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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 SECRETARIAT

Dear Network members and stakeholders,

Two years into our Promise Barnahus network, we continue to develop and adapt our work to the challenges brought to us by the pandemic. Ensuring effective tools and plans to move online is not enough. We constantly explore how we can ensure that our activities truly inspire and provide the knowledge, support, and partnerships that continue to drive the progress we have set out to achieve.

Keeping up the energy levels in the network through exciting training, exchange and peer support has been at the core of our activities in 2021. We have had the privilege of engaging with more than 100 professionals throughout the year to support progress towards building excellence in practice in Barnahus, with a focus on the Barnahus model and the four rooms, multidisciplinary teams, forensic interviews, and several therapeutic interventions.

The latest addition to our courses is an online training on how to record and transmit interviews. Looking to the future, we follow - with great interest - how adaptations made due to the pandemic - such as online interviews, Court hearings and therapy - are perceived by children and professionals, and the impact these adaptations might have on practice in Barnahus in the longer term, and justice and recovery for children more broadly.

Child participation was high on the network agenda in 2021, resulting in a mapping of practice in Barnahus and the launch of a paper on building a participatory culture in Barnahus drawing on the Laura Lundy Model for child participation. Together they provide inspiration for practice to implement the Barnahus quality standards that promote child participation in Barnahus, including the cross-cutting standard 1.2.

2021 also brought exciting opportunities to engage with other stakeholders that promote justice and recovery for child victims and witnesses of violence. We hosted conversations with our partners in the Council of Europe, EEA Norway Grants, EU, OECD, WHO, UNICEF and international NGOs to promote a coordinated and

coherent approach and understanding of Barnahus and its expansion in Europe and beyond.

In the context of these partnerships, we also invested in developing concrete support to countries that are establishing or expanding Barnahus by contributing to feasibility studies, legal analysis, operational standards and examples of inspirational practice.

In 2021, the generosity and commitment of our membership, representing professionals from all over Europe, continued to show its immense value to making progress, despite challenging times. We were proud to welcome seven new members into our network, with hopes that they will benefit from, and contribute to, our strong, collective voice for Barnahus in Europe and beyond, as we move into a new year.



Ms Olivia Lind Haldorsson

PRESIDENT OF THE
PROMISE BARNAHUS NETWORK

HOSTED BY

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



Ms Shawna von Blixen

COORDINATOR OF THE
PROMISE BARNAHUS NETWORK

HOSTED BY

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Supporting countries on their journey to Barnahus

During 2021, the Network played a key consultative role for a number of countries on their journeys to establishing or expanding their Barnahus. This included:

- developing a legal analysis for Ukraine,
- supporting national dialogue building events in Albania, Lithuania, and the Netherlands,
- inviting colleagues from Albania, Croatia, Czechia and Iceland to take extra seats at trainings,
- guiding Portugal through a feasibility study,
- delivering a forensic interview training with avatar practice at low-cost to members,
- delivering a specially designed training in Czechia,
- many 1:1 exchanges.

In addition to these targeted activities, the Network engaged with international actors to spread a common understanding of the model and to unlock opportunities for collaboration and funding. Some outcomes of this work included:

- A new course, developed in private-public partnership with Indico systems, about recording of child interviews
- A series of 10 case studies about the success factors of Barnahus for the WHO
- A framework partnership agreement between the CBSS and the Norwegian Police Directorate in the context of using EEA Norway grants to drive the expansion of Barnahus
- The establishment of an informal group of international actors who promote Barnahus, with an aim to exchanging information and finding a common approach to this work.

The Network's competence centre as an authoritative resource

The Network's website expanded this year to include a new section presenting the competence centre. The new [Courses and Support](#) section communicates the Network's competence centre for Barnahus along two 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.

