

Evaluation Report of the Activity of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People 2018



**Executive summary,
conclusions and
recommendations**

PREVENTIVE INTERVENTION AND THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS

Celebration of the 29th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - 20th November

Peddy Paper
Workshop(s)
Stickers booklet
Hiking for the Rights
RAP music creation
Drawing contest(s)
Christmas Market of the Rights
Assembly of Children and Young People
Poems
Quizz
Projects Fair
Theatre
Community Rack
Wall of the Rights

292 **74 700**
Activities Participants

Overview of the Month of Child Abuse and Ill-Treatment Prevention (April)

Prevention Garden
Blanket of Good Treatment
Flash-mob
Outdoors
Decoration of public spaces
12 hours running for a cause
Dance
Readings that care
BLUE RIBBON Contest
Debates and talks
Prevention bus
Operation "STOP to ill-treating"
YOUTH Festival
Pedalling for a cause
Theatre debate
Human ribbons
Radio spots

721 **215 847**
Activities Participants

European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - 18 November

Of a total of 72 participating Local Commissions for the protection of Children and Young People (CPCJ, in the Portuguese abbreviation):

21 promoted celebration initiatives on November 18

51 carried out celebration actions throughout the month of November and/or throughout the year

97 **20 650**
Activities Participants



THE PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

61 291



National global volume of proceedings**

60 493



Total number of children accompanied by the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

Characterization of children and young people with promotion and protection measures applied in 2018

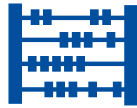
In 2018, the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People applied a total of 14.007 measures to promote and protect children and young people.

The information provided allows the characterization of this universe* of children and young people and of their household



Nursery - Private Institutions of Social Solidarity

338
22,6 %



Public Pre-School Education Facility

375
25,1 %



Public School

154
10,3 %

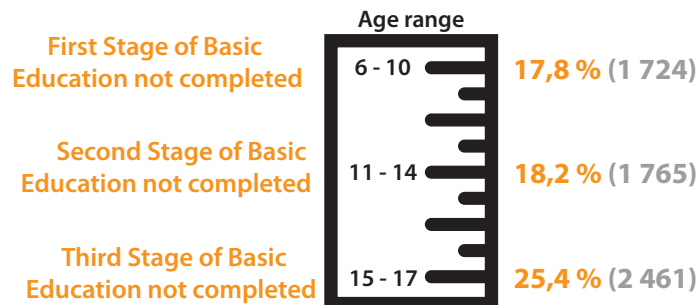


At home with the mother

135
9 %

Socio-educational context of children aged between 0 and 5 years

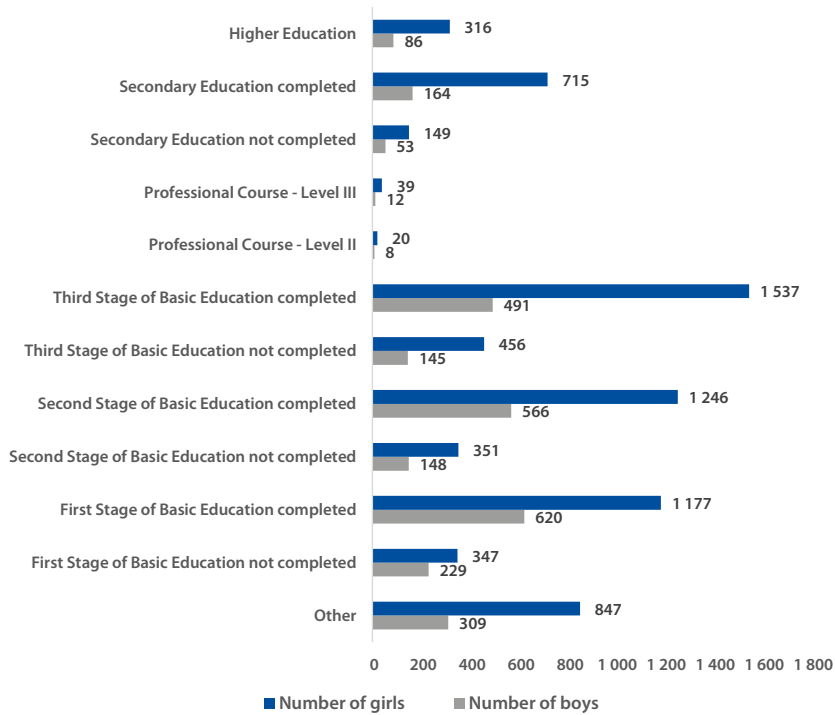
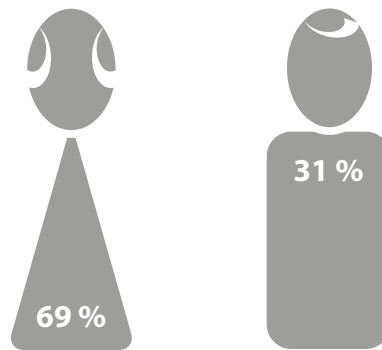
School context of children and young people aged between 6 and 17 years



