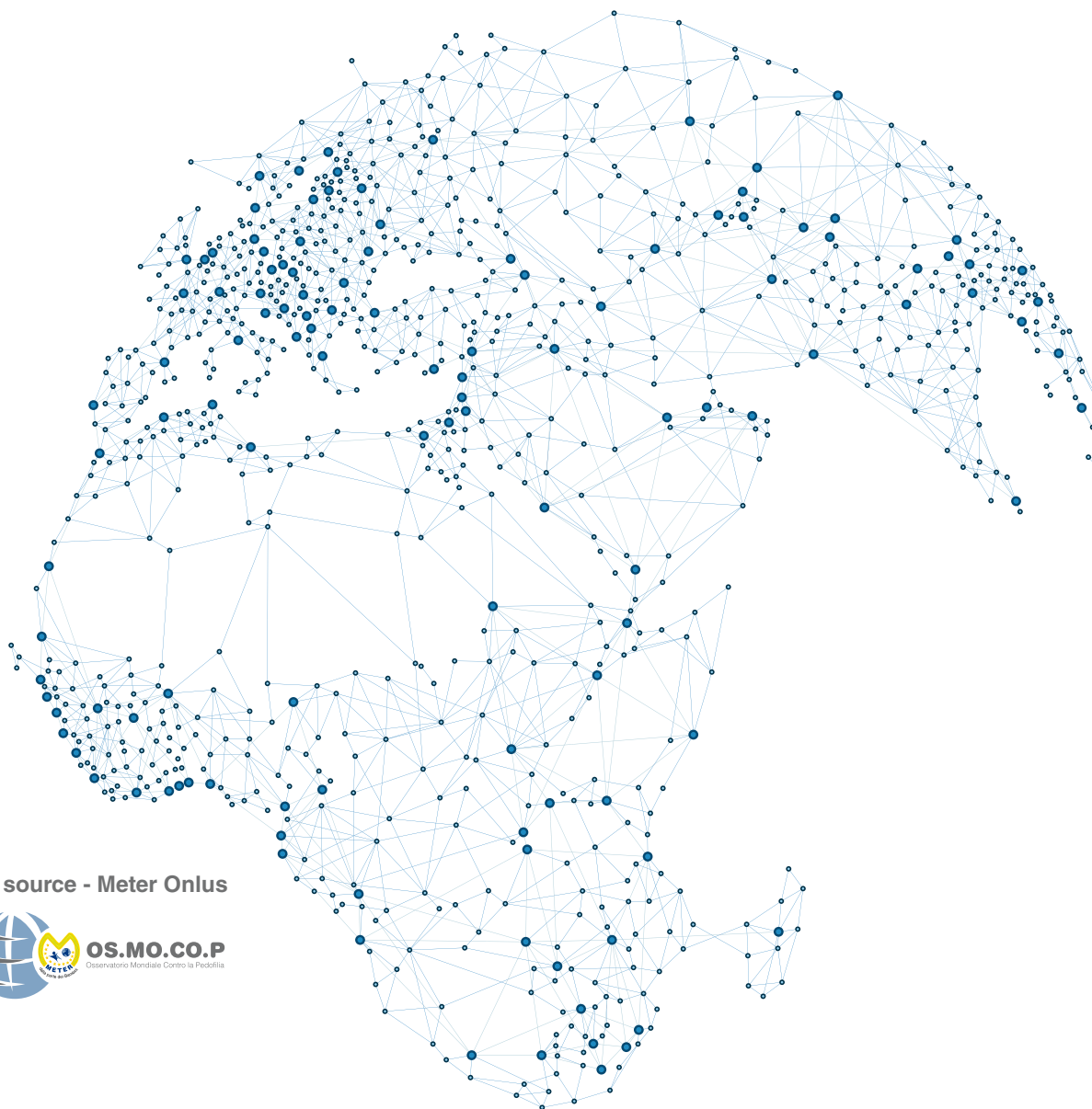# ANNUAL REPORT 2019
pedophilia and child abuse material