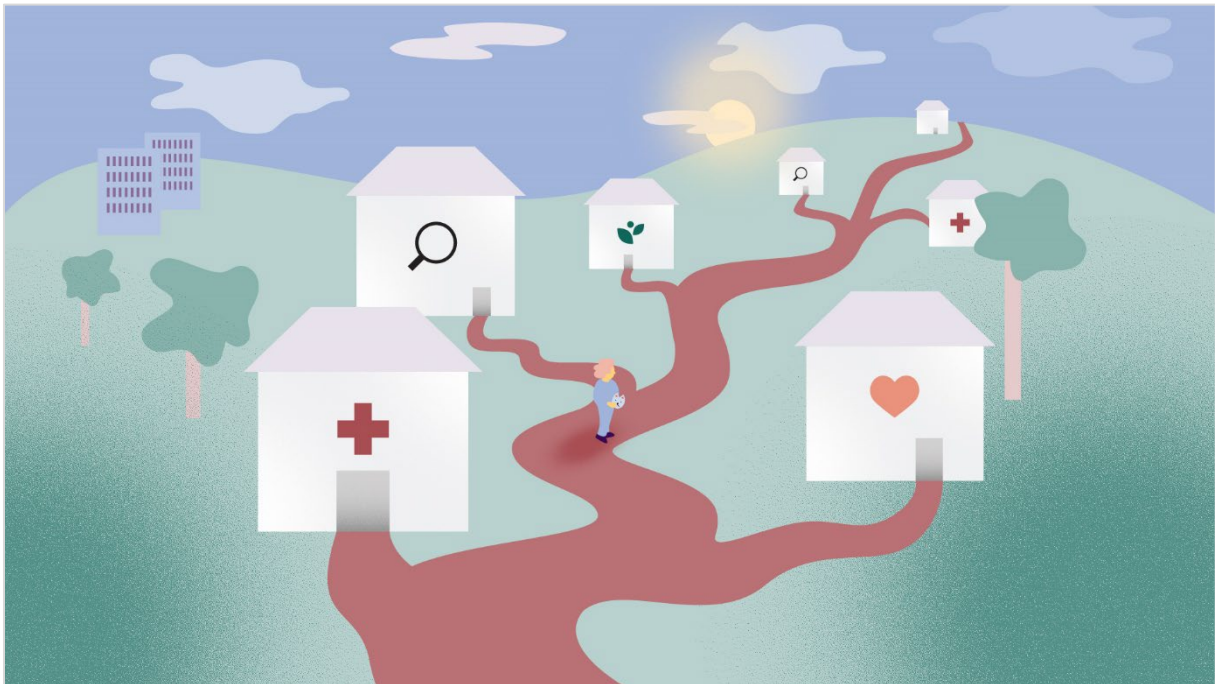
Highlights of the courses and support offered include internationally recognised training in forensic interviewing, and university-level training in therapy, as well as opportunities for targeted support and training according to specific needs.

A campaign organised during spring 2021 drew special attention to the competence centre and its many resources. It also raised awareness and understanding of several key concepts, such as the role of multidisciplinary services organised under one roof.

Telling the Barnahus story visually

One asset of the Barnahus concept – something that contributes to its broad support and hastening expansion – is how it's an intuitive story to tell and to understand. Now, this story is even easier to tell with a new set of visuals which have been developed by the Network. Using the PROMISE colours, these visuals walk you through the child's journey, both without Barnahus, and with it. The result clearly illustrates what Barnahus is and its benefits for children and professionals. Previous presentations relying on clip art from the internet and low-quality images now look polished and coherent.

Members are welcome to email promise@cbss.org to request a template PowerPoint for your use.



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 7 new members to the Network during 2021. The PROMISE Barnahus Network now 37 total members who represent 24 countries.

In total, PROMISE currently engages with 41 national contexts, from which the Network is benefiting from existing expertise and/or where it is influencing national progress on Barnahus.

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. Elections planned for early 2022.

Country	Member	Category	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 participation 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

Country	Organisation	Role	Year joined
Albania	Barnahus Albania (f. Child Rights Center Albania)	Associate	2020
Intl	Bragi Guðbrandsson	Honorary Founding Member	2019
At large	ChildPotential	Associate	2020
Australia	Dr James Herbert	Associate	2021
Catalonia	Directorate General for Children and Adolescent Services	Developing	2020
Croatia	Child and Youth Protection Centre of Zagreb	Founding	2019
Czechia	Centrum LOCIKA	Developing	2021
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
Germany	Childhood Haus Berlin	Developing	2021
Germany	Childhood Haus Heidelberg	Developing	2021
Hungary	Terre des Homes	Associate, Child participation 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
Latvia	Ministry of Welfare	Associate	2021

Moldova	National centre for child abuse prevention (CNPAC)	Associate	2021
Northern Ireland	Department of Justice, Northern Ireland	Associate	2020
Norway	Statens Barnehus	Founding	2019
Portugal	Associação para o Planeamento da Família	Associate	2021
Scotland	Children1st	Associate, Child participation working group	2020
Spain	Foundation Márgenes y Vínculos	Associate	2020
Spain	SAVE THE CHILDREN	Associate	2020
Spain	Hospital Vall Hebron	Associate	2020
Sweden	Barnahus Linköping	Founding	2019
Sweden	Anneli Larsson	Associate	2020

