cooperate on the project: "Together against sexual exploitation of children" as this topic is very much in line with the values of ELSA. Learning about the connected legislation as well as working with institutions like Missing Children Europe creates the unique opportunity for our members to make a real difference."**

**Tino Boche,**

Vice President for Academic Activities, European Law Students  
Association (ELSA)

## 3.4 Monitoring the Council of Europe convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse of children

**The Convention was opened for signatures on 25 October 2007 in Lanzarote, Spain and entered into force on 1 July 2010. Its objective is to protect children against any form of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Every provision aims at preventing sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, protecting child victims of sexual offences and prosecuting perpetrators.**

### Highlights from 2013

- › Missing Children Europe has contributed very actively as an observer to the meetings of the Lanzarote Committee, complementing the work undertaken in the framework of the project on Directive 2011/93/EC. The General Secretariat participated at 3 meetings of the Committee, which focused on two questionnaires, designed to:
  1. take stock of the implementation of the Lanzarote Convention by States Parties and possibly also to have a general overview of the situation in States having signed but not yet ratified the Convention;
  2. carry out the first monitoring round of the implementation of the Convention in States Parties with respect to the theme "Sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust".

### Coming up

- › Missing Children Europe will be working with the Lanzarote Committee in collecting responses from civil society organisations – in particular Missing Children Europe members – on both questionnaires.
- › As a partner working closely with the Council of Europe, Missing Children Europe will also join the mid-term review conference on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights" taking place on 27-28 March 2014. The objective of the conference will be to take stock of progress achieved within the first two years of implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) and to exchange good practices of successful national and European initiatives in recent years.

**"In 2013, Missing Children Europe actively participated in the meetings and capacity building activities of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Committee/Convention). It provided expertise, contributing substantially to the drafting of the Lanzarote Committee's questionnaires, one to take stock of the legal and political frameworks to protect children against sexual violence, and the other to assess the situation with respect to the protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust."**

**Regina Jensdottir,**

Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe



# **NGO Capacity Building and Exchange of Best Practice**

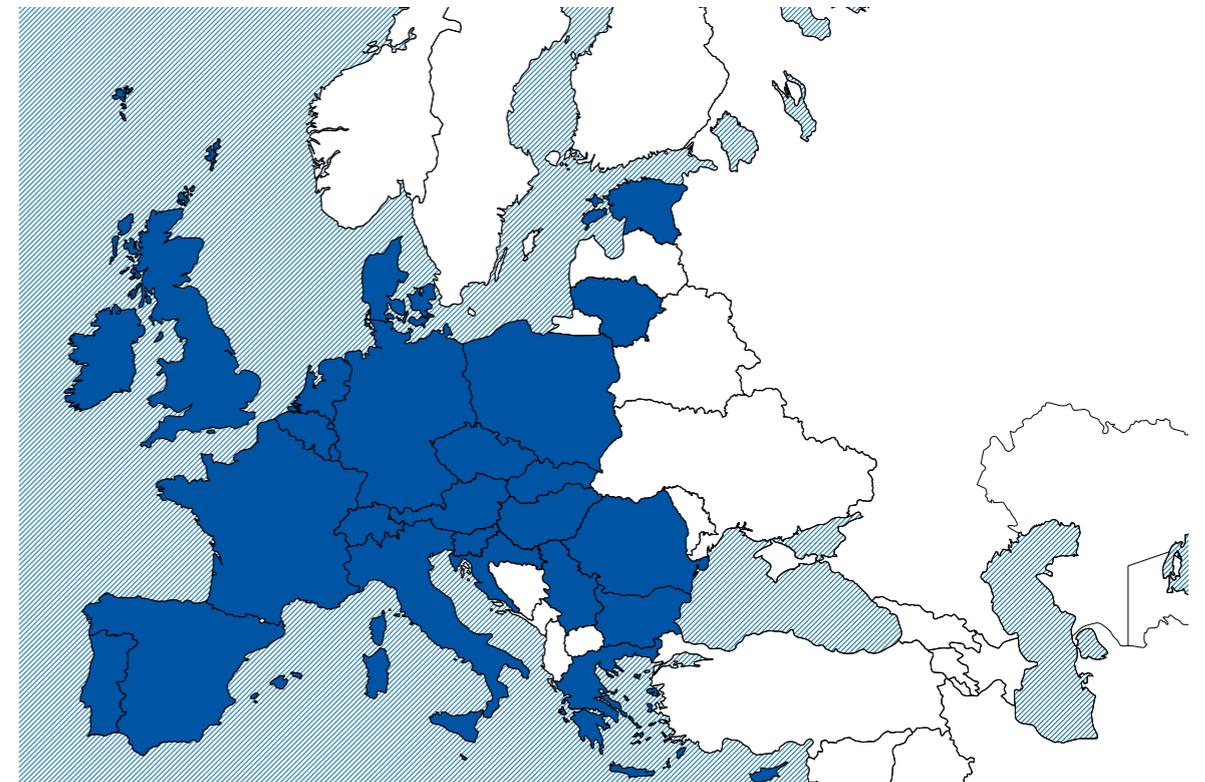
# 4 NGO Capacity Building & Exchange of Best Practice

## 4.1 Members

Missing Children Europe is a federation of national NGOs across Europe working together against the issue of child disappearance and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Since April 2014, several changes to the membership have been made. For an overview on Missing Children Europe's membership at the time of publication, see page 11 of this report.

