

ECPAT Belgium

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**



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WHO WE ARE

ECPAT Belgium is the Belgian member of ECPAT International, the only global network exclusively dedicated to the fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Our activities are based on five priorities:

Awareness-raising

Training

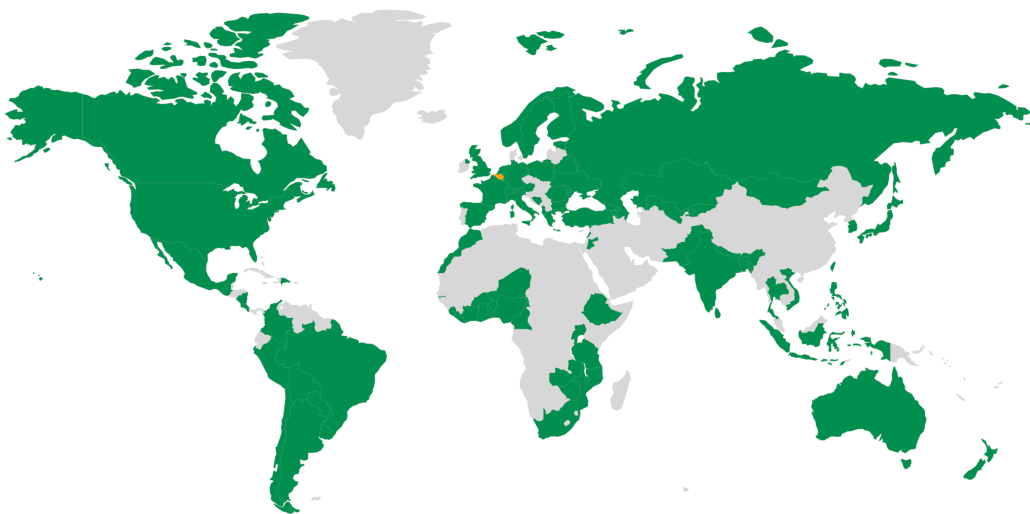
Research

Child participation

Advocacy

The ECPAT network gathers currently

95 member organisations in 86 countries.



FUNCTIONING

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Isabelle De Maegt, Ann De Neve, Marie-Paule Eskenazi, Inge Ledegen, Corentin Lefèvre, Thomas Maertens, Sofia Rebolledo, Bernard Tuytens, Karl Wintgens

+ 5 board members

BOARD MEMBERS

David Boulanger, President
Danielle Van Kerckhoven, Secretary
Augustin Nteziyaremye, Treasurer
Katlijn Declercq, Board Member
Sophie Jekeler, Board Member

PROJECT MANAGER

Ariane Couvreur

INTERNS

Fiona Thewissen (February - April)
Margot Kegels (February - June)
Mathilde Moulia (April - June)
Camille Charrier Dufrechou (July-August)
Léa Simonne (August - October)
Florence Gillet (September - December)

We thank them for their precious help on a daily basis!

Thanks also to Camille Seccaud (analyses) and Cécile Vandewoude (translations)

“I SAY STOP!” CAMPAIGN

THE CAMPAIGN

The “I Say STOP!” campaign aims to raise awareness among the general public and tourism professionals on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. A specific website was created to report cases of sexual abuse in Belgium or abroad.



THE STOP GROUP

The “I Say STOP!” campaign is an initiative of the STOP Group. The STOP Group gathers partners coming from the public and private sectors, as well as NGO’s which have worked for years against commercial sexual exploitation of children.



