Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online – 2014 Reporting Form

CYPRUS

Policy Target No. 1

Enhancing efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection.

Operational Goal: Increase the number of identified victims in the International Child Sexual Exploitation images database (ICSE database) managed by INTERPOL by at least 10% yearly.

A)   Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

•   In 2013, the Office for Combating Cybercrime of the Cyprus Police has investigated six cases related to Invitation of a Child to child pornography. During the investigation of these cases, 27 victims were identified. The victim's images are not yet uploaded to ICSE database due to technical problems which are expected to be resolved soon. Furthermore, Interpol has been requested to provide more training to the staff of the Office for Combating Cybercrime in relation to the ICSE database.

•   In 2013, funding has been granted under HERCULES II project for renewing the hardware and software of the Office for Combating Cybercrime. This project is currently being implemented and it is expected to facilitate and speed up investigation and identification procedures. The Cyprus Police continues to closely cooperate with other law enforcement agencies worldwide through existing communication channels.

B)   Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

•   The updating of the technical equipment and investigative tools of the Cyprus Police was pursued through the application for EU funding.

•   Exchange of information with other countries at a bilateral and multilateral level continues to be on a very good level.

•   Support was requested from Interpol to overcome some technical problems faced with the use of the ICSE database.

C)   Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up

Proceed with the organisation of further training for the use of the ICSE data base and overcome technical difficulties with Interpol's support.

Continue with the updating of the equipment used as investigative tools.

Policy Target No. 2

Enhancing efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders.

Operational Goal: Establish the necessary framework for the criminalization of child sexual abuse online and the effective prosecution of offenders, with the objective of enhancing efforts to investigate and prosecute offenders.

A)   Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

•   The Republic of Cyprus has signed and ratified the following Conventions/Protocols which address the issue of child sexual abuse online:

•   Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, 2001

•   Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 2000

•   UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime, 2000

•   A new law which revises the legal framework for the prevention and combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography has very recently been approved by the House of Representatives. This law, which will come in force after its publication in the Official Gazette (expected in a few days), inter alia, implements Directive 2011/ 93/EU on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography and provides for the improved the implementation of the Conventions/ Protocols mentioned above.

The above mentioned legislation criminalizes sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, child pornography, invitation to a child for sexual purposes and dissemination of material which propounds opportunities to commit offences of such nature (sexual tourism against children). Furthermore, it provides for increased penalties, special protection measures for victims. Court orders for the restriction of access, notice and taking down of websites containing illegal material at any stage of the proceedings, the creation of a register of convicted persons, exchange of information with EU member states and increased support for the victims at all stages of the criminal justice procedures.

•   The Cybercrime Reporting Platform accessible via the website www, pol ice, gov, cv was launched in January 2014. Furthermore, the Cyprus Police Mobile Application was also launched. It offers useful information and connection to the cybercrime reporting platform.

• The implementation of the software called "Net Clean" at the Office for Combating Cybercrime. This software increases as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.
• Planning has been made for the application for EU finding for the period 2014 - 2020 related to the creation of a dedicated training place for cybercrime investigations and the purchase of new forensic tools and vehicles equipped with mobile forensic investigation tools.
B)   Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance
• *Considerable progress has been made with the approval of the new legislation mentioned above (its publication in the Official Gazette is still pending) which provides for a holistic approach for combating sexual offences committed against children and also addresses specifically offences committed online.*   • *On line reporting of Cybercrime offences has been made possible through the Cybercrime Reporting Platform as mentioned above.*   • *Further reassessment is needed of the effectiveness of national legislation on data retention in light of the recent decision of the Court of Justice which invalidates Directive 2006/24/EC.*
C)   Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up
Raise awareness and ensure smooth implementation of the legislation mentioned above which its publication is expected to take place in the next few days.   Initiate discussions with competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus on the possible consequences at national level of the recent invalidation of the EU Data Retention Directive by the Court of Justice.   Implementation of procedures with regard to the application for EU Funding for cybercrime investigations.

