



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 23 June 2022

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WK 9107/2022 INIT

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Law Enforcement Working Party (Police)
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse - presentations

Delegations will find attached the presentations made at the meeting of the LEWP (Police) on 22 June 2022:

- by the Commission services on "The WeProtect Global Alliance Summit, 1-2 June 2022";
- by the Presidency on the "Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation: State of Play and Perspectives - Presentations of the Conclusions of the Paris Seminar";
- by EUROPOL on "Europol's work to counter child sexual exploitation".

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The WeProtect Global Alliance Summit 1-2 June 2022

Background- WeProtect Global Alliance

- European Commission and the US set up the **Global Alliance Against Child Sexual Abuse Online** in 2012;
 - 54 countries brought together to improve victim protection, identify and prosecute offenders, raise awareness and reduce availability of child sexual abuse material online
- United Kingdom set up **WeProtect** in 2014;
 - Bringing together governments, industry and NGOs with similar objectives.
- A merger took place in 2016 —→ **WeProtect Global Alliance**
- The WeProtect Global Alliance is now an independent foundation:
 - 99 governments, 29 global tech companies, 73 CSOs & 9 international organisations

Added Value - WeProtect Global Alliance

- Child sexual abuse is a borderless and global crime and the online dimension of this crime continues to expand.
- WPGA advances countries' commitments towards a more coordinated and comprehensive response to the global fight against child sexual abuse.
 - Global Threat Assessments
 - Model National Response
 - Events incl. summits - awareness raising, education, building momentum and connections
 - Facilitates connections, sharing of best practices, lessons learnt working through challenges
 - Commissions and promotes research

Summit- *Turning the tide on child sexual abuse online 1-2 June 2022*

- An unique opportunity for the Alliance members to come together to share learnings, agree on collaborative solutions and reaffirm their commitment to take action to combat child sexual abuse.
- 400 in-person delegates and nearly 500 online attendees.
- Diverse break-out sessions and panel discussions covered different angles on the fight against online child sexual abuse

Outcomes and next Steps

- Raised awareness of the crime and increased momentum for concrete actions
- Summit Communique reiterating Alliance' Members commitment to the fight against child sexual abuse
- Singapore joins the WeProtect Global Alliance
- Establishment of a Global Taskforce of governments
- Launch of the Model National Response Review Report
- Tech Coalition launches the Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency

Video- Summit

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-luEzeqtE6Y&list=PPSV>

Resources

- [WeProtect Global Alliance website](#)
- Launch of the Model National Response Review report: [Framing the Future](#)
- [Global Threat Assessment 2021](#)
- Communique from the summit: [Turning the Tide on Child Sexual Abuse Online](#)
- [Global Governments Taskforce on Child Sexual Abuse Online](#)
- Tech Coalition: [Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency](#)

Thank you



Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation : State of Play and Perspectives

*Presentations of the Conclusions of the
Paris Seminar*

Overview of the Seminar

More than
200
participants

Committed to the fight
against child sexual
exploitation

40 countries
and 5 continents
represented

46 speakers
From 12 countries

- A three day international seminar designed and organised by the French Central Office for the Fight against Serious and Violent Crimes (OCRVP).
- A **diversity of actors** : law enforcement agents, representatives of the justice system, NGOs, associations, internet and finance companies, psychologists, criminologists,...
- A seminar opened by the **Director General of the French National Police who expressed four expectations** : better care and support for victims, better monitoring and detection of financial flows, closer collaboration between actors, stronger international police cooperation.

The Seminar Program

A **first seminar in Singapore in 2019** that had led to discussions related to the phenomena of livestreaming and travelling child sexual offenses (TCSO). We made this the starting point for the seminar on Day 1.

Day 1

Livestreaming and TCSO : a state of play following the discussions initiated in 2019.

Day 2

Perspectives on the efficient detection, reporting and removal of online child sexual abuse content.

Day 3

Latest news on tracking child sexual offenders on the internet.

Live Distant Child Abuse (LDCA)

Definition : situation in which a customer orders online sexual assaults or rapes on minors, in order to view them live.

This **phenomenon has increased due to the pandemic**, as the closing of borders has led pedocriminals to develop new ways of action. In France, between 200 and 300 targets are still awaiting treatment.

Concern of the international community : with the reopening of the borders, livestreamers could travel abroad on a massive scale to commit child sexual offenses.

