



Expanding the Barnahus circle of influence

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

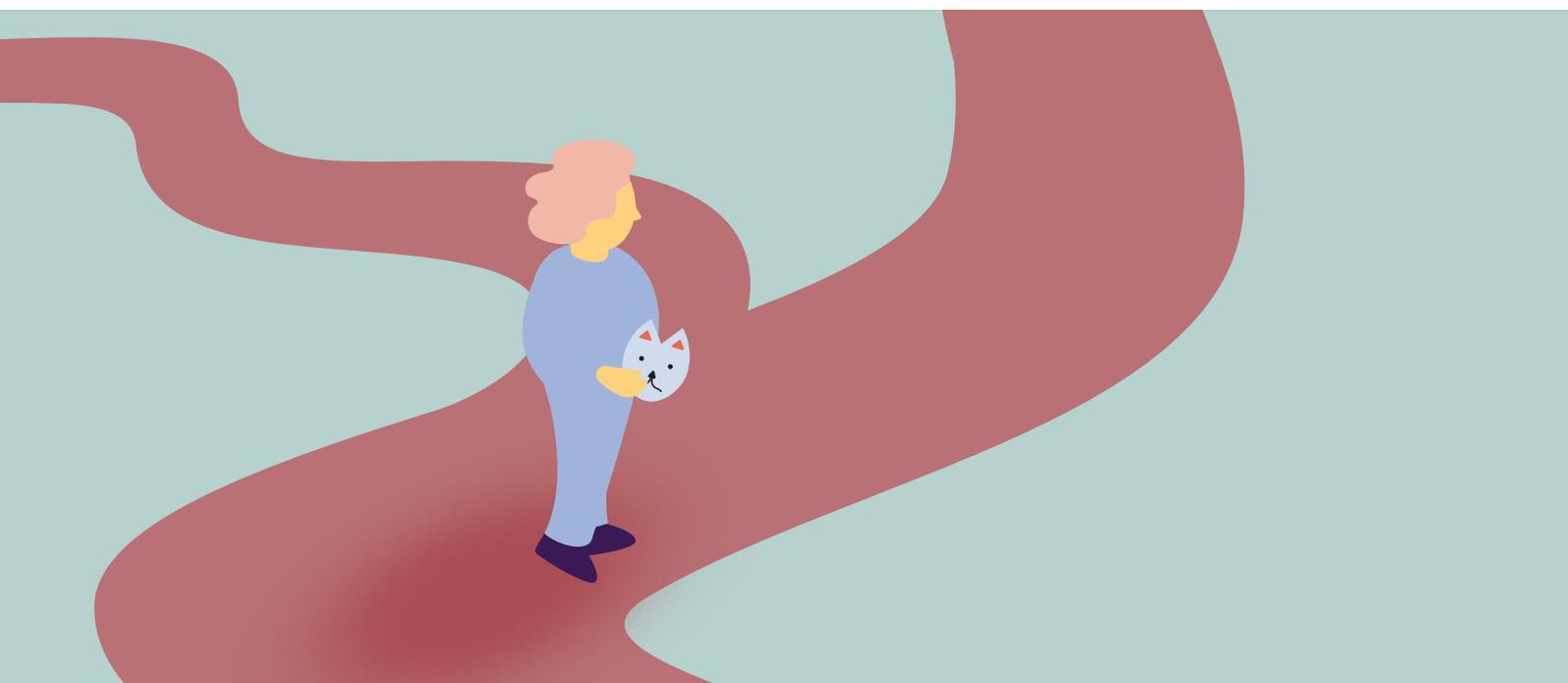
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REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- [Statutes of the Network](#)
- [Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [Child Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [PROMISE Vision](#)
- [Course wait list](#)
- Other internal documents and records available upon request.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Network members and stakeholders,

At the time of publishing this annual report, a bit more than a year has passed since the launch of our network in Helsinki in November 2019. It has been a challenging year. While we are yet to completely understand the full impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, our members have shared their observations and experiences of the negative effect on children at risk of violence, child victims and witnesses of violence and the work of Barnahus. And, you have inspired us with your commitment to adapt, to build back and to develop innovative practice under difficult circumstances.



Our member and expert-driven network has played an important role in [keeping professionals connected across borders](#) during the pandemic. We have continued to provide opportunities to learn through [training, surveys, and exchange](#). Important steps have been taken to develop our [Barnahus Competence Centre](#). [Our website](#) continues to develop into an important resource and our body of [tools and guidance](#) is growing. The Barnahus Quality Standards are now available in 16 languages!

[Our network keeps growing](#). We now have 31 members from 22 countries and continuously receive new applications to join our movement. We celebrate our expansion as a key opportunity to grow our [collective body of knowledge](#), connections, commitment, and enthusiasm to promote Barnahus in new countries, and reach more professionals and children with excellence in practice.

Beyond welcoming new members, we have also built stronger relations with counterparts in Central Eastern Europe, Australia, Canada and the US. Our network continues to be a valued partner to the EU and other international organisations. We are particularly excited about the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Council of Europe to support progress for [Barnahus in Ukraine](#).

With the growth of our European and global network, we expand our circle of influence towards fulfilling our [Promise vision](#), which is at the heart of all our work. The work of our Promise experts to renew the Promise vision is an important step towards keeping the foundation of our work relevant and up to date with recent and emerging developments in Barnahus across Europe. For example, our renewed emphasis on a balanced approach, with all the four rooms equally represented in the multidisciplinary response to children in Barnahus, is a response to concerns raised by professionals that some services operate in the shadow of others.

As the circle of influence of the Network expands, we see the Barnahus increasingly referenced by name in national strategies and regional guidance. Notable mentions include the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child’s concluding remarks on the periodic report for Hungary, which took note of and encouraged [additional legal measures](#) to implement the model. In addition, the [EU Strategy on Victims Rights 2020-2025](#) notes that the forthcoming EU strategy on the rights of the child will contain targeted actions on child victims of crime such as a continuous promotion of Child’s Houses, with a footnote about how Barnahus is currently spreading to all countries in the European Union and internationally.

2020 also saw the birth of our first network working group. The focus on [child participation](#) is particularly welcome as our network endeavours to promote this central area of our work in the coming years. The group has engaged in a mapping of how Barnahus involve children and a vibrant exchange on how to build a participatory culture in Barnahus. Expect exciting things to come from this group in the first half of 2021!

