



PROMISE BARNAHUS NETWORK STATUTES

SIGNED 25 NOVEMBER 2019

HELSINKI, FINLAND

AMENDED 24 FEBRUARY 2021

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ONLINE

Promise Barnahus Network Statutes

§ 1 Organisation

These statutes establish the Promise Barnahus network as a formal network which is represented by the Council of the Baltic Sea States as the officially appointed coordinator and host of the joint network Secretariat.

b. Address of Secretariat

Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat
Slussplan 9
11 30 Stockholm
Sweden

c. Founding members

- Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset, Sweden
- Child Circle, Belgium
- Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat
- Empowering Children Foundation, Poland
- "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, Cyprus
- Ministry of Justice, Slovenia
- SAPI, Bulgaria
- THL, Finland
- TUSLA, Ireland

§ 2 Purpose

2.1 The Promise Barnahus Network *vision* is a Europe where the human rights of children to protection from violence, to support, and to be heard are fulfilled.

2.2 The *mission* of the network is to promote and support the establishment and operation of evidence-based, comprehensive, child-friendly interventions and rapid access to justice and care, based on the following main principles:

- Respect for the participatory rights of the child by ensuring that she/he is heard and receives adequate information and support to exercise these rights;
- 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;
- Evidence-based, comprehensive and accessible services that meet the individual and complex needs of the child and her/his non-offending family or caregivers;
- High professional standards, training and adequate resources for staff working with child witnesses and victims of violence.

2.3 The *purpose* of the network is to facilitate activities that increase the members' positive impact on the lives of child victims and witnesses of violence and their families at national and European level:

- A competent and committed workforce by providing access to training, mentorship and practical tools, including University certified training in forensic interviews and therapy;
- Effective, evidence-based, comprehensive and accountable service provision by providing practical tools and guidance, including the Barnahus Quality Standards, a case management and benchmarking system (the Hub), and the Barnahus accreditation system;
- An enabling environment through joint action to promote evidence-based legislation, policy and procedures by supporting joint advocacy and awareness-raising, research and participation in international consultations and dialogue with key stakeholders including, but not limited to Governments, local authorities, service-providers, NGOs, child and youth led organisations;
- A vibrant and active movement for Barnahus and similar services, including an international professional network which actively engages members in cross-border and cross-profession exchange, peer support and mutual learning;
- International outreach through active membership in a broad professional network, visibility in European social media and opportunities to meet other professionals from across Europe and beyond.

2.4 The network fully embraces multi-disciplinary and interagency collaboration, promoting involvement and exchange from all relevant and interested sectors.

The PROMISE Vision, presented in annex 1, forms an integral part of the statutes.

§ 3 Activities

The network may undertake the following activities to further the purpose defined in § 2:

- Coordination of the European competence centre;
- Training and education;
- Facilitate exchange, mutual support, peer support and mentorship among members, including organising conferences, meetings, webinars and study visits;
- Develop, publish and distribute practical tools, guidance, policy and analysis;
- Undertake, publish and distribute research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation;
- Facilitate meaningful, ethical and safe child participation;
- Advocacy and awareness-raising, representing the collective views of the members before the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and other relevant European and international organisations. The network may support advocacy and awareness-raising at national level upon request and consultation with the national network member concerned;
- Organisation of the biannual Barnahus Forum;

- Develop and manage the accreditation system for Barnahus based on the Barnahus Quality Standards;
- Explore funding opportunities and offering access to expertise and reliant partnerships;

§ 4 Members

a. The network embraces a broad and diverse membership from across Europe and its near neighbourhood and across sectors.

b. Each founding member, full member, associated member and supporter is expected to add value and ensure broad representation of interests, enrich exchange, build multidisciplinary knowledge and contribute to reach and dissemination of the network's collective knowledge, activities and outputs.

An overview of the membership categories and fees is included in Annex 2.

4.1 Founding Members

The Founding Members of the network and signatories to these statutes are listed on the last page of these statutes.

b. Founding members enjoy:

- 1 vote in the General Assembly, eligible to hold a position on the Steering Group;
- Fully or partly subsidised participation in training, conferences, PROMISE tools, and other activities of the Network (sliding scale per number of participants);
- Members-only access to the PROMISE Network Member Space offering peer exchange and support, access to PROMISE experts and advocates for special support for national level impact and needs, access to funds via solid partnerships (action grants).

