PROMISE2

LAW AS ONE ENABLING FACTOR FOR THE BARNAHUS

CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

PROMISE VISION: A EUROPE WHERE THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN TO PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE, TO SUPPORT AND TO BE HEARD ARE FULFILLED.

- The Barnahus model refers to multi-disciplinary and interagency interventions for child victims and witnesses of violence
- One-stop, child-friendly setting which fulfills a number of criteria
- PROMISE 1 explored these criteria in depth and developed standard setting publications
- Select professionals from around Europe were invited
- *From 0 to Barnahus* is an open invitation to join the discussions within the European Barnahus Movement.
- Key principles, standards, and challenges to consider when opening and operating a multi-disciplinary and interagency collaboration for child victims and witnesses of violence.

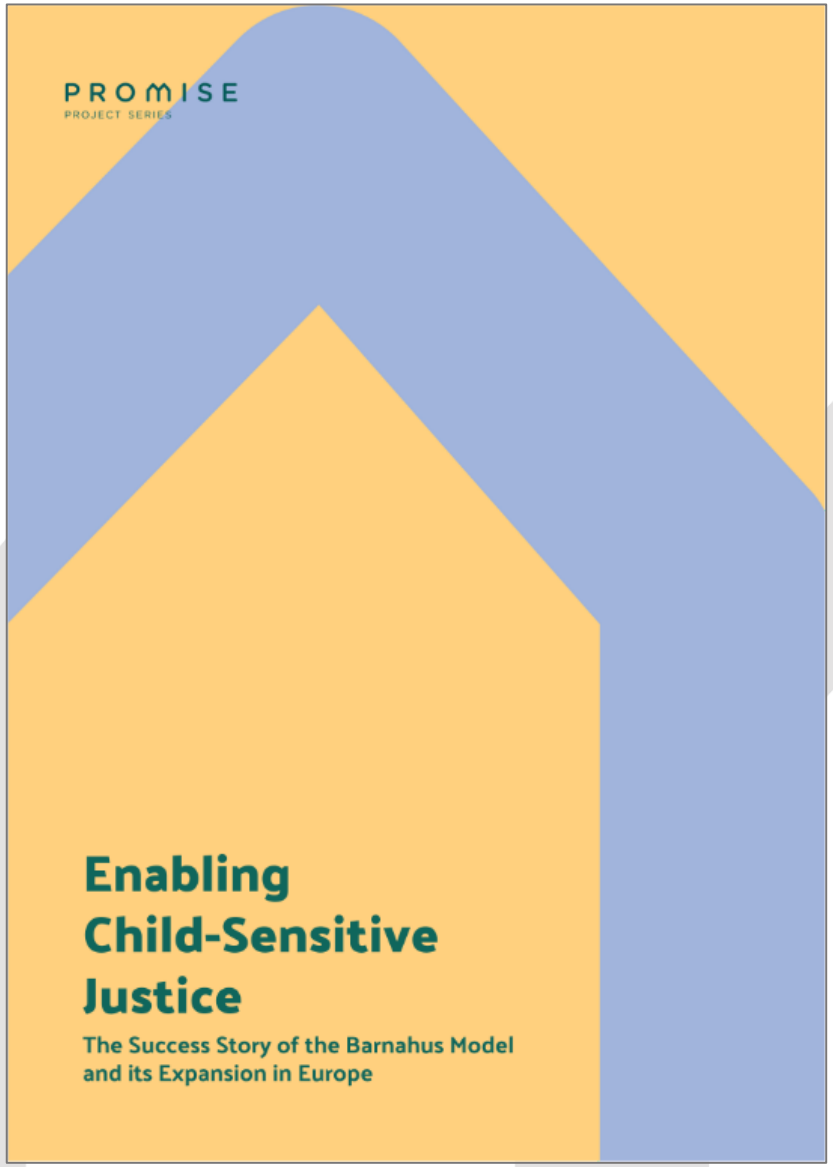
Read more about the principles, criteria, goals and challenges for the Barnahus in the PROMISE Vision
www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/vision

PROMISED AND DELIVERED …

- PROMISE 2015-2017 invited pilot countries to receive support for the establishment of Barnahus
- Participated in exchanges and trainings, and gave important feedback to the PROMISE publications.
- Now in phase 2, they are facilitating their own exchanges and trainings, and supporting the European Barnahus Movement with their own learnings.