The Council of the Baltic Sea States is very proud to act as [the Secretariat](#) for the Promise Barnahus and continues to be fully committed to the Network’s development and growth as the leading voice for Barnahus in Europe and beyond.

During this first year, our network membership has firmly displayed that we – together as a network – stand fit and ready to act on whatever challenges and opportunities that 2021 may bring. We look forward to continuing our exciting path together!



Ms Olivia Lind Haldorsson
President Of The Promise Barnahus Network

HOSTED BY
The Permanent International Secretariat Of
The Council Of The Baltic Sea States

P R O M I S E
Barnahus Network

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NETWORK TRAINING SUPPORTS MEMBERS' RESPONSE TO COVID-19

A top priority for the establishment of the Network was to be able to provide training to its members in a more dynamic way than on a project basis. That is to say, not needing to plan today for your training needs 2 or more years from now.



Phase 3 of PROMISE was designed to kickstart the activities planned in the [5-year strategy of the PROMISE Barnahus Network](#). These activities include university-level training in the areas of forensic interviewing and therapy, with a few spaces reserved specifically to be able to invite Network members for low or – if possible – no fees.

On the basis of our [waitlist](#) for PROMISE courses, the Network was able to invite 3 participants from Iceland and 2 from Croatia to the forensic interview training with avatar practice. These additional trainees were brought on staff support the response to increased demand on Barnahus Iceland and the Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Center during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Network was able to provide dynamic support to these Member countries in their response.

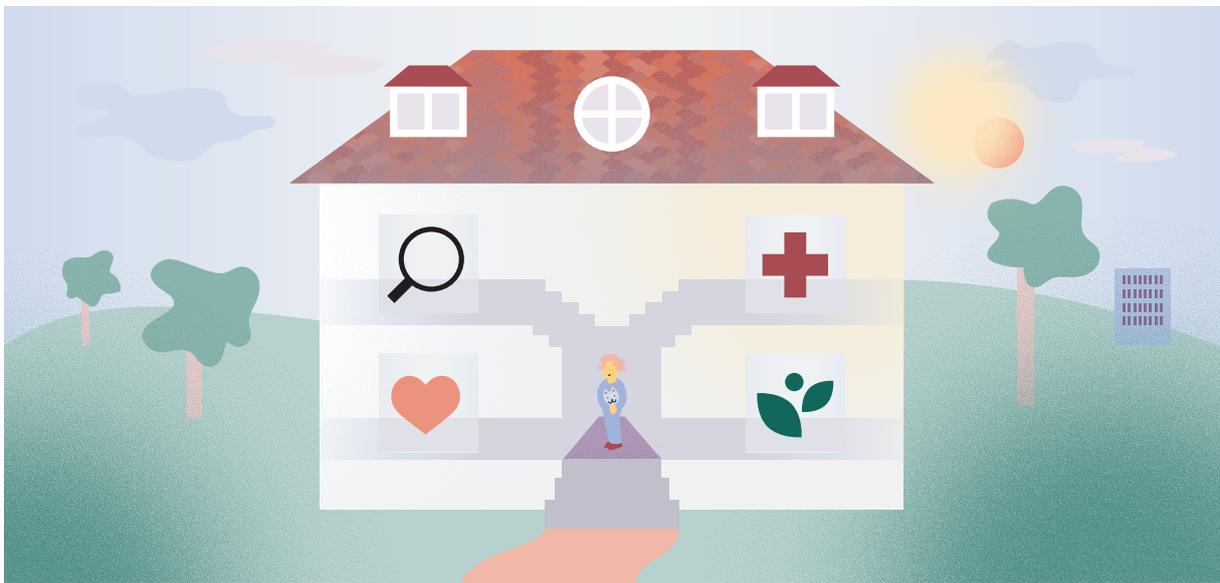
The avatar practice seminars continue into 2021, giving all 30 participants in the course ample opportunity to learn from one another and to improve their practice. The extra participants are bringing notable added value to the group. For example, the clinical psychologist interviewers from Zagreb and the police interviewers from Slovenia are practicing their craft together – thereby forming a particularly unique exchange between professions and across borders.



BARNAHUS.EU HOME OF THE NETWORK, AND AN AUTHORITATIVE RESOURCE

In establishing www.barnahus.eu, the Network has claimed a strategic piece of the internet, and assumed a duty to remain a key resource for anyone looking to learn more about Barnahus. To meet that duty, the Network has elaborated the concept for its forthcoming Competence Centre, which will provide resources, tools and training on the basis of two different dimensions:

- The steps to establish a Barnahus or similar setup, starting with step 1 getting to yes, all the way until step 5 achieving excellence in practice.
- The ‘four rooms’ concept, including resources for achieving the Barnahus Quality Standards in each of the professional specialisations that sit within a Barnahus.

