

# ALERT ACTORS REPORT PROJECT !

## **KEY INFORMATION**

**<u>Countries</u>** : Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands

<u>Partners</u> : ECPAT Austria, ECPAT Belgium, ECPAT France, ECPAT Germany and DCI-ECPAT Netherlands

Backer : European Union

<u>Duration of the project</u> : 2 years (2018 September 1st to 2020 August 31st)



#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The Alert Actors Report project has <u>3 main objectives</u>:

- 1. To build a strong and protective environment in the travel/tourism sector for children, against sexual exploitation, in 5 European countries, through increased awareness of travelers, training of professionals and future professionals and through private sector commitment.
- 2. To strengthen cooperation between the different stakeholders in 5 European countries and the sharing of good practices, through national multistakeholders meetings, joint actions and sharing events at European level.
- 3. To improve reporting mechanisms in 5 European countries to better understand reports of child sexual exploitation, notably by developing quality standards and the training of professionals.

### CONTEXT

The Alert Actors Report project aims to meet several needs identified by ECPAT groups:

- The need for a better protection against gender-based violence: in 2014, 54% of victims of trafficking were sexially exploited. Among them, 96% were women or girls. Nevertheless, boys can and are also victims of sexual exploitation.
- The need to increase reporting and to improve reporting mechanisms: trafficking in human beings, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation, still remains largely unreported to the authorities, in particulars when victims are minors. The existing mechanisms remain poorly used by victims or witnesses, so they need to be more visible and easier to access.

- The need for a protective environment for children as they are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. It is adults' role to create this protective environment that enables their well being (physical and moral).
- The need for a safe and secure environment in the travel/tourism sector: the number of tourists has exploded from 527 millions to 1.135 billion in 2014. This has consequences on the environment, economy and local communities. It is therefore necessary that the travel and tourism sector strengthens its « responsible tourism » policy and fights against child sexual exploitation.
- The need to cooperate: fighting against a phenomenon such as child sexual exploitation requires the involvement from all those capable of detecting and reporting a situation. The approach must therefore be multidisciplinary and transational to be effective and be implemented at all levels: prevention, protection of children and prosecution of offenders.



# **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Alert Actors Report project's activities are organized around 4 results:

**<u>RESULT 1</u>** : **Improve vigilance** through awareness and training in 5 European countries. Travelers and professionals working in the tourism and travel sector must be able to recognize and report situations of child sexual exploitation. Training sessions will also improve the quality of the reports. A research will be conducted to understand why some peple may be reluctant to share their doubts.

**<u>RESULT 2</u>** : Improve private sector's commitment. Companies from the travel and tourism sector in the 5 partners countries of the project have included child protection measures. This allows them to promote, through various means, a protective environment free from all types of exploitation for children. In this environment, sexual exploitation of children is not accepted and doubts are reported to the competent authorities.

**<u>RESULT 3</u>** : **Improve cooperation**. The project will mobilize stakeholders from the private sector, national authorities and law enforcement authorities in 5 European countries in order for them to become proactive in the fight against child sexual exploitation and to collaborate within existing structures.

**<u>RESULT 4</u>**: Improve European reporting mechanisms. In France, the objective is to launch a website dedicated to the reporting of cases of child sexual exploitation. It is currently possible to do it but only through an email address. In the 5 European countries, reporting mechanisms will be improved in order to be easier to access and more comprehensible for travelers/ tourists.

#### <u>Contact</u>

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