*The universe of each variable is different and derives only from the information provided; it does not correspond to the total value of the promotion and protection measures applied in the year under review.

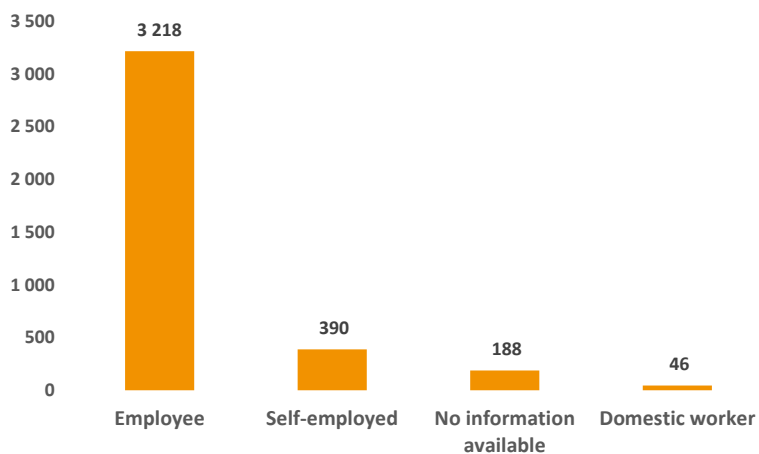
** The national global volume of proceedings was calculated by summing up the cases not completed carried over from 2017, new cases opened in 2018, completed cases in 2017 that were reopened in 2018 due to the identification of a new situation of danger; to this sum, one had to subtract the cases preliminarily dismissed and those that were transferred during the stage of preliminary analysis.

Characterization of the main caregiver of children and young people subject to measures applied in 2018