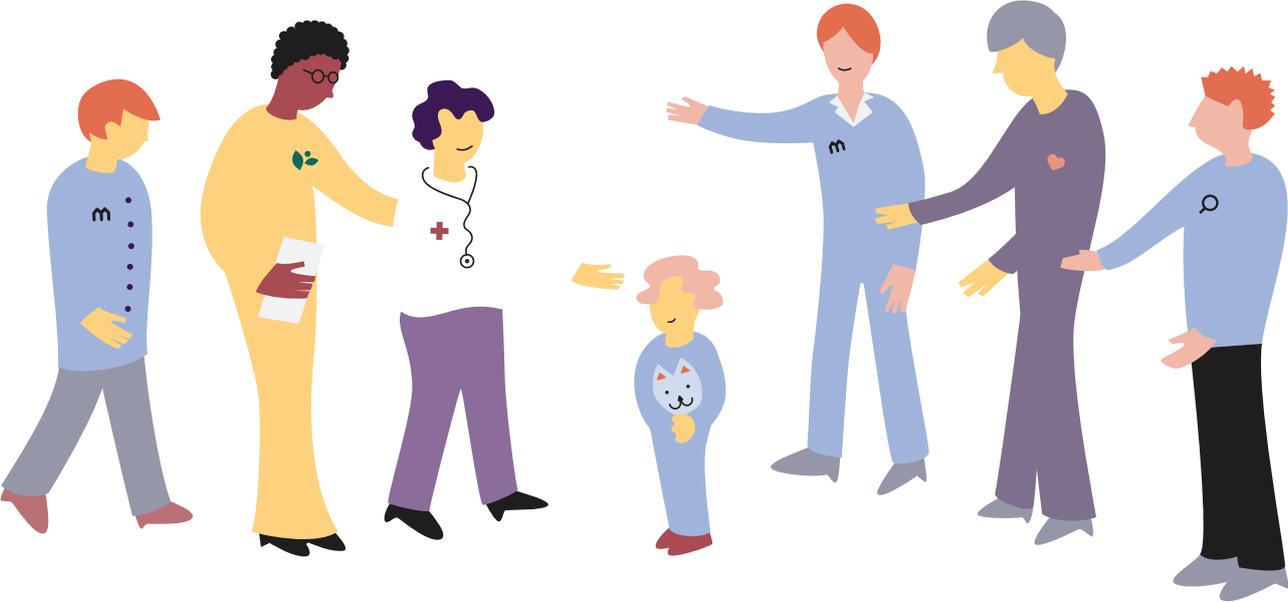


In the visuals which support these dimensions, the **‘house’ symbol** remains central. This is not because the house is more important than putting the child in the centre. Rather, it is that **putting the child in the centre demands an under-one-roof approach**, where the professionals and the system bends to the needs of the child, and not the other way around. As interest grows throughout Europe about how to best provide multidisciplinary interagency services for child victims of violence, this will remain a key message.

WELCOMING 18 NEW MEMBERS IN YEAR ONE

The PROMISE Barnahus Network is a member-led organization which supports the establishment Barnahus and similar services throughout Europe. Joining as a member means making a commitment to working together and sharing experiences on the many possible ways to meet the Barnahus criteria and the Barnahus Quality Standards. Each new member brings important experience and knowledge which enhances the Network’s ability to undertake this mission, and brings us closer to realising our [vision](#).

We are thrilled, therefore, to have welcomed 18 new members to the Network during 2020. The PROMISE Barnahus Network now 31 total members who represent 22 countries. In total, PROMISE currently engages with 36 national contexts, from which the Network is benefiting from existing expertise and/or where it is influencing national progress on Barnahus.



MORE IS MORE - DELIVERING PROMISES, EVEN IN CRISIS

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and all its restrictions, the support desk at the Network’s Secretariat was busy delivering more: more networking, more surveys, more new connections, more opportunities to collaborate, more decisions, more everything. Exactly what we promised in Helsinki when we signed the Statutes for the Network in November 2019.

As the eyes and ears of the Network, its Secretariat is also the support desk for Network members. So when we weren’t Zooming, we were consolidating all of the needs, wishes, and data from our members. Concrete results included establishing the child participation working group, holding preparatory meetings for future collaborations, and seeking out funding opportunities to be able to respond to the varied and dynamic needs of our membership. Several surveys were also completed, with results coming in early 2021.

The Network is anticipating the day when we can once again meet and inspire and person.

INTRODUCTION

This annual report provides an overview of the activities, results and progress towards meeting the objectives and core activities of the [PROMISE Barnahus Network 2020-2025 strategy](#), which was established on the basis of the purpose, mission, and activities described in the [Network Statues](#).

COMPOSITION AND ADMINISTRATION

STEERING GROUP

Appointed: 25 November 2019, upon the signing of the [Statutes](#).

2-year tenure expires: End November 2021.

Country	Organisation	Role	Represented by
Intl	Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat	Host	Olivia Lind Haldorsson, President of the Network
Belgium	Child Circle	Founding member	Rebecca O'Donnell
Bulgaria	SAPI - Social activities and practice institute	Founding member	Petya Dimitrova, Child protection working group
Cyprus	Hope for Children CRC Policy Center (HFC)	Founding member	Christine Mavrou
Finland	THL - National Institute for Health and Welfare	Founding member	Julia Korkman
Ireland	Tusla - Child and Family Agency	Founding member	Mike van Aswegen
Poland	Empowering Children Foundation	Founding member	Maria Keller Hamela
Slovenia	Ministry of Justice	Founding member	Andrej Del Fabro
Sweden	Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset	Founding member	Bengt Söderström

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS

Country	Organisation	Role	Year joined
Albania	Barnahus Albania (f. Child Rights Center Albania)	Associate	2020
At large	Bragi Guðbrandsson	Honorary Founding Member	2019
At large	ChildPotential	Associate	2020
Catalonia	Directorate General for Children and Adolescent Services	Developing	2020
Croatia	Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb	Founding	2019
Denmark	Barnahus Zealand (Børnehus Sjælland)	Founding	2019
England	The Havens	Founding	2019
England	The Lighthouse, University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Full	2020*
England	NSPCC	Associate	2020
Germany	World Childhood Foundation Germany	Associate	2020
Hungary	Terre des Homes	Associate, Child protection working group	2020*
Hungary	Metropolitan Centre for Child Protection and Regional Child Protection Service of Budapest	Associate	2020*
Hungary	Barnahus Szombathely	Developing	2020*
Iceland	Barnahus Iceland	Founding	2019
Intl	UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children Najat Maalla M'jid	Observer	2019

Northern Ireland	Department of Justice, Northern Ireland	Associate	2020*
Norway	Statens Barnehus	Founding	2019
Scotland	Children1st	Associate, Child protection working group	2020
Spain	Foundation Márgenes y Vínculos	Associate	2020
Spain	SAVE THE CHILDREN	Associate	2020
Spain	Hospital Vall Hebron	Associate	2020
Spain	Hospital Vall Hebron	Associate	2020*
Sweden	Barnahus Linköping	Founding	2019
Sweden	Anneli Larsson	Associate	2020

* First payments due in 2021

OTHER

- Moldova – an organisation is approved for membership, but they await formal confirmation that they will be assigned the role of Barnahus from the government.
- Luxembourg – a government organisation is approved for membership, but confirmation is delayed due to Covid-19.

SECRETARIAT

The Network is hosted by the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat (CBSS). In this role, the Children at Risk Unit at the CBSS manages the coordination, documentation, communication, and finances of the Network. It also is the support desk for members, and develops the activities and outputs based on spontaneous input and planned consultations with the members.

This hosting forms the in-kind contribution of the CBSS to the Network's budget, in lieu of membership fees. The value of this in-kind contribution is elaborated in the budget results for each year.

