

INSPIRE Strategy 6 – Response and Support

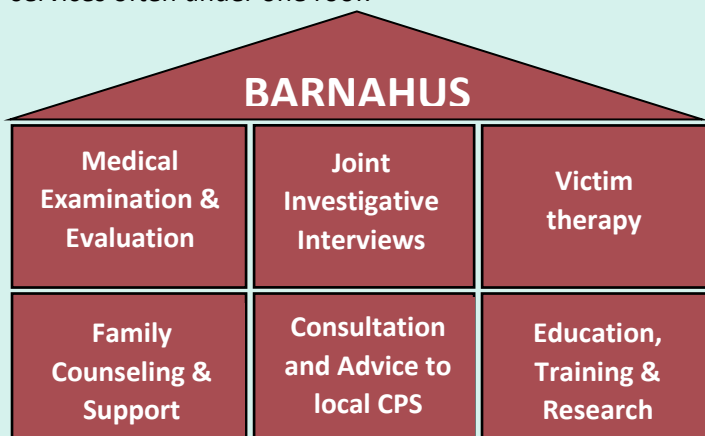
Why the need for Barnahus?

Investigating cases of child abuse requires close cooperation between different agencies involved – police, health sector, judiciary, child protection agencies. In practice such examples of effective multi-agency cooperation were rather exceptional, resulting in a **long and traumatic process** for a child that is a victim or witness of abuse or violence:

- Multiple interviews in different locations by staff that is not trained to work with children
- Months of waiting for a trial and appeals
- Hostile cross-examination
- Lack of proper medical examination and therapeutic services for victims

Barnahus as a response

Innovating on the US approach, the first Barnahus was established in Iceland in 1998, as a child-friendly, multiagency response to child abuse, providing necessary services often under one roof:



Joint Investigative Interviews

Listen to Mr. Simon Sigvaldason, a judge from Iceland explaining **the importance of forensic interviews** with children and **how it looks like in practice** in Iceland!

Medical Evaluation & Examination

Doctors in Barnahus conduct a **medical evaluation** of children in a child-friendly and professional manner.

Adaptability to different contexts

“Barnahus is not a recipe, but it contains ingredients so that you can make your own recipe in your own countries.”
- Bragi Guðbrandsson, the founder of Icelandic Barnahus.

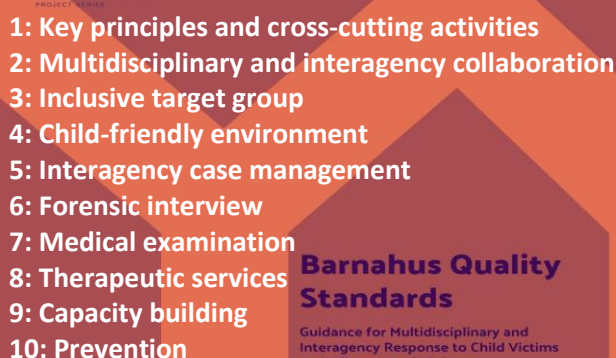
Currently, Barnahus exists in over 60 locations in Europe, adapted to the local needs, laws, regulations and practices.

About the PROMISE project

Promise is the EU funded project representing the first systemic attempt to bring together European states for the purpose of implementing Barnahus. In the framework of the project professionals across Europe collaborate, exchange experience and good practices, enriching the Barnahus concept and re-thinking how the concept can be implemented in different countries. Childhub together with the PROMISE project has a webinar series on Barnahus. Check out the **Childhub webinar page** and search ‘Barnahus’ to listen to more than ten webinars on different topics related to Barnahus!

PROMISE Vision: A Europe where human rights of children to protection from violence, to support and to be heard are fulfilled. Learn more about the PROMISE vision, including principles, criteria, goals, and challenges **here**.

The PROMISE Barnahus Quality Standards have been developed, as the first systemic attempt to establish quality standards for child-friendly, multi-agency response to child abuse in the European context. Full, short and e-book versions of the standards are available **here**.

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- The graphic shows a list of 10 standards next to a stylized house icon. The standards are:
- 1: Key principles and cross-cutting activities
 - 2: Multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration
 - 3: Inclusive target group
 - 4: Child-friendly environment
 - 5: Interagency case management
 - 6: Forensic interview
 - 7: Medical examination
 - 8: Therapeutic services
 - 9: Capacity building
 - 10: Prevention
- Barnahus Quality Standards**
Guidance for Multidisciplinary and Interagency Response to Child Victims and Witnesses of Violence

In addition, PROMISE offers a valuable set of tools for those in the process of establishing Barnahus in their countries.

