



ECPAT Belgium

Eradicate the Sexual Exploitation of Children

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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MISSION & VISION

ECPAT International is the only global network dedicated to the fight against child sexual exploitation. Along with its 102 members, its purpose is to **eradicate the sexual exploitation of children**.

ECPAT Belgium, a member of ECPAT International, grounds its work on three distinct pillars:

- **PREVENT:** Through regular preventive actions with professionals such as tourism professionals, lawyers, guardians, our awareness actions highlight the realities of child sexual exploitation in order to stop abuses.
- **LISTEN:** Our cornerstone is to position children and youth victims at the centre of our movement. Making their voices heard in our studies, strategic choices and actions is essential to stay connected and attentive to their needs.
- **MOBILIZE:** The fight against the sexual exploitation of children must be carried out together. Therefore, ECPAT Belgium mobilizes its partners and civil society as a whole to protect children.

Key figures

1993

ECPAT Belgium
was created

102

members of
ECPAT
International

410

professionals
trained per year

102.911

petitions against
child trafficking

76

trained hotels
and tourism
schools

2500

children
benefiting from
our projects



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2017

PREVENT

- ✓ Sensitize the general public to the different aspects of child sexual exploitation.
- ✓ Train (future) professionals to detect and support child victims of sexual exploitation.
- ✓ Conduct research on various issues in relation to child sexual exploitation.

LISTEN

- ✓ Sensitize children to risks of sexual exploitation, in particular in relation to ICTs.
- ✓ Reflect the views of children in every aspect of our work of awareness raising, advocacy, communication and research.

MOBILIZE

- ✓ Create and strengthen our key partnerships.
- ✓ Mobilize civil society, politicians and professionals to fight against child sexual exploitation.
- ✓ Strengthen ECPAT Belgium's visibility.

ReACT PROJECT

Every year, thousands of migrant children arrive in Belgium alone. Many of them have been subjected to violence and exploitation in their country, during their journey or upon arrival. Yet, very few minors are recognized as victims of trafficking. Without identification, no protection.

Through the ReACT project (Reinforcing Assistance to Child Victims of Trafficking), ECPAT Belgium trains field professionals to detect cases of exploitation among the minors they support.

ECPAT Belgium also implements preventive actions directed to young people, with adapted tools created to inform them of their rights in Belgium.

The ReACT project has enabled ECPAT Belgium to operate a radical change in its strategic position. It is now widely recognized a key player in the fight against child sexual exploitation.

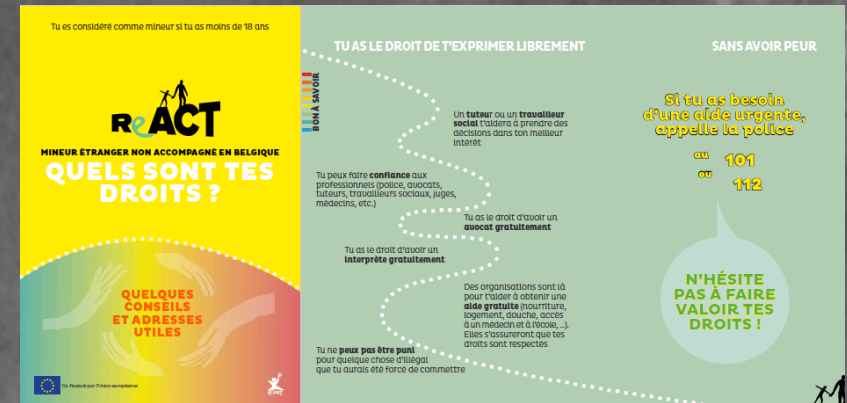


Train the trainers

As part of the ReACT project, in January 2017, ECPAT Belgium attended a training of trainers in Leiden (Netherlands) on child trafficking. This event gathered various professionals (guardians, lawyers, police officers, NGOs representatives, etc.) from five countries (Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom). The purpose of such initiative was to reinforce the capacity of participants to better identify and protect children victims of trafficking, as well as exchange good practices and experiences.



In March, ECPAT Belgium developed a video and a folder to inform unaccompanied foreign minors of their rights in Belgium (access to a guardian, to a doctor, residence permit, etc.).



