

ECPAT BELGIUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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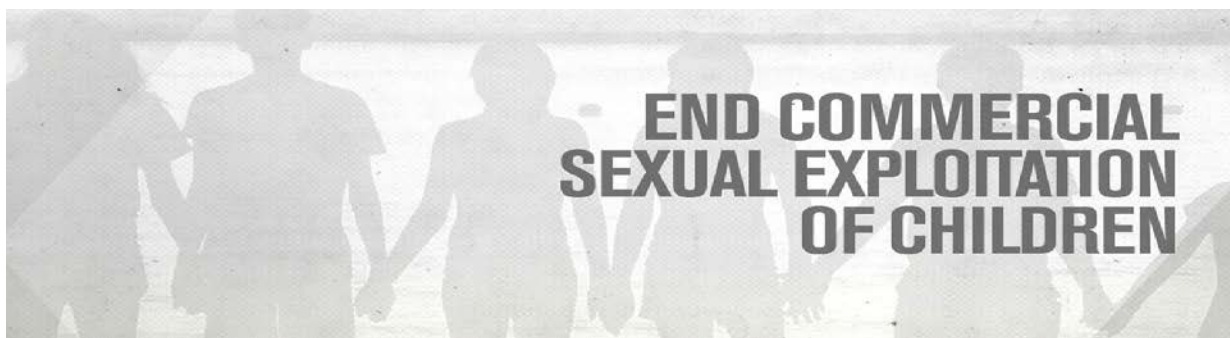
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WHO ARE WE?

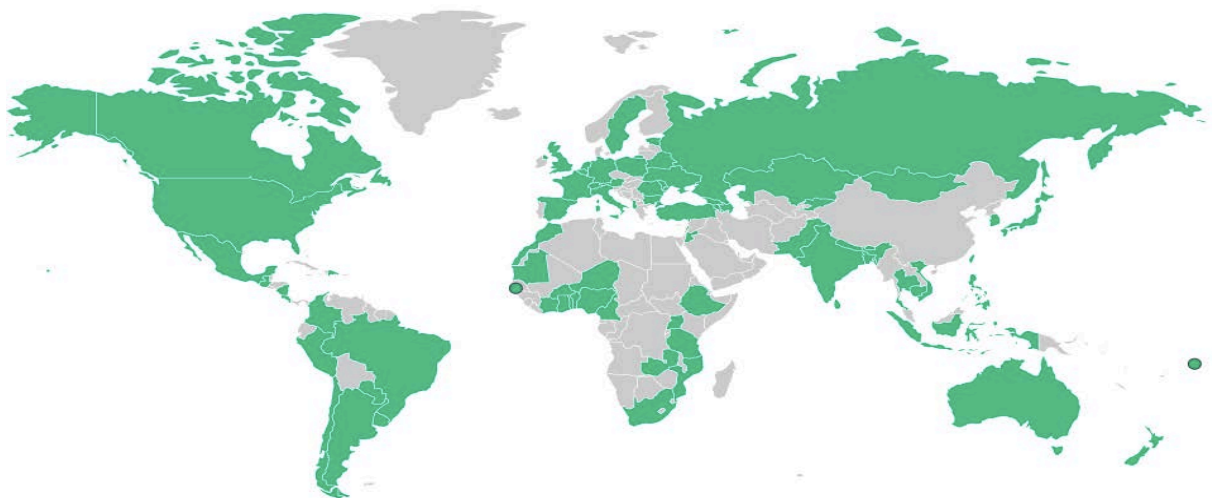
ECPAT Belgium is the Belgian member of ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for sexual purposes), the only global network whose mission is to fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT Belgium started in 1993 at the instigation of several development cooperation and children's rights NGOs in order to disseminate the ECPAT International campaign throughout Belgium.



The ECPAT network includes today

90 groups in 82 countries.



AXES OF ACTION

Awareness-raising/training

- Very few travellers and tourism professionals know how to react when faced with a situation of child sexual exploitation. Through awareness-raising campaigns and training sessions for future tourism professionals, ECPAT Belgium seeks to make people more aware of this phenomenon and the ways to report it.