- In 2015 - only 6 or so countries with a Barnahus or similar setup.
- By the end of 2019 we anticipate more than **20 countries around Europe** will be operational, with another 6 countries actively working towards launching services.

- Most have inspired, contributed to, and are now basing their work on the **Barnahus Quality Standards** and on other valuable learnings from PROMISE. www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/standards (available in several languages)



www.childrenatrisk.eu/promise/publications

PROMISE2

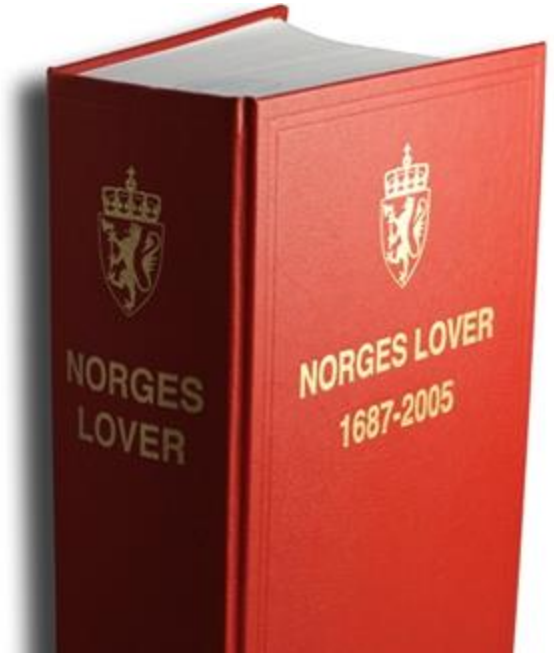
WEBINAR:
LAW AS ONE ENABLING FACTOR FOR THE BARNAHUS

- Anne-Lise Farstad, Executive Director at Statens barnehus Kristiansand, Norway
- Kim Risom Rasmussen, Head of Børnehus Sjælland, Denmark
- Merete Bonde Jørgensen, Special consultant at the National Board of Social Services, Denmark
- *Moderator: Shawnna von Blixen, Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat*

STATENS BARNEHUS
Et tverrfaglig kompetansehus

Kristiansand

Enabling legislation:
Implications of law on the work of Barnahus in Norway



-Lise Farstad

ıs barnehus Kristiansand,

History

- The first Barnahus in Norway was established in November 2007
- Today: 11 Barnahus
- Geographically spread from north to south

History, cont’d

- The Norwegian Barnahus is based on the Icelandic model.

- Both are based on the American model, CAC (Children`s Advocacy Center).

Target group

- Children, and mentally disabled adults, when there is concern that they may have been subjected to sexual abuse or violence or have been exposed to domestic violence

- Primarily children aged 3 to 16

Responsibility

- The establishment of Barnahus in Norway is the joint responsibility of three ministries: The Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion, The Ministry of Health and Care Services, and The Ministry of Police and Public Security.
- Barnahus in Norway are organized by the local police.

Poll: If the Barnahus in your country should be government initiated, what would be the best organizational platform?

Legal obligations related to the use of Barnahus – law, regulations and guidelines

- 2015: New legislation that makes use of Barnahus as a main rule.
- This implies that forensic interviews will be carried out in the Barnahus
- Barnahus shall assist in determining whether or not there is an exempton and if the interview should be held elsewhere
- The decision should be based on the terms of the law, which states that the best interests of the child are decisive

The impact of this legislation

- The police are obliged to use Barnahus
- Involves closer cooperation between police and Barnahus, both prior to , during and after forensic interview
- The role of the Barnahus becomes clearer
- The task of Barnahus in connection with forensic interviews are described in the law