4.2 Full Members (Barnahus and similar services)

Full membership is open to a formally established Barnahus or similar service in a European country as defined by the Council of Europe.

a. In order to join as a full member, the service must comply with the following requirements:

- A functioning multidisciplinary service with representation from law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, medical and mental health services;
- Full compliance with the Barnahus Criteria described in the Promise Vision, annex 1;
- Commitment to take all possible action to (progressively) practice according to the Barnahus Quality Standards, within the boundaries of the national context;
- Some form of formal interagency agreement, preferably written;
- Child-friendly facilities and interventions;
- Clear and transparent governance and finance;

- Service provision fully compliant with national & European law and requirements for example on different sectors of the multidisciplinary service provision, protection of data and privacy, rights of victims and defendants;
- Non-for profit – service provision is free;
- Service provision only carried out by competent, qualified and specialised staff;
- Policy and procedures for safeguarding children from harm are in place.

b. Full members enjoy:

- 1 vote in the General Assembly, eligible to hold a position on the Steering Group;
- Fully or partly subsidised participation in training, conferences, PROMISE tools, and other activities of the Network (sliding scale per number of participants);
- Members-only access to the PROMISE Network Member Space offering peer exchange and support, access to PROMISE experts and advocates for special support for national level impact and needs, access to funds via solid partnerships (action grants).

4.2 Developing Members

Membership in this category is open to developing and pilot Barnahus or similar multidisciplinary interagency services that are working towards compliance with the Barnahus criteria, in a European country as defined by the Council of Europe.

a. In order to join as a developing member, the service must comply with the following requirements:

- A multidisciplinary service with representation from at least some of the following actors: law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, medical and mental health services;
- Commitment to take all possible action to (progressively) comply with the Barnahus Criteria;
- Commitment to take all possible action to (progressively) practice according to the Barnahus Quality Standards, within the boundaries of the national context;
- Child friendly facilities and interventions;
- Service provision fully compliant with national & European law and requirements for example on different sectors of the multidisciplinary service provision, protection of data and privacy, rights of victims and defendants;
- Non-for profit – service provision is without charge;
- Service provision only carried out by competent, qualified and specialised staff;
- Clear and transparent governance and finance;
- Policy and procedures for safeguarding children from harm are in place.

b. Developing members enjoy:

- 1 vote per service in the General Assembly;
- Fully or partly subsidised participation in training, conferences, and other activities of the Network (sliding scale per number of participants);
- Members-only access to the PROMISE Network Member Space offering peer exchange and support, access to PROMISE experts and advocates for special support for national level impact and needs, access to funds via solid partnerships (action grants).

4.3 Associate Members

This membership category is open to stakeholders that play a crucial role in promoting and supporting the establishment, development, competence and dissemination of Barnahus in Europe, including for example Governments, national and local authorities, Universities, research institutes, centres of expertise, NGOs, regional and international organisations, child rights organisations and champions.

a. In order to join as an associate member, the stakeholder must comply with the following requirements:

- An organisation or individual that fully supports and wants to promote the vision, mission and objectives of the PROMISE Barnahus network;
- If the applicant is an organisation, it should be formally constituted as a non-governmental, inter-governmental, governmental, academic, educational, children's rights or child victim support organisation operating at a national, regional or international level.

b. Associate members enjoy:

- Consulting on and shaping the work of Network. May take roles in working groups and similar groupings of the network, upon invitation and in collaboration with the Secretariat. (*Amendment 2021*)
- Special levels of visibility/participation at the Barnahus Forum, website, other communications;
- Participation in training, conferences, and other activities of the Network as relevant, for a fee or partly subsidised;
- May observe the General Assembly.

4.4 Supporters and sponsors (*Amendment 2021*)

The PROMISE Barnahus Network works actively to engage network supporters and sponsors.

- Sponsors may include private foundations, corporate foundations, private benefactors, and other donors. The financial or in-kind contribution from sponsors to the Network is agreed upon in a dialogue with the Secretariat.
- Supporters have a role as observers. Supporters may include Governments, national and local authorities, Universities, research institutes, centres of expertise, NGOs, regional and international organisations, children's rights organisations and champions that aren't affiliated as associate members. Financial or in-kind contribution of supporters to the Network is encouraged but not required.

