

Awareness centres – Early Warning meeting 1st April 2026

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| 1. Libor Manda | Czechia |
| 2. Kerli Valner | Estonia |
| 3. Ella Airola | Finland |
| 4. Matthias Heinen | Germany |
| 5. Fanni Katona | Hungary |
| 6. Noémi Nyisztor | Hungary |
| 7. Jane McGarrigle | Ireland |
| 8. Davinia Marie Muscat | Malta |
| 9. Renee Mötter | The Netherlands |
| 10. Julia Piechna | Poland |
| 11. Marko Puschner | Slovenia |
| 12. Elias Lomfors Carlberg | Sweden |
| 13. Francesco Romano | Insafe/EUN |
| 14. Karl Hopwood | Insafe/EUN |

Apologies

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| 1. Julie Hee Græslien Darger | Denmark |
| 2. Lotte Wevelstad | Norway |

A recording of the meeting can be found here https://youtu.be/f4M4Edwlv_c

The next meeting will take place on Monday 11th May 1100 CEST [Awareness centres early warning meeting | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Czechia	<p>Czech TV will show a documentary on WhatsApp and how it is becoming a social network. There is a lot of media attention being paid to issues around online protection and the SIC agenda (e.g. mobiles in school, social media bans and the recent legal cases against Meta and Google in US courts).</p> <p>The SIC conducted a recent survey with a telecoms operator which was focused on young children and screens (6 months – 5 years).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 55% of children and young people under 1 were regularly watching screens.• 41% of 1–2-year-olds spent over an hour a day on a screen with 20% spending over 2 hours.• 68% of 3–5-year-olds exceeded 1 hour a day with 42% over 2 hours a day.• 37% watch screens without parents• 40% watch during mealtimes• 36% of parents use screens to calm children down• 73% of parents use screens with their children when they need time to be doing other tasks• 25% of under 5s watch shorts• 61% of parents haven't set screentime limits or have failed to enforce them. <p>These stats are exceeding recommended limits from the WHO. A tool is needed to help families to develop good digital habits.</p>
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	<p>There is a focus from the SIC, police, mental health institute on deep nudes, self-generated content, digital footprint and mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>There is also a drive to focus on the children and young people who are making the harmful content and provide them with professional help.</p> <p>The SIC has worked with municipalities and local authorities to bring a roadshow to different regions across the country with the key message focusing on how to teach online safety to the youngest children. It covers issues including fake ID, online intimacy, cyber-security and digital wellbeing with an aim to provide kindergarten and primary school teachers with practical tools and materials.</p>
Estonia	<p>The SIC is against the proposed social media ban. There have been recent incidents in Estonia, Finland and the Baltic States where drones have been landing and discussion is taking place about how to talk to children and young people about these issues with a focus on how to know what is reliable online.</p>
Finland	<p>GenAI is being used to create non-consensual intimate imagery and this is particularly affecting public figures (politicians, artists and other well known public figures). The legislation is struggling to keep pace with these issues and the SIC is concerned about the situation.</p>
Germany	<p>There is a strong public debate on deepfakes and AI based abuse. A German television presenter and actress, Collien Fernandes has reported that fake pornographic images of her have been created and shared online. She also raised accusations about her husband (a famous German comedian and actor) saying that he was involved in creating and sharing this content. The story has gained a lot of media attention and has demonstrated that the law is not ready or fully prepared to deal with this type of abuse. The creation of deepfakes is not clearly illegal and so it can be hard for victims to take action. Awareness has increased a lot recently and Klicksafe (SIC) has had a lot of requests for information and support with deep fakes. The Ministry of Justice has announced plans to update the law.</p>
Ireland	<p>The potential social media ban is dominating the media with recent news from France receiving a lot of coverage.</p> <p>https://www.euronews.com/next/2026/04/01/france-moves-closer-to-social-media-ban-for-children-under-15-but-houses-divided-on-detail</p> <p>There is confusion from politicians about what will happen next and there are plans to introduce a government approved ID scheme.</p> <p>Lots of coverage about the rulings in the US against Meta and Google as well as the Louis Theroux documentary on the manosphere with a lot of parent articles looking at this.</p> <p>There is discussion about the gap in the detection of CSAM, particularly with the recent failure to extend the derogation to the e-privacy directive.</p> <p>https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/statements/eu-failure-on-temporary-derogation-puts-children-at-risk/</p> <p>Ireland will host the EU presidency and online safety will be a priority. There will be a high-level conference in September as well as a youth forum in May/June. The SIC will be involved. Priorities for the youth ambassadors are AI development, deepnudes and cyberbullying.</p>
Malta	<p>The social media debate has ended and people are waiting for the outcome with results set to be published soon. There is a lot of discussion about the manosphere following the Louis Theroux documentary – this is similar to the response to Adolescence. The helpline is seeing an increase in cases of younger</p>

	children accessing pornography despite bans in place to prevent underage access.
Netherlands	<p>A lot of news coverage on a new WhatsApp trend “girl houses” where groups of girls are forming where girls have to audition to be accepted into the group which is essentially a WhatsApp channel. They have to send videos and pictures to strangers in order to be accepted – there is a lot of pressure and the girls are unaware of who sees the content. These are mainly teen girls at middle and high schools. There is a lot of danger here and parents are unaware of WhatsApp channels because WhatsApp is seen as more of a messaging platform than a social media platform.</p> <p>A Digi Donald Duck magazine has been created for younger users. There are resources for parents and teachers.</p> <p>The SIC worked with a number of other organisations (including UNICEF and Mind US) around the recent elections to take an integrated approach to media education for schools and parents and children.</p> <p>The SIC won a recent court case against Grok and X meaning that the nudify option cannot be used in The Netherlands. Since it is impossible for X to determine where a user is located it is expected that this ruling will have an impact globally. Offlimits wint kort geding tegen Grok Offlimits</p>
Poland	Ongoing concerns around the sharing of nude images. Lots of debate about a smartphone ban which will be implemented in primary schools from September. Work is currently underway on a draft amendment to the education law in order to implement the changes. Much of the debate focuses on the fact that things are being implemented without a well thought out strategy or consultation with many saying that this is happening for political reasons. The SIC has been asked for comments.
Slovenia	There have been recent elections and this has been the main focus of media coverage but there have also been media reports about criminal groups who are sexually abusing children online. The SIC was contacted for comment on this. The police are investigating and more details are emerging.
Sweden	<p>Influencers connected to the manosphere and Looksmaxxing are spreading conspiracy theories online about the war in Iran. These have antisemitic undertones. The influencers have a large following particularly from those interested in health and stocks and investment – these audiences are now being exposed to the threatening rhetoric which is being targeted at politicians and the Jewish community. Online discussion about the Epstein files where again there are antisemitic conspiracy theories are gaining traction.</p> <p>Friction-maxxing is becoming more popular in Sweden (https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20260227-can-friction-maxxing-fix-your-focus). This is about highlighting the value of life’s friction and using this to enhance daily experiences.</p> <p>There is a lot of media attention on upcoming elections.</p>
UK	There have been some reports of Discord servers which are hosting content around self-harm and suicide where young girls in particular are being encouraged to self-harm and in some cases commit suicide.