Missing Children Europe member organisations around Europe in 2013



## Highlights from 2013

- › Organisation of regular conference calls and working groups to share information with and between members depending on topical subjects that need discussion & exchange.
- › Launch of a bi-monthly member webinar allowing member organisations to share and disseminate information on best practices of successful projects & research developed as well as discuss challenges faced: The online webinars started in November 2013, with the first theme as "Child abuse & child sexual exploitation projects, policy and research". It covered presentations by speakers from Spanish member, ANAR, British member, Missing People and Missing Children Europe and was attended by members from Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary and Ireland. The resources are additionally shared to all Missing Children Europe members after the webinar.
- › Member newsletter: A member specific monthly newsletter was started in June, curating relevant updates and content from the missing children sector, sharing news and project updates of members and sharing the latest efforts of Missing Children Europe. A total of 5 newsletters were sent out to members in 2013.

## Coming up

- › A new website including an internal member wiki and resource platform is being developed for Missing Children Europe by TakeAwayCode. Once launched the new website will have a password protected internal member platform for members to have access to resources, updates and sensitive documents to support their work.
- › A collection of successful cases of preventing, protecting and empowering missing children and their families will be put together from stories in the field from Missing Children Europe members.
- › A collection of best practices developed by members of Missing Children Europe to facilitate and improve tools, projects and services for the children and families affected by child disappearances will be put together and shared with members and other child right organisations.

### Member webinar: Fundraising tips and tricks

As part of the newly launched bi-monthly member webinars, Missing Children Europe organised a webinar on Fundraising: Tips and Tricks for members. It featured an external speaker from the European Commission who spoke about the Rights, citizenship and youth programme funding criteria. Presentations were also given about successful fundraising practices by German member "Weisser Ring" and Greek member "The Smile of the Child" who are both champions at raising funds through donations and innovative programmes.

**"Missing People had no previous experience of applying to the European Commission before this funding became available, so we were very grateful to Missing Children Europe for supporting us through the process. The training provided by Missing Children Europe was very informative and also gave us a valuable opportunity to share ideas with our European partners"**

**Sam Dixon**

Grants Manager, Missing People, UK

**"I participated in all 3 webinars organised by Missing Children Europe. I found them to be very useful as apart from these pre-organised meetings it is always hard to find time to share ideas, experiences, current news, materials or project plans with other Missing Children Europe members and with the Secretariat, even though I think it is essential for the continuous development of our services. I learned a lot, it was very interesting to hear about the very successful billboard campaign of ANAR and the research on the link between sexual exploitation and missing conducted by Missing People (Still hidden study). Missing Children Europe also invited external speakers from the European Commission and from other organisations that helps to broaden our perspectives, and get necessary information for our future work (e.g. application for funding at EC). The webinars are very well organised and reflect the very precise and excellent work of the Missing Children Europe Secretariat"**

**Eva Senker,**

Project Coordinator, Kek Vonal, Hungary

# Advocacy and Communication



## 5 Advocacy and Communication

### 5.1 The Patrons' Council

Members of the Patrons' Council are dedicated to assisting and supporting Missing Children Europe as well as its national member organisations in the fight against child disappearances, and in protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse.



## The Patrons' Council is currently composed of:

- › Queen Paola of Belgium
- › Sir Francis Jacobs, QC, KCMG, former President of Missing Children Europe
- › Mrs. Margarida Sousa Uva Barroso, wife of the President of the European Commission
- › Mrs. Bernadette Chirac, wife of the former President of the Republic of France
- › Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former President of Latvia
- › Mr. Jacques Barrot, former Vice-President of the European Commission
- › Prof. Giovanni Maria Flick, former President of the Italian Constitutional Court

**"On stepping down in September, after six years as President of Missing Children Europe, I was very pleased to be appointed to the Patrons' Council, a group of senior figures who are not mere figureheads but are expected to take an active role on behalf of Missing Children Europe at a high level. For this purpose, each of the members (currently seven in number, with Queen Paola, formerly Queen of the Belgians, in the**

## Highlights from 2013

- › The meeting of the Patrons' Council took place on 14 March 2013 at the Royal Palace in Brussels, followed by a lunch meeting between the members of the Patrons' Council and the Board of Directors, with Commissioner Malmström and incoming President Maud de Boer-Buquicchio as a guest at the event.

**chair) has particular responsibilities, can represent Missing Children Europe, and may be able to intervene to resolve a delicate problem. Membership of the Patrons' Council will therefore enable me to maintain an active role in Missing Children Europe and I look forward to this new challenge."**

—  
**Sir Francis Jacobs**, Outgoing president of Missing Children Europe, member of the Patrons' Council

## 5.2 Collaboration with peer movements

**To support Missing Children Europe's principle of encouraging the development of an embedded approach to preventing and solving the issues of missing children, Missing Children Europe coordinates with and supports several other national, umbrella and international organisations and efforts to push for a stronger and more effective voice for children who disappear. Missing Children Europe continued to deepen ties and relationships with key organisations including through the specific actions below:**

1. Cooperation with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC) has been developing through conference calls, participation of an ICMEC delegate at the Missing Children Europe General Assembly, cooperation in the framework of awareness campaigns for International Missing Children's Day and by Missing Children Europe's president being on the ICMEC Board.
2. Cooperating with other networks including the Missing Persons International Network, Child Helpline International and Fundamental Rights Platform of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). Missing Children Europe is an active member of the Fundamental Rights Platform; FRA's network of civil society organisations. Through this network, participant organisations can play an active role in FRA's work. Of particular interest for Missing Children Europe in 2013 was the FRA's work on guardianship for children deprived of parental care, which will be used also in the context of a new project planned by Missing Children Europe on improving interagency cooperation in preventing the disappearance of unaccompanied migrant minors from reception centres.
3. Delphine Moralis, Secretary General joined the Advisory Board of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons at the University of Portsmouth. The centre has been and continues to invest in significant research in understanding the causes as well as the risks of missing people in Europe. Efforts are also being made to coordinate the development of a credible, updated and comprehensive publication bank of research, publications and best practices about missing children in Europe, together with the centre's already existing research database.
4. Missing Children Europe also contributed to a joint publication by Eurochild and UNICEF called "Realising the Rights of Every Child, Everywhere – Moving forward with the EU" on the current and future role of the EU in protecting and promoting children's rights across internal and external policy and action.