The Network's secretariat staff during the year included:

- Olivia Lind Haldorsson – President of the Network
- Shawna von Blixen as Network Coordinator – from 9 December 2019

- Linda Jonsson as Competence Centre Coordinator – from April 2020
- Gertrude Opira as Treasurer of the Network
- Anastasia Edwardson as assistant – from April 2020
- Mia Skyten as financial controller
- Kate Popova as membership invoice officer

FINANCING

The Network's core financing comes from membership fees and other contributions according to the chart below:

Membership level	Annual Barnahus-related income in Euro	Annual Fee in Euro, calendar year
Full, developing, or founding	-100 000	300
	100 001- 500 000	500
	500 001 – 1000 000	1000
	1000 001 – 2000 000	1500
	2000 001 – 3000 000	2000
	3000 001 – 4000 000	2500
	4000 001 – 5000 000	3000
	5000 001 -	5000
Associate	n/a	250
Sponsors	The financial or in-kind contribution from sponsors to the Network is agreed upon in a dialogue with the Secretariat	
Supporters (including observers)	Financial or in-kind contribution of supporters to the Network is encouraged but not required.	
Host	The employment, financial admin, overhead, and other costs of hosting the Network forms the in-kind contribution of the CBSS to the budget, in lieu of membership fees. The value of this in-kind contribution is elaborated in the budget results for each year.	

Additional funding comes from external donors in the form of donations, projects, and contracting the Network (vis a vis the CBSS as legal entity) as an expert consultant. In addition, in-kind contributions may come in the form of substantial contributions to events or activities of the Network.

Parts of this years of Network activities as reported in this annual report had the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme (2014-2020) of the European Union. The contents herein are the sole responsibility of project partnership and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Annual budgets and budget results are approved by the steering group and adopted by the general assembly.

The Network's financial records are included in the annual audit of the CBSS by the National Audit Office of Sweden, and thus are audited each year.

BUDGET RESULTS 2020

Income: 6,880 EUR

Expenditure: 2,977 EUR

Remaining: 3,751 rolled over to 2021.

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

According to the objectives of [Strategy 2020-2025](#), the Network is focusing its work during this period on establishing the Network as a sustainable and formidable entity, and supporting network members to expand and institutionalise Barnahus in their countries.

The following is a summary of the first year of work to achieving these objectives, presented using the framework of the Network's [strategy](#).

DEVELOPMENT

NEW MEMBER APPROVALS

After two rounds of promoting network membership via Twitter, the newsletter, and targeted outreach, the steering group approved 18 applications during the year. Two successful applicants have not yet confirmed their membership. For details see the [membership lists](#) in the introduction to this annual report.

Membership applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

Definition - includes the recruitment of members, champions and observers. It also covers internal network activities, including steering group meetings, annual work plans, quality control and reporting.

Purpose - Making it easy and attractive for the right actors to join and be active in the Network, as well as ensuring transparency and quality in the administration.

STEERING GROUP MEETINGS AND DECISIONS

14 January 2020, online: Meeting adopted the first two new member approval procedure, approved two new member applications, approved Budget 2020, approved the outline for Strategy 2020-2025.

12 March 2020, online: Meeting approved five new member applications and Strategy 2020-2025. Additional discussed champions, technical experts, the EU Victim Strategy Consultation, and communication developments.

4 November 2020, online: Meeting approved seven new member applications, Budget 2021, Workplan 2021, and the outline for the 2020 annual report. A template for annual budget results reporting was presented for comment. A potential amendment to the [statutes](#) was discussed to clarify the roles of associate members, supporters, and sponsors.

The meeting agreed that full membership should not be withheld from applicants if their legal setups restrict them from meeting certain criteria, but that we must communicate when we

accept these members that we expect that they will work to support a change in the law and the Network will support them in their efforts.

New text for approved members was agreed upon to ensure: 1. associate members understand that their membership is not an endorsement of any existing service they may be running, and also 2. all new members are aware that joining the Network is a commitment to working together to progressively meet the Barnahus Quality Standards in their services.

The meeting also agreed that the steering group should approve proposals for new working groups, and the outputs of the working groups shall be approved by the working group before they are published. The meeting asked the Secretariat to prepare concepts for them to review, give feedback on, and approve.

ADMINISTRATION

The year featured preparatory, review and approval work for many essential processes for coordinating, documenting, communicating and financing the Network. These processes will continue to evolve in the coming years.

OVERVIEW

	2020 plan	Results
Member recruitment	Focus on visibility and outreach, establishing communication means and methods, developing partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new member consideration rounds were organised, with due dates of 17 February and 12 October 2020 The steering group approved 18 new member applications Membership application launched and supporting documents updated, including a new FAQ.
Champions and observers	Leaning on member recruitment work, mapping and strategic outreach with key connectors to establish champions and observers. Develop template for a special update note for champions and observers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU and UN presented at the Network member meeting 23 November 2020 Initial mapping of champions drafted
Network internal activities	Steering group meetings, developing workplan for following year. Financial reporting. Quality control and oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering group meetings were held online on 14 January, 12 March and 4 November 2020. Documents and processes developed during the year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5-year strategy 2020 budget and results 2020 annual report outline 2021 budget and work plan

2020 plan		Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Membership application system and approval process ○ Membership certificate and communication guidance ○ Waitlist signup and tracking for courses ○ Membership fee invoicing and reminder routines ○ Child safeguarding policy and forms established ○ MS Teams files section established for the Steering Group ○ Child participation working group and Terms of Reference drafted

FUNDRAISING

PROMISE 3

The third phase of EU co-funded PROMISE projects launched 1 April 2020.

During May and June 2020, a series of online meetings brought together 70+ colleagues to inform and be informed about the activities and opportunities that this phase brings to the expansion of Barnahus in Europe.

