

EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE LOCAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Executive
summary, conclusions
and recommendations
of the 2021 Annual Report



Title: Executive summary, conclusions and recommendations of the 2021 Evaluation Report of the Activity of the Local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People

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The Annual Report of the Evaluation of the Activity of the local Commissions for the Protection of Children and Young People (CPCJ) is a national reference document for the general public and for the CPCJ, elaborated and published by the [National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People](#), in which the results of the prevention and protection actions implemented by the CPCJ in each year are presented, analyzed and reflected upon.

The CPCJ are official entities of non-judicial, multidisciplinary nature with functional autonomy, aiming to promote the rights of children and young people and to prevent or intervene in situations of children in danger, while fostering synergies at the local level by involving the representatives of the various key sectoral areas, local authorities, po-

lice forces, the Public Prosecutor's Office and non-governmental organizations. As a collegial body, it meets monthly in its extended format, focusing mainly on actions of preventive nature, and weekly in restricted format, as to address, discuss and deliberate over concrete situations of children in danger.

In 2021, there were 311 CPCJ around the country, i.e., mainland Portugal, the Autonomous Region of the Azores and the Autonomous Region of Madeira.

This document is the English version of the the executive summary, conclusions and recommendations of the 2021 Annual Report.

The full 2021 Report in Portuguese is available [here](#).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

73.241

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION PROCESSES

31.143

CARRIED OVER FROM 2020

42.098

OPENED IN 2021

NEWLY OPENED

33.937

REOPENED

8.161

73.241

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION PROCESSES HANDLED

1.609

TRANSFERS OF PROCESSES FROM ONE CPCJ TO ANOTHER DUE TO CHANGES OF RESIDENCE OF THE CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON

1.905

SITUATIONS THAT RESULTED IN MORE THAN ONE REOPENING OF PROCESSES IN THE SAME YEAR: 532 REOPENINGS OF PROCESSES OPENED IN 2021 AND 1.373 REOPENINGS OF PROCESSES OPENED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

71.632

Processes
(without transfers)