**"The Centre for the Study of Missing Persons has been collaborating with Missing Children Europe for the past two years, ever since the Centre was founded. Missing Children Europe has a unique overview of the work and efforts taking place across Europe to prevent and protect missing children. The relationship of Missing Children Europe with other NGO's and its involvement in research activities allows for academics like ourselves to have a better understanding of the various needs, challenges and accomplishments of NGO's across all member states and helps us to better identify gaps in knowledge where research is needed and should be prioritised, especially in relation to research on the causes and effects of child disappearances."**

**Karen Shalev-Greene,**

Director of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons at the University of Portsmouth

#### **Joining the Child Rights Action Group:**

A new cooperation was established between Missing Children Europe and the Child Rights Action Group, which brings together 14 European Umbrella organisations active in the promotion of a child rights approach across different sectors. To facilitate the engagement of future Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in investing towards children and child friendly policies in all areas, Eurochild, in cooperation with Missing Children Europe and 12 other child rights organisations, prepared a Child Rights Manifesto that outlines concrete proposals for making children's rights in the EU and the world a priority through the work of future MEPs.

Chairing a panel discussion at the Eurochild event for Universal Children's Day event in Strasbourg where the manifesto was launched, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, President of Missing Children Europe and former deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe said, "May this day serve to remind us to never let our children's best interest drop off our radar".

#### **Extract from the Child Rights Manifesto:**

"Our vision is realising the rights of every child, everywhere! How Europe treats its children will determine its future. Children and families are among the worst affected by the economic crisis. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth cannot be achieved without respecting children's rights and investing in their future. As a Member of the European Parliament you can make a difference by placing children's rights and well-being at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy".

For more information on the Child Rights Manifesto or to become a Child Rights Champion, visit [childrightsmanifesto.eu](http://childrightsmanifesto.eu)

#### **Contributing to UNICEF and Eurochild's publication on children rights:**

"The EU has successfully promoted specific tools such as the 116 000 hotlines, established at national level within a European network. The hotlines work in partnership with other stakeholders to provide multi-agency responses to missing children. These were operational in all but one EU Member State by the end of 2013 – as well as in Albania and Serbia.

The added value of a coordinated European approach is clearly demonstrated by the hundreds of parents and children calling the hotline each day, and by the numerous concrete cases of life-saving interventions following the launch of an alert. The initiative has also been the seed for the development of additional prevention, support and protection measures.

Alert mechanisms used for children whose life is in immediate danger have been developed in a dozen Member States. EC funding has helped to establish these systems and to improve their cross-border co-operation. Funding has been provided through two specific Daphne calls for proposals."

**Extract from UNICEF and Eurochild's publication "REALISING THE RIGHTS OF EVERY CHILD EVERYWHERE: Moving forward with the EU" made by Delphine Moralis, Secretary General of Missing Children Europe.**

## 5.3 Communication Efforts

Communication plays a very important role in supporting Missing Children Europe build a credible and consistent brand, raising awareness of its issues relating to missing and sexually exploited children and supporting fundraising efforts towards the public and other institutions. As such Missing Children Europe has invested a lot in developing its communication, starting with recruiting a full time Communication Officer in June 2013.

### Press event

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio officially took over as the new president of Missing Children Europe from Sir Francis Jacobs at the Handover and Strategy Launch ceremony on the 15th of October in Brussels. The ceremony also set the stage for the presentation of Missing Children Europe's new strategy for 2014-2017. It was attended by Missing Children Europe members, members of the press and other Missing Children Europe stakeholders.

Like us on [www.facebook.com/missingchildreneurope](http://www.facebook.com/missingchildreneurope)

Follow us on [www.twitter.com/missingchildeu](http://www.twitter.com/missingchildeu)

Stay up to date by checking [www.missingchildreneurope.eu](http://www.missingchildreneurope.eu)

Get in touch through [info@missingchildreneurope.eu](mailto:info@missingchildreneurope.eu)

### Highlights from 2013

- > First Communication Officer position opened and filled in June.
- > Development of an official Missing Children Europe global communication strategy and branding guidelines matching the global Missing Children Europe strategy (2014-2017) launched in October 2013.
- > The development & dissemination of awareness raising material including "Where's Billy", an awareness raising poster on missing children translated into several national languages.
- > The International Missing Children's day efforts included the expansion of the "Futures," video and the 'Not-found' campaign and coordination of the Big tweet campaign together with Missing People, UK.
- > Launch of Missing Children Europe into the twitter-sphere and upgrade and management of its facebook presence based on the new branding guidelines.
- > Update of Missing Children Europe websites, including:
  - > [www.missingchildreneurope.eu](http://www.missingchildreneurope.eu)
  - > [www.hotline116000.eu](http://www.hotline116000.eu)
  - > [www.supportmce.eu](http://www.supportmce.eu) (fundraising website)
  - > [Notfound.org](http://Notfound.org)
  - > [www.Europeanfinancialcoalition.eu](http://www.Europeanfinancialcoalition.eu)
- > Launch of bi-monthly member webinars to facilitate knowledge sharing between members.
- > Launch of both a Member specific and Patrons' Council focused newsletter in 2013.