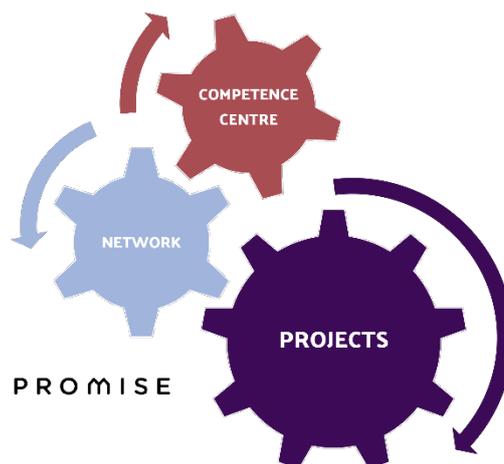
This phase is designed to kickstart the activities planned in the 5-year strategy of the PROMISE Barnahus Network. These activities include university-level training in the areas of forensic interviewing and therapy, with a view to establishing a European Competence Centre for Barnahus. PROMISE is also developing case management tools, thereby laying the groundwork for an accreditation system for Barnahus. Meaningful and safe child participation is central to the work, and will, among other things, inform a review of the Barnahus Quality Standards. We hope that by 2022 we will be able to hold the very first Barnahus Forum – a gathering of 200+ Barnahus professionals and stakeholders who will take the inspirational and energy giving effect that PROMISE has come to be known for, and sup ercharge it with concrete working sessions and trainings, practical demonstrations, celebrations of progress, study visits and exchanges.

The high-quality execution, documentation and reporting of this project, which keeps us in high-regard and excellent standing with the EU, will help set the Network up for a 4 year operational grant and other framework partnership opportunities.

THE NETWORK AS A PROJECT PARTNER, SUBCONTRACTOR, SERVICE PROVIDER

The Secretariat explored a number opportunities that arose during the year for the Network (vis a vis the legal entity of the CBSS) to become a project partner, subcontractor, or supplier of services to Barnahus stakeholders throughout Europe. Several are still pending.

The first successful attempt was a tender to the Council of Europe's call for international experts to their project combating violence against children in Ukraine. The Network was selected as a supplier for services related to the facilitation of interagency coordination and harmonisation of national policy, legal and institutional framework and practice in line with the Council of Europe and other international standards related to children's rights. The Secretariat has subsequently received an assignment to support a legal analysis and mapping of practice related to Barnahus. This is a milestone for all parties involved – a first in many ways – which opens the doors for close collaboration between the Network and the Council of Europe.



Definition - includes securing additional funding through strategic partnerships and consultancies, with a view to establishing framework partnerships with the EU And other relevant donors in Europe.

Purpose - Providing multiple sources of funding for sustainability and diversity of Network activities and services to members.

OVERVIEW

2020 plan		Results
European Union strategic partnership	First year of PROMISE 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project launched 1 April 2020. • Partners are trained and have resources to ensure top notch project execution, documentation and administration. • Trainings have begun, with some delays due to not being able to travel and meet in person.
Supporters and Sponsors	Developing the means and methods for corporate outreach, laying groundwork for future sponsorships including mapping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations ongoing with Indico systems about providing PROMISE courses as part of their interview room packages to Barnahus, and in building a mock interview suite at the first in-person Barnahus Forum. • Discussions are in progress to supply ECPAT International with an exclusive training on forensic interviews with avatar practice, for full fees.
Other	Project partnerships, external consultancies, and other framework partnerships	<p>Other funding applications with the EU and other donors were submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application for funding from SIDA was developed in cooperation with Save the Children Sweden SIDA funded project with Kosovo, Albania, and North Macedonia, with the understanding that partner countries will be expected to become Network members. The application was not approved. • Greek project application to the EU included the Network as an external consultant, with the understanding they must also become network members. Due to Covid-19 they did not make the application deadline. • Portuguese application to EEA funding includes the Network as a partner. No decision yet. • Tenders have been submitted to the Council of Europe to be external consultants in their ongoing projects in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Slovenia – no decision yet ○ Ukraine – for which the Network was selected. • Network is included as an external consultant in a project concept note by a Czech Republic organisation to a local foundation. If successful, a project application will be due spring 2021. • Currently discussing with Save the Children Spain (associate member) to determine how best to support and interface with their national STEPs project supporting the development of a national evidence and practice-based training programme for Barnahus.

NETWORK SUPPORT

THE COMPETENCE CENTRE

A key activity of the Network is establishing a European competence centre for Barnahus, and in doing so is building upon existing PROMISE resources, trainings, and dialogues.

Activities include internationally recognised training in forensic interviewing, and university-level training in therapy.

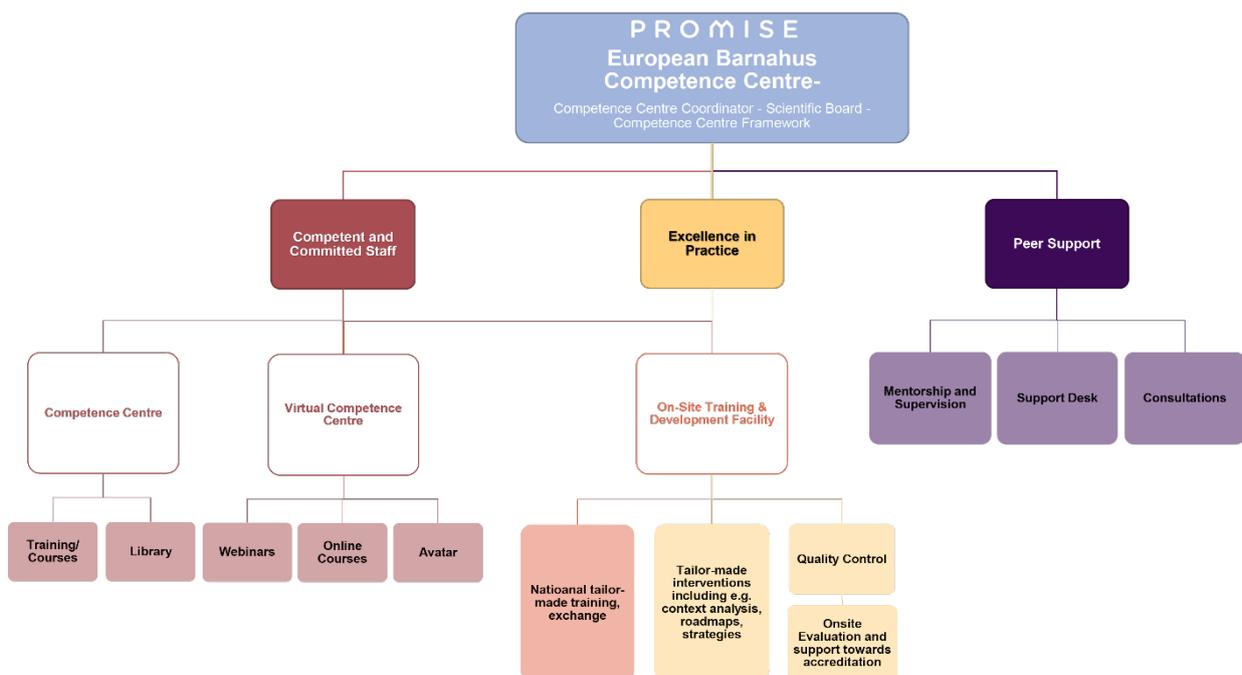
Additional training modules cover topics on the EU legal context for Barnahus, establishing and working in multidisciplinary teams, practising interview and therapy skills with a child avatar before meeting children, and building a common understanding of child abuse across disciplines and countries.