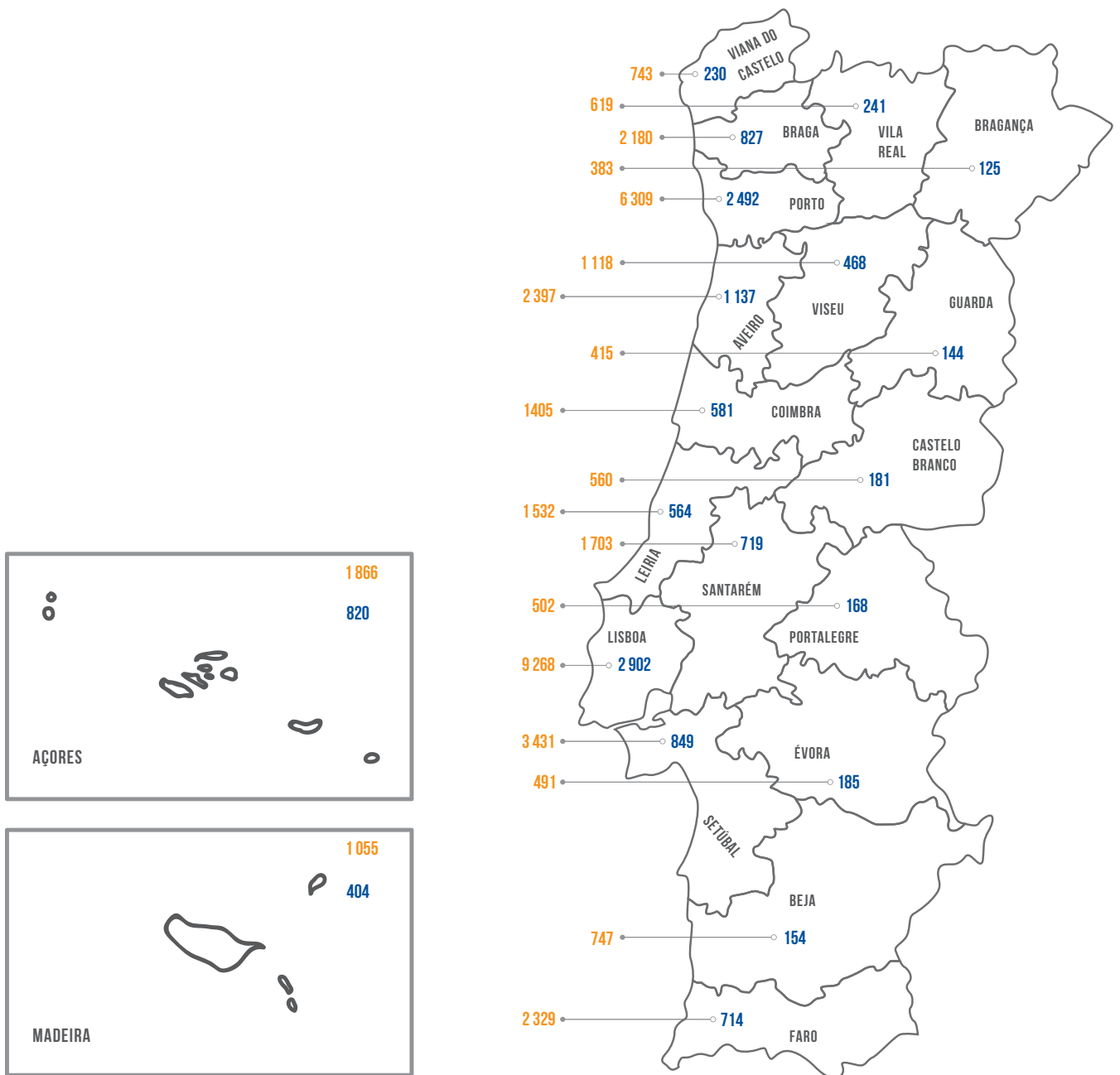


Prevalence of the level of education of the main caregiver

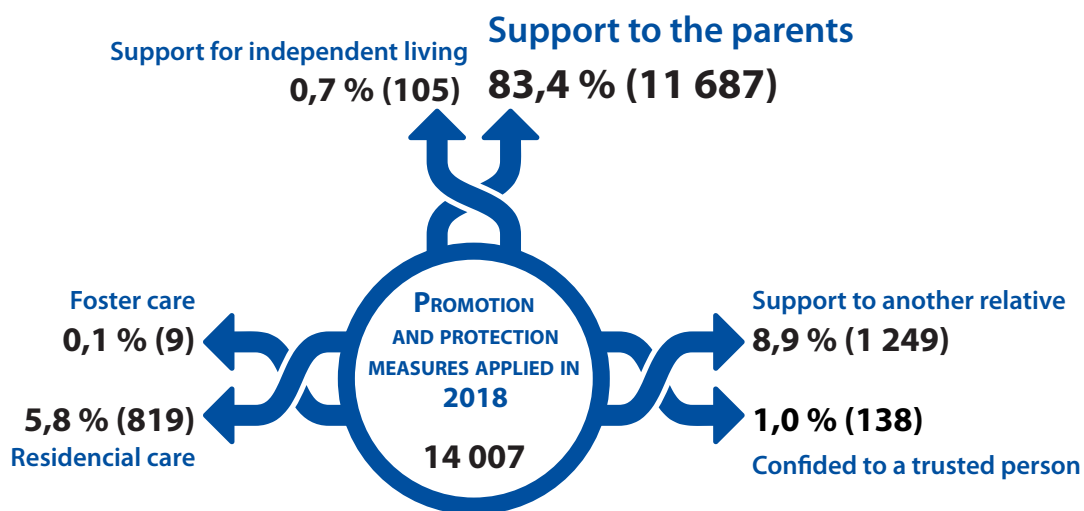
Professional situation of the main caregivers



Communications and diagnoses in 2018 by District and Autonomous Region



- Communications
- Diagnoses



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the information gathered in this report leads us to conclude for the very positive performance of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People – hereinafter referred to as Local Commissions – regarding not only the preventive and protective dimensions of their role, but also their capacity to disseminate a culture of protection of the children and of children's rights.

In 2018, the National Commission for the Promotion of Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People – hereinafter referred to as National Commission –, through its five regional technical teams, engaged in efforts aimed at improving the functioning and the intervention capacity of the Local Commissions. These efforts were carried out considering the organization and functioning of the 310 Local Commissions and in accordance with the recommendations issued in the 2017 Annual Report of Evaluation of the Activity of the Local Commissions.

Two factors contributed decisively to improving the capacity of the Local Commissions to intervene:

- Strengthening the competencies of the National Commission as the entity that is responsible for the strategic coordination of the promotion and protection of the rights of children and young people led to the creation of five regional technical coordination teams, which resulted in a closer and more effective monitoring of the Local Commissions. Thus, despite the need expressed by Local Commissions for a more regular face-to-face accompaniment, 48% of them classified as “very good” the articulation established with these regional teams, as well as with the Azorean Commission for Childhood and the Regional Coordination of Madeira; and