4.5 Application and termination of membership

a. Applications for full, developing and associated membership should be made on a form approved by the Steering Group and be submitted to the Steering Group. The Steering Group will take decisions whether to admit a new member. Applicants not admitted may appeal such decision to the Steering Group. Appointments of new members will be submitted to the General Assembly for information.

b. The Steering Group has the right for adequate reason to exclude any full, developing or associate member provided that the member concerned shall have a right to be heard before a final decision is made.

c. Membership can be terminated if the member concerned (i) gives written notice of resignation by recorded delivery to the network secretariat with 12 months' notice; (ii) ceases to exist.

§ 5 Statutory and other Bodies

5.1 General Assembly

a. The General Assembly (GA) is composed of all full and developing members that have paid all money payable to the network. Each full and developing member have one single vote in the GA.

b. Associated members and network supporters may observe the GA but have no vote.

c. Members shall be represented in the GA by an individual appointed by them.

d. The GA is chaired by the President of the Steering Group. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall chair the meeting. In the absence of both the President and the Vice-President another Steering Group member elected at the meeting shall to chair the meeting. If no Steering Group members is able or willing to chair, a member of the GA may be elected to chair the GA.

e. The GA is held annually and coincides with the biannual European Barnahus Forum.

f. The GA holds the full power to realise the objectives and activities of the network. The GA considers the operational and financial reports approved by the Steering Group, amendments to the statutes of the network, appeals from organisations which have not been admitted membership and potential resolutions and recommendations that have been proposed to the membership. The GA approves the annual membership fees, the dates and venues of the GA, the annual work plans and the budget. The GA further elects the Steering Group and the rotating Steering Group members.

g. Decisions at the GA can only be taken if there is a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting takes place. One-third of the membership, each member represented by a delegate entitled to vote, shall be a quorum. GA members may present a proxy to enable a vote in absence, using the proxy form provided by the Steering Group.

5.2 Steering Group

a. The total number of members in the Steering Group shall be at a minimum five and at a maximum eleven.

b. The Steering Group is composed of a minimum two representatives (the President and the Treasurer) from the Council of the Baltic Sea States, where the network Secretariat is based. Up to an additional eight positions, including the Vice-President and Secretary, will be elected from the membership by the General Assembly.

- c. The first Steering Group members are representatives from the founding members of the network, named in these statutes, appointed under these statutes. Future members of the Steering Group are appointed by the General Assembly upon the election of candidates nominated by the members.
- d. The Steering Group membership is limited to two terms of two years. The roles of President and Treasurer, held by representatives from Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat, where the network Secretariat is based, hold permanent positions on the Steering Group. Steering group members elected to the specified roles of Vice President and Secretary may serve a further two terms of two years.
- e. Each full member may nominate one candidate to the Steering group using the nomination form provided by the Steering Group. The candidate must be a member of the organisation making the nomination. Nominations of candidates for election must be given in writing to the Secretary of the Steering Group not later than 14 clear days before the Annual General Assembly at which the election is to be held. No full member organisation shall nominate as a candidate a member of an organisation who is already represented by a Board member.
- f. The Steering Group holds the power over the management and administration of the network. The Steering Group develops and proposes internal rules for the proper conduct and management of the network and staff involved, including a child safeguarding policy. The Steering Group produces annual financial and operational reports, the annual work programmes and annual budgets in collaboration with the network Secretariat. The Steering group further provides strategic direction, leadership and guidance to the Secretariat and supports activities promoting the work of the network, including developing and approving project proposals. The Steering Group approves or delays application for the membership of the network. The Steering group appoints special advisers and technical advisers to the Steering Group.
- g. The Steering Group shall meet at least two times per year. The meetings may take place online by conference call. The Steering group regulates its meeting as it thinks fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the President shall have a second or casting vote. The quorum necessary for decisions of the Steering Group shall be two thirds.

5.3 Secretariat

- a. The network Secretariat is provided by the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) in its premises in Stockholm, Sweden, including desk, HR, admin, communication and finance support.
- b. The Secretariat will facilitate and manage the network activities and the daily running of the network, with the support of a Network Coordinator. The Network Coordinator is appointed and line managed by the Children at Risk Unit at the CBSS Secretariat. The Network Coordinator is accountable to the Steering group.

5.4 Special Advisors and Technical Experts

- a. The network wishes to capitalise on the strong leadership and commitment from key experts relevant to the network's work. The Special advisers will be invited to hold Steering Group membership until resignation or majority decision of the Steering Group.
- b. The network wishes to involve actors with specific technical expertise to join Steering Group meetings as relevant. This may involve actors with specific technical experts, researchers and practitioners.