Trainings on medical evaluation at the Barnahus have been delivered in previous projects, and routine coursework on this topic will soon be introduced in the competence centre.

The concept, a description of current and future offerings, and communication have been developed during the year, with a formal section on www.barnahus.eu to be formally launched next year.

Definition - Core activities include establishing a competence centre and training programme, continually developing and disseminating tools and guidance, and establishing an accreditation system – an activity which includes the rollout of the Hub case management system and the first review of the PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards.

Purpose - Providing concrete, timely, and dynamic support to members in the form of training, guidance, and tools.



TOOLS AND GUIDANCE

Several surveys were undertaken with network members and others throughout Europe, with results being presented during meetings or feeding directly into a network member's national level problem solving. Some surveys are still open for response.

Reports, summaries, and other formats of presenting the results are periodically published to www.barnahus.eu and informed about through the newsletter.

During the network member meeting 23 November 2020, members gave guidance through a poll about how to prioritise a long and interesting list of topics the network has been requested to give guidance and information about. The results of this poll will inform our work under this category.

OVERVIEW

	2020 plan	Results
Training	Forensic interview and therapy trainings year one as part of PROMISE 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic interview training year one in progress. The Network was able to invite 5 waitlisted participants (Iceland, Croatia) to take part in this training, fully subsidized. Engaged and enthusiastic group has become a good team and setting good working methods for future courses. The students will continue to practice their craft with the Avatar, end date for the course is in March 2021. Therapy trainings are scheduled to begin in 2021. National training coordinators have taken part in training for multidisciplinary teams. Indico and the Network have begun work to co-create training modules on the legal, technical, and practical aspects of recorded child interviews.
Tools and guidance	Templates, factsheets, webinars, other analytical activities and reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PROMISE Vision is refreshed and published A mini-mapping of medical services and pathways at Barnahus was undertaken. We await some final details from members before publishing in 2021. A webinar on Covid-19 impacts and adaptations for Barnahus was held May 2020. A mini-mapping was completed to follow-up the meeting. We await some final details from members before publishing in 2021. <p>Work has begun on the items below, with more to come in 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A survey was undertaken in collaboration with the Council of Europe on online sexual abuse, to be co-published in 2021.

2020 plan		Results
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report to support participatory cultures in Barnahus is under development, with external consulting funded by PROMISE 3. • Comprehensive list of factsheet, analytical and tool ideas is established. Members participated in a poll at the meeting 23 November to help us prioritise which topics to address first.
Accreditation	Roll out of PROMISE Hub (case management tool).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout postponed to 2021, development phase continues. • GDPR evaluation completed, guidance for users under development

EXCHANGE

MEMBER MEETINGS

24 March 2020, online: The General assembly of members, including some newly approved members, met to adopt Budget 2020 and [Strategy 2020-2025](#). The Secretariat presented about opportunities engage with the Network, including a refresh of the PROMISE Vision. The new website of the Network at www.barnahus.eu was presented.

23 November 2020, online: A members only meeting presented the refreshed PROMISE Vision for feedback, accomplishments from 2020, plans for 2021, the work of the newly established Child Participation Working Group, the plans for the competence centre, and plans for the professional networking and exchange platform. Members were invited to share news at a tour de table.

The meeting was opened with the welcoming words from [Najat Maalla M'jid](#), UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children, who is an observer to the Network, and also the Valeria Setti, European Commission Coordinator on the Rights of the Child.

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

Child participation working group meetings were held online on 1 July, 6 October, 23 November to draft the terms of reference for the group, and to develop the concept and start work on a report supporting participatory cultures in Barnahus. The group arose organically out of PROMISE 3 project meetings.

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE AND NETWORKING SESSIONS

A concept note has been presented to members about a series of thematic meetings where members have an opportunity to raise questions and concerns that have an impact on the daily work in Barnahus and to get practical input from practitioners in similar positions who have encountered a similar situation and may have come to a practical solution. The meetings are proposed to take the form of 'ask the audience' and/or 'tour de table' style sessions. In addition to being a networking opportunity that provides practical and dynamic support to members, these sessions may also give input to or result in the launch of new tools and resources. The concept note was well received. The first session is planned for early 2021.

Definition – Includes supporting network members via in-person and virtual exchange, including at the Barnahus Form, General Assemblies, study visit, and 1:1 networking opportunities.

Purpose - Enabling a vibrant exchange of knowledge and practices among members and with key stakeholders.

OVERVIEW

	2020 plan	Results
Barnahus Forum and General Assemblies	GA 2020 – virtual meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General assembly held online 24 March 2020, which adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2020-2025 Strategy ○ 2020 Budget • Member’s only meeting organised 23 November 2020 about results so far, next steps, how to make the most of membership (in lieu of an in-person event this year) • These meetings featured opportunities for members to introduce themselves, share news and ask questions in a tour de table.
Exchange/Study visits	Draft system and facilitate connecting peers and mentors. Update the mapping of Barnahus and their services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concept for professional networking and exchange platform was presented at the members meeting 23 November 2020. • 2020 mapping of Barnahus and similar services completed, summary of results developed, to be published in different formats in 2021. Available already upon request. • The Network co-hosted a webinar featuring The Lighthouse, presented by the whole multidisciplinary team.
Networking support	Connecting members to people and information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Support desk’ concept established • Introductions and small group thematic meetings were undertaken on a case by case basis. • Secretariat met with a number of representatives to support their work, find synergies, promote network membership, gather targeted information: Australia, Canada, Council of Europe, Czech Republic, Denmark, ECPAT, Germany, Indico systems, IOM Moldova, Save the Children Sweden; Scotland, Royal Court of Sweden, Swedish Institute, Swedish Police, UNICEF Ukraine, Victims Support Europe, Wales, WHO.