- The implementation of the training plan for members of the Local Commissions, which covered 271 Local Commissions throughout the country, thus attaining an unprecedented reach. The plan is in force until 2020 and is funded by PO ISE. Despite the intense investment made by the National Commission teams, particularly by the regional technical teams, the facilitation of the training actions led by them has strengthened their close relationship with the Local Commissions.

According to the information provided annually by the Local Commissions, it was possible to determine the impact in terms of the conciliation of such intense training and stronger and more effective face-to-face monitoring of the Local Commissions, a situation that will merit the attention of the National Commission.

Still regarding the improvement of the functioning of the Local Commissions, the process of defining the minimum time of allocation of its members is ongoing, namely regarding the members who integrate the restricted format of each Local Commission, taking in due consideration the global volume of proceedings and the monthly average of assets of each Local Commission.

In 2018, a significant number of Local Commissions boosted the development of activities within the scope of prevention, as well as within that of the promotion of the rights of the child, carried out in collaboration with several entities.

Given the number of participants and the diversity of initiatives, it is worth highlighting the actions carried out within the framework of: the Month for the Prevention of Child Ill-treatment; the celebration of the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on November 20; and of the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, celebrated on November 18.

These initiatives are a good example of the importance of the coordination with entities with competencies in matters of childhood and youth. The Local Commissions highlight the very frequent articulation with schools, municipalities, health services and social security. However, some Local Commissions have also mentioned the existence of constraints in this articulation, namely with entities in the areas of health and education.