### Achievements

Re-work of all fundraising artwork and promotional material

New communication strategy and branding guidelines

Bi monthly Member webinars and newsletters organised and published for members

Christmas fundraising appeal sent to public

600+ likes on Facebook and 700+ followers on twitter

"I'm so happy and excited to be part of supporting the work Missing Children Europe does. I see a lot of potential in the growth of this organisation and it's great to be able to put my skills to a very worthy cause. I think we've come a long way since I joined, having defined a clear communication strategy and finally crystalizing our branding efforts. I now look forward to laying a solid foundation for our communication efforts and then diving into innovative ways of

raising awareness and getting support for one of the most important causes in our society-keeping our children safe. The next stage will be developing our website, improving the impact of our awareness raising projects, creating a publication hub for research and engaging more with the public to increase the effectiveness of what we do. There's a lot to be done and I'm thrilled to be part of it."

Gail Rego,

Communication Officer, Missing Children Europe



# Management and Fundraising

# 6 Management and Fundraising

## 6.1 Finances and accounts

Missing Children Europe has successfully applied for co-funding from the European Commission since 2008.

While essential, these funds do not cover the total budget of Missing Children Europe's activities and projects.

To match the support offered by the Commission for projects, Missing Children Europe is increasingly looking for partners willing to join forces in making Europe a safer place for children.

### Sources of income

#### > With the support of the Daphne Programme of the European Commission

Missing Children Europe is one of the few umbrella organisations to have been selected for an operating grant under the Daphne Programme. This operating grant has to be applied for annually, and over the past years has covered a decreasing percentage of the running costs of the organisation. While the grant awarded in 2008 covered 80% of the running costs, the Daphne rules imposed a decrease of the Community support to 65% in 2009, 61,83% in 2010, 58,83% in 2011, 53,95% in 2012 and 50% in 2013. In addition to the grants received to cover the operating costs of the organisation, specific transnational projects starting in 2012 are co-funded by the Daphne and ISEC Programme of the European Commission, covering expenses related to the development of a harmonised Client Relationship Management and Data Collection tool and the European Financial Coalition against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Online. The projects are covered respectively at a ratio of 80% and 90%.

#### > Partners and sponsors

As the funds provided by the European Commission cover only a percentage of the budget, Missing Children Europe undertakes to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with enterprises wishing to contribute to the creation of a safer Europe for children. In addition, fundraising events are organised on a regular basis, with the help of Missing Children Europe's Supporting Committee. A number of private donors also support Miss-

ing Children Europe, by generously donating funds or supporting the organisation with pro bono assistance. In 2013, Missing Children Europe received over 16,000 euros from partners and sponsors.

Missing Children Europe wishes to thank its partners and sponsors, without whom the activities described in this Annual Report, would not have been possible.

#### > Members of Missing Children Europe

In addition to the funds obtained from private partners, the members of Missing Children Europe also contribute through membership fees. Members of Missing Children Europe pay an annual Membership fee. This membership fee was fixed at 200, 250, 400 or 1000 euros per member relating to the budget of the member organisation in 2009. The total amount contributed by members through the annual fee for 2013 thus amounts to 7000 euros.

**"Euronext is particularly proud to support an organisation that is dedicated towards unifying measures at a European level for a subject that affects us all. The determination of the Missing Children Europe team and the concrete results that that has created merits a great deal of respect and ensures our ongoing contribution in the years ahead."**

**Vincent Van Dessel,**

CEO of Euronext and Sponsor of Missing Children Europe

> Fundraising efforts

## Skiing for Missing Children Europe



### Skiing for Missing Children Europe

The Engadin Ski Marathon in Switzerland has been organised annually since 1968. It attracts over 10.000 participants annually. Since 2009, a "Skiing for Missing Children Europe" team has participated at the marathon to raise funds and awareness of the issue of missing children and the organisation's projects. Held on 13th March 2013, the event had close to 60 participants and raised approximately 59.563 euros. All funds raised at the event goes towards the development of the 116 000 European missing children hotlines.

#### Coming up

The next "Skiing for Missing Children Europe" event will take place on 9th March 2014. For more information on the event or to take part, visit [www.missingchildreneurope.eu](http://www.missingchildreneurope.eu)

**"It was another great golfing day on one of the most exciting golf courses in Belgium. The organisation was perfect and the whole Missing Children Europe team was so dedicated, paying attention to every individual participant. And when you realise what Missing Children Europe does to coordinate efforts for missing children in Europe, you even play better! Thank you so much for what you do and for making sure we had such a great time in Le Zoute."**

#### Bruno Rolin,

Participant at the Golfing for Missing Children Europe event

## Golfing for Missing Children Europe



### Golfing for Missing Children Europe

The annual "Golfing for Missing Children Europe" event is organised by Missing Children Europe in partnership with Belgian member, Child Focus. Starting in 2006, it has, till date, attracted over a thousand golfers to some of the most prestigious golf courses in Belgium. The 2013 edition of "Golfing for Missing Children Europe" was organised on 27 September and took place at the Zoute. It brought together 200 golfers and it raised 50.906 euros in total. Funds raised for this event were shared between Missing Children Europe and Child Focus for the development of its projects. Funds raised for Missing Children Europe from this event were invested in the improvement of Child Alert Systems in Europe. Child Alert Systems currently exist only in 11 EU Member States, and are, where deployed nationally, often limited in their action because of their limited scope within national borders.