COMMUNICATION

INSPIRING FROM A DISTANCE

During a year where in-person meetings were nearly impossible, the importance of using digital communication to inform, inspire and energize skyrocketed. So we got on that metaphorical rocketship and headed to planet Zoom, city Promiseville. Many followed, and a Zoom-filled year became a highly productive year for the Network, the members, and for future members. There was more networking, more surveys, more new connections, more opportunities to collaborate, more decisions, more everything. Exactly what we promised in Helsinki when we signed the Statutes for the Network.

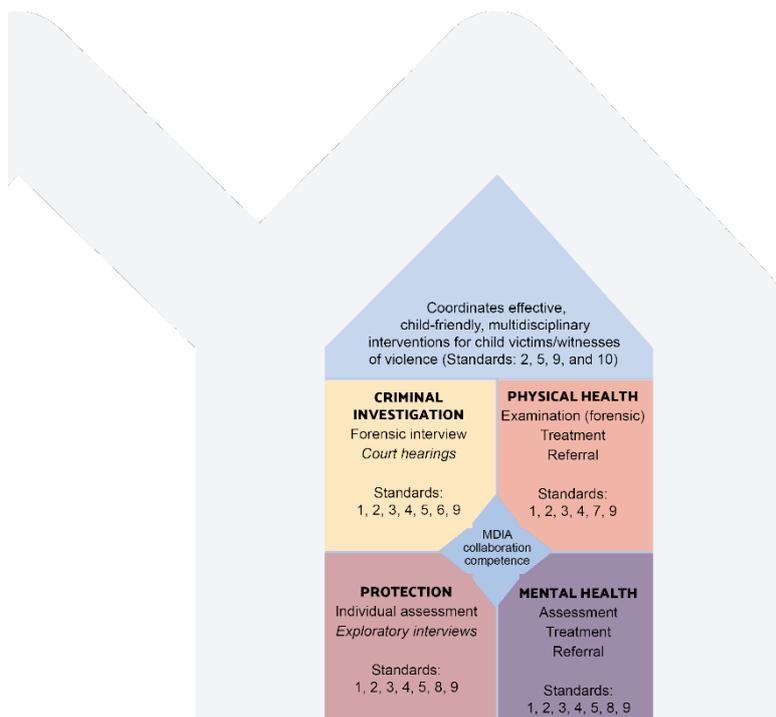
When we weren't Zooming we were consolidating all of the needs, wishes, and data that the members developed, and using it to inform, inspire and energise our current members, potential members, and the many Barnahus related stakeholders globally.

Definition – Includes supporting network members via in-person and virtual exchange, including at the Barnahus Form, General Assemblies, study visit, and 1:1 networking opportunities.

Purpose - Establishing and expanding the visibility and influence of the Network and its members.

NEW VISUAL TOOLS

The Network continued to develop visual tools for explaining the child's journey through Barnahus, the concepts of 'the four rooms', and also the steps it takes to go from zero to launching Barnahus. These tools are available for network member use.



KEY STATS

Media	Metric	Stat	Gain from previous year
www.barnahus.eu September 2020 through November 2020	Users	382	
	Pageviews	1,198	
	How they find us	55% directly, 25% through search.	
	Most popular pages	About Barnahus, the Standards, publications. join our network.	
childrenatrisk.eu/promise September 2020 through November 2020	Users	679	
	Pageviews	2127	
	Most popular pages	The Standards, about the Network, progress by country, what is Barnahus, publications.	
Newsletter	Subscribers	577.	130 (23% of total)
Twitter	Followers	414	140 (34% of total)

OVERVIEW

	2020 plan	Results
Core visibility and reporting	Establish www.barnahus.eu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established www.barnahus.eu as the website for the Network. Website expanded rapidly, including: presenting the members, pages explaining: the steps from getting from zero to Barnahus, the ‘four rooms’ concept, and all of the formats of courses, trainings, resources, and other support the Network can provide in these dimensions. More coming in 2021. A lot of content from www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise has been transferred over to fill up the news, webinars, and publications sections of the new website. The old website has had a reorganisation, had key pages refreshed with newer images and text,

2020 plan		Results
		<p>and many now point to www.barnahus.eu for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications about current and future offerings of the Competence Centre are developed and launching soon (see above), promoting the network as a key service provider for Barnahus and similar setups • Designers are commissioned to develop PROMISE branded visuals for different Barnahus concepts and the journey through Barnahus. To be launched during 2021. • Additional visuals have been developed presenting: the 4 rooms, the steps to establishing Barnahus, how PROMISE works. These are present on the website and available for network members to use as needed. • The website was down for approximately 1 week for security related maintenance.
Dynamic communication	Newsletters and social media, webinars, updating of the map of the Network and its members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters, social media, webinars and the map have been in regular use. • Twitter/Newsletter campaign to celebrate new members, promote becoming a member, and promote our rich library of tools and resources. Resulted in increased visibility and engagement that continues months after the campaign ended. • The Newsletter has been redesigned, and subsequently transferred from MailChimp to Send in Blue as our newsletter sending service. Key news included in the newsletters are also added as news on www.barnahus.eu. • Press reviews – regular tracking and review of mentions of Barnahus and related words/colleagues in various forms of media, informing colleagues of interesting developments, cross-promoting when relevant.
Advocacy	Key conferences, supporting national advocacy, workshops (face to face or digital), following trends and developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted conference presentations delivered: Albania, Australia, Croatia, EU Forum on the Rights of the Child, Finland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, UNICEF. • Regular conference and meeting participations representing the Network.

ANNEX 1: THE PROMISE VISION

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PROMISE VISION

PROMISE envisions a Europe where all children enjoy their right to be protected from violence. *

In PROMISE vision, States implement legislative, administrative, health, social and educational measures to prevent and address violence against children. Effective, comprehensive and sustainable procedures and services are in place to ensure identification, reporting, referral, investigation and treatment.

Child victims and witnesses of violence receive support and assistance through timely access to evidence-based and multidisciplinary interventions in a safe environment. Child-friendly criminal and pre-trial investigations help produce admissible evidence of high evidential value. The child does not have to appear in Court. The procedural safeguards of both the alleged victim and perpetrator are protected.

