

**International Telecommunication Union (ITU):  
Request for inputs (best practices) regarding  
the Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative**

- February 2022 -

**Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**

Children's rights must be protected in the digital environment but in fact they are facing different risks and challenges such as privacy issues, cyberbullying, misinformation and child sexual abuse material. Children as a very vulnerable group of the population often lack the experience and knowledge to be able to assess the risks and consequences within the digital environment. To ensure their best protection and safety, it is necessary to raise awareness and educate both children and their parents on how to protect children in digital space. Moreover, use of digital technologies should not replace real interactions among children or even between children and parents/ caregivers. With this in mind, Slovenia holds several programs and projects organised by non-governmental and non-profit organizations, co-financed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Most of the projects are focusing on safety of children in digital environment:

1. The Association "**SOS Helpline**" is a humanitarian, non-profit, non-governmental organization, working in the field of social welfare, providing help to relieve social distress, by carrying out different forms of psycho-social help, first for women and children - victims of violence in family and in other interpersonal relationships. The Association has been active for 30 years (since 1989), as first organization in Slovenia providing help to victims of violence. It is working at national level. Its main programs are SOS help-line, two shelters and a self-help group. Its preventative activity is informing, educating, and raising awareness of professional and general public on the problem of violence against women and children. Employees (and volunteers) of Association SOS Helpline are qualified and have special knowledge to work with women and children - victims of violence, acquired through extensive basic training and monthly additional trainings.
2. "**TOM**" is another project - telephone-line for children and adolescents - within Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (referred to as SAFY). SAFY is a voluntary, national association of societies of friends of youth, its inter-society forms of integration and other non-profit, non-governmental organizations working for the benefit of children, young people, and families. Most important topics of discussions are related to physical development and sexuality, violence, family and school issues.
3. Between 2017- 2019 another successful project has been carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and equal opportunities named »**Click-off! Stop cyber violence against women and girls**«, focuses on activities to prevent cyber violence and harassment focusing on women and girls. In addition, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, in co-operation with the University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Social Sciences, Ministry of the Interior - Police and Ministry of Justice - Judicial Training Centre had another similar project addressing cyber violence and harassment with systematic gender sensitive approach to prevent gender-based cyber violence and harassment.

4. **Logout & Restart** (Institute Nora center of modern addictions) represents a proven and innovative psychosocial support programme for addicts with digital technologies, support for excessive users, psychosocial support and victim support for online violence and early prevention for families. Logout & Restart is an integrated social protection programme for over-and/or addicted individuals and their relatives, supporting individuals with other risky online behaviours through early prevention for families.  
The programme aims primarily to provide comprehensive support to individuals with excessive use of electronic media and those who are already showing signs of addiction. Comprehensive support covers areas as: excessive computer and online gaming, excessive use of social networks, online gambling (sports betting, online poker), online pornography, addiction with online relationships, online shopping, excessive and risky cryptocurrency trading, and support for victims of online violence. The programme enables users to make positive changes in line with their personal goals and enables the complete elimination or reduction of symptomatology, with a focus on empowerment, positive self-image, social skills development, support for the reorganisation or creation of a new structural and functional social network, as well as a successful return to work and school.
6. In regards to safe use of internet, Slovenia is also implementing the **Safer Internet Center** project implemented by the University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Social Sciences, ARNES Public Institute, Association of Friends of Youth of Slovenia and MISSS Institute (Youth Information and Counseling Center of Slovenia). As part of the project, the **Safe.si** Awareness Point on Safe use of the internet and mobile devices has been operating since 2005, which is a national point for raising awareness of children and adolescents about that topic.
7. Slovenian Medical Association issued **Guidelines for the use of internet for children and adolescents** as the first national recommendations for safe use of internet for children and adolescents.