SUPPORTERS

Country	Organisation	Role	Year joined
Intl	UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children Najat Maalla M'jid	Observer	2019

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 2021

Income: xxx EUR

Expenditure: xxx EUR

Remaining: xxx 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

7 new members were onboarded during the year. One campaign was organised promoting network membership via Twitter, the newsletter. Targeted outreach was conducted to generate new membership applications. 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.

MEETINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE STEERING

GROUP AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Steering Group, 17 January 2021, online: Meeting approved two new member applications, Annual Report 2020, Budget results 2020, Workplan 2021, and a Statutes amendment proposal. It further approved the concept of professional networking and exchanges within the network, as well as adopted a template for any working groups which may be established within the Network. The Terms of Reference for the Child Participation Working Group were adopted.

General Assembly, 24 February 2021, online: Meeting adopted Annual Report 2020, Budget results 2020, Workplan 2021, Budget 2021, and a Statutes amendment proposal. The General Assembly gave the Secretariat and Steering Group the assignment to develop fundraising guidelines.

Steering Group, 28 April 2021, online: Meeting approved two new member applications, and discussed the assignment from the General Assembly to develop fundraising guidelines.

Steering Group, 21 October 2021, online: Meeting discussed plans for the 2022 elections to the steering group, and approved 2 reports developed by the Child Participation Working Group (via silence procedure).

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

2021 Strategy	Goal	Description
Member recruitment		
Maintain means and methods of recruitment. Ongoing membership approval	Membership expansion	The Steering Group reviewed membership applications at each of their 3 regular meetings during 2021. 7 new members were approved, including 2 approved in-between meetings.
	Technical experts join the Network	The Secretariat has engaged with organisations with special competence to further develop cooperation and opportunities
Champions and observers		
Opportunities for visibility and engagement, including at the Barnahus Forum.	Outreach to potential champions	First steps have been taken via messages and meetings to reach out to potential champions and to establish their interest level.
	Communications for champions and observers	The development of a template for a special update note for this target group is postponed until 2022.
Network internal activities		
Steering group meetings, developing workplan for following year. Financial reporting. Quality control and oversight.	Steering group meetings	The Steering Group held 3 regular meetings during 2021.
	Steering group elections	Terms are limited to 2 years, +2 for vice president and secretary. Elections to be held early 2022.
	Annual report 2020	Was approved by the Steering Group and adopted at the General Assembly. Editorial and technical summary of activities and achievements.
	Budget results 2020	Was approved by the Steering Group and adopted at the General Assembly. Summary of actual income and expenses, including estimate of CBSS in-kind contribution
	Workplan 2021	Was approved by the Steering Group and adopted at the General Assembly. Framework for the goals and actions of the Network during the year.
	Budget 2021	Was approved by the Steering Group and adopted at the General Assembly. Framework for income and expenses during the year in relation to the workplan.
	Membership dues	Were administered and paid.

	Membership certificates	Were issued by the Secretariat to new members, as certification of membership, along with a welcome and communication guidance
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FUNDRAISING

PROMISE 3

The third phase of EU co-funded PROMISE projects launched 1 April 2020, which was designed to kickstart the activities planned in the 5-year strategy of the PROMISE Barnahus Network.

University-level training in the areas of forensic interviewing and therapy, with a view to establishing a European Competence Centre for Barnahus has played a key role, as has the further development of the case management tools, and the first steps to review the Barnahus Quality Standards – both by professionals *and* children.

Planning started for an online version of the very first Barnahus Forum. The project end date of April 2023 will likely be extended.