#### Coming up

The next "Golfing for Missing Children Europe" will take place on 9th May at the Royal Golf Club du Hainaut (Mons). All funds raised will go towards the development of a network of trained mediators to support missing children affected by parental abductions. This network will support the parents or guardians to find a solution in the best interest of the child through mediation.

Are you a golfer? Join the "Golfing for Missing Children Europe" event by checking out [www.missingchildreneurope.eu](http://www.missingchildreneurope.eu) for more details or get in touch with [Frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu](mailto:Frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu)

## Running for Missing Children Europe



### Running for Missing Children Europe

The Brussels Marathon attracts 12.000 runners each year. Every year Missing Children Europe sets up a booth at the event and brings together a group of individual and organisational participants who run to raise awareness and funds for Missing Children Europe. Many private companies and public organisations run as part of the Missing Children Europe team. Held on October 6th 2013, the event included a special track for children and raised 32.479 euros. A total of 400 runners participated as part of the team including organisations from Delhaize, ING, International School of Brussels, Royal Military Academy, Google, the European Commission and others.

#### Coming up

The next "Running for Missing Children Europe" event will take place on 5th October 2014. Funds raised will go towards funding the work of the Secretariat.

Join us this year to raise funds for children and to stay healthy by "Running for Missing Children Europe". Check out [www.supportmce.eu](http://www.supportmce.eu) for more details or get in touch with [Frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu](mailto:Frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu)

**"It was a tremendous pleasure for us to participate at this event. The organisation was perfect, everyone liked the Missing Children Europe T-shirts and Missing Children Europe was seen everywhere during the marathon"**

#### Christophe De Vusser,

Managing partner, Bain and Company

**"I found it very inspirational to see people gather for a meaningful cause. There was active participation from everyone to raise awareness and have fun!"**

#### Jamie,

Student from International School of Brussels



## New events: Playing for Missing Children Europe

A bridge competition will be organised in October 2014 to raise funds for the project on missing unaccompanied migrant minors. Would you like to play for a good cause? Contact us at [info@missingchildren-europe.eu](mailto:info@missingchildren-europe.eu). We'd love to see you there!

"10 years have passed since the start of the Supporting Committee! The Supporting Committee has continuously grown and developed into an efficient and vital part of the Missing Children Europe team. Our volunteers are motivated, competent, and creative. Thanks to the Belgian expat community we have recruited an increasing number of people from all over the world: The Netherlands, Finland, Germany, Spain, Argentina, Canada, Ireland, and many more. The issues of missing children speak to them: is there any country in the world that is spared from violence against children, parental conflicts, child trafficking?"

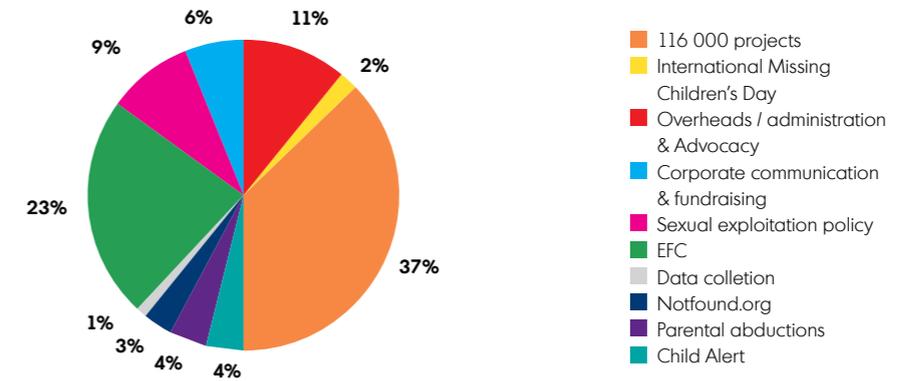
Every volunteer brings their own strengths: sponsors and networks, administrative capabilities, graphic design, translation, event organisation etc. Each spirit enriches the team, every bit of support brings us closer to protecting children.

From our side, we have seen that every year, corporate sponsors and private participants of our fundraising events expect a higher quality of service and return on investment and we have made constant efforts to deliver. Even in the nonprofit sector, competition and economic constraints are abundant. But together with the secretariat and the individual efforts of everyone who has and will contribute to our mission, we will continue to impact the lives of thousands of children in Europe. And that makes it all worth it."