Task related to the legislation

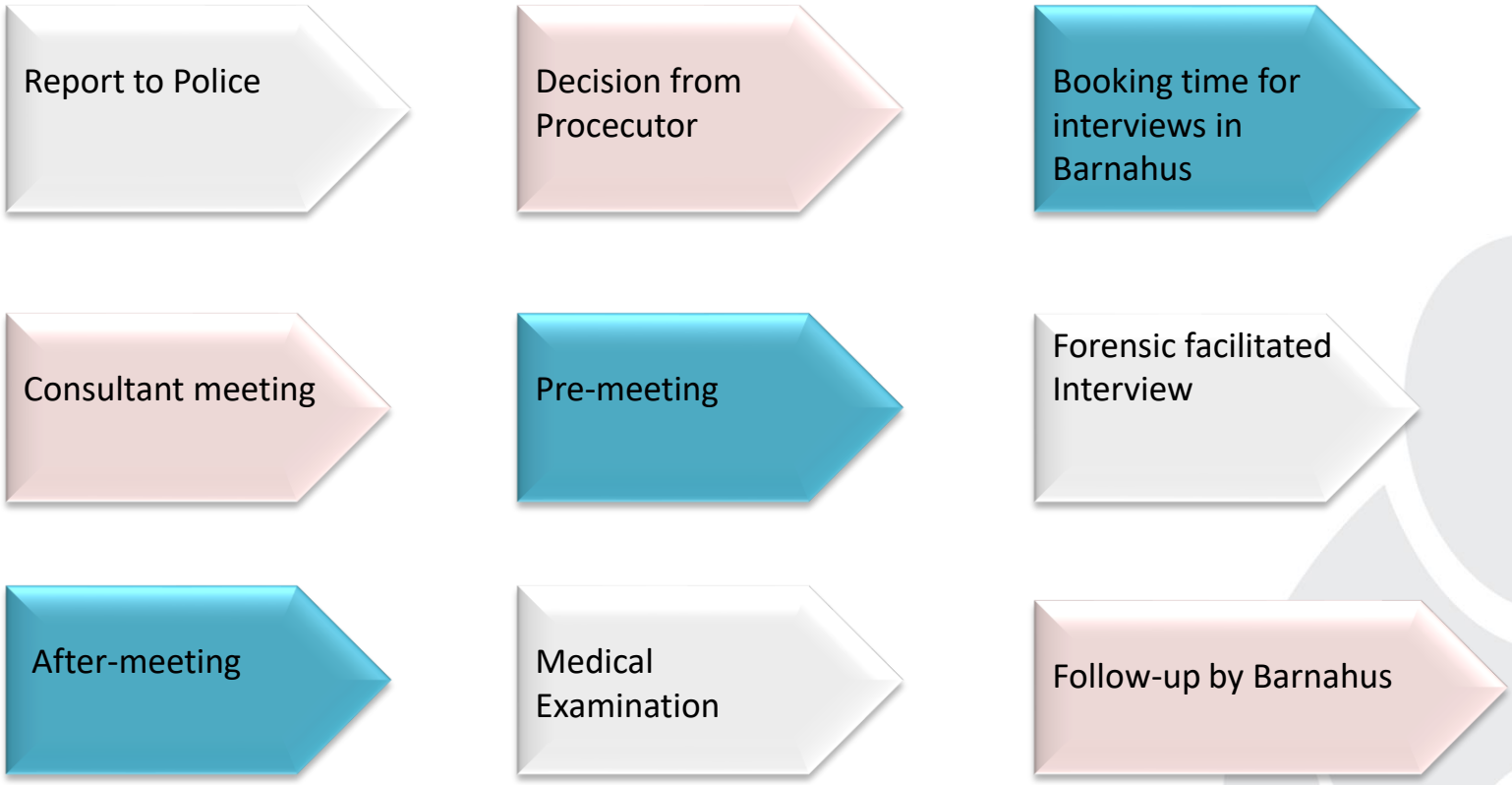
- Coordination prior, during and after the forensic interview. This entails:
  - Consultation meeting before the forensic interviews
  - Participation in meeting before and after the forensic interview
  - Representative from Barnahus must receive and attend the child
  - Representative from Barnahus shall follow the forensic interview
  - Facilitate the completion of forensic medical and dental examinations in Barnahus
  - Coordination of interdisciplinary interaction

Poll: What do you think is important for getting a well functioning Barnahus in your country?

