



Transitional Report 2024 for the Barnahus Network

Letter from the Secretary General and Coordinator

Dear Members,

This year marked a milestone for the Barnahus Network, as we transitioned into an independent organisation with our own legal personality. The decision to become independent was made at the Extraordinary General Assembly in 2023, and 2024 was dedicated to executing the steps required to ensure a smooth transition and lay the foundations for future growth and sustainability.

Timeline of Transition to Independence

The Barnahus Network was formally registered as a non-profit organisation in Sweden on January 19, 2024. Since then, we have worked diligently to transfer operational responsibilities and resources from the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

As part of this process, the CBSS transferred the remaining balance of the Network's accounts, following a detailed line-by-line audit of all costs booked since the Network's inception to ensure complete accuracy.

Income

- Membership fees: Our members continued to pay their fees, contributing to the operational capacity of the Network. A full list of fees will be included as an annex.
- CBSS account transfer: We successfully received the remaining balance from the CBSS, following the aforementioned audit.

Budget

Minimal costs were incurred in setting up our independent operational structure. These costs include:

- Website hosting and electronic signature software necessary for smooth administration.
- A flyer about Barnahus and the Network, designed to promote our mission at conferences and other events.

We have secured membership at TechSoup, which will allow us to access non-profit pricing and even free software, ensuring that our operational expenses remain minimal.

Brand Refresh and Website Update

This year, we began the process of refreshing the Barnahus brand to reflect our new independent status. As communicated to members earlier:

- Our brand refresh is a necessary step to leave behind the PROMISE branding. Additionally, this will help unify our communications and establish our own identity as an independent organisation.

- A website update is also a key priority. The current platform, which was cutting-edge when we adopted it in 2016, is now outdated and difficult to maintain. After evaluating several options, we procured an agency with whom we have a solid working relationship via the CBSS to redesign the website. This agency has offered us a significant discount due to their personal interest in supporting our mission and our good previous working relationship. Their expertise will ensure the new website is cost-effective and low-maintenance, saving us time and money in the long run.

Ongoing Barnahus Projects with CBSS

Despite our new independent status, collaboration with the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) continues through ongoing Barnahus-related projects where the CBSS serves as a coordinator or partner. These projects deliver valuable guidance and training on critical topics such as:

- Child protection
- The child's safe and informed journey through Barnahus
- Online sexual violence
- Support to Bulgaria's and Lithuania's Barnahus development
- Trafficking (ended September 2024)
- An impact analysis of Barnahus on justice outcomes in Spain (ended October 2024)

These projects specify that their activities will be conducted in cooperation with the Barnahus Network, and the relevant deliverables will be hosted on our website and communicated through our channels. A solid continued collaboration with the CBSS will ensure that Barnahus Network members remain involved and receive the valuable resources these projects develop.

All of the projects noted above are expected to conclude by Summer 2025.

Looking Ahead: Systems Setup and framework partnership

The Network will hire its first employee in December 2024. This is another significant milestone for the Network, moving us into full operational control.

The focus for the remainder of 2024 will be on:

- Establishing systems and suppliers to ensure sound financial, staff, and operational management.
- Preparing an application to the call for EU framework partnerships under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program, due in January 2025. Our application will be informed by our 2025–2030 strategy. This is the funding that, if achieved, will provide operational stability for the next four years, and that we were not eligible to receive when our legal personality was provided by the CBSS.

A Shared Vision for the Future

As we continue to build on the trust and collaboration that has been the foundation of our work from the beginning, we remain deeply committed to the vision that unites us—a vision that serves as the blueprint for our collective growth.

We see how each Barnahus is strengthened by being part of this community, where members support one another with the shared aim that every child victim and witness of

violence receives streamlined justice, protection, and healing. This collaborative effort continues to raise the bar on the establishment and practice of Barnahus.

Similarly, the work to develop this thriving network is dynamic. It is guided by our vision, yet constantly shaped by the ever-changing landscape of child protection, justice and healing and the evolving needs of each member.

Thank you for your continued commitment and trust.

Olivia Lind Haldorsson

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