NEW AND FUTURE PROJECTS

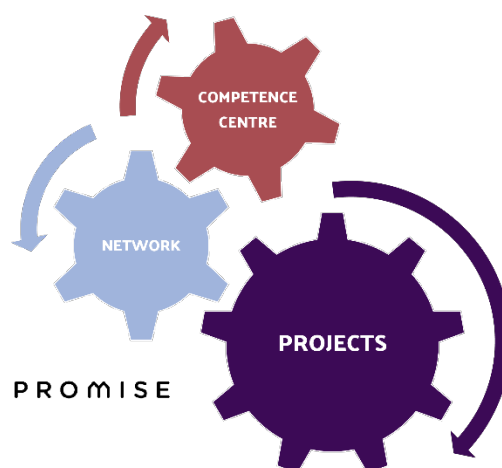
Two new project proposals with the CBSS as lead partner were granted funding during the year. The first is a Swedish Institute funded project to deliver training and exchange opportunities to Estonian, Moldovan, and Armenian colleagues. The second is an EU co-funded project, which will promote incorporation of a specialised and child-centred multidisciplinary response for child victims of trafficking, drawing inspiration from Barnahus, in national and transnational referral mechanisms for child victims of trafficking.

Additionally, the CBSS and the Norwegian Police Directorate signed a memorandum of understanding which established a framework partnership for promoting international adoption of Barnahus. Preparatory steps are underway to deepen this cooperation.

THE NETWORK AS A PROJECT PARTNER, SUBCONTRACTOR, SERVICE PROVIDER

The Secretariat explored a number of 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.

Key contributions of the Network in these capacities during the year included: a legal analysis in Ukraine, a series of 10 case studies to the WHO, an introductory training to Czechia, support for a feasibility study in Portugal, a model and standard operation procedures for a preparatory setup in Albania.



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

2021 Strategy	Goal	Results
European Union strategic partnership		
Progress report for PROMISE 3. Final year of PROMISE 3. Develop and submit framework partnership draft.	PROMISE 3 progress report	The midterm technical and financial report was submitted in good time to the EU.
	Final year of PROMISE 3	Ensure a high-quality of execution in the final year of the project, amending project as necessary to support strategic developments
	Develop and submit framework partnership application	<p>The Secretariat developed and submitted a proposal for framework partnership agreement to the EU, which determined the Network to be ineligible on technical grounds.</p> <p>The Secretariat was awarded an EU grant on the topic of trafficking of children, which will: (a) develop standards and guiding principles for national and transnational referral mechanisms incorporating a specific focus on child victims, and b) incorporate a specialised and child-centred multidisciplinary response for child victims of trafficking, drawing inspiration from Barnahus, in national and transnational mechanisms.</p> <p>An additional project application is still pending which would will 1) design, pilot (in SE and IE) and evaluate an adaptable working method including a child liaison who ensures the child is heard, feel comfortable and is safe to participate effectively, 2) develop practical and child-friendly tools, an app and a child log, to inform child victims/caregivers and to log their journey through Barnahus, 3) raise awareness and advocacy on local, regional and national level in SE, IE and EU level, 4) mutual learning activities across EU MS.</p>
Supporters and Sponsors		
Gaining sponsorships for the first Barnahus Forum.	Mapping of opportunities	An internal list of potential corporate donors or foundations is regularly updated.
	Corporate outreach	Targeted communication seeking introductions or inroads have been undertaken.
	Indico	A self-directed online course about recording of child interviews was co-developed and launched.
Other		
	Project partnerships	<p>The Network/CBSS has agreed with member organizations to join as a partner on projects that intend to make use of Network benefits/ services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the feasibility study and roadmap development within the EEA Norway grant to Portugal (2021 – 2022)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving guidance upon request to a Spanish, EU co-funded project developing a national training protocol. • Additional project applications are pending or have been denied. <p>Additionally, the Network/CBSS is lead partner on the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMISE 4 (2021-2023), providing introductory training on Barnahus and forensic interview training with avatar practice to Estonia, Moldova, and Armenia, co-funded by the Swedish Institute. • A project concept is under development in the context of EEA Norway grants to provide introductory training and targeted support to selected countries.
	<p>Consultancies</p>	<p>The CBSS, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Network, undertook a number of consultancies in support of Barnahus expansion in Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal analysis in Ukraine, paid for by the Council of Europe • Journey through Barnahus training series, for Centrum LOCIKA, Czechia • Development of standard operating procedures and a service model in Albania, which is a preliminary step towards Barnahus, paid for by UNICEF and Terre des Hommes • Case studies about Barnahus success factors, paid for by the WHO • (Awarded a tender to deliver trainings on child sexual abuse to Estonia, commencing in 2022) • Additional tenders are pending
	<p>Framework partnerships</p>	<p>A memorandum of understanding was signed between the CBSS and the Norwegian Police Directorate, establishing framework partnership in the context of supporting international actors to explore and adopt Barnahus.</p>

