

2019 Evaluation Report of the Activity of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People



**Executive summary,
conclusions and
recommendations**

Executive summary, conclusions and recommendations of the 2019 Evaluation Report of Activity of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

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Executive Summary

THE PREVENTIVE INTERVENTION AND OF THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS

Actions within the scope of international campaigns



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

**72
Initiatives**

**Celebration of
the 30th anniversary
of the Convention on the
Rights of the Child
(CRC) – November 20**

**315
Activities**

**Total number of
actions**

1 446

**Total number of
participants**

438 540

**Blue Ribbon
Campaign – Month
on the Prevention of Child
Ill-Treatment**

**735
Activities**



Leaflet of the
National Campaign –
November 20, 2019



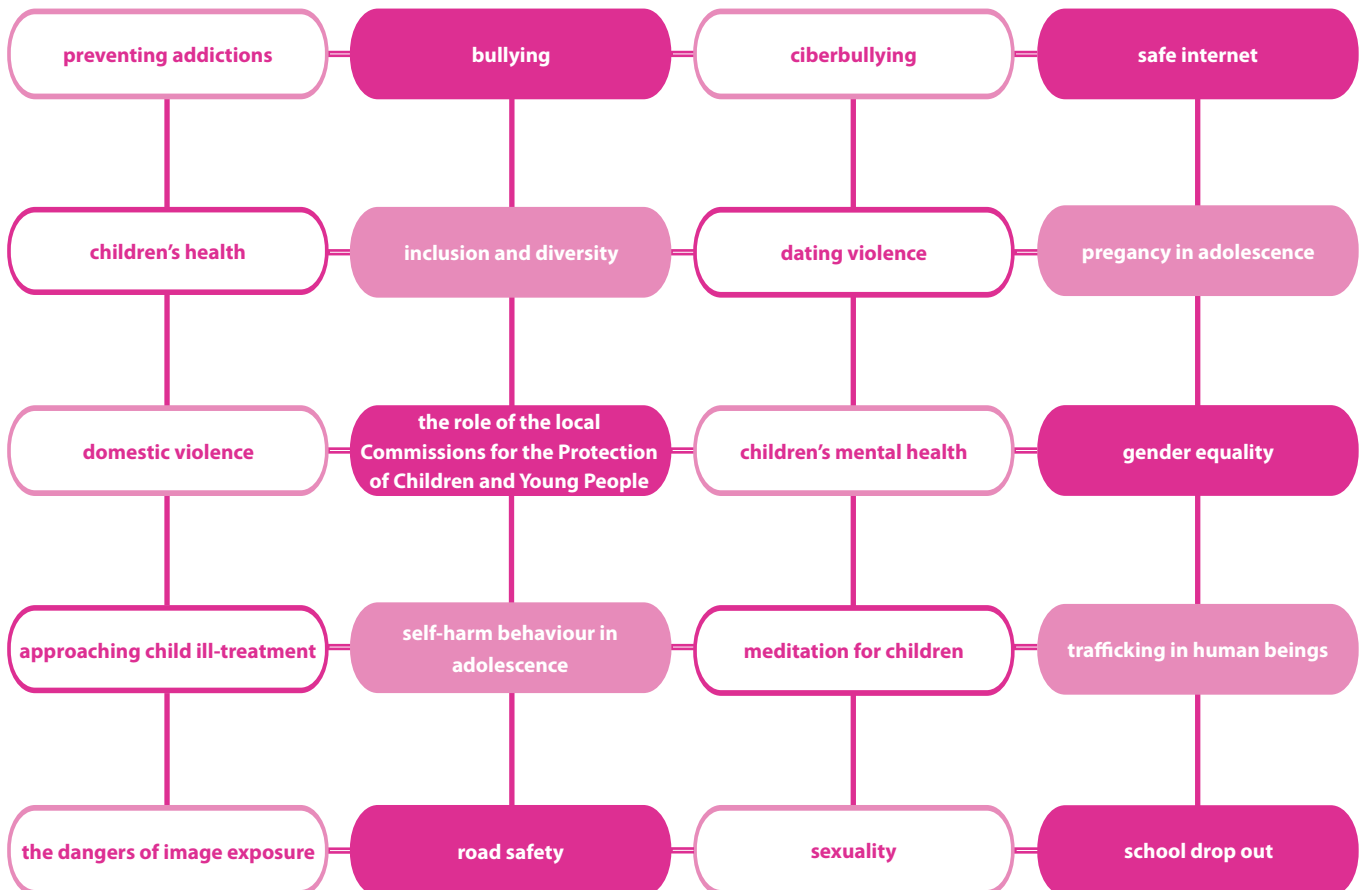
Leaflet of the
National Campaign –
April 2019

