

BARNAHUS MODEL – PURPOSE AND ROLE

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PROBLEMS TO SOLVE – ESTONIA 2015

- Studies show that there are much more underage victims of sexual abuse than we reach;
- Statistics show no change in number of criminal investigations even though there is so much awareness raising;
- Comparing outstanding cases we see that police has one information, child protection/social system has another and medical/mental health doesn't share its at all
- No organisation takes responsibility even though several mark it as a priority;
- In the other hand everyone organise trainings, workshops and don't cooperate well;
- Many offer (psychological) services with no evaluation and sometimes even background check.
- **WE DOUBT THAT ABUSED CHILDREN RECEIVE ASSISTANCE AND VALID HELP FROM STATE.**

IDEAS BEFORE 2014

CHILD ABUSE DIAGNOSTICS TEAMS

- From Florida, US
- Ran by team of doctors – all specialities
- First comes wholesome medical evaluation; social and legal system supporting it;
- Too expensive, not enough expertise and doctors in Estonia.

BARNAHUS (CHILDREN'S HOUSE)

- From Reykjavik, Iceland, 1998
- Ran by different authorities but also possible by social system;
- Joined responsibility, medical personnel supporting;
- Highly recommended by European Commission/Council – cooperation!

Yes! We will take this one, please!

Key common criteria of Barnahus

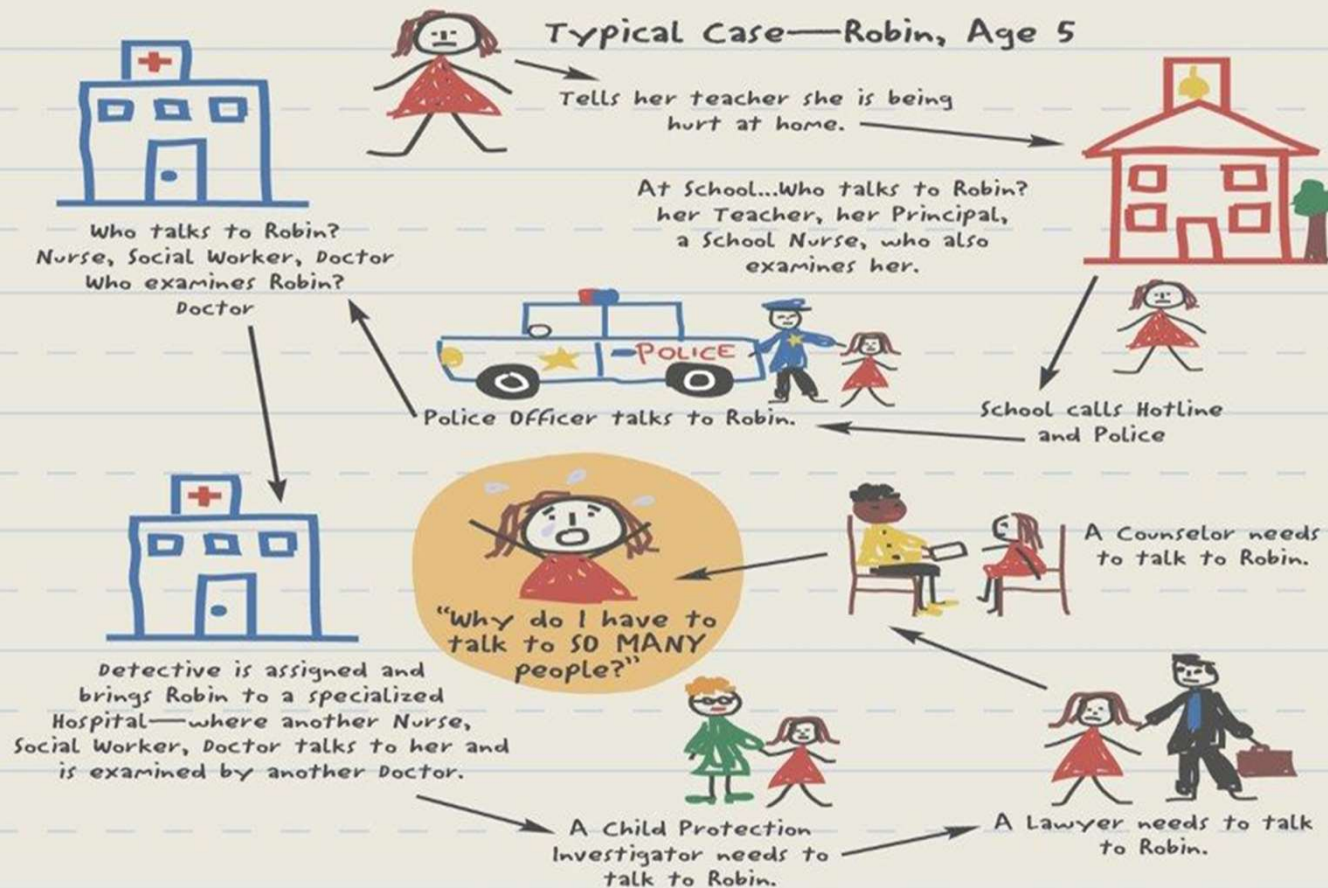
Barnahus offers a child-friendly, safe environment for children, bringing together all relevant services under one roof.