31.143

Transferred
processes

42.098

Opened
processes

69.727

Children and young
people who benefited
from the intervention of
the CPCJ

29.770

Children with open
process

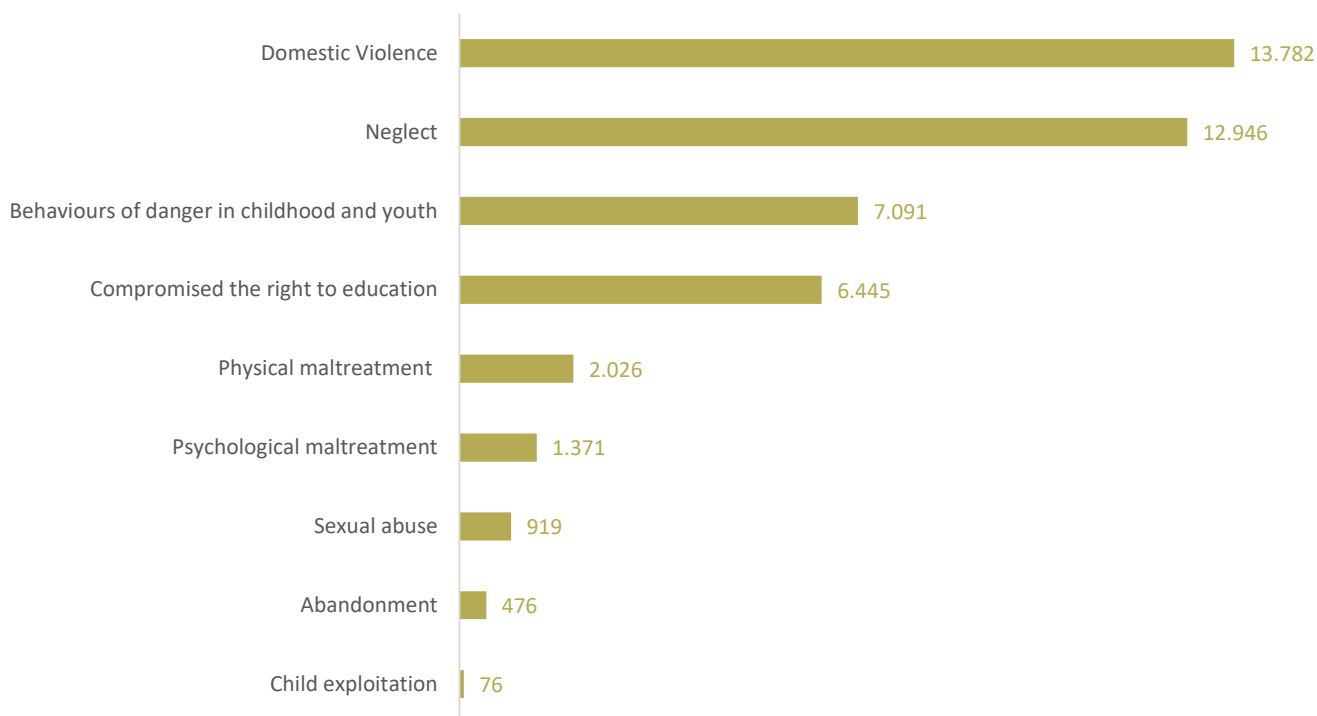
39.957

Children whose protection
intervention by the CPCJ
has started

45.132

SITUATIONS OF DANGER REPORTED

Chart 7 | Categories of the danger situations reported (N.º 45 132)



45.132

PROCESSES WITH DIAGNOSTIC
ASSESSMENT COMPLETED

17.752

CONCLUDED IN
PREVIOUS YEARS

26.751

CONCLUDED IN 2021
(+ 25% comparatively with 2020)

13.463

With no need for promotion and
protection measure

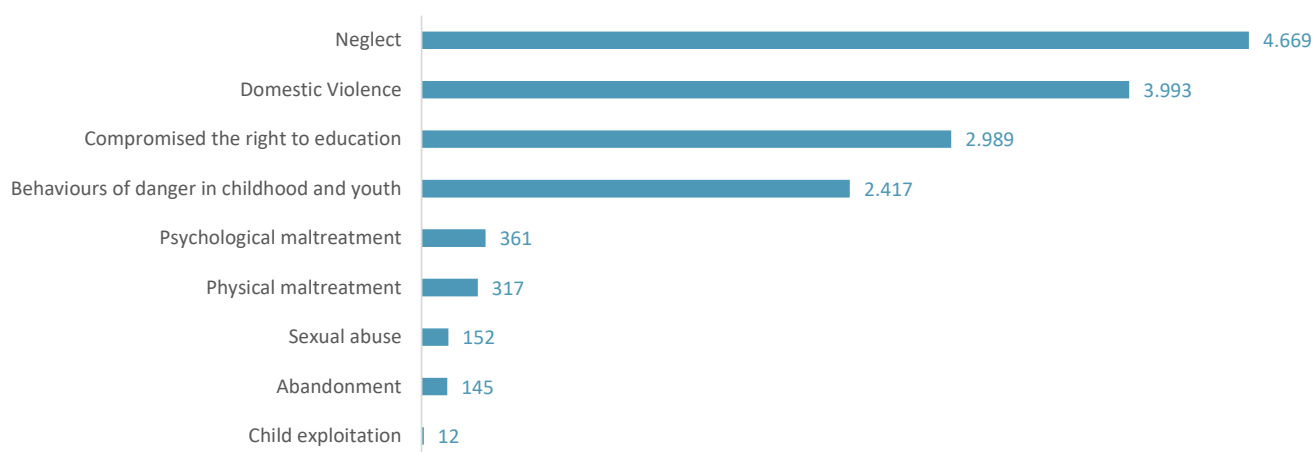
13.288

Needed promotion and protection
measure

15.055

DIAGNOSED SITUATIONS

Chart 10 | Categories of the danger situations diagnosed in 2021 (N.º 15.055)



PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

73.241

Total number of processes handled by the CPCJ

69.727 Children

5.070

Processes closed
"in limine"

1.669 (3.278)

Await
decision

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT

64.893

Processes that proceeded for diagnostic assessment

8.380

Processes
closed

12.010

Await
decision

DELIBERATION AND CONTRACTING PROCESS

44.503

Processes with diagnostic assessment concluded (26 751 in 2021)

42.260 Children

15.048

Processes
closed

449

Await
decision

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

29.006

Processes with promotion and protection measures under implementation

28.707 Children under promotion and protection measure

11.665

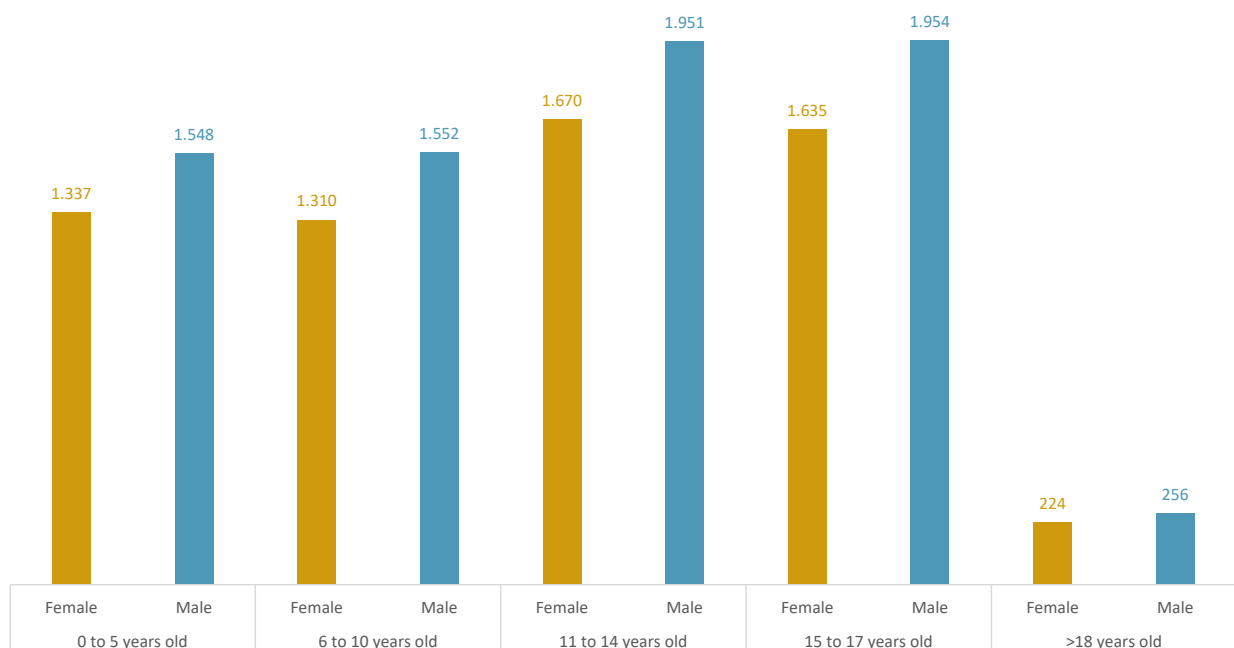
Closed

29.928

Promotion and protection measures under implementation
(13 523 measures implemented in 2021)

13.437 Children with measures implemented in 2021

Chart 17 | Characterization of the children under promotion and protection measures in 2021 by age range and sex (N.º 13.437)





**CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

CONCLUSIONS

In what concerns the promotion of the rights and the prevention of situations of danger, the involvement of the entities represented in the extended format of the CPCJ in the development of activities is highlighted, as the level of thematic diversity and the significant participation of the community and its several stakeholders were kept despite the constraints to the organization of activities in-person.

Regarding the protective dimension, the CPCJ received reports on 43.075 children in situations of danger in 2021, an increase of 3.416 children - i.e., of 8,6% - when compared with 2020. As in previous years, the security forces and educational establishments were the main reporting entities.