LDCA is done **through accessible platform** : e.g. *Whatsapp, Skype*, websites for adults available on the clear net.

This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in Southeast Asian countries, notably the Philippines, but **Western countries are also deeply concerned** :

- ➔ Children are exploited by livestreaming in European countries
- ➔ The vast majority of clients are Westerners

Live Distant Child Abuse (LDCA)

A crucial cooperation

→ **International police cooperation** with partners among and outside the EU :

- ◆ **Operation 'December Rescue'** : led by the Romanian Police, several other European police services involved, the FBI provided critical information that led to the investigation.
- ◆ Recurrent contact with the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations Service, which provides numerous reports.
- ◆ Work with the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Center (PICACC).

→ **Cooperation with NGOs** : a study conducted by the NGO Ecpat France on several European countries.

→ **Cooperation with internet companies** : phenomenon that is difficult to detect because it takes place live, hence the need for collaboration with internet companies.

Travelling Child Sexual Offense (TCSO)

Double victimisation : TCSO is a phenomenon that concerns both girls and boys. Nevertheless, a taboo persists in several countries on the abuse of boys, who therefore remain silent so as not to be chased from their homes.

The **need for proper care for victims**, involving multidisciplinary cooperation (police, justice, social actors, doctors, psychologists,...).

Interpol – the Soteria project

The Soteria Project aims to follow and detect upstream the pedocriminals who try to integrate NGOs and humanitarian associations in order to abuse minors.

The importance of a good cooperation with internet companies

A French case study

- ➔ **Referral sent by Facebook** to NCMEC : a chat between an adult subscriber and a child subscriber. The NCMEC report was then sent to the Central Unit for Minors Protection, allowing investigators to open a case.
- ➔ The investigation was made possible **thanks to clues in the chat**. It allowed, only based on the discussions, to identify a case of child sexual abuse.

It underlines the necessity of a good cooperation with internet companies and the importance of the use of key words to detect cases of online grooming.

A Brazilian case study

- ➔ **15 reports were made on NCMEC** and were sent to the Brazilian law enforcement services.
- ➔ The suspect stored images and videos of child sexual abuses on Google Drive and Google Photos. There was indications that they had been produced by the suspect.
- ➔ **The detection of the crime would probably not have been possible** without the automatic control of the internet companies, despite the seriousness of the facts.

The importance of a good cooperation with internet companies

Serious consequences

- The case of a French Internet company that did not put in place adequate measures to prevent the sharing and downloading of pedocriminal material on its storage website.
- This company **had become the world's leading host of CSAM content**. Its cooperation with the French national police has allowed to modify the conditions of access to this service and to remove the CSAM.
- Hence the need for operators to **evaluate the risk** and then **take into account the measures to be implemented** to counter the dissemination of CSAM.

Companies take action

- Some internet companies like Meta **support the implementation of mandatory measures** to counter pedocriminal content.
- Specialised teams for the safety of minors have been set up.
- The company META is working to **prevent the posting of harmful content on its platforms and the virality** of such content.

Reporting, detection, removal : the limits of self-regulation

Self-regulation has its limits

NCMEC receives 83,000 reports per day, which amounts to **30,295,000 per year**.

- ➔ However, **98 % of the reports come from Internet companies**, which have a key role to play. Cooperation with law enforcement services is essential, but more needs to be done.
- ➔ Internet companies too often are waiting for authorities to compel them to act, even though measures could have been implemented in the first place. **Companies are responsible to society for providing a safe space for all users**, especially minors.
- ➔ The European Commission proposal of regulation is tackling the issue.

The proposal of regulation on sexual abuse on minors

The proposal of regulation of the European Commission on sexual abuse on minors was presented during the seminar by the representatives of DG Home. It allowed **a better understanding of the objectives** of this future legislation by all participants, especially **law enforcement and hotlines**.

Law Enforcement

Thanks to better quality reports, the number of unworkable reports and false positives will be considerably reduced. This will improve cross-border cooperation, but also cooperation at the national level, through the coordinating authority.

Hotlines

Their role is explicitly recognised in the proposal, as they are essential source of expertise for Coordinating Authorities.