THE PREVENTIVE INTERVENTION AND OF THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS

Local actions or actions within the scope of national campaigns

Total number of actions: 1 090

Total number of participants: 320 000



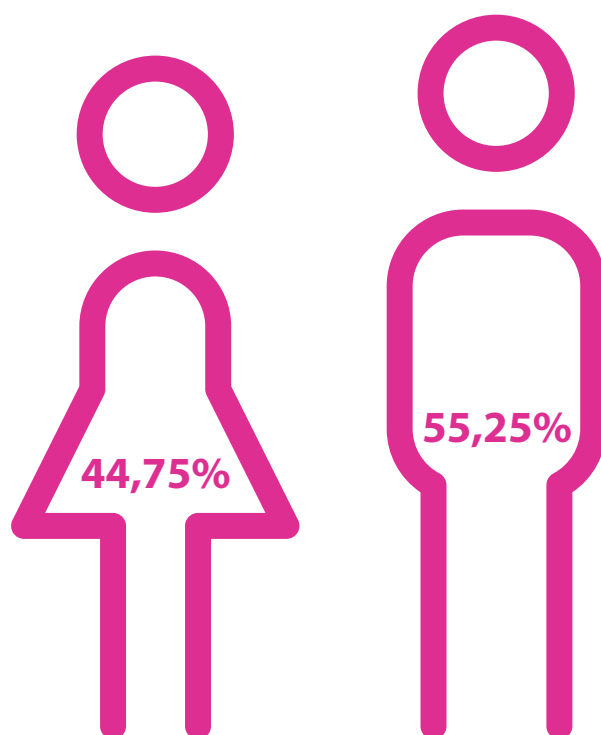
THE PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Total number of children accompanied* by the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People: **68 962**

Characterization of children and young people subject to promotion and protection measures in 2019

Over the course of 2019, 14 249 promotion and protection measures were implemented, of which 6 376 correspond to processes of promotion and protection of children of the female sex and 7 873 of the male sex.

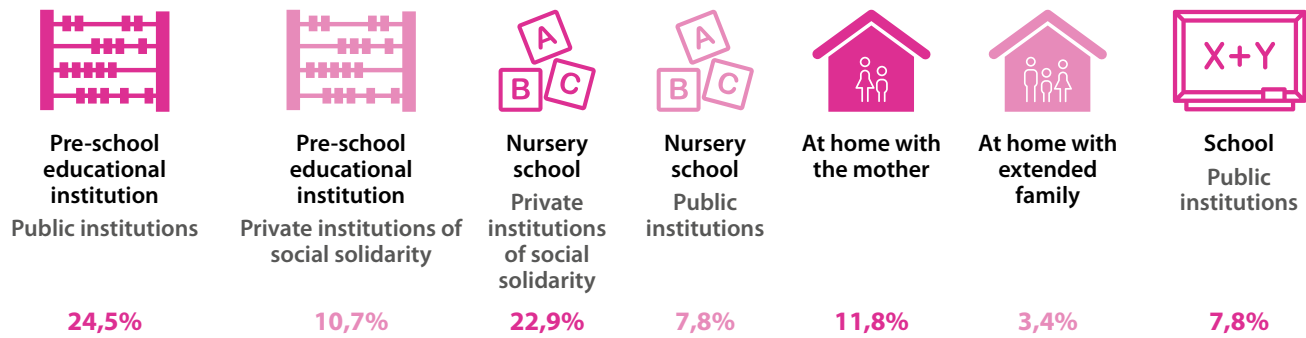
The information provided allows the characterization of the universe of children and young people and respective households that have been accompanied during the implementation period of the measures.