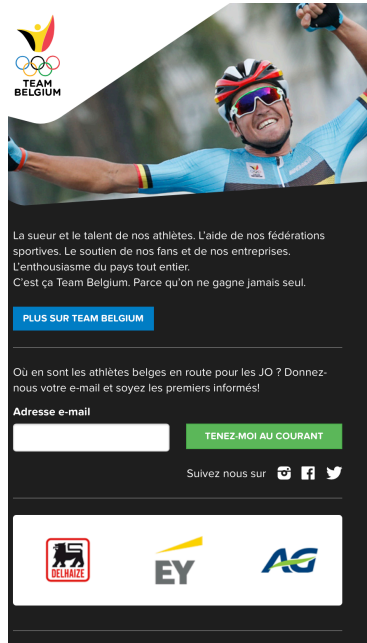
Service public fédéral
Justice



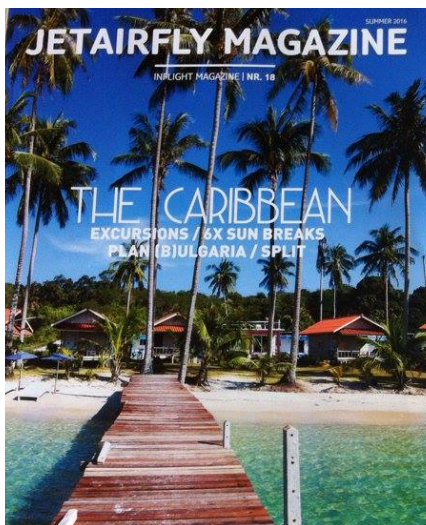
“I SAY STOP!” CAMPAIGN

DISSEMINATION

The campaign received the support of the Belgian Olympic Committee, through a press release on the website of the organisation.



The logo “I Say STOP!” now appears on the tickets delivered by Travel More (the internal travel agency of the graduate school of tourism Thomas More - Malines).



TUI (previously Jetair) inserted a page about the “I Say STOP!” campaign in its in-flight magazine (summer 2016).

“I SAY STOP!” CAMPAIGN**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
(MoU)**

In order to clarify the functioning of the STOP Group, the partners signed a MoU. ECPAT Belgium also developed a MoU with the graduate school of tourism Thomas More (Malines).

DEBATE “ETHICS AND TOURISM”

Are “Ethics and Tourism” compatible? ECPAT Belgium was invited as a speaker to the debate organised on the 20th of October by the graduate school of tourism Thomas More (Malines). The other panellists were: Ilse Meyers (secretary general of the Belgian association of tour operators), Manu Donck (director of Africa by Excellence), Karel Peeters (director of Reis en Opleidingscentrum from Ghent), and Patrick Geussens (professor of ethics at Thomas More). A hundred students attended the event.



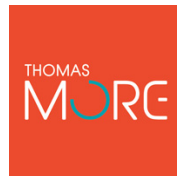
“I SAY STOP!” CAMPAIGN

TRAINING

Through interactive training, coupled with practical exercises, ECPAT Belgium informs (future) tourism professionals about the issue of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and the possible actions if they face such situations.

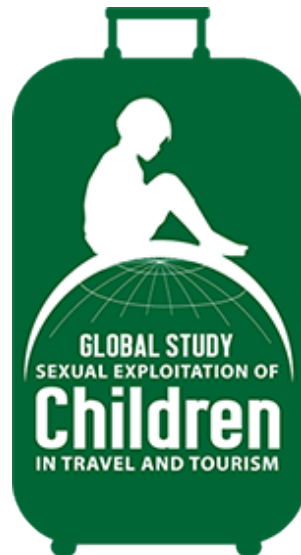
160 students
3 tourism schools

1 training to the staff of the Novotel Mechelen Centrum



“OFFENDERS ON THE MOVE – Global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism”

ECPAT Belgium took part in the writing of a global study published by ECPAT International on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.



Did you know?

- There is no such thing as a “typical offender”. Any age, gender, socio-economic background may be concerned.
- Europe is becoming a new destination for sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- Most offenders do not plan to commit their crime. They do so if the opportunity arises.
- Perpetrators are not only tourists but all kinds of travellers (expatriates, volunteers, construction workers, business travellers, etc).

ANALYSES

In 2016, 15 analysis were published by ECPAT Belgium. The protection of children’s rights against exploitation and sexual abuse is explored through various topics.

- The involvement of women in sexual exploitation – always victims-always offenders?
- Mom, Dad! Wait before you post this picture of me on social media!
- Sugar babies and sugar daddies: Another face of prostitution?
- Imitative pornography: a form of pornography among others?
- What treatment for perpetrators of sexual abuse on minors?
- And others...

“TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN BELGIUM: IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS”

How are children (potential) victim of trafficking identified and protected in Belgium? What is the role of guardians and lawyers? After an in-depth desk-research, ECPAT Belgium interviewed around 20 field workers to try to answer these questions. The study concludes with recommendations for various stakeholders.