1. Forensic interviews are carried out according to an **evidence based protocol**;
2. The evidentiary validity of the child's statement is ensured by appropriate arrangements in line with the principles of due process. The aim is to **prevent the child from having to repeat his/her statement** during court proceedings if an indictment is made;
3. **Medical evaluation** for forensic investigative purposes, as well as to ensure the child's physical well-being and recovery, is made available;
4. **Psychological support and short- and long-term therapeutic services** for trauma to the child and non-offending family members and caretakers are made available;
5. **Assessment of the protection needs** of the victim and potential siblings in the family is made; and follow up is ensured.



Changing the Child Abuse System

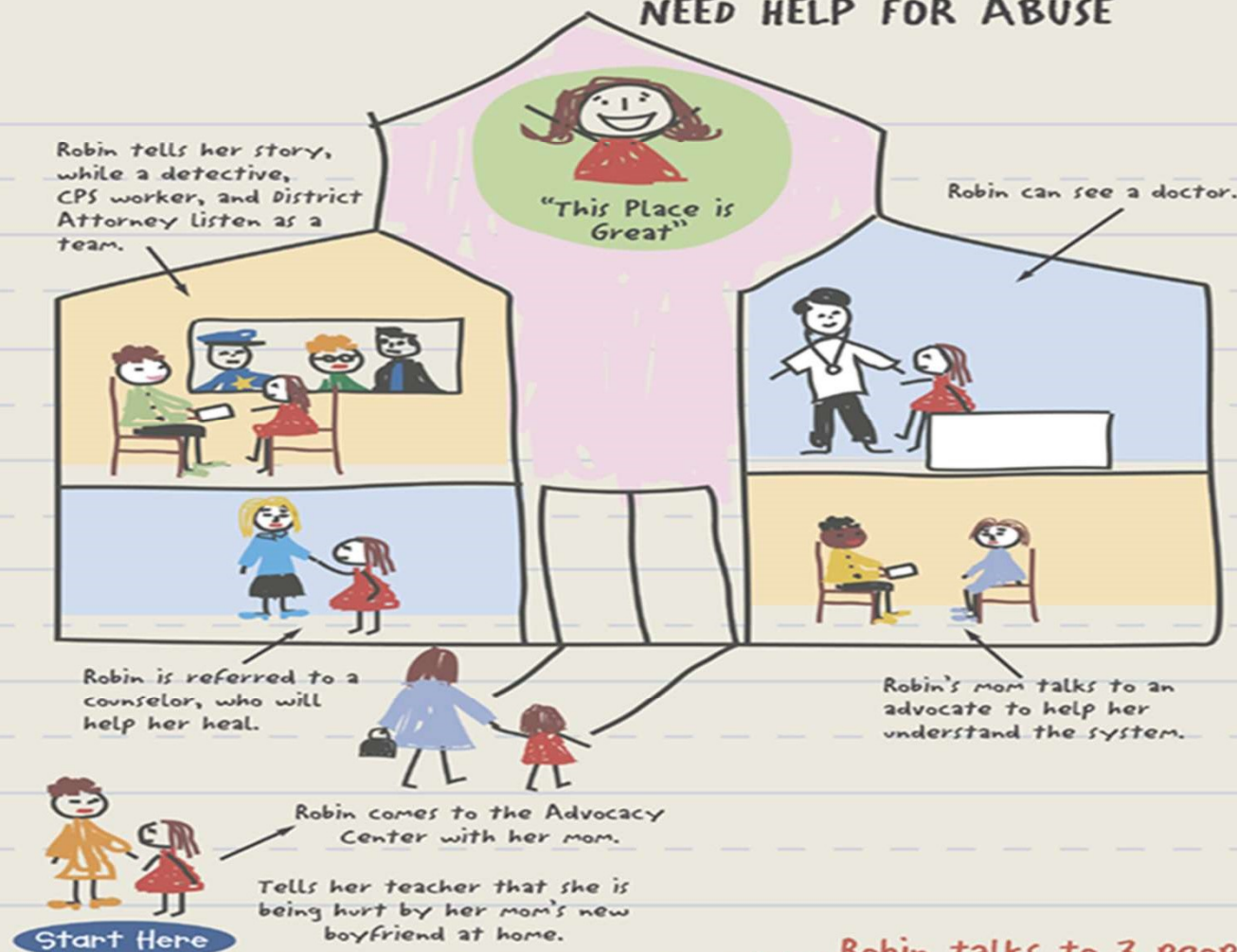
WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WHEN KIDS NEEDED HELP FOR ABUSE