New patterns in pedocriminal operating mods

The Darkweb

- The sexual exploitation of minors on the darkweb has **never been so important.**
- It has never been easier for an individual to hide his or her identity online, sexually exploit children and connect with other pedocriminals.
- Hundreds of thousands of pedocriminal users accounts are being logged, and communities of criminals are forming and developing security measures to evade law enforcement services.
- These communities encourage pedocriminals and lead to **an increase in dangerousness.**

Online video games and social media

- Pedocriminals use online video game chats and social media messaging system to solicit minors, this is called grooming.
- This phenomenon was amplified with the pandemic.
- 478 % increase in cases of grooming (2020-2021)

Emergence of cryptocurrencies

- The use of cryptocurrencies in crimes against complicates the detection of content and investigations. This implies amplying the means of surveillance and detection of financial flows.

New developments in combatting CSE

New software

developed by law enforcement services, NGOs and private companies to improve the fight against sexual exploitation of minors, particularly by increasing the capacity to filter reports.

Grace Project

European project to address CSEM referrals, to deploy a federated learning infrastructure, to automate the analysis of CSEM content and to track trends in online CSEM.

Investing in video game devices

- The undercover avatar device developed by the NGO l'Enfant bleu, Havas Play and the OCRVP, made it possible to contact 1200 children in just a week.
- Video games as a new place to track down pedocriminals.

OIF-Francopol Practical Guide

- To equip justice and police professionals in order to adapt their behaviour towards victims and offenders and to fight more effectively against child sexual exploitation.