Balance of a worldwide crime

Data source - Meter Onlus

OS.MO.CO.P
Osservatorio Mondiale Contro la Pedofilia

INDEX

SUMMARY OF REPORT DATA
Comparison 2018/2019

MONITORING

Link

2018	2019
14,179	8,489

Photos

2018	2019
3,053,317	7,074,194

Videos

2018	2019
1,123,793	992,300

Chat

2018	2019
234	323

Zip Folders

2019	
325	Relevant data for 2019

LISTENING CENTRE

Followed cases

2018	2019
177	142

Telephone requests

2018	2019
692	385

TRAINING

Meetings

2018	2019
277	113

Students and teachers met

2018	2019
5,614	5,258

Introduction

by Father Fortunato Di Noto

Meter Association's **Annual Report 2019** about pedophilia and child abuse material is a balance of a worldwide crime which requires to be red, deepened, assimilated, understood and to be mentioned. It can not be confined to mere statistical results, to cold and dead numbers.

It is a 150 pages work which truthfully reports *Meter*'s sensitive and tireless service in the protection of minors: a thirty years long mission, a prominent story, which has written a piece of history against pedophilia and sexual abuses on minors, victims of abominations and indifference.

We ask you to dwell on pages 16 and 17: they synthetize the last 18 years of *Meter*'s activity and represent an intense and tiring work and a commitment from 2002 to 2019.

In particular we are referring to 18 long years of pain, which is well expressed from numbers: *Meter* has sent 61,525 protocols

and several emails to Police forces worldwide and to the Italian Police (with whom there is a collaboration agreement since 2008), hoping to start investigation actions against suspected pedocriminals. We are talking about material that has concretely been produced, spread, exchanged and detained.

Detailed reports (since 2002) contained 174,731 links; since 2014 (just in the last 5 years) 16,003,014 photos and 3,469,196 videos have been reported: millions of abused children, a real awfulness. In addition there are 8,397 communities and social networks, 12,610 mega file databases and 1,022 chats with tens of thousands of users declared as pedophiles or child lovers , expression of a perversion which is difficult to understand in its criminal actions.

A consideration occurs, and we understand its weight and meaning: if Police forces, in different countries worldwide, had taken our reports seriously, maybe they could have contributed to the repression of the dramatic phenomenon of child sexual exploitation!
Maybe they could have traced victims (since many years) enslaved by perverted and dangerous subjects!

Not to mention *Server Providers* who appealed to a declared "privacy protection" of their costumers in order not to provide the data for the detection of those who are responsible for such an "illicit traffic" and fought against the cancellation of contents as if it was about censorship.

They manage everything bureaucratically, this way they do not have the perception and responsibility of the involvement of minors who are enslaved, tortured and treated as erotic and sexual objects. We will never get tired to underline that everyone has a responsibility and that if there will not be a serious and concrete co-responsibility, our fight will just have been an aimless and endless race: abuses will continue.

Meter started a cooperation with *Service Providers,* some of them intervened to remove the child abuse material. But this hasn't brought to investigations on behalf of foreign Police forces: it has been a useful action, but insufficient (pages 60-62).
Reports about the so called "***pseudo cultural pedophilia***" are not any different: it about another story and not less dangerous than the first one, made of well structured lobbies and for sure not unknown by the public. They are clearly present on the web (pages 64-67).

The **deep web** hosts the *pedo criminal web*: since 2012 *Meter* has discovered and reported 47,421 websites where cyber pedophiles' action has been more and more present for the trafficking of child abuse material. An uncontrolled business (pages 56-57).

The *Listening Centre* is the heart of *Meter*, the centre of the help relation where victims are listened, welcomed, accompanied: from 2002 to 2019 we followed 1,721 cases and answered to 29,996 phone help requests arrived through the toll free number 800 45 52 70.