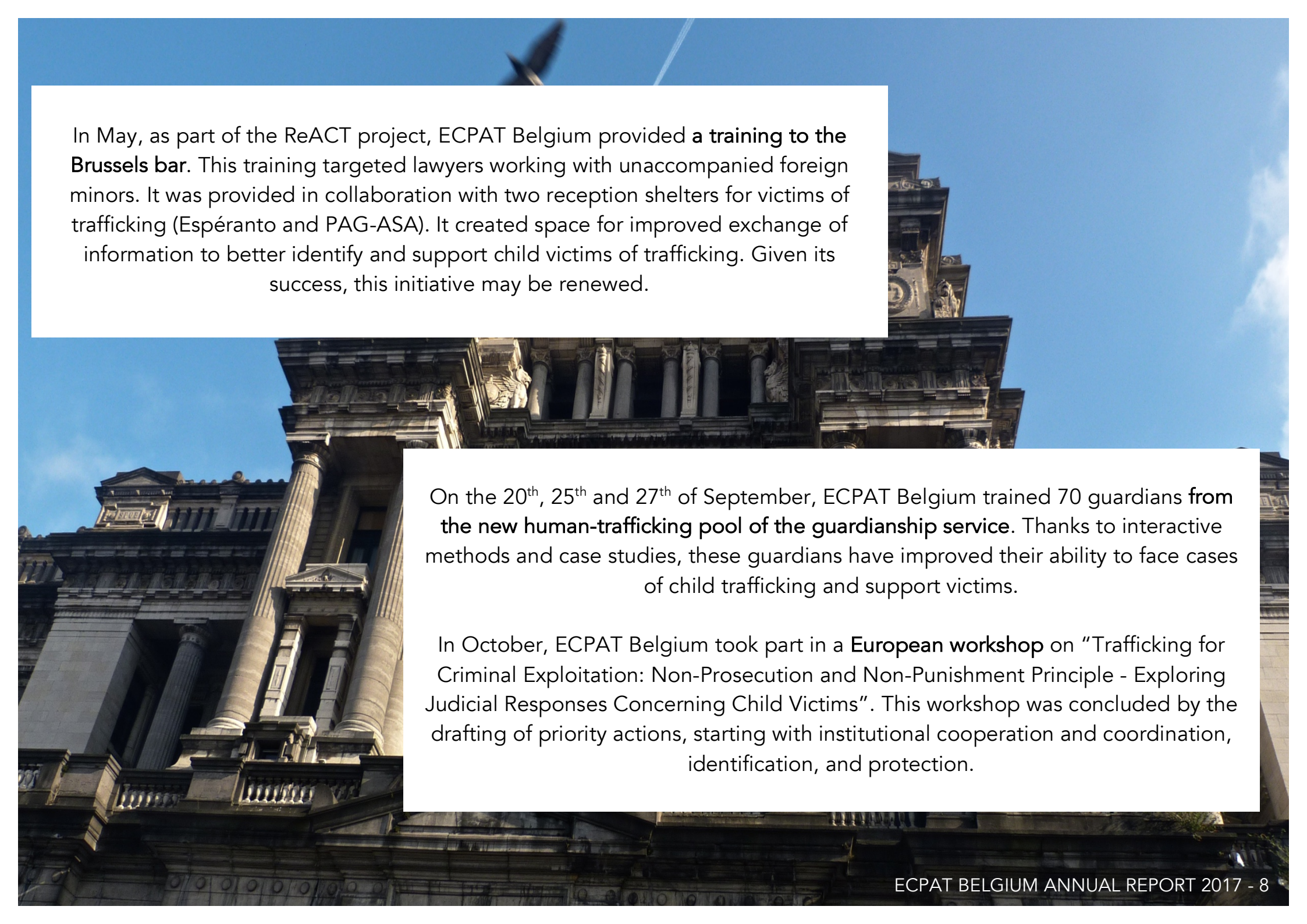
These child-friendly tools provide necessary information in a language that is both simple and clear. They were translated into 12 languages: French, English, Dutch, Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese, Albanian, Romanian, Bulgarian, Pashto, Farsi, and Pidgin. They were welcomed and widely broadcasted.

On March 1st, ECPAT Belgium was invited to the Council of Europe to present the European ReACT Report *"Better Support, Better Protection"* to the 47 member states. This report contains many recommendations to help lawyers and guardians better identify and take care of child victims of trafficking. These tools have been warmly welcomed and incorporated as "good practice" in the recent Council of Europe report *"The protection of refugee children against sexual abuse"*.

In May, ECPAT Belgium organized a training which gathered field professional experts in the fight against human trafficking. The purpose was for them to become familiar with interactive activities, which are useful tools for the trainers to diversify methodologies; work on collective intelligence; and anchor the content in a durable way with participants. A new era of interactive trainings on child trafficking is on the way!