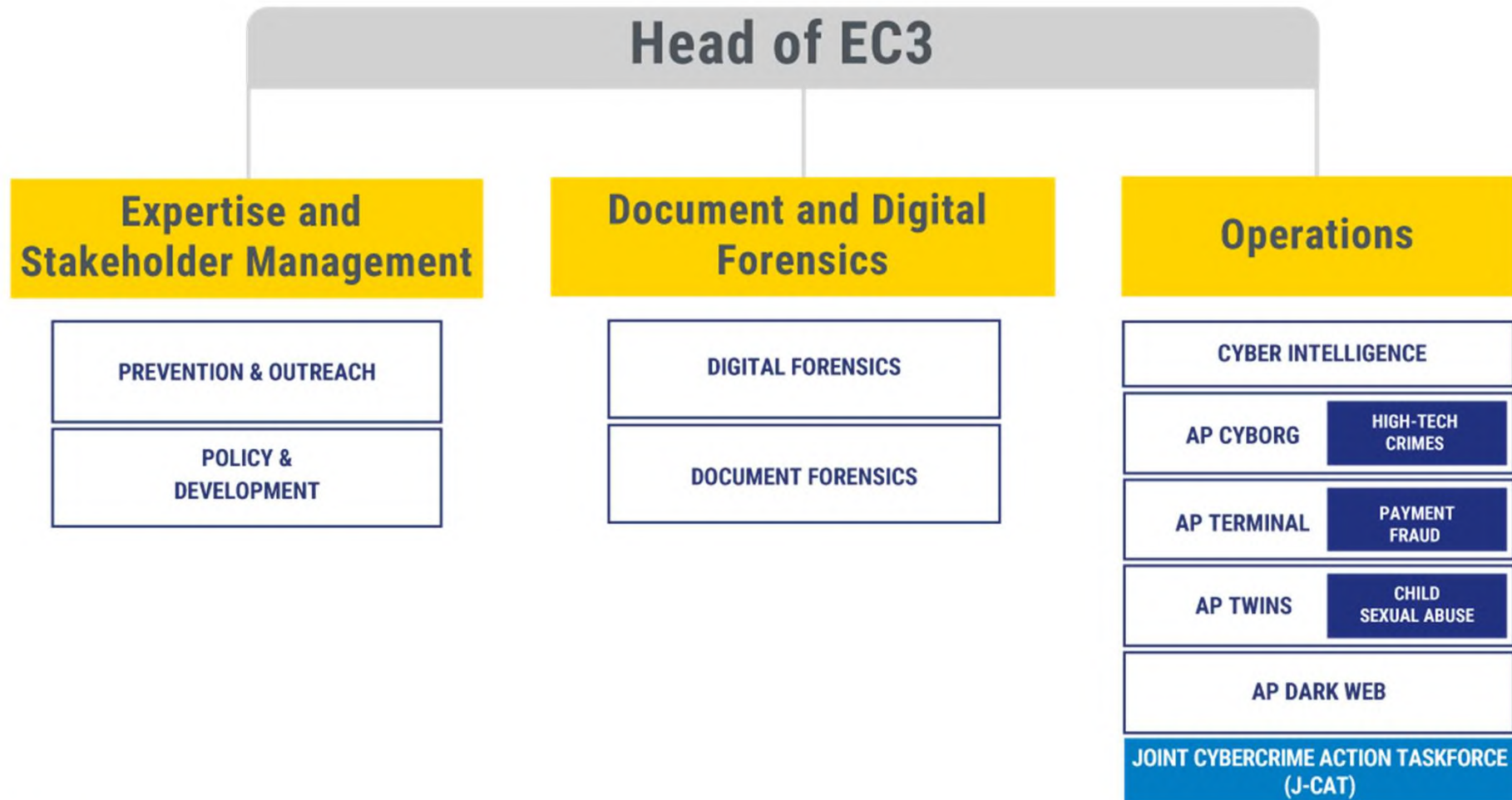


Europol's work to counter child sexual exploitation

Jean-Philippe Lecouffe
Deputy Executive
Director Operations

Europol Unclassified - Basic Protection Level

EC3's Core Areas of Responsibility



Analysis and dissemination of CSE referrals

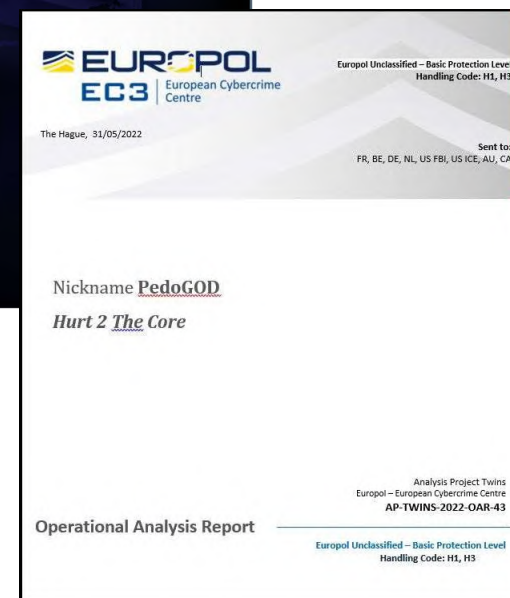
NCMEC



Strategic and Operational Analysis

Strategic analysis: SOCTA, IOCTA and ad-hoc reports dedicated to child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Operational Reports: 1362 in 2021 and 56 in the first quarter of 2022.



Operational Coordination and Support

May 3, 2021
11:12 AM CEST

2 minute read

German police make arrests over massive child pornography website

Reuters

German police have uncovered one of the world's largest underground websites for child pornography with more than 400,000 users and arrested four people connected to the platform, prosecutors said on Monday.

The "BOYSTOWN" platform has existed since at least June 2019 and was only accessible via the so-called Darknet, the Frankfurt public prosecutor's office and the BKA Federal Police said in a statement.

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

World Europe US Americas Asia Australia Middle East Africa Inequality Global development

Germany

This article is more than 1 month old

German police shut one of world's biggest darknet child abuse images sites

Boystown platform had membership of more than 400,000 international subscribers

Kate Connolly in Berlin

Mon 3 May 2021 12:53 BST



The Statesman

Monday, 7 June, 2021

INDIA WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT OPINION LAW LIFESTYLE DAINIK

Home / world / German police arrest operators behind darknet child porn

German police arrest operators behind darknet child porn

The men are accused of operating the platform as administrators on the so-called "darknet", which is not visible to normal users and can only be accessed using specific software and authorisations, the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) said.

SNS Web | New Delhi | May 3, 2021 5:07 pm




TOP STORIES

NEWS

German police shut down major darknet child sex abuse platform

After months of investigation, German police have busted the "Boystown" child sex abuse platform with over 400,000 members. Four German men have been arrested.



Dark web child abuse image site with 400,000 members taken down in global police sting

Dark web child abuse image site with 400,000 members taken down in global police sting

The three main suspects are accused of founding and maintaining the site, as well as giving members advice on how to avoid arrest, German police said.

May 2, 2021, 4:08 PM CEST


By Patrick Smith and Carlo Angerer

LONDON – German police have arrested four members of a gang suspected to be behind one of the world's biggest child abuse image websites with more than 400,000 members worldwide, police and prosecutors said Monday.