Requirements for employees

- Employees shall have childcare competence and competence on mentally disabled adults and others with disabilities.
- They shall help to provide witnesses who are questioned on the field-based follow-up and treatment
- They shall help the prosecutor to have good basis for his/her decisions.

Work process



Contents of the consultating meeting

- *Participation :Police, Childrens welfare and Barnehus*

- Exchange information about the child
- Plan how the child should be obtained
- Does the child have special needs, diagnoses etc. ?
- Risk assessment ?
- Consider other emergency and acute treatment agencies?

Contents of the meeting , cont`d

- Plan if placement outside the home would become necessary
- Limit visitation rights / restraining?
- How and by whom the child shall be prepared?

Synergistic effect of the legislation

- Positive impact on the quality of forensic interviews
- Improved the police skills within childcare
- The police has improved understanding of the consequences of trauma

Challenges

- Some of the children must travel far to be accommodated by a Barnahus

- It is only the role of Barnahus in relation to the forensic interviews that are governed by law enforcement. This implies that tasks related to Barnahus`s other activities such as follow-up and treatment do not receive the same priority

Thank you for your attention ☺

Anne-Lise Farstad, Executive Director,
Statens barnehus Kristiansand, Norway
Mail: anne-lise.farstad@politiet.no
Phone: +47 91631862

The National Board of Social Services

Webinar – PROMISE

Merete Bonde Jørgensen, The National Board of Social Services, Denmark
Kim Risom Rasmussen, Børnehus Sjælland, Denmark

September 2018

Knowledge for mutual benefit

Coordinated measures to protect children against abuse

Background

- Individual cases with serious failure by the municipalities
- Investigation of individual cases
- 39 recommendations from The Expert Panel to strengthen the effort to prevent and avoid abuses of children

Political decision by the Danish Government

- The initiative consists of both legislation and initiatives to support the implementation of the new legislation.
- Budget: 268 mio. dkk. (36 million euros)

Strengthens in the model of The Danish children's houses

- Legislation
- The National Board of Social Services national support
- Collecting of data

Poll: What would be important in your country to ensure that every child would have equal access to get help in a child-friendly environment in a Barnahus?

The National Board of Social Services professional support

Counseling and instructions

- *Professional and administrative questions*
- *The intersectorial co-operation model*
- *Assistance to clarification of questions about the legislation*

Facilitation of meeting forums

- National Network meetings
- Children's Houses management meetings
- Experience exchange meetings
  - *Social workers/psychologists*
  - *Administrative staff*
- Common competence development seminars
- Co-operations meetings with municipalities, police districts and Children's Houses

Poll: Do you think that centralized support for Barnahus and networks across the different Barnahus in your country will …

Products who support a national uniformity with high professional standards

Professional descriptions	Documentation
• Common professional descriptions of the efforts offered in the Danish Children's Houses	• Common instructions for the registration of professional content in BIT

Experiences from the implementation

- Legislative focus
- Intersectorial co-operation
- Equal efforts
- Focus on all sectors and all levels
- Central support

Thank you for listening!

Contact:

Merete Bonde Jørgensen
Project manager , special consultant The National Board of Social Services
Phone: +45 41 93 24 85
Mail: mbj@socialstyrelsen.dk

Kim Risom Rasmussen
Head leader, Børnehus Sjælland
Phone: +45 25 45 09 86
Mail: kiris@naestved.dk

Please tell us a few words about how the presentation has inspired you to continue developing Barnahus in your country?

PROMISE 2

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER AT BIT.LY/PROMISENEWSLETTER

FIND THE PUBLICATIONS AND MORE AT WWW.CHILDRENATRISK.EU/PROMISE

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FROM 0 TO BARNAHUS – SAVE THE DATES FOR THE UPCOMING WEBINARS

11 Oct 2018 – Facility dogs 101: when furry friends help children to tell their stories

18 Oct 2018 – Medical evaluation at the Barnahus – A deeper look into Barnahus Quality Standard #7