Between June and September, ECPAT Belgium had the honour to meet with several members of the European Parliament to introduce the results and recommendations of the ReACT project. The Vice-President of the European Parliament, Sylvie Guillaume, was extremely interested in the ReAct project and shared its content on her website. As a result of its advocacy work, ECPAT Belgium became part of the Intergroup on Children Rights of the European Parliament.

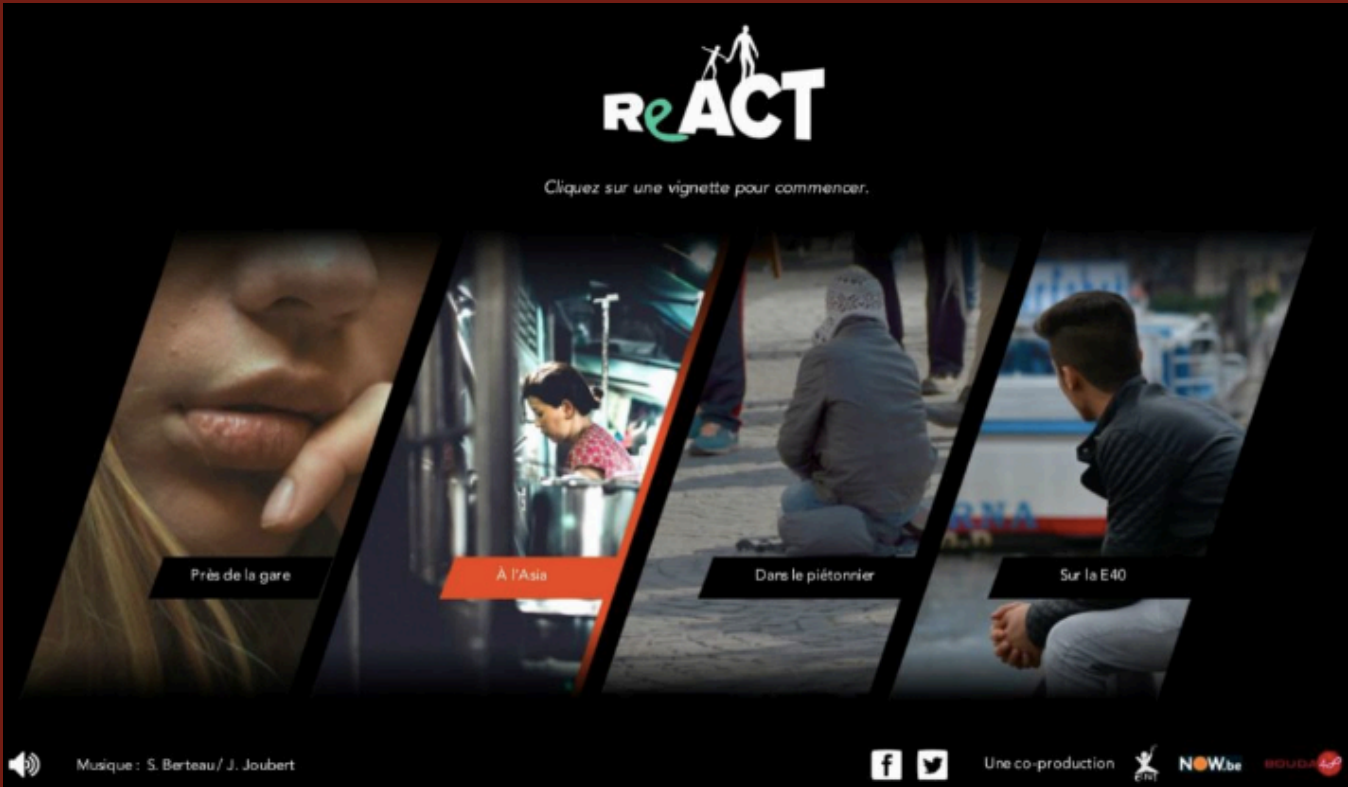


In May, as part of the ReACT project, ECPAT Belgium provided a **training to the Brussels bar**. This training targeted lawyers working with unaccompanied foreign minors. It was provided in collaboration with two reception shelters for victims of trafficking (Espéranto and PAG-ASA). It created space for improved exchange of information to better identify and support child victims of trafficking. Given its success, this initiative may be renewed.

On the 20th, 25th and 27th of September, ECPAT Belgium trained 70 guardians **from the new human-trafficking pool of the guardianship service**. Thanks to interactive methods and case studies, these guardians have improved their ability to face cases of child trafficking and support victims.