Research

- Commercial sexual exploitation of children remains widely unknown to the general public, politicians, journalists, the tourism sector and other concerned actors. Through analyses and studies, ECPAT Belgium aims to inform these actors but also to promote actions amongst citizens and decision-makers.

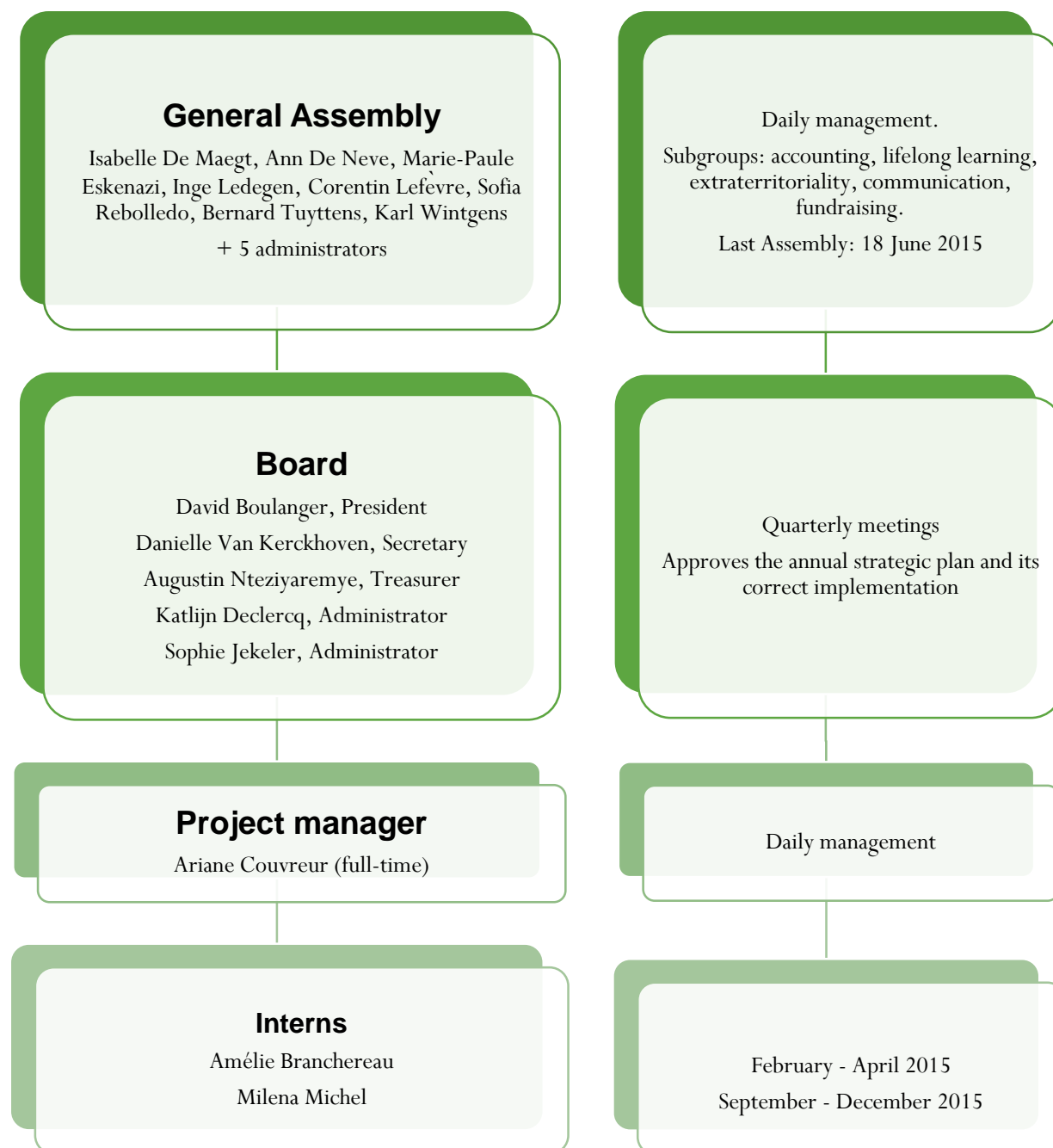
Participation of children

- Promote the participation of children in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects that concern them is one of the cornerstones of the work of ECPAT. ECPAT Belgium focuses particularly on peer education and prevention plans.