* Children who entered the protection system in 2019 and those who were already previously accompanied and continued to be in 2019.

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

Main socio-educational and school environment of children and young people subject to promotion and protection measures



Schooling of children and young people aged above 6, who are subject to promotion and protection measures

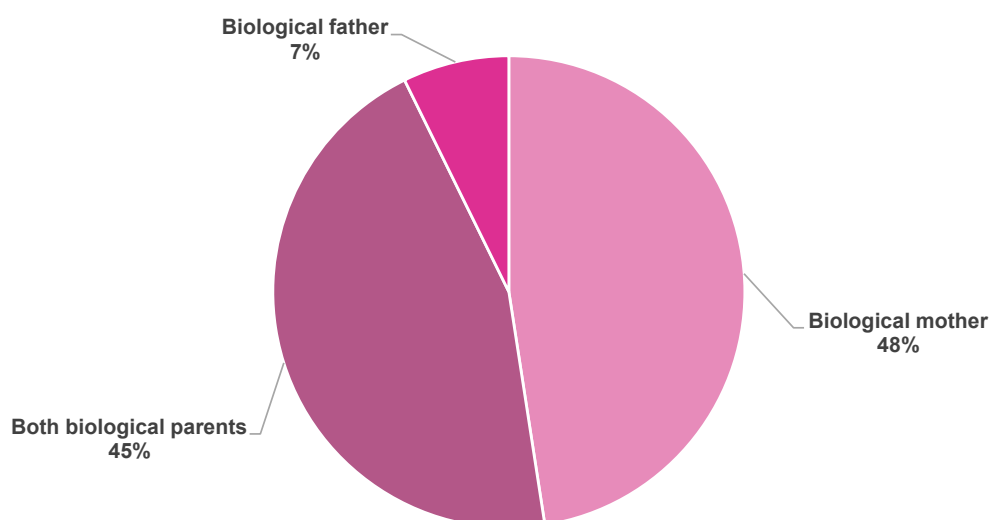


THE PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Characterization of the main caregiver of children and young people subject to promotion and protection measures in 2019