§ 6 Changes to Statutes

- a. Proposals for changes to the Statutes must come from the Steering Group or at least 5 active network members.
- b. Proposed changes are adopted by decision of the General Assembly by two thirds majority.

Steering Group members as of 10 October 2019

(Appointed by these statutes as representatives of the Founding Members)

Andrej Del Fabro, Ministry of Justice, Slovenia

Andria Neocleous, "Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center, Cyprus

Bengt Söderström, Stiftelsen Allmänna Barnhuset, Sweden

Gertrud Opira (Treasurer), Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat

Julia Korkman, THL, Finland

Maria Keller-Hamela, Empowering Children Foundation, Poland

Michael van Aswegen, TUSLA, Ireland

Olivia Lind Haldorsson (President), Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat

Petya Dimitrova, SAPI, Bulgaria

Rebecca O'Donnell, Child Circle, Belgium

Amendment to the PROMISE Barnahus Network Statutes adopted at the general assembly 24 February 2021, held online

2019 Statutes text	2021 amended text	Explanation
4.3 Associate members		
b. Associate members enjoy:	No change	
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulting on and shaping the work of Network. May take roles in working groups and similar groupings of the network, upon invitation and in collaboration with the Secretariat. 	To clarify the consultative role of associate members, and that certain associate members may be invited to special roles on specific pieces of work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special levels of visibility/participation at the Barnahus Forum, website, other communications; 	No change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in training, conferences, and other activities of the Network as relevant, for a fee or partly subsidised; 	No change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May observe the General Assembly. 		
4.4 Supporters and sponsors		
The PROMISE Barnahus network works actively to engage network supporters and sponsors,	The PROMISE Barnahus network works actively to engage network observers and sponsors.	
including private foundations, corporate foundations, private benefactors, and other donors.	Sponsors may include private foundations, corporate foundations, private benefactors, and other donors.	From here, making a clearer distinction between what kinds of organizations may be a sponsor vs an observer.
None	The financial or in-kind contribution from sponsors to the Network is agreed upon in a dialogue with the Secretariat.	Clarifies the conditions for financial or in-kind contributions.
This category can also include Governments, national and local authorities, Universities, research institutes, centres of expertise, NGOs, regional and international organisations, children's rights organisations and champions that aren't affiliated as associate members.	Supporters have a role as observers. Supporters may include Governments, national and local authorities, Universities, research institutes, centres of expertise, NGOs, regional and international organisations, children's rights organisations and champions that aren't affiliated as associate members.	Making this section special to observers.
none	Financial or in-kind contribution of supporters to the Network is encouraged but not required.	Clarifies the conditions for financial or in-kind contributions.



PROMISE BARNAHUS NETWORK STATUTES

These Statutes of the PROMISE Barnahus Network are signed by the founding members and honorary founding members on the occasion of the celebration of the launch of the network and in the presence of friends and colleagues of the European Barnahus Movement.

SIGNED 25TH NOVEMBER 2019
HELSINKI, FINLAND

Ms Olivia Lind Haldorsson

THE PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

Mr. Bragi Guðbrandsson

HONORARY FOUNDING MEMBER

Ms Rebecca O'Donnell

CHILD CIRCLE, BELGIUM

Ms Petya Dimitrova

ASSOCIATION SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND
PRACTICES INSTITUTE - SAPI, BULGARIA

Ms Gordana Buljan Flander

CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION CENTER
OF ZAGREB, CROATIA

Ms Andromahi Pavlidou

HFC HOPE FOR CHILDREN CRC POLICY
CENTER, CYPRUS



Ms Tania Laajasalo

FINNISH INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH
AND WELFARE

Ms Andrea Goddard

THE HAVENS, SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL
CENTRES, KINGS COLLEGE HEALTHCARE NHS
FOUNDATION TRUST, ENGLAND

Ms Ólöf Ásta Farestveit

BARNAHUS ICELAND

Mr. Michael van Aswegen

TUSLA CHILD AND FAMILY AGENCY, IRELAND

Ms Anne Siv Ávitsland

STATENS BARNEHUS, NORWAY

Ms Beata Wojtkowska

EMPOWERING CHILDREN FOUNDATION, POLAND

Dr. Dominika Švarc Pipan

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, SLOVENIA

Mr. Bengt Söderström

STIFTELSEN ALLMÄNNA BARNAHUSET, SWEDEN

Ms Anna M. Petersson

BARNAHUS LINKÖPING, SWEDEN



PROMISE Barnahus Network Founders