The numbers of the **2019 Report** (read data synthesis at pages 4-5) represent the pain, the suffering and the tragic reality of an abomination against children: sexual slavery, as a result of a strategy that does not spare children who have no defence and no voice. Ours are words and numbers to contrast and report the "denial of abuses" and to oppose to the "normalisation of pedophilia".

It will not be possible to understand the seriousness of such phenomenon without reading the 50 pages between page 18 and 67, where there is a detailed description of the profile of a cyber-pedophile, how he acts and what to do to protect the youngest (pages 22-27).
The Report presents horror in details: from page 32 to page 51 the reports about child sexual abuse material amounting to 8,489 links (7,074,194 photos and 992,300 videos); 323 chats and 325 rar. compressed folders (data relevant for 2019), so many that they are not quantifiable with the classification of the domains of the 5 continents and with the geographic location of *Service Providers* where inhuman collectors have catalogued and exposed bodies, faces, gestures of children in displays of the web (and maybe even in the real world), children who's innocence has been taken away for good.
Numbers are constantly growing each year; it becomes more and more complicated to monitor a phenomenon which exploits the power of the web and the complicity of those who manage the spaces where such criminal activity proliferates, despite the important cooperation agreements of these years. Cruel abusers also rage against infants (read pages 46-51) and the exponential growth of pedophile tourism and child sexual abuse material online, with satisfaction indexes, is more and more disturbing (pages 58-59).

The **Listening Centre** has welcomed 142 cases and 385 phone requests. Regarding training we participated to 113 conferences and met 5,285 students and teachers.

If ours was just a reporting action, if though it is fundamental, it would be limited and ineffective: this is why *Meter* offers training throughout its ***Training and educational Complex*** through meetings for Schools and Universities, in Italian and foreign Dioceses and through the school-work alteration project (pages 90-119).

We would also like to present you a ***survey*** which offers a pilot study about the use of the web on behalf of youngsters and about their knowledge of the dangers they can encounter: *sexting, grooming, cyber-bullying;* the study was conducted on a sample of 357 participants aged between 14 and 16 (pages 120-131).

The ***Day care Centre*** offers concrete educational answers to the territory, to minors, and their families (pages 128-129). Together with the ***Multifunctional Centre for childhood and adolescence*** (50 families welcomed) we take care of the wellbeing of their children (pages 136-147).

In conclusion, every year the ***Day for Children Victims*** is *Meter*'s most awaited appointment since 24 years. Because of the coronavirus it has been celebrated differently this year, with the careful participation of many children.

By thanking you for your presence, I will close my intervention with the words of a prominent Italian scholar and neuropsychiatrist, Vittorino Andreoli. In one of his books, talking about a "pedophile society" he pushes us not to put our heads down and to always protect our children:

«...a pedophile society exposes all children to the risk of pedophilia. And that's because ours is a society which is dominated by an ego which is egoistic and closed in itself, which identifies itself exclusively in its own small group and considers the child as an *affair personel* and not as a wealth of the society. Because it is a society that sees the child as a commodity to be exchanged or as an instrument that can be used for one's own purposes.

Because it is a society which is not able to be indignant and which is, basically, indifferent to what can happen to the child. (...) Children? Let them defend themselves on their own, just like everyone does. And if they die, never mind: it is the hard law of the strongest. A society in which everyone does not know and doesn't want to look beyond the edge of his own backyard. And this becomes evident when you think that the pedophile is not invisible at all. He is simply unseen. The society does not protect the child, it is all taken by herself». (See Andreoli, *Dalla parte dei bambini*,Corriere della Sera – Rizzoli, 2018, page 182).

Thank you all

Father Fortunato Di Noto

Sicilian priest (Avola – 1963), embodied in the Diocese of Noto (SR), he has put the roots of his mission in the web. "Digital suburbs" have become his home; the place where he spends his energies, the dark cavern where he tries to dissipate shadows. In the dark and insidious side of the web he is committed in the fight against the heinous and execrable crimes of pedophilia and child pornography. His scream is never silenced; his commitment does never take a break.