NETWORK SUPPORT

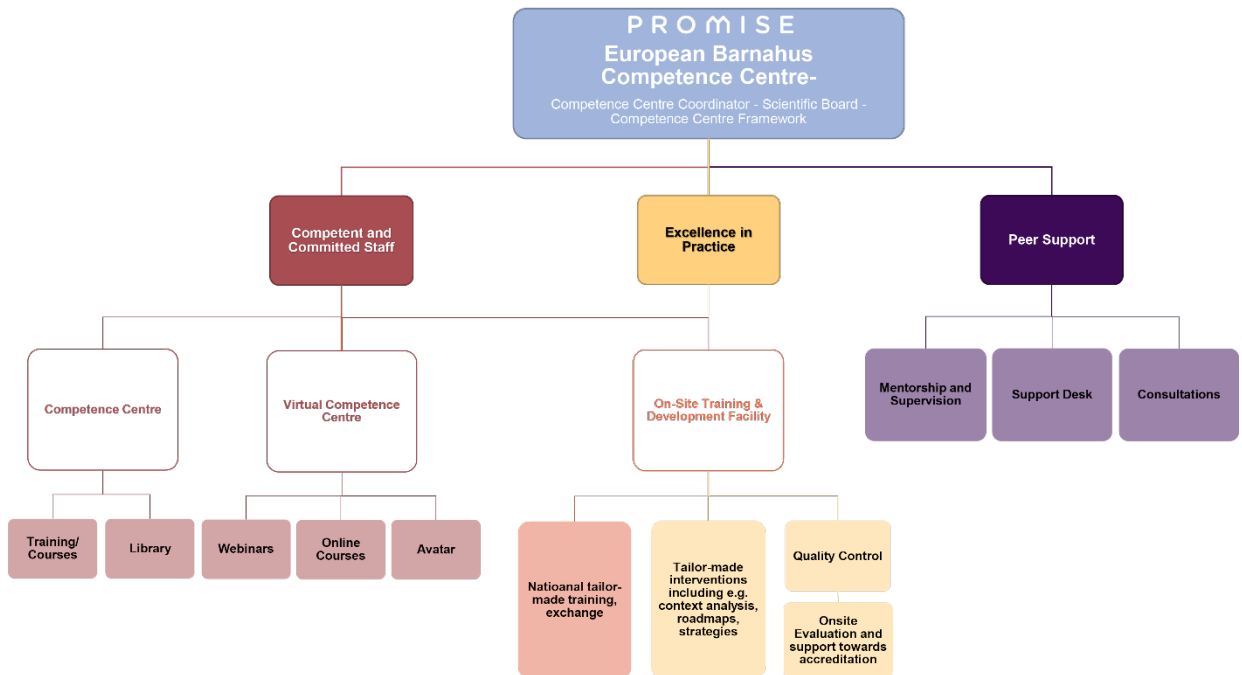
THE COMPETENCE CENTRE

The website was expanded to include a new [courses and support](#) section, which communicates the Network’s competence centre for Barnahus along two dimensions: firstly, the 4 rooms embedded in a multidisciplinary setting, and secondly, the typical steps Barnahus go through on their journey to being established. .

Highlights of the courses and support offered include internationally recognised training in forensic interviewing, and university-level training in therapy, as well as opportunities for targeted support and training according to specific needs.

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.



COURSES

In addition to the courses organised as part of PROMISE 3, the Network ran a special round of the forensic interview training with avatar practice, which was offered to network members at a low fee. A private-public partnership between the Network and Indico systems developed a new online course about recording of child interviews.

TOOLS AND GUIDANCE

Several reports were published during the year which resulted from surveys and interviews undertaken during the previous year. Additionally, 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.