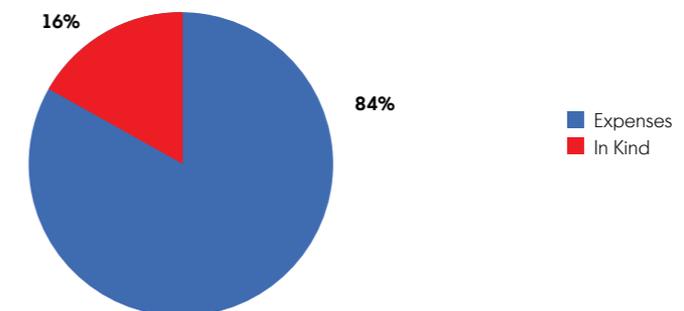
**Frédérique Badin,**

Coordinator of the Supporting Committee,  
Missing Children Europe

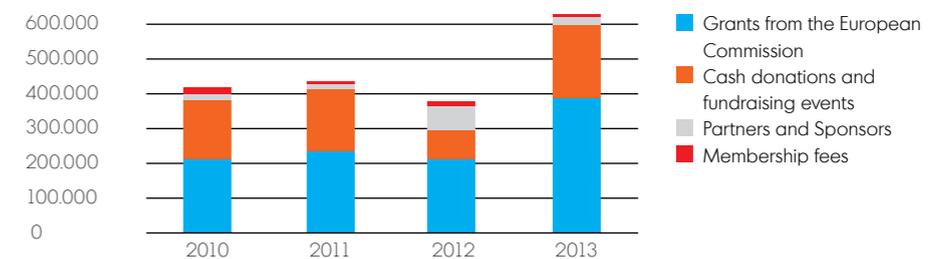
Total expenditures made by project



Total expenses including in-kind: 747.038,03€



Sources of income for Missing Children Europe



## Auditor's report for 2013



West Point Park  
1 Hofveld 6 C3  
1702 Groot-Bijgaarden  
Tel: 02 464 20 50

**EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR  
MISSING AND SEXUALLY  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN  
A.I.S.B.L.**

Auditor's report  
for the year ended  
31 December 2013

VRC BEDRIJFSREVISOREN – VRC REVISEURS D'ENTREPRISES – VRC REGISTERED AUDITORS  
Burgerlijke vennootschap onder de vorm van een coöperatieve vennootschap met beperkte aansprakelijkheid  
Société Civile sous forme d'une société coopérative à responsabilité limitée  
Maatschappelijke zetel | Siège social | Registered address: 8820 Torhout, Lichtenveldestraat 39A  
BTW | TVA | VAT BE 0462 836 191 – RPR | RPM Ger. Arr. | Arr. Jud. 0462 836 191  
Verenoten | Associés | Partners: Vander Donckt Hedwig – Roubrouck Bart – Christiaens Yves – Vander Donckt Frederic –  
Geeroms Andie – Molle Brigitte – Van Steenberghe Bart

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EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR MISSING AND SEXUALLY  
EXPLOITED CHILDREN A.I.S.B.L.

AUDITOR'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013  
TO THE MEMBERS' MEETING

As required by the association's articles we are pleased to report to you on the audit assignment which you have entrusted to us. This report includes our opinion on the financial statements.

**Unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013, prepared in accordance with the accounting principles applicable in Belgium, which show total assets of € 889.688,76 and a loss for the year of € 3.790.04.

*Management's responsibility*

The board of directors of the association is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. This responsibility includes among other things: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with legal requirements and auditing standards applicable in Belgium, as issued by the "Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises / Instituut van de Bedrijfsrevisoren". Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

In accordance with these standards, we have performed procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we have considered internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.

We have assessed the basis of the accounting policies used, the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the association and the presentation of the financial statements, taken as a whole. Finally, the board of directors and responsible officers of the association have replied

*B.M.*<sup>2</sup>



to all our requests for explanations and information. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements as of 31 December 2013 give a true and fair view of the association's assets, liabilities, financial position and results in accordance with the accounting principles applicable in Belgium.

April 9, 2014

**The Auditor**

VRC Réviseurs d'Entreprises  
SC s.f.d. SCRL  
Represented by Brigitte Motte

## EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR MISSING AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Balance sheet in Euro as at

	31/12/2013	31/12/2012
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Website support	3.638,07	4238,33
• Office equipment	3.302,55	1057,28
Receivables more than 1 year	102,24	102,24
• Receivables	3.449,36	5204,63
Deposit Ski Marathon	447,00	0,00
• Cash at bank	857.617,52	677497,72
• Deferred charges	13.916,74	2207,51
• Accrued income	7.215,28	15450,42
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>889.688,78</b>	<b>705.758,13</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
• Result carried Forward	88.897,44	106.626,76
• Profit(+)/ Loss(-) for the year	-3.790,04	-17.729,32
• Payables	10.248,31	3.158,10
Tax and Social payables	58.132,53	43.963,60
• Accrued charges	254,54	29.650,28
• Deferred income	735.935,98	540.088,71
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>889.688,76</b>	<b>705.758,13</b>

B

## EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR MISSING AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Profit and loss accounts in Euro as at

	31/12/2013	31/12/2012
<b>INCOME</b>		
• Member's subscription fees	7.000,00	10.450,00
• Cash donations (events)	103.173,32	78.484,94
• Partnership monitoring Directive 2011/93/EU	0,00	60.000,00
• Donations/sponsoring 116.000 project	28.857,21	1.500,00
• Contribution from partners 116.000 project	5.000,00	0,00
• Contribution from partners EFC	11.053,34	0,00
• MCE Contribution	88.494,77	9.201,06
- operating grant	88.494,77	9.201,06
• European Commission contribution	381.529,47	211.457,06
- operating grant	181.438,40	188.372,29
- 116.000 project 2011-2012	127.889,14	13.285,36
- EFC	72.201,93	9.799,41
<b>Total income</b>	<b>625.108,11</b>	<b>371.093,06</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>385.718,05</b>	<b>361.247,84</b>
• Staff costs	212.442,45	212.784,04
• Travel and subsistence allowances	30.600,81	30.063,77
• Equipment, rental and associated costs, Telecommunication and post, office supplies	31.111,54	27.449,43
• General administration	24.308,17	22.837,40
• Others costs	75.636,86	49.078,64
- Meetings	25.026,77	16.884,68
- Publications and dissemination	22.249,40	11.591,26
- Others costs and subcontracting	28.361,69	20.602,40
• Costs fundraising events	8.155,00	4.295,00
• EC Rejected costs	0,00	10.369,27
• Non eligible costs	3.463,22	4.370,29
<b>116.000 expenses</b>	<b>159.924,86</b>	<b>16.606,70</b>
• Costs events		
- 116.000	159.924,86	16.606,70
- Staff costs	83.616,12	13.597,67
- Travel and subsistence allowances	5.839,88	2.780,93
- Publications and dissemination	853,05	
- Conferences and seminars	0,00	222,07
- Other costs - subcontracting	69.226,37	0,00
- Equipment	325,85	6,03
- Non eligible costs	63,69	
<b>EFC expenses</b>	<b>83.255,24</b>	<b>10.967,84</b>
• Staff costs	54.208,50	7.578,74
• Travel and subsistence allowances	1.562,20	423,40
• Equipment	375,63	11,56
• Office supplies	490,05	
• Other costs	23.587,96	2.874,53
- Publications and dissemination	3.207,56	284,63
- Conferences and seminars	19.775,40	
- Other costs - subcontracting	605,00	2589,70
• Non eligible costs	3.030,90	79,61
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>628.898,15</b>	<b>388.822,38</b>
<b>Net Financial Income</b>		
Profit(+)/ Loss (-) for the year	-3.790,04	-17.729,32