Multifaceted but sober figure, direct but prudent man, in addition to his pastoral activity he is engaged in his constant mission with Meter Association, from which he is founder, president and above all unstoppable motor. His daily mission is the monitoring of the net, the report action, the training and sensitisation action about the sad phenomenon of sexual abuse on minors, the support of the victims. Pastoral assignments: Priest at the Parish

San Giovanni Battista e San Paolo apostolo in Avola (SR), moderating priest of the Parish Madonna del Carmine in Avola (SR); member of the Copercom (Coordination of associations for communication); Episcopal Vicar and Director of the Fragilities and social discomforts Office from the Diocese of Noto (SR); Forane Vicar for the city of Avola (SR); Episcopal delegate for the Ordo Virginum, vice-director of the Social Communications Office of the Diocese of Noto; representative for the Diocese of Noto at the Regional Service for child protection; in charge for the regional listening desk of the CESI (Sicilian Episcopal Conference).

Institutional roles against pedophilia and child pornography: member of the National Observatory for the contrast to pedophilia and online child pornography of the Presidency of the Council of Ministries – Department for equal opportunities; he is member of the technical Inter-institutional group for the fight against pedophilia and child pornography sponsored by Regione Sicilia; member of the scientific committee of Italian Postal and Communications Police.

Bioethics Professor at the Higher Institute of Bioethics and Sexology at the Pontifical Salesian University of Messina.

He was promoter, together with others, of law n.269/98 and, with Meter, of law n. 38/2006 and of the ratification law of the Lanzarote Convention.

Meter Association

The Association is an important landmark in Italy for what concerns the field of minors' protection and the struggle against pedophilia and online child pornography; in the world (from China to Japan, from USA to Europe) it is recognised as one of the highest authorities for what regards the prevention of infant discomfort and the planning of interventions which aim to give concrete help to the victims of sexual abuses.

On the side of the fight against pedo-criminality *Meter* actively cooperates with institutional organs, such as Italian Postal Police, Polish Police and various Italian prosecutors' offices. Furthermore Meter has been a member of the National Observatory against pedophilia and online child pornography sponsored by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for equal opportunities.

OS.MO.CO.P (World Observatory against Pedophilia) is the heart of the Association; it is an office which is highly specialized in data research on the Internet and in the processing of traffic flows to contrast pedophilia and child pornography.

A founding pillar of the Association is the *Listening Centre* for young abuse victims and their families.

Thanks to the activation of Agreements signed with educational Institutions of every grade and order, and with Universities, *Meter* carries out an important training and educational work about relevant issues (bullying, cyber-bullying, sexting, education to the use of social networks, pedophilia, fragilities, disabilities) at the *Training and Educational Complex*.

HISTORY
Monitoring and Listening Centre

Updated to 2019

Since 2002

Protocols sent to Police forces
61,525

Reported links
174,731

Alongside with the monitoring of the net, there is a need in the Association to institute the Listening Centre for the welcoming of abuse victims and of fragility situations.

Followed cases by the Listening Centre
1,721

Telephone requests
29,996

Since 2007

Since 2007 the sensitisation action of the Association has allowed to collect new data deriving from the reports coming from users.

Form reports from users
17,375

Since 2008

The birth of social networks provides to cyber-pedophiles new spaces where they can share child abuse material.

Communities and social networks
8,397

Since 2012

The action of cyber-pedophiles shifts to the deep web, the submerged area of the internet, where it is easier for illicit material to circulate.

Deep web
47,421

Since 2014

In 2014 the Association's technicians developed a platform structured for the monitoring of the net. *Meter* constantly continues to improve the monitoring tools and increases the research every year.