A police operation involving regional and federal German officers raided seven addresses across Germany and arrested three men accused of operating Boystown, a platform for distributing indecent images and video of children, the BKA, Germany's federal police

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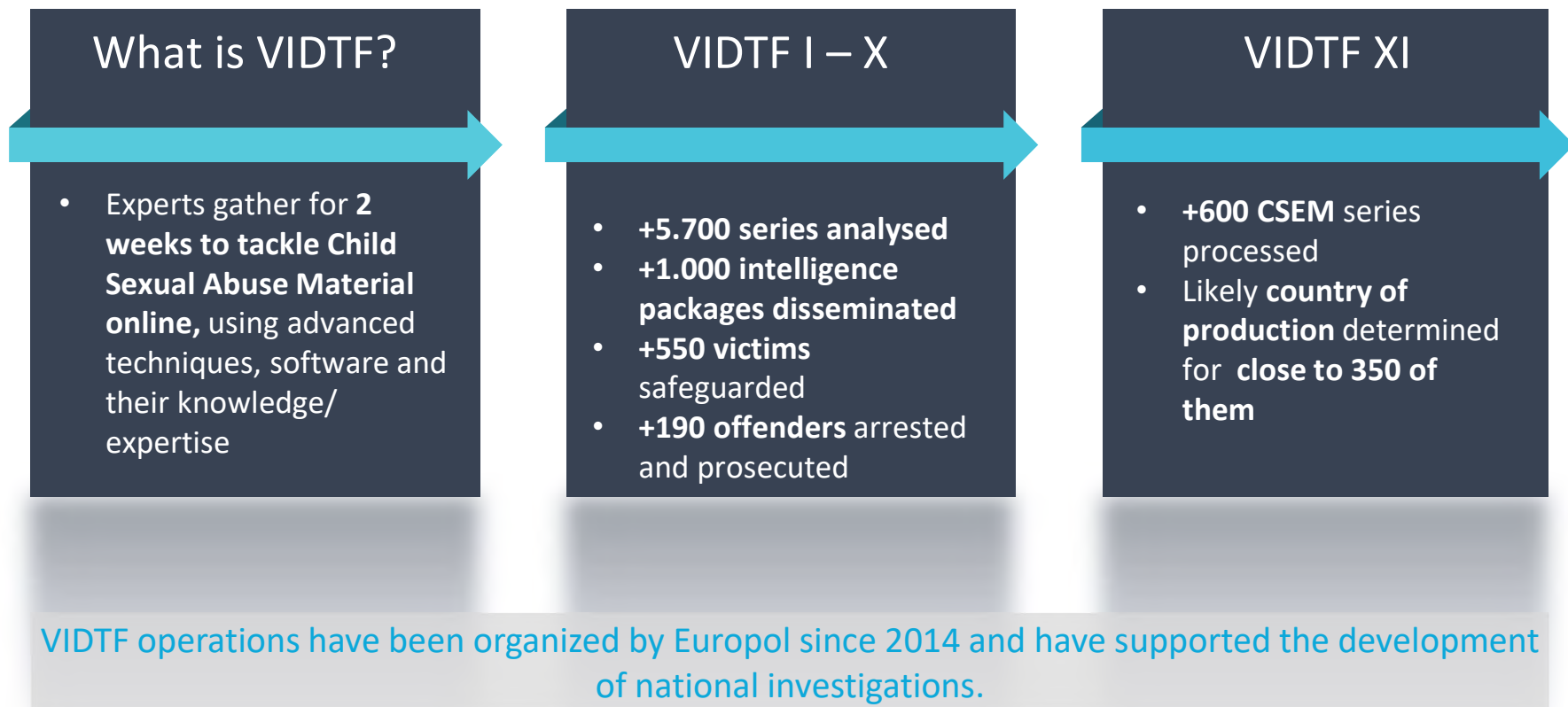
2000,000 50000

Mini-alvico razend populair in Nederland, 1 geniaal!

Operational Support: Digital Forensics



Victim Identification Task Force (VIDTF)



Victim Identification: Trace An Object



This is a hotel room. Do U know which one?
This info can help police solve a child sexual abuse case. Tell us on
europol.europa.eu/stopchildabuse...



5:00 AM - 11 Aug 2017

5,124 Retweets 629 Likes

130 5.1K 629



peter @under_less · 13.08.17

Replying to @Europol

marlin-creek.com/gallery.html

25 25 394



Europol @Europol · 13.08.17

Thank you! We have passed on this info to the investigators who will further check it.