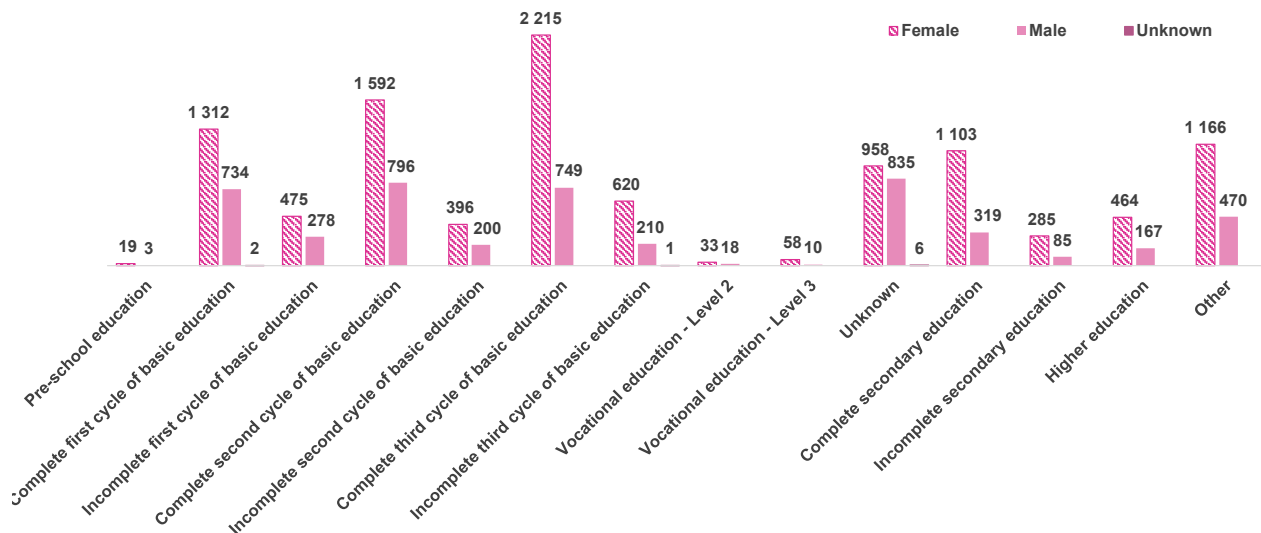


Main caregivers with whom the child or young person lives

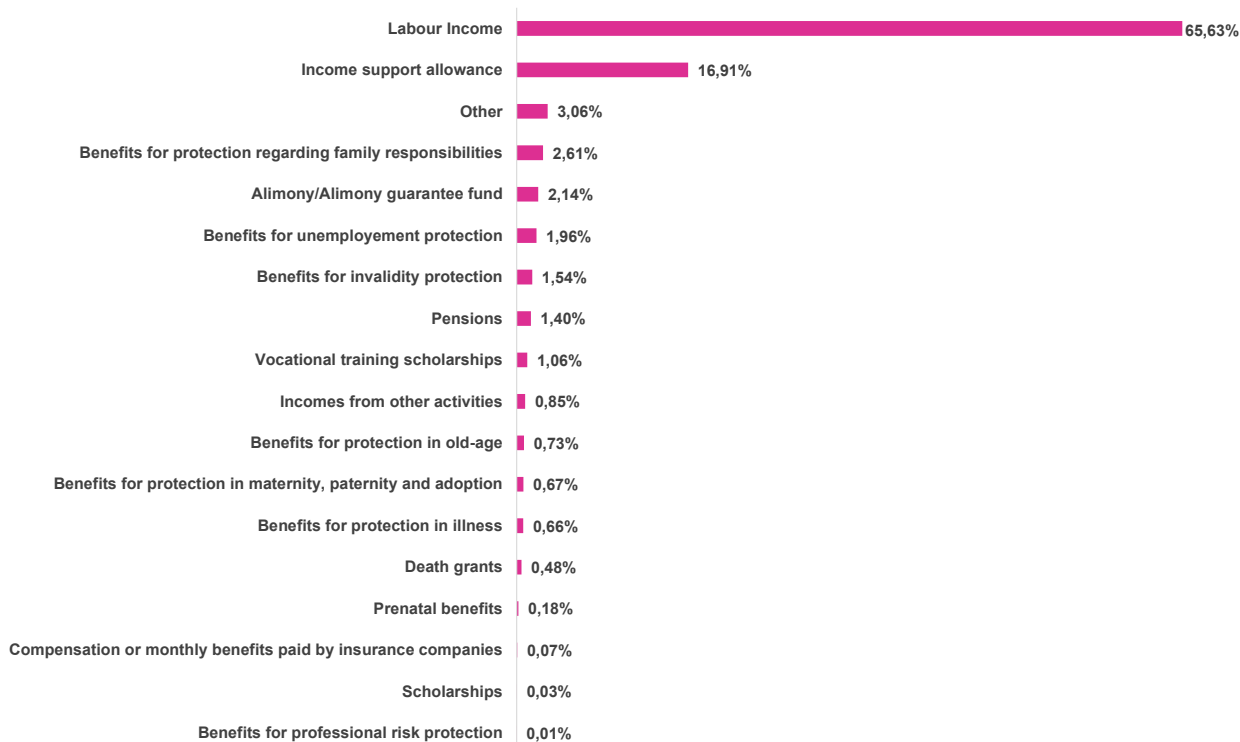


THE PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Prevalence of the main caregiver's educational level



Type of income of the main caregivers



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

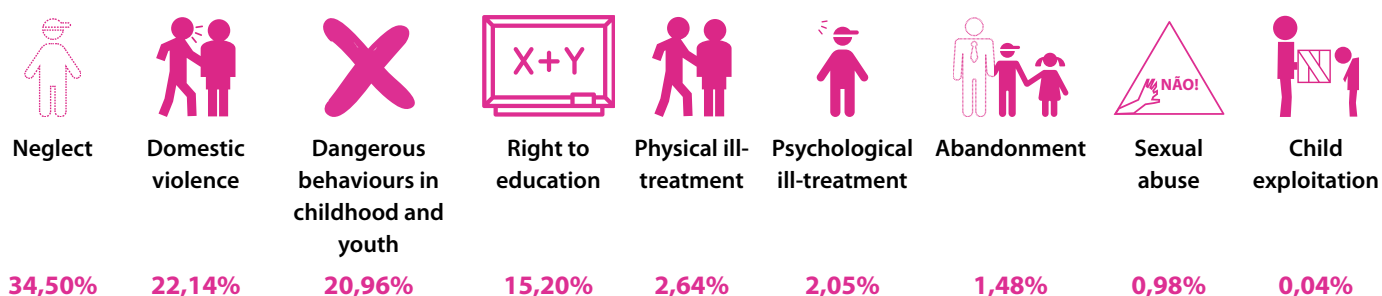
Communications received by the local Commissions in 2019