In October, ECPAT Belgium took part in a **European workshop** on “Trafficking for Criminal Exploitation: Non-Prosecution and Non-Punishment Principle - Exploring Judicial Responses Concerning Child Victims”. This workshop was concluded by the drafting of priority actions, starting with institutional cooperation and coordination, identification, and protection.

To conclude the ReACT project, a final conference was held in Berlin on 22 September. 49 field professionals from 10 countries (Belgium, Germany, France, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Turkey, Albania, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria) gathered to exchange experiences and practices on the fight against child trafficking.



How to detect and react to suspicious situations that may involve child trafficking? Nothing better than a role-play to find out in what case scenarios it is required to report. That is why ECPAT Belgium launched its own elearning, targeting guardians and lawyers, available on its website.

I SAY STOP! CAMPAIGN



I REPORT

Have you witnessed suspicious events where minors were the victims? Report what you saw.

REPORT THEM!



I ACT

Have you seen either suspicious or obvious behaviour relating to child prostitution?

I HELP



I PROVIDE SUPPORT

Would you like to support the activities of the STOP Group? Your donations will help us to better defend the rights of children.

I GET INVOLVED



I BEAR WITNESS

Have you or someone you know already taken action in the fight against child prostitution?

I TELL ABOUT IT



I RELAY

Professionals in the travel sector, journalists or simply private individuals, relay our campaigns and circulate them.

I RELAY

The “I say STOP!” campaign aims at sensitizing the general public and tourism professionals on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. The website, whose creation was part of the campaign, is designed for everyone to be able to report suspicious situations (regardless of whether they take place in or outside Belgium).

This campaign is an initiative of the STOP group, which is a gathering of public, private actors, and NGOs, all of them mobilized against the sexual exploitation of children.

As part of this campaign, ECPAT Belgium provided several trainings on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

This year, ECPAT Belgium provided a presentation during the Ambassador’s Day at ACCOR (Rotterdam, January), multiple briefings in several schools (UCLL, KUL, Thomas More, Condorcet School, ULB, ISALT) and a training targeting tourism professionals (ACCOR, December).



In July, ECPAT Belgium was appointed as the local representative of the Code in Belgium. This “Code” brings together hundreds of tourism companies committed against child sexual exploitation. ECPAT Belgium is now responsible for supporting companies based in Belgium to implement the Code’s criteria (staff training, customer awareness, etc.).



We protect
children from
sex tourism.



Besides, Defence for Children International Belgium called upon ECPAT Belgium to provide two trainings on the issues of child sexual exploitation and child trafficking. These multi-disciplinary trainings were highly successful and have, therefore, already been rescheduled for next year.



RESEARCH

Reports

In 2017, ECPAT Belgium drafted several contributions to documents on the implementation, in Belgium, of international/European conventions tackling child sexual exploitation.

ECPAT Belgium contributed, among other things, to:

- the *Request for Information Trafficking in Persons Report* from the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- the *Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Belgium*
- the *Alternative Report by the NGOs on the Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Belgium*

Analysis

ECPAT Belgium's analysis papers are published in French. This year, ECPAT Belgium focused on the issue of sexual abuse of minors in the media sphere and of the celebrities' impunity through an article named "*Sexual abuse of minors, behind the scene*".

A close-up photograph of several young children of diverse ethnicities smiling and waving at the camera. The children are in the foreground, with their faces and hands clearly visible. The background is slightly blurred, showing more children and a reddish-brown wall.

BUDGET

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

As to the ReACT project, **ECPAT Belgium was funded by the European Union** during two years (November 2015-October 2017).

ECPAT Belgium is proud to announce that, this year, there was an **increase in donations** (private donors, punctual events) **and in services requests** (at schools, with professionals).

Last, two requests for funding were introduced: the former for the creation of a **Go4tips app**, meant to anchor trainings' content, and the latter (cofounded by Brussels city); and one for the **European project Don't Look Away** (pending).

The annual accounts of ECPAT Belgium are available on request from the moment they have been approved by the General Assembly.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A huge thank you to:

Marie-Paule Eskenazi and Corentin Lefèvre, who had to resign. May they be warmly thanked for their long-lasting contribution to ECPAT's work.

Our 2017 interns, Florence Gillet, Marine Mathieu, and Charlotte Gouverne, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The Umbali website, thanks to which athletes ran the Brussels 20km marathon race for ECPAT Belgium. Thanks for the money you helped us collect!

Last, thanks to Interpol for granting ECPAT International the "Crimes against Children" award, paying tribute to ECPAT's efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and protect victims.



Finally, thanks to all those who support us on a daily basis: it is only through our common action that we can protect children to the best extent: donors, followers, spokespersons, active members...

Thank you for this wonderful year!