2 17 95



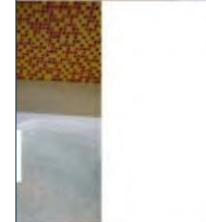
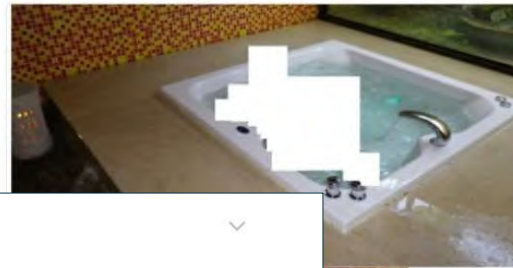
NaNo @NaN0NL · 13.08.17

Give the man a present.

1 1 36



This child sexual abuse image shows what is likely a hotel spa. Do you recognise the place? Your information can help police save a victim. Thank you for sending us your leads on europol.europa.eu/stopchildabuse... #StopChildAbuse



Bo @HikikoB0 · Aug 13

As I said, Qin Hai motel, Taiwan.



13 26 262



Europol @Europol

Replying to @HikikoB0

Thanks a lot for your contribution! The information has been sent to the investigators!

5:56 AM - 13 Aug 2018

15 Retweets 81 Likes

3

15

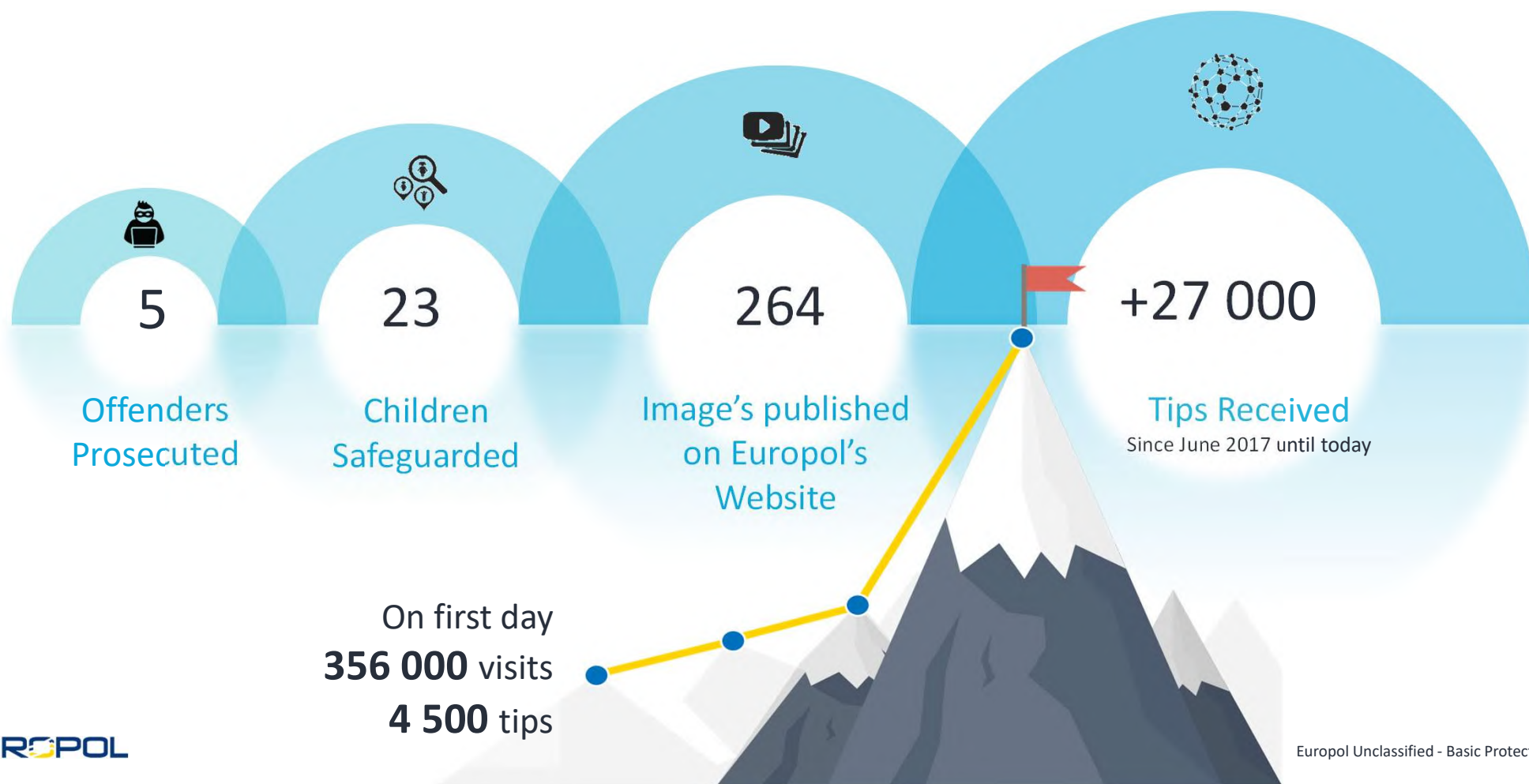
81



Geek Inked Girl @qpucgeek · Aug 13

Replying to @Europol @bobydard @HikikoB0

when I do a reverse image search, I do get links to home decoration videos on

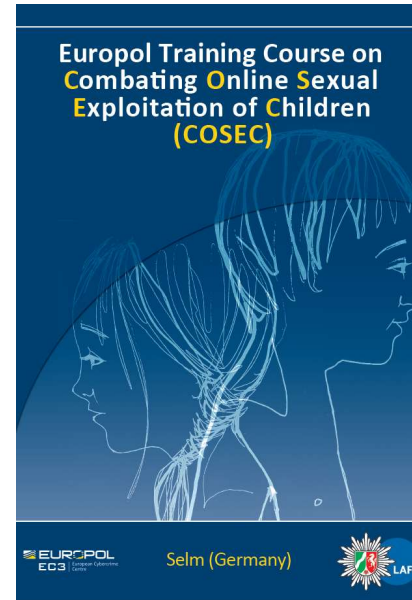


Capacity Building and Networks

Specialised Training

Innovation

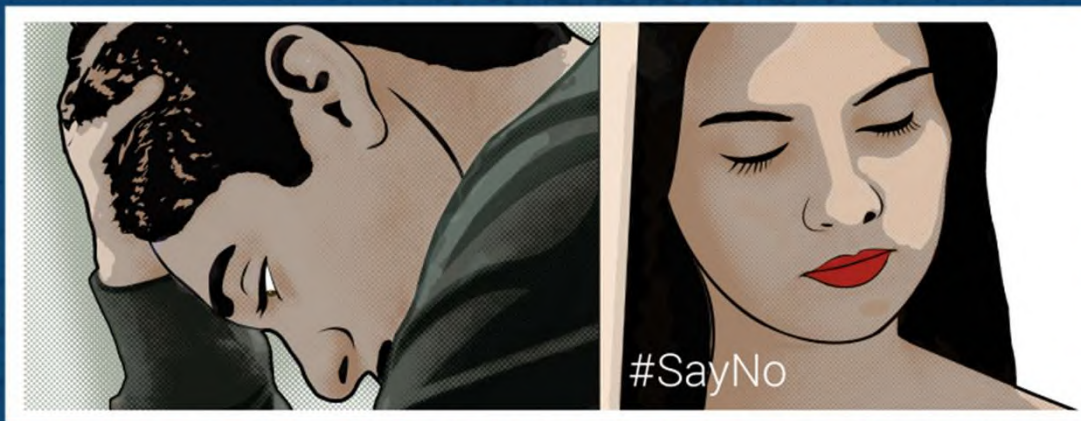
Networks: specialised international CSAE networks, EDEN, EC3 Advisory Groups, NGOs ...



7M€, 3 years, 22 partners
Platform for automated processing of referrals
from Online Service Providers in order to fight
Child Sexual Exploitation Material (**CSEM**)



Awareness raising



**Online child sexual coercion
and extortion is a crime**

Has this
happened to you?
SAY NO!

**We can help you.
You are not alone.**

Amendments to Europol Regulation

Article 26 b

Exchange of personal data with private parties to address the online dissemination of online child sexual abuse material

1. Europol may receive personal data directly from private parties and process those personal data in accordance with Article 18 to address the online dissemination of online child sexual abuse material, as referred to in Article 4(1), point (y).
2. Where Europol receives personal data from a private party established in a third country, **Europol shall forward those data and the results of its analysis and verification of those data only to a Member State, or to a third country concerned** as referred to in Article 25(1), point (a), (b) or (c), or in Article 25(4a).

Thank you for your
attention

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