

## **5. Comments**

Due to the federal system in Germany the foundation of nationwide committees is very difficult. So, it is reasonable to first of all take the given structures in the individual countries. This way we decided to arrange some meetings with experts and to address letters to institutions involved in this matter.

The given system of subsidiary puts the competence and, therefore, the accountability into the hands of the countries and there especially onto the communal level. Taking into account the independence of law courts based on democratic and free government principles, judges cannot be forced to participate in further trainings. Experts complained, that judges often declare additional trainings as an attempt to take influence.

Therefore, especially on the communal level there are already independent Roundtables and Workgroups. They meet in different ways, and we must survey them in future.

We still support very strongly that those educational measures and training are already included in the university studies of the professionals-to-be.

The training-measures and projects we have shown shall not be seen as complete.

But we named the most important measures and projects in Germany and in our region.

Questionnaires with a side-letter have been distributed already in October 2008 to 100 different partners. Unfortunately we must say that the feedback was poor despite our intensive pleadings to answer (only 8 answers). Policemen and –women told us, that in Saxony generally no questionnaires of NGOs will be answered.

So, we withdrew from a nationwide distribution of the questionnaires due to the federalistic system in Germany, which I already mentioned above. To expect a feedback within the given time of the project would not have been realistic.

Dated 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2008 the following notice could be read in the 1(1) Freie Presse (Free Press):

“The demand for child-pornography in the internet increased dramatically in 2007”.

“The BKA (the federal crime investigation department) says, that in conjunction to that the sexual abuse of small children increased. And the degree of force increases dramatically”.

“There is an increasing number of victims below 6 years old. 19 % of children, abused for child-porn, were younger than 3 years.”

This note, showing only the official recognitions in Germany – experts say that the dark figures is spread from 1 to 30 – clearly say, which enormous need for help exists in the battle against sexual exploitation of children.

8<sup>th</sup> of May 2009 the following note could be read in the website of 2 (2) Tagesthemen (Daily Themes):

### **Petition, addressed to the German Bundestag**

50.000 residents do not want internet-sites to be blocked.

Only more than 50.000 residents signed an official petition for the Bundestag to avoid the blocking of special internet-sites by means of the government. Federal minister Ursula von der Leyen's intention was to block the distribution of child-pornography in the internet. The petition does not want to hinder this goal, but only complains how this shall happen...

The 3(3) text of the petition is the following:

We request, that the German Bundestag shall reject from the intention to change the Tele-media-law, as mentioned in the proposal of the cabinet, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2009. We think the intention to put control of internet-sites into the hands of the BKA and to let the providers block them, is not transparent and not controllable, because the indexed internet-sites can not be seen, nor is it mentioned carefully, by which criteria web-sites shall be indexed. Therefore we see the fundamental right of free information jeopardized.

### Substantiation

We absolutely do not question the prime goal to protect children and to hinder their abuse and the distribution of child-pornography - in contrary, it is our bold interest. But the intended measures are absolutely not helpful to solve the problem – that was said in many notices and was often confirmed by experts of different professions. To block internet-sites has no provable influence on the physical and mental intactness of abused children....

In 4 days only, 50 000 signatures could be achieved!

We cannot take those approaches and opinions any longer!

We are so disappointed. Supposedly the bill is not aiming to protect the integrity of already abused children, but to avoid future abuse. Unfortunately, we suppose that the ill desire can surely be stimulated by respective Internet-pages. If that wouldn't be the case no one would put any advertisement in the Internet, and it would thus be totally unfit to create any inducement to buy. We fear that behind the sublime aim to fight for the freedom of information you can find quite different interest...

So, we urgently wish, that by taking into account everything we said, the project "train together" will help to sensitize the public in Germany, to recognize the mentioned severe violence of human rights and to battle against this violence effectively.