PROMISE FOUNDATION

PROMISE vision embraces the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, relevant Council of Europe and European Union legal frameworks, professional guidance and the Barnahus Quality Standards** including, but not limited to:

Children's rights to participation, including to be heard and receive adequate information throughout all interventions and proceedings, from initial disclosure is fulfilled without causing (re)traumatisation (*UNCRC article 12, 17. Barnahus Quality Standards 1.2, 5.4, 6, 7.5, 8.3*);

High professional standards, training and adequate resources for staff working with child witnesses and victims of violence (*CRC article 19, Barnahus Quality Standards 6.2, 7.3, 8.2, 9*);

Multi-disciplinary and interagency collaboration during investigations, procedures, diagnostic and needs assessments and service delivery, with the aim of avoiding (re)-traumatisation and securing outcomes that are in the best interests of the child (*Barnahus Quality Standards 1.1, 2, 5, 6.4, 7.4, 9*);

Access to integrated services for all children who are victims and/or witness of all forms of violence, without any form of discrimination. Special efforts are made to reach all children, including the most vulnerable and marginalised (*CRC article 2, Barnahus Quality Standard 3.1, 3.2*).

Comprehensive and accessible services that meet the individual and complex needs of the child and her/his non-offending family or caregivers, provided without undue delay and in the best interests of the child (*CRC article 19, 39, Barnahus Quality Standards 1.1, 1.2, 2.4, 5.4, 7, 8*);

PROMISE MISSION

PROMISE mission is to promote children's rights to be heard and to receive assistance in child protection and criminal justice investigations and proceedings.

To this end, PROMISE supports national and local agencies, both governmental and non-governmental to establish *Barnahus* or *similar models* that progressively achieve international legal obligations, professional guidance and the Barnahus quality standards.

PROMISE promotes that Barnahus are formally embedded in national systems, for example the judicial system, law enforcement, health or child protection systems. Each Barnahus should be an integral part of – and contribute to – national justice and child protection systems.

PROMISE also inspires progress around the globe by sharing good practices and quality standards drawing on the European Barnahus model.

PROMISE GOAL

Barnahus is an evolving model that can be adapted to different legal, socio-economic and cultural contexts. *PROMISE overall goal* is that all Barnahus and similar services progressively develop excellence in practice according to international law and to the Barnahus Quality Standards:

All Barnahus implement multi-disciplinary and interagency interventions (*Barnahus Quality Standard 5*), organized under one roof in a child-friendly *setting* (*Barnahus Quality Standard 4*), placing the best interests of the child (*UNCRC art 3, Barnahus Quality Standard 1.1*) at the centre.

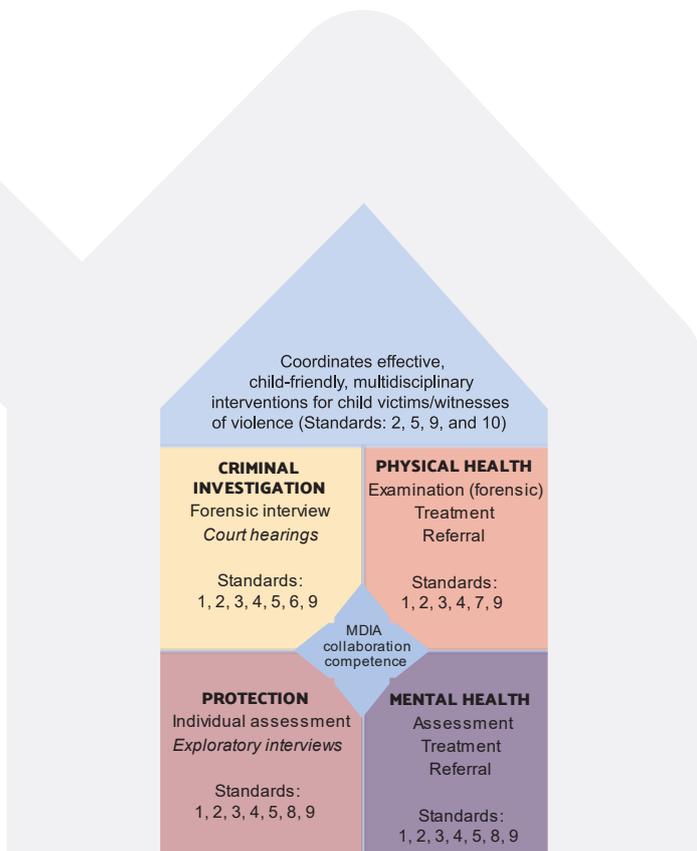
Each child is offered a balanced multidisciplinary, professional and child friendly intervention, managed through joint case management and review.

All Barnahus include “four rooms” embedded in a multidisciplinary and interagency environment.

Barnahus is an evolving model that can be adapted to different legal, socio-economic and cultural contexts. Promise overall goal is that all Barnahus and similar services progressively develop excellence in practice according to international law and to the Barnahus Quality Standards.

THE “FOUR ROOMS”

Professionals from the different disciplines collaborate to provide a carefully balanced intervention that responds to the needs of each child:



Child Protection

The Barnahus contributes to the assessment of protection needs and supports follow up concerning the child victim and siblings in the family.

Criminal justice investigation and proceedings

The criminal investigation in Barnahus, including the forensic interview, respects the procedural safeguards of both the child and the defendant. A child-friendly forensic interview is carried out according to an evidence-based protocol by a specialised forensic interviewer to secure the best possible evidence and to protect the child from (re)traumatization. The interview is recorded and represents admissible evidence in Court.

Medical examination and treatment

A child friendly medical evaluation is carried out by specialised and highly competent staff both for forensic investigative purposes and to ensure the child's physical well-being and recovery by the appropriate remedy.

Mental health examination and treatment

All children are offered a mental health assessment and appropriate support by specialised and highly competent staff, including crisis support, short and long-term therapeutic services addressing the trauma of the child and non-offending family members and caretakers.

DEFINITIONS AND FURTHER READING

* Violence is here defined as per the UNCRC article 19.

** For a complete overview of relevant legal provisions, guidance and the Barnahus quality standards, please see:

- [The PROMISE Compendium on Law and Guidance](#)
- [The PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards](#), page 84.

Key legal provisions and guidance are found in:

- [The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol 2](#)
- [The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (2010)
- [The Council of Europe E Guidelines on child friendly justice](#) (2010)
- [The Council of Europe Recommendation for child friendly social services](#) (2011)
- [The EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography](#) (2011)
- [The EU Directive on minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime](#) (2012)