Total number of communications received: **43 796**

Number of diagnostics in 2019:

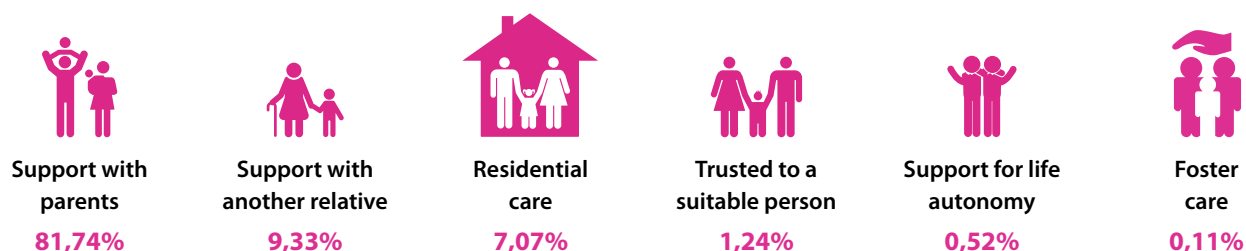
13 825

Main categories of danger



Promotion and protection measures implemented in 2019:

14 249





Conclusions and Recommendations

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2019, the current 310 local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People received 43 796 communications. In accordance with Article 3 of the Act for the Protection of Children and Young People in Danger, which legitimizes the intervention of these Commissions, 13 825 diagnostic evaluations were carried out and the main situations of danger have been identified as negligence (34,5%), domestic violence (22,14%) and dangerous behavior in childhood and youth (20,96%).

A total of 14 249 promotion and protection measures have been implemented, mostly corresponding to support with the parents.

In the short and medium term, it is expected that the local Commissions increasingly base their work on the paradigm of action: **preventing more to protect better.**

The conclusions of this report emphasise the most important steps taken by the local Commissions towards the aforementioned guideline, while the recommendations highlight aspects for improvement in the near future.

Conclusions:

The promotion of rights and the prevention of danger

The local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People, in its extended format (which includes the plenary of its members), have made positive developments regarding the promotion of rights and prevention of situations of danger. This progress has been consolidated in 2019, in particular with the implementation of the Adélia Project ("Support to Positive Parenting") and the extension of the Protective Seal Project, which awarded 27 schools in the 2019 edition.

These projects, along with the Blue Ribbon national campaign on preventing child ill-treatment –

also known as the "Month for the Prevention of Child Ill-Treatment" for it takes place every year, in April – constitute important factors for sparking further action of the extended format of the local Commissions and the mobilization of the local communities.

The nature of the Adélia Project corresponds to the parent education programmes* advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF due to their role in the "effective prevention of child ill-treatment and its risk factors". The project produces an impact on prevention, but also on protection, as it trains professionals to work with families and enables direct intervention with them.

The Protective Seal Project is an innovative project, focused on a direct and sustainable way to promote the rights of the child, while validating and certifying the good practices of entities within this scope, creating inspiring examples with the potential to become widespread. The work developed so far involved schools; however, since the project encompasses a remarkable margin for progression, it can rapidly expand to sports, culture and other areas.

In 2019, while complementing the aforementioned projects, the mobilization achieved in the context of the commemoration of significant dates state their unequivocal importance as occasions to promote the rights of the children. The duration, range and scope of the projects at stake added consistency to the work developed and constitute significant steps towards to the systemic prevention, supported in the targeted local communities.

One of the essential premises for the evolution and improvement of the child protection system, as well as for the improvement of its preventive and protective intervention, involves guaranteeing the right of the children and young people to make their voices heard and to encourage their involvement in problem solving.