In what concerns protective intervention, a high number of communications addressed to the Local Commissions reporting situations of children and young people in possible danger was registered, albeit stable in comparison with last three years. In the same period, the number of new cases has been falling, as well as the global volume of proceedings and the number of children accompanied by the Local Commissions.

In order to achieve better overall results in protecting children and supporting their families, a greater investment shall be made in two phases of the intervention of the Local Commissions:

- The Local Commissions must meet the necessary conditions to confirm the existence of a situation of danger as soon as possible; carrying out a more specialised analysis of the communications received is crucial, one that allows the creation of effective filters to rule out the existence of danger and even to assess its degree of severity; and
- The assessment of the effective impact of following-up the actions encompassed in the implementation plan shall be improved, in order to allow a more protective intervention.

Regarding the intervention with families, the Adelia Project – Support to Positive Parenting, launched in 2018, will play a very important role in the preventive and protective dimensions, given its potential to enable better performances of families and technicians.

The preventive and protective dimensions are also addressed through the promotion of applications of schools and other entities to the Protective Seal Project, which constitutes a capacity-building opportunity for the entities with competencies on matters of childhood and youth.

Recommendations

From a forward-looking perspective and considering the desirable evolution of the protection system, the aforementioned conclusions result in the following recommendations:

Local Commissions which are abler to exercise their powers

- The time of allocation of the members of the Local Commissions, in its restricted format, must be defined by the National Commission based on criteria that take into account the global volume of proceedings and the monthly average of assets, as well as the number of children living in the geographical area of each Local Commission;
- The Local Commissions shall raise the awareness of the relevant entities that, in the process of appointing members to represent them, due account must be taken regarding the professional skills set out in article 20 of the Law of Protection of Children and Young People in Danger, as well as the profile approved by the National Council in 2018 (Recommendation 1/CNPDPJ/2018);
- New members of the Local Commissions should be made aware of the importance of attending the training courses funded by PO ISE and CRESC Algarve;

- The National Commission, with the support of its operational technical team, shall take measures to update and disseminate the Handbook of Procedures for the Intervention of the Local Commissions in Situations of Danger;
- The National Commission shall produce technical guidelines in response to relevant issues concerning protective intervention, aiming at standardising procedures and practices;
- The Local Commissions shall conduct a survey on existing social responses, and on those lacking thereof, deemed as fundamental to the implementation of the promotion and protection measures applied, regarding the respective geographical area; and
- The National Commission shall take measures to provide specific training actions to the members of the Local Commissions (e.g. specialised hearing of the child, risk/danger assessment, interview techniques).

Local Commissions, in solid articulation with the entities with competencies on matters of childhood and youth, implement the promotion of rights and develop danger prevention work in a systemic manner

- Systemic intervention shall also include the active participation and the hearing of the children on issues that concern them;
- The Local Commissions, in cooperation with the entities with competencies on matters of childhood and youth, shall plan the two-fold intervention on prevention and on promotion of children's rights. This includes the actions foreseen in specific local plans or in the Local Commissions' annual activity plans, whenever possible, throughout the year; and
- The Local Commissions and the entities with competencies on matters of childhood and youth shall promote increasingly closer and systematic collaboration, namely regarding the implementation of promotion and protection measures.

Better knowledge of the situation of children and young people and a closer relationship with the scientific community committed to this area

- The National Commission shall continue to promote the establishment of protocols with universities and research centres specialised in children;
- The National Commission shall support a scientific study to be conducted on violence against children in Portugal, as well as other studies that contribute to understanding the situation of children, from the point of view of the full enjoyment of their rights;
- The registration of information in the computer application and in other data collecting tools must be effective and permanently updated, since it: allows the global and updated knowledge of the children with whom the Local Commissions work; facilitates the implementation of solutions that help its members cope with the reported challenges; shows the quality and demands of their daily work; and guides the design of public policies that meet the real needs of children and young people;
- The computer application shall be further improved and simplified in order to facilitate the implementation of the previous point.



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