Advocacy

- Although an international legal framework protects children against commercial sexual exploitation, the fight against this phenomenon is not always a priority for State Parties. As a result, ECPAT Belgium is conducting advocacy work to improve awareness of the rights of the child in public policy at the national and European level.

HOW WE WORK



ECPAT Belgium received the precious help of volunteers who worked on translations and analyses: Julie Bottau, Meghan Casey, Jonathan Dehoust, Juste Neverauskaite, Camille Seccaud, Cendrine Strevens, Cécile Vandewoude, Natascha Waschewsky.

AWARENESS-RAISING

Although extraterritorial laws already exist, many transnational child sex offenders escape prosecution in Belgium. Why? Because police authorities fail to be informed.

TO REPORT IS TO PROTECT!

Since 2004, it is possible to fill in a form on the website <http://www.isaystop.com> that allows travellers to report and describe in detail any suspicious case of child sexual abuse they may have witnessed (who, when, where, what).



Reports are directly sent by ECPAT Belgium to the Federal Police and noted on an interactive map listing all ongoing and solved alerts.

In his or her own way, everyone can help protect

children around the world. In addition to the "I report" section, the website offers other ways of taking actions: I act, I bear witness, I support and I relay.

The "I Say STOP!" campaign is coordinated by ECPAT Belgium but also relies on a consortium of dynamic and multidisciplinary partners: the STOP Group.

This collaboration is a true asset for the campaign which can then be widely disseminated through the various channels of its partners.



"I Say STOP!"

* Inform travellers on child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism

* Put reporting line at the disposal to report suspicious cases.





in 2015...

... Translation of flyers in English.

... The campaign was launched on Belgian roads thanks to a partnership with MobilAd, specialized in “truckvertising”.



8 trucks travelled 28,859 km throughout Belgium for 8 weeks.

271,000 people have been made aware of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.



ECPAT Belgium has also reached an agreement with Brussels Airport to promote and diffuse the campaign at the Welcome Desk.



Several organizations have expressed their interest in supporting the actions of the STOP Group: Action for Child Rights International, KIYO and the Diversity intergovernmental network.

The website I Say STOP! can now be consulted in 4 languages: French, Dutch, English and German



in 2015...

The pioneer approach "I Say STOP!" served as model for the European project "Don't Look Away!" which brought together 16 countries.

This led to the creation of an international reporting platform <http://www.reportchildsextourism.eu> linking 19 national online reporting mechanisms, including "I Say STOP!".



In October, ECPAT Belgium took part in an international expert meeting organized by ECPAT France in Paris. About 100 professionals from different sectors (police, justice, NGO, tourism) met to strengthen protection of children against sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

DON'T LOOK AWAY! (2012-2015)

- * Raise awareness of travellers and the general public
- * Establishment or strengthening of online reporting mechanisms
- * Training sessions for (future) tourism professionals
- * Development of a Serious Game

Partners: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Poland, etc.



ECPAT Belgium also participated in the creation of ECPAT Serious Game, a web tool created to train tourism professionals by placing them in interactive situations. It has been translated in 8 languages.

TRAINING

Raising awareness of (future) tourism professionals to the prevention and detection of child sexual exploitation is of key concern in the work of ECPAT Belgium which closely works with several schools in tourism.

110

**STUDENTS
MADE AWARE
IN 3 TOURISM
SCHOOLS**



70

**MANAGERS
AND HEADS
OF UNIT
TRAINED IN
ACCOR
BELGIUM
HOTELS**



ReACT

Since November 2015, ECPAT Belgium has been participating to the European project ReACT (Reinforcing Assistance to Child victims of Trafficking).