The study is based on a national research carried out in the framework of the EU-funded ReACT project (Reinforcing Assistance to Child victims of Trafficking), conducted in partnership with ECPAT France, ECPAT Germany ECPAT Netherlands and ECPAT UK.



VISIT FROM THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

How does Belgium protect children against trafficking? That was the question from the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings to ECPAT Belgium during a meeting in December 2016. ECPAT Belgium was able to share good and bad news on the issue.



MARIO PROJECT

In partnership with Terre des Hommes, ECPAT Belgium conducted various advocacy activities in order to draw attention of the European institutions on the need to protect migrant children against abuse and exploitation. The Mario project ended with a conference organised on the 16th of December with representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission, Member States, as well as NGOs.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

NETWORKING

ECPAT Belgium also conducts advocacy activities through its participation in several platforms involving child rights organisations: the Coordination des ONG pour les droits de l'enfant, the Kinderrechtencoalitie and the Platform Child Rights in Development Cooperation.



FOCAL POINT ON EU INSTITUTIONS

ECPAT Belgium represented ECPAT International at several events organised in Brussels, for example, the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings and the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child.

PRESS CONFERENCE “I SAY STOP!”

On 13th of July, ECPAT Belgium gave a press conference hosted by Ministers Geens and Reynders, in order to present the 2015 study on Belgian extraterritorial legislation.

The Ministers showed great interest in the findings of the study and announced they would adopt the necessary measures to implement the recommendations.

**FOLLOW UP?**

After the press conference, the study benefited from widespread publicity:

- Article in the Journal du Droit des Jeunes.
- Publication in several national or regional newspapers.
- Interviews in TV programs.
- Oral question from Olivier Maingain to Ministers Geens and Reynders regarding the low prosecution rate in Belgium of traveling child sex offenders.
- Mention in the annual report of ECPAT International and on the website of the global study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- Request for information from the Australian Embassy regarding the conclusions of the study

ECPAT IN THE MEDIA



THE FORUM DE MIDI

In the context of the European Day on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, on the 18th of November 2016, ECPAT Belgium gave an interview in the RTBF broadcast “Le Forum de Midi”.

COMMUNICATION

NEWSLETTER

In December 2016, ECPAT Belgium sent a newsletter to 885 contacts, not only in Belgium, but also abroad.

This newsletter was written in French and in English. It summarises the main projects ECPAT Belgium worked on in 2016.

- **504 “Like” on the Facebook page and 485 subscribers**
- **653 followers on Twitter**
- **3662 visits per year on the “I Say STOP!” website**

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

ECPAT Belgium is very active on social media (Facebook, Twitter), as well as on its website where the latest news regarding sexual exploitation of children are published.

ECPAT Belgium also manages the “I Say STOP!” website, by monitoring the reporting process, but also by posting news regarding the issue.

Since 2010, ECPAT Belgium has been receiving funding from the Brussels Region to cover the costs of Ariane Couvreur's salary.

In the framework of the ReACT project, ECPAT Belgium received funding from the European Union for two-year period (November 2015 - October 2017).

In 2016, ECPAT Belgium sublet a desk to Gardanto (March - December).

The FPS Foreign Affairs offered the layout and the printing of the study on Belgian extraterritorial legislation, in the context of the press conference.

ECPAT Belgium applied again in March 2016 to be recognised as lifelong learning association by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. This implies the writing of 15 analyses and a study per year. The answer should be known mid-2017.

A meeting room was also set up by ECPAT Belgium in order to rent it out.

ECPAT Belgium also applied for various funding, which were unfortunately unsuccessful.

In partnership with ECPAT France, ECPAT Belgium submitted two European projects, which were not accepted (ALARM and Don't Look Away II)

ECPAT Belgium also contacted 140 hotels in Belgium (3 and 4 stars), in order to offer them training on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. To date, none replied positively.

NEW LOOK FOR THE OFFICE

In 2016, ECPAT Belgium redesigned its office in order to optimise the space and create a meeting room.



The meeting room can host a maximum of 10 people and is available for renting on the website Bird Office.



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