The category of danger that was most reported to the CPCJ was Domestic Violence, followed immediately by Neglect, which confirms the trend observed in 2020.

A total of 26.751 diagnoses were carried out, representing an increase of 25% regarding 2020. This includes 13.288 diagnoses whose conclusion pointed out the need to implement measures to protect children and young people, mainly in situations of danger reported in the categories of Domestic Violence and Neglect. As in 2020, Domestic Violence and Neglect were the situations most diagnosed, representing approximately 31% and 26,5% of the diagnoses, respectively, followed by 19,9% of situations of danger in which the Right to Education is compromised was diagnosed and by 16,1% of situations in which Behaviours of Danger in Childhood and Youth were at stake.

In 2021, 28.707 children were subject to promotion and protection measures whose implementation was either decided in 2021 or whose application was still ongoing by then. This corresponds to 13.437 promotion and protection measures applied in 2021, i.e., an increase of 1.644 when compared with 2020. Support with the Parents and Support with Another Family Member were the prevalent promotion and protection measures.

In the year under review, the CPCJ have ceased their intervention in 40.163 processes, 31,6% of which were forwarded to the next level of intervention - the court. On the other hand, 31.469 processes have transited to 2022, of which 17.341 included promotion and protection measures under implementation.

It is also important to underline the work carried out by the Regional Technical Teams of the CNPDPCJ in monitoring and providing technical support to the CPCJ, thus fostering the proximity and deepening the knowledge of the CNPDPCJ regarding the specific territorial context of each CPCJ. This contributes to decision-making processes whose results are not only more adequate to the needs and to the potential of each CPCJ, but also to the social and community fabric of the regions under their competence.

The regional meetings of the CNPDPCJ with the CPCJ have also kept becoming a support and capacity-building tool, enabling proximity between them to be developed, while creating opportunities for the former to hear the latter regarding their needs, for providing training adjusted to the regional specificities, and moments of debate and continuous peer review on child protection intervention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon analysis of the data in the 2021 report on the evaluation of the activity of the CPCJ, the National Commission issues the following recommendations, which should be taken into consideration by the 311 CPCJ with a view to strengthening their preventive and protective intervention:

- The National Commission should maintain and strengthen its action with the entities represented at the CPCJ, as to ensure: that the profile of their appointed representative to the CPCJ is adequate and in line with the profile of member of the CPCJ, as approved by the National Council of the National Commission; and full compliance of the allocated time defined for their appointed representative to carry out duties in the CPCJ.
- Within the scope of its extended format, the CPCJ shall continue to promote the involvement of the local community and the creation of increasingly consolidated synergies in the planning and implementation of articulated actions to promote children's rights, in order to reduce the need for protective intervention.
- The National Commission shall develop actions to disseminate the materials, tools and methodology implemented under the Adélia Project (inserir link <https://www.cnpdpcj.gov.pt/the-adelia-project-support-to-positive-parenting>).
- The CPCJ that were involved in the Adélia Project shall continue to support the implementation of the Local Plans for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Young People.
- In carrying out their various local activities of preventive nature, the CPCJ shall ensure the participation of children and young people, seeking to hear them in the context of their respective promotion and protection processes whenever possible, even if they are aged below 12.
- The National Commission shall promote the qualification of the members of the CPCJ by implementing a diversified training plan, with a view to contribute to a more specialized knowledge that meets the needs identified by the CPCJ best.
- The close monitoring of the CPCJ should be intensified through the action of the Regional Technical Teams of the National Commission and through the promotion of regional and district meetings, the sharing of good practices and of several subjects acknowledged as priority matters, as well as of case studies.
- The National Commission should continue to promote greater standardization of procedures in the different stages of the promotion and protection process, while designing tools/documents to support the activity of the CPCJ and elaborating and issuing recommendations and technical guidelines.
- The National Commission shall develop a process for building a model for preventive audits, as well as consider implementing supervision mechanisms for the professionals that integrate the CPCJ.

#PROTEGER CRIANÇAS COMPETE A TOD@S



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