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

OVERVIEW

2021 Strategy	Goal	Results
Training		
Forensic interview and therapy trainings year two as part of PROMISE 3. Evaluation of training initiatives and develop in preparation for framework partnership agreement application.	Forensic interview and therapy trainings	The trainings as planned in PROMISE 3 are being carried out, and network members on the waitlist are invited when possible An additional round of forensic interview training with avatar practice was offered to members a low price during the year.
	Evaluation of trainings	The courses are/were evaluated using participant, instructor and observer input to improve for future rounds of courses and to communicate results to a broader audience
	Modules: MDIA, legal, interview recording, medical, other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outline and routine for an introduction to MDIA work in Barnahus was developed as part of the contract to deliver such a training in Czechia. A self-directed online course on recording child interviews was launched.
	Waitlist	The waitlist for courses was maintained and updated, and was used to plan course offerings.
Tools and guidance		
Templates, factsheets, webinars, other analytical activities and reports	PROMISE branded visuals for different Barnahus concepts	Visualisations showcasing the Barnahus concept were developed and launched for members to use in their work, such as the 4 rooms, different standards, etc. Visualisations on the website have been updated.
	Regular publication of resources and tools	Resources and tools launched in 2021 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory cultures in Barnahus How Barnahus in Europe work with online sexual abuse Mapping of forensic medical interventions at Barnahus across Europe PROMISE Hub – a technical walkthrough of our forthcoming case management system Combined child-parent cognitive behavioural therapy (CPC-CBT) introductory sessions

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-directed online course on recording child interviews (alumni only as of time of publishing)
	Competence centre landing page	A new section www.barnahus.eu which highlights the courses and support that the Network offers. It is organised along the lines of the 4 rooms embedded in a multidisciplinary setting, and also the common steps that Barnahus take on their journey to being established. New pages about courses and support are regularly published.
Accreditation		
Launch review of the Barnahus Standards on the basis of children's views. Maintain and update PROMISE Hub, rolling out to additional countries.	Launch of child consultations on the Standards	Child consultations as described in PROMISE 3 were developed as a concept, with plans to undertake the work in 2022.
	Launch public consultation the Standards	A process was launched to establish working groups and to welcome feedback to an update of the Standards, to integrate learnings from the process to develop Hub and also input from international academics.
	Initial roll out of PROMISE Hub, case management software	PROMISE 3 partners have access to PROMISE hub and are able to test and integrate it into their daily work.
	Public roll out of PROMISE Hub	Network members were invited to a webinar and received guidance allowing them to evaluate and consider integrating the tool into their work.
	Webinar and publication of GDPR and related guidance	A guidance was developed establishing the GDPR compliant use of the tool by Barnahus and their staff. Finalisation and dissemination is planned for 2022.

EXCHANGE

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The child participation working group met throughout the year to develop their first outputs.

Authored by Dr Louise Hill, Professor Laura Lundy & Dr Mary Mitchell, *[Building a culture of participation in barnahus: Implementing Children's Right to Participate in Decision-Making](#)* explores ways of embedding child participation in Barnahus across Europe, drawing on the Lundy model of child participation.

[Mapping child participation in Barnahus in Europe – Survey results 2021](#) identifies potential methods and processes that can help PROMISE Barnahus Network members to further empower children during their journey through Barnahus in an even more meaningful way.

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.

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE AND NETWORKING SESSIONS

The first Professional Exchange and Networking session was held 11 March 2021 which discussed substantiation and individual assessments in Barnahus. This members- only event gave 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.

OVERVIEW

2021 Strategy	Goal	Description
Barnahus Forum and General Assemblies		
Establishing an attractive and inspiring format for gathering all Barnahus interested in the same place to connect, learn and exchange. Foreseen to	General assembly 2021	Online meeting adopted 2020 reports and 2021 planning.
	Barnahus forum planning	Planned for early 2022, decided late in 2021 that it should be held online, perhaps on the side-lines of the National

include a sponsorship model. Held in Stockholm.		Child Advocacy Center annual Symposium which is also being held online.
Exchange/Study visits		
Launch system for facilitating peer and mentor connection. Opportunities in conjunction with the Barnahus Forum, others as they arise. Maintain and facilitate connections of peers/mentors.	Professional networks	The Professional Network and Exchange platform was adopted by the Steering Group, offering a format for different types of professionals to meet their peers in other countries. To exchange practice and ask for different types of support. One such meeting was held in spring 2021, exploring individual assessments and substantiation.
	Alumni network	The alumni concept was established and as a first step they received alumni-only access to the Recording Child Interview course.
	Study visit a la webinar	Concepts for such an approach were piloted via a half-day webinar organised in the Netherlands, and series of 6 half days organised for a Czech audience.
	Child participation working group	Regular meetings of the child participation working group developed the Participatory cultures in Barnahus along with a mapping of current practice.
Networking support		
Connecting members to people and information	Support desk	A campaign in early 2021 promoted the Secretariat as the support desk for members. 1:1 meetings and exchanges with members and potential members continued throughout the year.
	Press reviews and tracking	Tracking of news and developments related to Barnahus in Europe and internationally continued throughout the year, which were cross promoted and disseminated on the website, via twitter, and via the newsletter as relevant.
	Connection facilitation	The support desk dynamically connected actors to people and information throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION

NEW VISUAL TOOLS

The Network continued launched new visual tools for explaining the child's journey through the system – both before Barnahus, and with Barnahus – as well as the concepts of 'the four rooms', and the steps it takes to go from zero to launching Barnahus. These tools are available for network member use.