One of the main objectives of the project in Belgium is to develop multidisciplinary training modules for guardians and lawyers to help them better detect and assist children who may have been trafficked.

- * Objective: ensure effective access to justice and the right to be protected during legal proceedings for children who may have been trafficked.
- * Activities: Research, training, advocacy, participation of children
- * Duration: 2015-2017
- * Partners: ECPAT Belgium, ECPAT France, ECPAT Germany, ECPAT UK and ECPAT Netherlands

RESEARCH

Each year, ECPAT Belgium provides short analyses that shed light on different aspects of commercial sexual exploitation of children, in clear and accessible terms to the general public. All studies are available on the ECPAT Belgium website under “Our actions – Analyses 2015”. Since the protection of children concerns us all, everyone should feel involved in this fight.

1 STUDY

Fighting impunity of transnational child sex offenders. What is the impact of Belgian extraterritorial legislation?

Twenty years ago, Belgium passed a law facilitating the prosecution of transnational child sex offenders before Belgian courts. This tool reflects the willingness to take strong action against what was called before “child sex tourists”. But what is the real impact of this law? How many offenders have been prosecuted? What were the successes and challenges of the legal procedures? And finally, is one law sufficient? These are some of the many elements discussed in this study which seeks to be accessible to both the general public and professionals.

Collaboration:

DLA Piper, Myria, FPS Justice, FPS Foreign Affairs, Federal Police, Child Focus, ECPAT France, ECPAT Luxembourg

19 ANALYSES

These analyses shed light on unknown aspects of commercial sexual exploitation of children. In 2015, particular attention was given to new technologies in 6 analyses.

Other topics have also been covered, including:

- Myths surrounding gender and their impact on commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Voluntourism in orphanages in developing countries: opportunities and risks.
- My marriage belongs to me: debate on forced marriages.
- Nepal: 7 months after the earthquake, a forgotten humanitarian crisis?
- UN peacekeepers and sexual exploitation of children.



Within the framework of the project "Together against sexual exploitation of children", ECPAT Belgium has, in collaboration with Missing Children Europe and eNACSO, conducted research on the implementation of "EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography". The Directive contains a number of provisions to protect children but are they properly applied in the national legislations?



**Missing
Children
Europe**



The results of this research have been presented during a conference on 24 April 2015.

ECPAT Belgium particularly focused on the assistance to child victims during each stage of the legal procedure (training of professionals for interviews, appointment and role of guardians, specific protection for unaccompanied migrant children etc.)

The "Global Monitoring Report on the status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children" which provides actions for the implementation against this phenomenon in Belgium has been translated in English to enable the diffusion of this advocacy tool worldwide. It is coupled with recommendations that serve as basis for the day-to-day work of ECPAT Belgium.

27

MEMBER STATES

1080

PAGES ANALYZED

"In the fight against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, terminology is not just a matter of semantics: it determines the effectivity of responses"

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, United Nation's Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

ECPAT Belgium was also appointed as French-speaking expert on the project «Guidelines on Terminology related to the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children» conducted by ECPAT International.

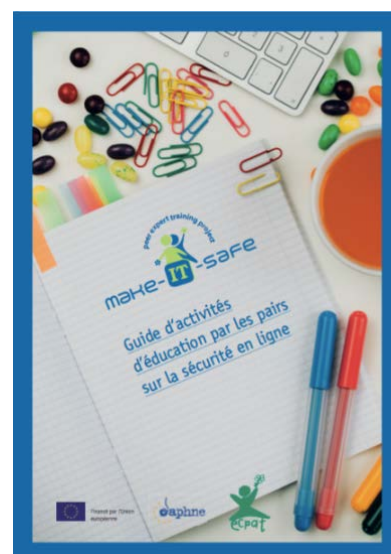
PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN

In 2013 and 2014, ECPAT Belgium took part in the European project "Make-IT-Safe" conducted with other ECPAT groups to promote online safety for youth (12-18 years old) through peer education.



The project led to the creation of different materials:

- handbook for youngsters
- handbook for coaches
- flyer for the parents
- 3 comics
- 6 movies



Since the end of the project in 2014, funding requests had been sent in 2015 to different organizations to pursue the project but without success.