## 6.2 Organisational management and statutory meetings

### Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Missing Children Europe has all the power necessary to realise the goals and mission of the organisation. The Board of Directors met in March and October in Brussels in 2013.

### General Assembly

The General Assembly of Missing Children Europe is composed of all member organisations. The General Assembly has a number of exclusive powers, including the approval of the organisation's budget and accounts. The General Assembly met in Brussels in March 2013.

### Board members

#### President:

Maud de Boer-Buquichchio

#### The Board of Directors for 2013 was composed of:

Heidi De Pauw, Vice President (Belgium)  
 Isabelle Barnier, Independent Member  
 Zuzana Baudysova (Czech Republic)  
 Ernesto Caffo (Italy)  
 Gabriella Coman (Romania)  
 Bodil Dichow (Denmark)  
 Alexandra Simoes (Portugal)  
 Costas Yannopoulos (Greece)  
 Zuzanna Ziajka (Poland)

### Strategy

Considerable efforts were undertaken in revising Missing Children Europe's organisational strategy and developing a 3 year programme (2014 – 2017). The strategy review process was led by a Strategy Working Group, upon initiative and proposals from the General Secretariat, and included the following steps:

- A. Definition of the methodology
- B. Team brainstorming & SWOT Analysis
- C. Survey covering:
  1. Main partners & stakeholders
  2. Other EU umbrella organisations active in the protection of children rights
  3. Members of Missing Children Europe
- D. Draft strategy proposals written by the General Secretariat, followed by a meeting of the Strategy Working Group to discuss proposals
- E. Presentation and discussion of final strategy at the meeting of the Board of Directors
- F. Presentation of the new strategy on the occasion of a handover event between outgoing President Sir Francis Jacobs and incoming President Maud de Boer-Buquichchio

**General Secretariat 2013**

**Secretary General**

Delphine Moralis

**Project Officers**

Valeria Setti (outgoing 116 000)  
 John Murphy (incoming 116 000)  
 Tania Anguelova (EFC)  
 Hilde Demarré (Mediator's network)

**Communications**

Gail Rego

**Finance and Administration**

Hélène Decloux

**Office Management**

Nathalie Suvéé

**Legal Counsel**

Francis Herbert

**Supporting Committee**

The Supporting Committee of Missing Children Europe is composed of volunteers who dedicate their skills and expertise to our common goal of protecting children from disappearance and abuse. A warm **thank you to all of them, including in particular to Frédérique Badin (Coordinator of the Supporting Committee), Karine Beckers, Sergio Campo and Anne-Sophie Ragon.**



**Delphine Moralis** **Francis Herbert** **Gail Rego** **Hilde Demarré** **Frédérique Badin** **Karine Beckers** **Hélène Decloux**



**Anne-Sophie Ragon** **Claudio Alberti** **Nathalie Suvéé** **John Murphy** **Tania Anguelova** **Sergio Campo**

**Restructuring of the General Secretariat 1 June 2014:** Organigram at time of publication

Delphine Moralis – Secretary General

Missing Children	Sexual Exploitation	Legal	Communication & Fundraising	Finance & Administration	
<b>John Murphy</b> 116 000 CRM coordinator UAM focal point	<b>Tania Anguelova</b> EFC Coordinator	<b>Francis Herbert</b> Together against child sexual abuse Coordinator Legal focal	<b>Gail Rego</b> Communications Officer	<b>Frédérique Badin</b> Fundraising events	<b>Hélène Decloux</b> Fin. & Admin. Officer <b>Anne-Sophie Ragon</b> Fin. & Admin. support
<b>Hilde Demarré</b> EU NIM coordinator Parental abductions focal point	<b>Claudio Alberti</b> Intern	<b>Together against abuse intern to be recruited</b>	<b>Fundraising / Communications Intern to be recruited</b>	<b>Karine Beckers</b> Events organiser	<b>Nathalie Suvéé</b> Office Manager
To be recruited: 116 000 monitoring coordinator Runaways focal point				<b>Sergio Campo</b> Outreach	

- Remunerated staff
- Volunteers
- Internships
- Student internships

# Acknowledgements



## 7 Acknowledgements

### **Special thanks to:**

Natalie Hill, Daniel Osorio, Els Vande Kerckhove, Adinda Van Poucke, Frédérique Badin, Karine Beckers, Sergio Campo, Anne-Sophie Ragon, Julie Hombroeckx, Karolina Ciejka, Lucia Bonafede, Thomas Van Praag, Billy Davis, Anke Berkman, Joanna Billard, Laurent Dochy and Anne-Cécile Collignon, Helga Van Peer, Raquel Cordoba, Nels Beckman, Niel Markwick, Caroline Coesemans, Marco Pancini, Karen Shalev-Greene, Larry Humphreys, Bogat Marton, Alexander Isakhanian, European Commission – DG Home Affairs and DG Justice.