The website was updated with the new visuals. A social media campaign on Twitter and via the newsletter drew attention to the many published resources and available services, as well as raised awareness and understanding of key concepts.

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.

KEY STATS

Media	Metric	2021 Stats	2020 Stats	Gain from previous year
www.barnahus.eu ¹	Users	8,724	3,472	5270 (60% of 2021 total)
	Pageviews	28,672	13,844	14,828 (51.7% of 2021 total)
	How they find us	43.9 through search, 43.3 directly	44% through search, 42% directly	
	Most popular pages	the Standards, About Barnahus, About Us, publications..	About Barnahus, the Standards, publications. join our network.	

¹ The statistics for the website for 2020 are a composite of statistics for the decommissioned website at childrenatrisk.eu/promise plus the launch year of www.barnahus.eu. Reservations for technical gaps in these statistics.

Newsletter ²	Subscribers	686	577	109 (15.8% of total)
Twitter	Followers	875	414	461 (52.6% of total)

OVERVIEW

2021 Strategy	Goal	Description
Core visibility and reporting		
Annual report, including design and promotion	Annual report public dissemination	Highlights from the annual report were published on the website, on twitter, and in the Newsletter to drive awareness of the concrete results and role of the Network.
Dynamic communication		
Newsletters and social media, webinars, updating of the map of the network and its members	Newsletters and social media, #EUBarnahus	Continued to be used throughout the year as a platform to welcome members, disseminate news and tools, promote our resources and results, communicate our ownership and influence. A social media campaign on Twitter and via the newsletter drew attention to the many published resources and available services, as well as raised awareness and understanding of key concepts.
	www.barnahus.eu	Maintained and expanded the resources on the webpage, including updating of visuals when new or improved ones became available
	Map	Updated the network map regularly to include new members and new consultation countries (candidate countries)
	Webinars	Continued using webinars (some invite only) to engage all Barnahus stakeholders on key topics, notably as a tool for exchange and dissemination of results, many of which were connected to ongoing courses and other initiatives

² Total subscriber count is the total count of all email contacts in Send in Blue minus the blacklisted and unsubscribed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding measures for the Child Protection Room • PROMISE Hub – a technical walkthrough of our forthcoming case management system • Combined child-parent cognitive behavioural therapy (CPC-CBT)
Advocacy		
Key conferences, supporting national advocacy, workshops (face to face or digital), following trends and developments.	Targeted presentations	<p>Presentations were given from PROMISE to relevant target groups upon request, priority to Network members, including at meetings organised in/by: Albania, Czechia, Lithuania, Kosovo, Netherlands, Portugal, Ukraine, OSCE, E-protect project, FRA Platform, World Congress on Violence with Children.</p> <p>PROMISE was a co-organiser with Europol/CEPOL of an invite only webinar about Uncovering CSE using interviews of children - a multidisciplinary approach.</p>
	Targeted participation	<p>PROMISE was represented at relevant conferences to gather information and to network, including meetings organised in/by: England, Latvia, Scotland, European Union, Europol, FRA, WHO, CoE, E-protect, NCAC international symposium, the Scottish Barnahus Research Advisory Group, EU Victim's rights platform, the International Forum on Child Sexual Abuse, Global Partnership on Violence against Children. In 2021, the Promise Network became a member of the EU Victims' Rights Platform, represented by Child Circle.</p>
	Targeted 1:1 meetings with stakeholders	<p>Strategic meetings and exchanges were held with key international and national actors to promote Barnahus and explore partnership opportunities. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making new contacts in Austria, Czechia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia. • The Child Advocacy Association in the USA • First steps with the Family Justice Center alliance to map the similarities and differences between the two models. • The establishment of an informal group of international actors who are supporting the expansion of Barnahus globally. This group has agreed to exchange information about their work to find synergies and opportunities. Actors include: CoE, EU, UNICEF, Ecpat, EEA Norway Grants, World Childhood Foundation, Europol, OECD, Save the Children, TdH, World Future Council, WHO.