However, ECPAT Belgium continued to diffuse the tools. The project was considered as an example of good practice several times, including during a webinar organized by the University of Bedfordshire but also during the closing conference of the European project Resiland in Brussels. Moreover, our partner Mikado continues to train "peer experts" and the NGO "Jong en Van Zin" has shown interest in replicating the project in Flanders.

ADVOCACY

At national level, ECPAT Belgium is a member of the Coordination des ONG pour les Droits de l'Enfant (CODE) and its Flemish counterpart Kinderrechtencoalitie (KIRECO). Both are responsible for the writing of the "Alternative Report by the NGO's on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Belgium". This independent report completes the official report handed over by Belgium to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The section dealing with commercial sexual exploitation of children is updated each year by ECPAT Belgium.



ECPAT Belgium is also taking part in consultations organized by European and international monitoring mechanisms on the implementation of the main conventions against commercial sexual exploitation of children in Belgium.

In February, ECPAT Belgium met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery. The recommendations made during this meeting have been included in the Rapporteur's final report.

In June, ECPAT Belgium contributed to the Universal Periodic Review before the UN Human Rights Council.



At the European level, ECPAT Belgium was mandated by ECPAT International to represent the network during the various meetings on human trafficking, migrant children, new technologies, sexual exploitation of children, etc.

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EUROPEAN

EVENTS

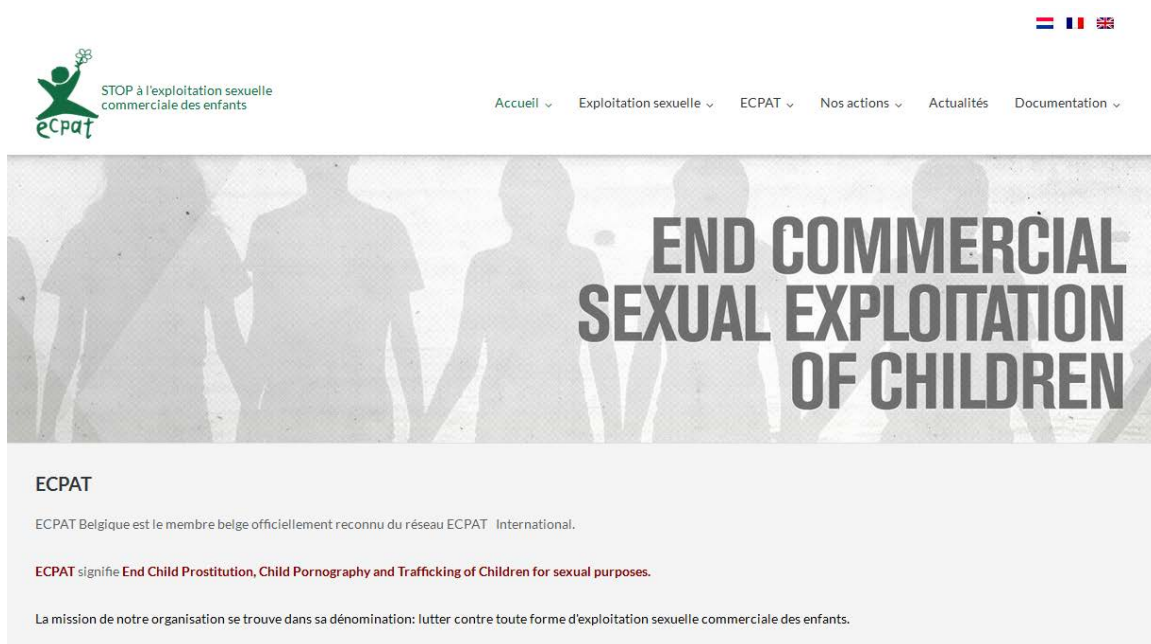
- Including:
- the final conference of the Mario II project "Closing a protection gap"
 - the meetings of the "EU Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings"
 - the 9th Forum on children's rights

Since the end of 2015, ECPAT Belgium is in charge of the Yahoo group "ECPAT Europe" to exchange the latest information on European advocacy. It is also responsible for the section "Lobbying towards the EU institutions" of the ECPAT International's Hub.