### **Supporting Committee:**

For Golfing: Anne-Marie Berckmans, Véronique de Broqueville, Martine De Clercq, Christine de Posson, Diane Deslignes, Deirdre Manchoulas, Francine Querton, Dominique Rolin, Claire Rolin Jaequemyns, Anne-Françoise Schöller, Brigitte Smeyers, Michèle Van Dessel, Louis van Lennep, James Beckman.

For Skiing: Karine Beckers, Sebastian Vos, Nikos Stathopoulos, Tobias Schafers, Sebastian Lifflander

Other support: Armelle Lanos, Sergio Campo, Gaëtan van de Werve d'Immerseel, Alexandre Paternotte

## 7.1 Partners and sponsors



ALLEN & OVERY



## 7.2 Member contact details

<b>Austria:</b>	147 Rat auf Draht	<a href="http://www.rataufdraht.orf.at">www.rataufdraht.orf.at</a>
<b>Belgium:</b>	Child Focus	<a href="http://www.childfocus.be">www.childfocus.be</a>
<b>Bulgaria:</b>	Nadja Centre Foundation	<a href="http://www.centrenadja.org">www.centrenadja.org</a>
<b>Cyprus:</b>	Consortium: SPAVO & HFC	<a href="http://www.comviolence.org.cy">www.comviolence.org.cy</a> , <a href="http://www.uncrcpc.org">www.uncrcpc.org</a>
<b>Czech Republic:</b>	Nadace Nase Dite	<a href="http://www.nasedite.cz">www.nasedite.cz</a>
<b>Denmark:</b>	Thora Center	<a href="http://www.thoracenter.dk">www.thoracenter.dk</a>
<b>Estonia:</b>	Estonian Advice Center	<a href="http://www.abikeskused.ee">www.abikeskused.ee</a>
<b>France:</b>	APEV	<a href="http://www.apev.org">www.apev.org</a>
	CFPE	<a href="http://www.cfpe-etablisements.fr">www.cfpe-etablisements.fr</a>
	La Mouette	<a href="http://www.la-mouette.fr">www.la-mouette.fr</a>
<b>Germany:</b>	Weisser Ring	<a href="http://www.weisser-ring.de">www.weisser-ring.de</a>
<b>Greece:</b>	Smile of the Child	<a href="http://www.hamogelo.gr">www.hamogelo.gr</a>
<b>Hungary:</b>	Kék Vonal	<a href="http://www.kek-vonal.hu">www.kek-vonal.hu</a>
<b>Italy:</b>	SOS Telefono Azzurro	<a href="http://www.azzurro.it">www.azzurro.it</a>
<b>Ireland:</b>	Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	<a href="http://www.ispcc.ie">www.ispcc.ie</a>
<b>Lithuania:</b>	Missing Persons' Families Support Centre	<a href="http://www.missing.lt">www.missing.lt</a>
<b>Portugal:</b>	IAC	<a href="http://www.iacrianca.pt">www.iacrianca.pt</a>
<b>Poland:</b>	Itaka	<a href="http://www.itaka.org.pl">www.itaka.org.pl</a>
<b>Romania:</b>	Focus Romania	<a href="http://www.copiidisparuti.ro">www.copiidisparuti.ro</a>
	Salvati Copiii	<a href="http://www.salvaticopiii.ro">www.salvaticopiii.ro</a>
<b>Slovakia:</b>	Linka Detskej Istoty	<a href="http://www.hladanedeti.sk">www.hladanedeti.sk</a>
<b>Spain:</b>	ANAR	<a href="http://www.anar.org">www.anar.org</a>
	Protegeles	<a href="http://www.protegeles.com">www.protegeles.com</a>
<b>Switzerland:</b>	Missing Children Switzerland	<a href="http://www.missingchildren.ch">www.missingchildren.ch</a>
	SSI	<a href="http://www.ssiss.ch">www.ssiss.ch</a>
<b>The Netherlands:</b>	The International Child Abduction Centre	<a href="http://www.kinderontvoering.org">www.kinderontvoering.org</a>
<b>United Kingdom:</b>	Missing People	<a href="http://www.missingpeople.org.uk">www.missingpeople.org.uk</a>

### Associate members:

<b>Czech Republic:</b>	Ztracene dite	<a href="http://www.ztracenedite.cz">www.ztracenedite.cz</a>
<b>Croatia:</b>	Centre for missing and exploited children	<a href="http://www.cnzd.org">www.cnzd.org</a>
<b>Serbia:</b>	Astra	<a href="http://www.astra.org.rs">www.astra.org.rs</a>



## Contacts and bank account

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**To better protect children from going missing and sexual exploitation, Missing Children Europe is in need of partners and sponsors.**

**Missing Children Europe's Bank Account:**

IBAN: BE 43 3101 6583 24 01

SWIFT: BBRUBEBB

Bank ING: Avenue Marnix 24, 1

1000 Bruxelles | Belgium

If you wish to receive a fiscal attestation (donations above 40 EUR), please contact us at [frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu](mailto:frederique.badin@missingchildreneurope.eu) before proceeding to the donation.



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