Operational Goal: Improve the joint efforts of law enforcement authorities across Global Alliance countries to investigate and prosecute child sexual abuse online.
A)   Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report
• Closer cooperation with EC3, FP TWINS, Active membership of the European Platform for Experts in the fields of Child Pornography and computer forensics.   • Participation Analytical file EU - US via Europol   • Active membership in the FBI Group Violence Crimes Against Children International Task Force VCACITF (information sharing and coordination meetings)   • Active Member of the Child Protection System (CPS)   • Participation in the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database
B)   Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target

and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance
Cooperation continues at bilateral and multilateral level with member states of the EU and third countries mainly through the exchange of information at operational level, exchange of best practices and participation in training programmes.
C)   Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up
See answers part A and B above.

Policy Target No. 3

Enhancing efforts to increase public awareness of the risks posed by children's activities online, including grooming and self-production of images that results in the production of new child pornography that may be distributed online.

Operational Goal: Develop, improve, or support appropriate public awareness campaigns or other measures which educate parents, children, and others responsible for children regarding the risks that children's online conduct poses and the steps they can take to minimize those risks.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

• In 2013, the Cyprus Police in cooperation with governmental and non¬governmental organisations successfully applied for funding under the ISEC project, for the creation of the Centre of Excellence in Cyprus. This Centre will offer training opportunities for judges, the staff of the Prosecution Service, police staff and members of the private sector. It will also have a significant role in increasing public awareness in this field.

• Within the framework of the prevention policy of the Cyprus Police, the Office for Combating Cybercrime issues leaflets related to the internet safety for the users in the Greek and English language. This material has been distributed to all fifth elementary grade students around Cyprus (5000 leaflets).

• Preparation of a short video related to cyber bullying which is accessible via the internet and is also broadcasted periodically on TV channels.

• Launch of the Cybercrime Reporting Platform accessible via the website www.police.gov.cv

• Launched the Cyprus Police Mobile Application which offers useful information and connection to the cybercrime reporting platform.

• Within the framework of cooperation with all involved parties for the prevention of cybercrime, 40 lectures were organised at schools and other groups related to the safer use of the internet.

• Lastly, planning has been made for the application for EU finding for the period 2014 - 2020 related to public awareness actions.

B) Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance

C) Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up
     Implementation of ongoing actions mentioned in part A.

Operational Goal: Share best practices among Global Alliance countries for effective strategies to inform the public about the risks posed by online, self-exploitative conduct in order to reduce the production of new child pornography.

A) Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report

Sharing of best practices is achieved through the regular participation in international conferences, working groups, technical committees and training programmes organised both at EU and International level.

Planning has been made also for the application for EU finding for the period 2014 - 2020 for study visits of police staff in other member states related to the combating of cyber crime.

B)   *Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance*
As above.
C)   *Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up*
As above.

Policy Target No. 4

Reducing as much as possible the availability of child pornography online and reducing as much as possible the re-victimization of children whose sexual abuse is depicted.

Operational Goal: Encourage participation by the private sector in identifying and removing known child pornography material located in the relevant State, including increasing as much as possible the volume of system data examined for child pornography images.
A)   *Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report*
• Implementation of the tool "cleanfield" by a number of ISPs in Cyprus.   The police is in close cooperation with "Cyberethics", an NGO that operates with European funding under "Insafe and Inhope" projects. This NGO hosts and runs a reporting platform- www.cvberethics.info. a hotline and a helpline related to offences committed via the intemet.   The legislation that is mentioned in Poliev Target No. 2 creates a legal obligation for ISPs to restrict access to websites containing child pornography, even without a Court Order, if they are duly informed by a competent authority or otherwise gain knowledge.
B)   *Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance*
As above.
C)   *Please indicate specific actions that your country will undertake as a follow-up*
As above.

Operational Goal: Increase the speed of notice and takedown procedures as much as possible without jeopardizing criminal investigation.

A)   ***Please report on implementation of any measures announced in your country's 2013 report***
The legislation that is mentioned in Policy Target No. 2 creates a legal obligation for ISPs to restrict access to websites containing child pornography, even without a Court Order, if they are duly informed by a competent authority or otherwise gain knowledge.
B)   ***Please assess progress made in your country to pursue this shared policy target and to reach this operational goal of the Global Alliance***
As above.
C)   ***Please indicate specific actions that will be undertaken as a follow-up***
Raise awareness and ensure smooth implementation of the legislation (its publication is expected to take place within the next few days).