COMMUNICATION

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is one of the many topics that remain unknown to the general public. ECPAT Belgium therefore seeks to make this phenomenon more visible, using communication tools.

The website www.ecpat.be now has a new lay-out and the different categories have been reorganized to facilitate navigation.



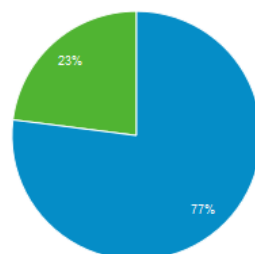
510

VISITS PER
MONTH

2:26

MINUTES PER
SESSION

■ New Visitor ■ Returning Visitor



350



456



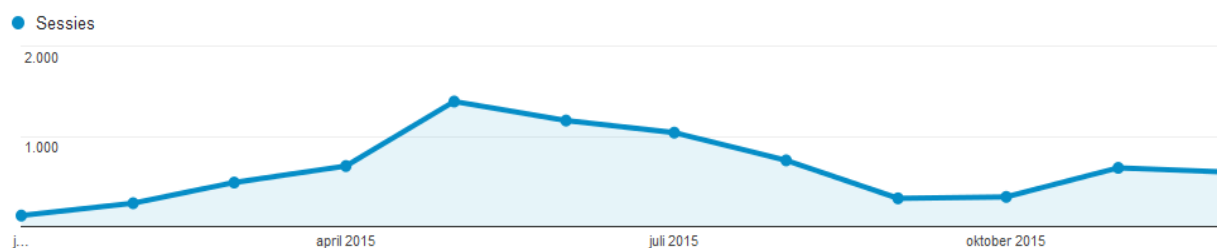


ECPAT Belgium is the main coordinator of the website "I Say STOP!", by making sure that reported cases are properly followed but also by posting news articles linked to the topic.

In 2015, the website was translated into German.

7058

VISITORS IN 2015



Following the "migrant crisis" in October 2015, a press release entitled "Refugee crisis in Europe and children's rights" was widely disseminated.

ECPAT Belgium has also reorganized its listing containing around 1000 contacts (media, European institutions, Belgian MP's, child rights organizations, tourism sector, etc.) through mailing lists on Mailchimp.

ECPAT Belgium is also regularly providing information and giving interviews for different organizations. In 2015, ECPAT was interviewed 5 times by students within the framework of their dissertation.

Ariane Couvreur has taken part in two training sessions: the first one on "child-friendly justice", organized by Defence for Children Belgium, the second one on recreational and educational tools (Thiagi), animated by Campus des Formateurs.

FUNDING

Since 2010, ECPAT Belgium has been receiving funding from the Brussels Region to cover the costs of Ariane Couvreur's salary. It is the only permanent funding. In order to complete its projects, ECPAT Belgium applies for ad hoc subsidies.

ECPAT Belgium received European subsidies for the project REACT (Reinforcing Assistance to Child victims of Trafficking) running from November 2015 to October 2017.

ECPAT Belgium has applied for two other European subsidies, but they have not been granted.

In order to be able to develop the research approach, ECPAT Belgium, after approval of the Board, decided to apply to be recognized as lifelong learning association by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. That means that an important part of the work of ECPAT Belgium has been devoted to the 19 short analyses and a more substantial study on the subjects connected to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

A meeting with the Office of Mr. Reynders has been organized to present the projects linked to the campaign "I say STOP!" for 2016 and explore other possible tracks of funding. None of them have been positive so far.

ECPAT Belgium applied to be recognized as organizations supported by Lilo, a search engine financing social and environmental projects.

It is now part of the certified organization by Donorinfo, a foundation interface between donors and charity organizations seeking to stimulate funding transparency. This means that the financial management of ECPAT Belgium has been judged in line with the ethic of Donorinfo.

In order to finance the project Make-IT-Safe, many requests for subsidies have been sent but none were successful.

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2015



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