

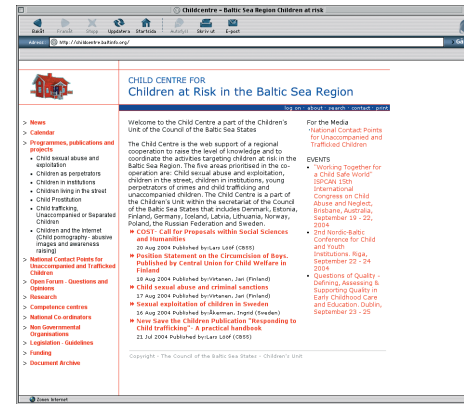
“ The Child Centre web is the regional resource for knowledge and activities concerning children at risk. ”

Welcome to the Child Centre web site. The site provides insight on research and activities concerning the prioritised areas:

- The protection of children from all forms of sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking
- Unaccompanied and trafficked children
- Street children and children without a family
- The rights of children in institutions and in other forms of protection
- Young offenders and self-destructive behaviour of children.

The Child Centre, which is operated and administered by the Children's Unit of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, has been a tool for regional collaboration since 1999. The Child Centre serves as the web based focal point for information between professionals and officials on research, projects, seminars and conferences concerning children at risk in the Baltic Sea Region. Its objective is to increase awareness and knowledge on how to protect children and prevent abuse as well as on how to support and rehabilitate victims. It acts as an instrument and forum for intra-regional exchange of ideas and knowledge, and also provides a platform for collaboration between experts and practitioners.

Enhanced cooperation involves the exchange of knowledge, educational programmes and research. Consultation between experts and practitioners with colleagues also fosters cooperation. The Child Centre offers these facilities. It promotes collaboration, the sharing of expertise and provides access to a comprehensive body of literature relating to children at risk and how to address these issues. Material is published in English with additional material available in other languages of the region as indicated by flags.



## Governing body

Responsibility rests with the Working Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, a group of senior officials from the ministries responsible for children's issues in the eleven participating countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia

and Sweden. The Working Group identifies, supports and implements cooperation on children at risk between countries and organisations in the region.

The Working Group examines and reviews areas of concern with regard to children, as identified by its network of Competence Centres. Based on these findings, it may decide to adopt a new priority area or propose action in other political bodies.

The Working Group's priority paper and activity plans are available on the web site.

## Children's Unit

Implementation rests with the Children's Unit of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. CBSS, established in 1992, promotes regional cooperation among the Baltic Sea States to foster greater unity between the member countries and secure favourable economic development. The CBSS secretariat is located in Stockholm, Sweden.

## National Coordinators

The ministry responsible for children's issues in each country appoints an organisation or a unit to be the National Coordinator. The Coordinator publishes material on the Child Centre web site and is responsible for updating the site.

## Competence Centres

Each of the participating countries appoint Competence Centres, teams actively involved in daily work with children in the priority areas. Together, they form a regional network of child specialists.

## THE CHILD CENTRE WEB



**NEWS** Here we publish the latest studies, legislative developments and reports from conferences on issues relating to children at risk.

**CALENDAR** The calendar lists coming events and meetings, not only in the Baltic Sea Region, of interest to professionals concerned with children at risk.

**PROGRAMMES, PUBLICATIONS, PROJECTS** Find more information on efforts to assist abused children and children in institutions. What is the latest research on children as perpetrators of sexual abuse? What is being done about children living on streets? How can authorities deal more effectively with child pornography on the Internet, child prostitution and trafficking in children? What is the law enforcement response and how can law enforcement agencies strengthen international cooperation?

**RESEARCH** Find studies and research about abused children and perpetrators. Read more about research programmes that are presently being carried out.

**FUNDING** In need of funding? The site gives information on international and national organisations, foundations, institutions and private donors that provide financial support.

**NGOs** See which non-governmental organisations that are actively involved in efforts to assist children at risk.

**Open Forum** Ask questions about children at risk in any language and our experts will send a reply.

**Discussion forum** Contact the National Coordinator in your country to obtain the necessary user name and password. Discuss issues of importance with other professionals and national contacts in the region. Specify particular areas of interest and receive an e-mail alert when news is published. Discussions are held both in English and national languages.

**NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR UNACCOMPANIED AND TRAFFICKED CHILDREN** Find the Contact Points that have been appointed to assist and coordinate issues concerning unaccompanied and trafficked children.

# The Baltic Sea Region Child Centre

[www.childcentre.info](http://www.childcentre.info)



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