Robin had to talk to 15 people, but now . . .
(turn over)

Changing the Child Abuse System

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WHEN KIDS
NEED HELP FOR ABUSE



... Robin talks to 3 people

PROMISE PROJECT SERIES

P R O M I S E 2

- Lead by Council of Baltic Sea States Children at Risk unit.
- Supported by European Commission.
- PROMISE is supporting Europe to **adopt the Barnahus model as a standard practice** for providing child victims and witnesses of violence rapid access to justice and care.
- „We undertake this work to fulfil the PROMISE vision: a Europe where the human rights of children to protection from violence, support and to be heard are fulfilled.“
- State of Estonia (Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Insurance Board) was a member of PROMISE I (piloting country) and II (Project partner), in PROMISE III we will continue as members of a Network.

Darker blue – PROMISE
Network Founder;

Lighter blue – Piloting country
(launched after creation of
Network);

Grey – hasn't made steps
known to CBSS towards
piloting.



ABOUT PROMISE NETWORK

- Competency to create a Barnahus!
- Study-visits, training modules, webinars, conferences, campaigns;
- Instructions: interagency agreement template; evaluation framework; impact assessment;
- Most valuable for Estonia – Barnahus Standards
- „The standards are composed of underlying principles, specific activities and institutional arrangements that enable child-centred and effective, collaborative actions.“
- Both long version and summary available online:
<https://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/standards/>

BARNAHUS ESTONIA 2017-2020

- 1) All organisations work for ONE MISSION under ONE ROOF sharing INFORMATION and RESPONSIBILITY;
- 2) Real COMPETENCY CENTER for preventing sexual violence against children;
- 3) Over **1160** boys and girls have experienced FAIR CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE and WELL-EVALUATED mental and physical help to recover from trauma;
- 4) Our statistics and analysis are fair and transparent which means our child protection politics are well-lead for ourselves and our International partners.

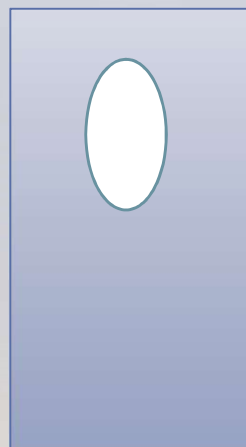
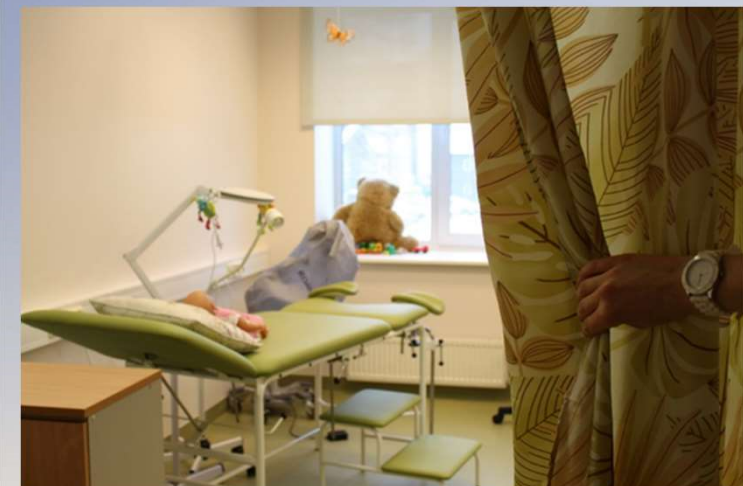
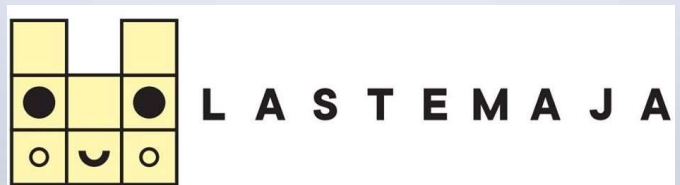


Tallinn ↑

Tartu →

ONE IDEA – MANY FACES





QUESTIONS, PLEASE?

LET'S COME BACK TO BARNAHUS QUALITY STANDARDS!

GROUP WORK – 5 TEAMS – 20 MINUTES+30 MINUTES

<https://www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/standards/>

- Standards 1 to 10 – lottery of two!
- A) Please explain with up to 3 sentences how you understand the value of these two Standards?
- B) Does it seem an easy Standard to achieve in context of laws/partners/current situation etc in Georgia?
- C) Which strengths you have in Georgia already for complement this Standard?

One team 6 minutes!