* *European Status Report on Preventing Child Maltreatment*, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2018.

The launch of the National Council of Children and Young People, on 20 November, 2019, promoted by the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People, has been an important step to increase participation and significantly expand the reach of preventive action.

The protection of children and young people

As far as protective intervention is concerned, in 2019, the number of communications to the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People increased by 4 743 (12%). The same trend was observed regarding the number of children subject to promotion and protection measures, with an additional 8 469 (14%) children accompanied by the local Commissions, after years of relative stability.

Again, a positive trend of reduction of the processes carried over from 2018 to 2019 was registered (6% less than those carried over from 2017 to 2018). However, in the course of 2019, there was a 10% increase in new proceedings (opened and reopened cases of implementation of promotion and protection measures).

The initial assessment of the communications received by the local Commissions constitutes a procedure of remarkable importance, since it does not consist of a formal or administrative procedure. In fact, this is the moment where local Commissions perform a preliminary analysis of the situations reported, based on it assess and define whether those correspond to situations of danger or risk, and, consequently, decide on the appropriate intervention (through promotion and protection measures). In situations in which children are at risk, but not in danger, the competence to intervene belongs to the first-line entities of the system for the protection of children and young people.

The qualification of the members of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

The training and qualification of the members of

the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People has been an ongoing concern of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People, which has intervened in order to thus strengthen and improve their response.

In 2019, following the training plan whose implementation started in 2018 with the financial support of the PO ISE Programme, the initial training provided by the National Commission to the members of the local Commissions has become regular, pursued a rigorous planning and was expanded to the whole country.

The initial training, which is of utmost relevance to new members of the local Commissions, and the in-service training, which represents the face-to-face support of the National Commission's Regional Technical Teams to the local Commissions of their geographical area of competence are two essential training lines that must coexist. The extension of the academic training offer to include the scope of the promotion of rights and the prevention and protection of children will be a complementary and significant added value.

The definition of the allocation times and the profile of the persons appointed to the local Commissions in restricted format (which includes only a limited core of professionals, as opposed to the plenary of its members of the extended format) have been discussed in the National Council, a body that is part of the organic structure of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People and is composed by appointed representatives of public, private and civil society's entities. The main concern in these discussions is that the aspects at stake do not become a limiting factor of the capacity of intervention of the local Commissions. Thus, the definition of the profile of people to appoint as members of the local Commissions and the minimum time of allocation of the members to this assignment were approved, based on criteria such as the monthly average number of active cases per local Commission.

Recommendations

Developing systemic prevention supported by the local communities

- The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People shall promote the elaboration of Local Plans for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Young People by the local Commissions;
- In their Local Plans, the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People shall define specific objectives for the “Month for the Prevention of Child Ill-Treatment” and develop the actions planned preferably in schools;
- The local Commissions for Protection of Children and Young People shall disseminate the objectives of the Protective Seal Project, in order to promote and support the applications in their corresponding geographical area;
- The local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People shall promote the active participation of children and young people in the preventive activities implemented at local level, support their participation and hearing on the matters and decisions that concern them (in initiatives developed in schools, municipalities and in other contexts) and disseminate the activities of the National Council for Children and Young People;
- The local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People shall promote the active involvement of all entities that compose its extended format;
- The local Commissions for the Protection of Chil-

dren and Young People shall strengthen their presence in the community through concrete initiatives.

Qualifying and increasing the effectiveness of the protection of children and young people

- The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People shall produce technical guidelines concerning the preliminary analysis of communications received by the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People;
- The local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People shall promote articulation with the entities with competence in childhood and youth matters and improve the monitoring of the implementation of the promotion and protection measures;
- The entities represented in the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People must promote the compliance with the allocation of their members during the time defined for the fulfillment of their assignment, as well as appoint the representative according to the profile of member approved by the National Council of the National Commission.

Promoting the qualification of the members of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

- The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People shall promote specific training actions on themes that are relevant to the performance of the activity of all members of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Access [here](#) for more information on the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People

Access [here](#) for more information on national projects and initiatives of the National Commission

Access [here](#) for information on the activities of the National Commission within the scope of international relations

For any further information on the National Commission, please contact
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