Reported photos
16,003,014

Reported videos
3,469,196

Reported Mega storages
12,610

Reported chats
1,022

INTERNET MONITORING

OS.MO.CO.P
World Observatory against Pedophilia

OS.MO.CO.P is an office which is highly specialized on data research on the Internet and on the processing of traffic flows to contrast pedophilia and child pornography. *Meter*'s technicians have developed highly sophisticated software to analyze the Net; these software are integrated by a specially implemented platform which collects reports about child sexual abuse. In this way it is possible to collect quickly a great amount of information and make a well-circumstantiated report to the competent authorities. The tools which are used need to be constantly adapted according to technological evolution, so that it is made possible to provide as much data as possible to find the cyber-pedophile and contain or solve the problem (like the production and diffusion of child pornography material, the creation of Internet portals etc). OS.MO.CO.P's technicians' computer skills are constantly updated, so they can carry out an online research work to analyze data which concern with the diffusion and disclosure of photos and videos containing child sexual abuse. There are also Psychologists and Psychotherapists in the team; thanks to their experiences and competences they help to recognize the dynamics and evolution of the psyche and of the emotions of Net users.

Meter Conventions
Police forces

In 2008 the Convention between Postal and Communications Police and *Meter* NPO Association was signed. This agreement permits a constant cooperation between the State Police and the National registered office of *Meter*, which is highly committed in the protection of children. Indeed, Websites on top of the black list of Postal Police have often been reported by *Meter*. Thanks to its experience and its presence in the UNICRI database, the Association cooperates with CNCPO (National Centre for the Contrast to Online child pornography) related to the State Police, in compliance with current regulations. The convention outlines the specific competences for each part in order to put in place a common action of contrast against child pornography on the Internet, to individualize victims and to study phenomena which are connected to the use of the Internet by children; the aim is not only to repress, but more importantly to prevent and educate. The common goal is to spread the right knowledge and competences to sensitize and give the citizens the tools to a correct use of the Net and to the awareness of the risks that may hide in it; this happens by providing guidelines which are necessary to online child protection. This is made possible through a series of initiatives such as:

- highly specialised and formative projects in the field of informatics technology, implemented by collocating a specific service among the requesting bodies;
- social studies on the phenomenon of cultural and online pedophilia, and on the related information and prevention;
- education courses for a correct and responsible use of the Internet.

Since November 2017 *Meter* Association is official partner of the Polish Police in the fight against pedophilia and online child pornography. The agreement, which follows the lines of the one between the Italian Postal Police and *Meter*, provides the association to send any report regarding server, users and Polish material directly to the Polish Police thanks to a direct email address. This will allow the Polish Police to start its investigation work.

METER
della parte dei Bambini

REPUBBLICA ITALIANA
MINISTERO DELL'INTERNO

polizia
delle comunicazioni

POLICJA

These Conventions are very important as the fight against crimes against children requires quick and concrete answers; this is only possible through the cooperation between Police forces and trough the enacting of adequate laws, common to all states in Europe and worldwide.

Cyber-pedophile

The cyber-pedophile is an individual which finds the possibility to satisfy his sexual fantasies on the Net; without breaking the moral rules of the society he lives in, he manages to satisfy his pulses in a virtual way and this leads to a greater deviance and to step further away from real life. It is important not to underestimate their fine ability to use technology in the best possible way to achieve their goals.

There are different types of pedophiles using the Internet:

- *closet collector*: he jealously stores his child pornography collection and is never directly involved in abuses of minors;
- *isolated collector*: he collects child pornography by choosing a particular category, he is directly involved in the abuse of minors;
- *cottage collector*: he shares his collection and his other sexual activities with others, but he does not economically profit from it;
- *commercial collector*: he is personally involved in sexual exploitation of minors, he produces, copies and sells child sexual abuse material.
- *pedo-crime (organized)*: complex hierarchical structure, which, with the forced consent of the parents, grooms the small victims and makes them available for purely sexual violence aims, in order to obtain economic business with real or virtual sexual encounters.

Cyber-pedophile in the web
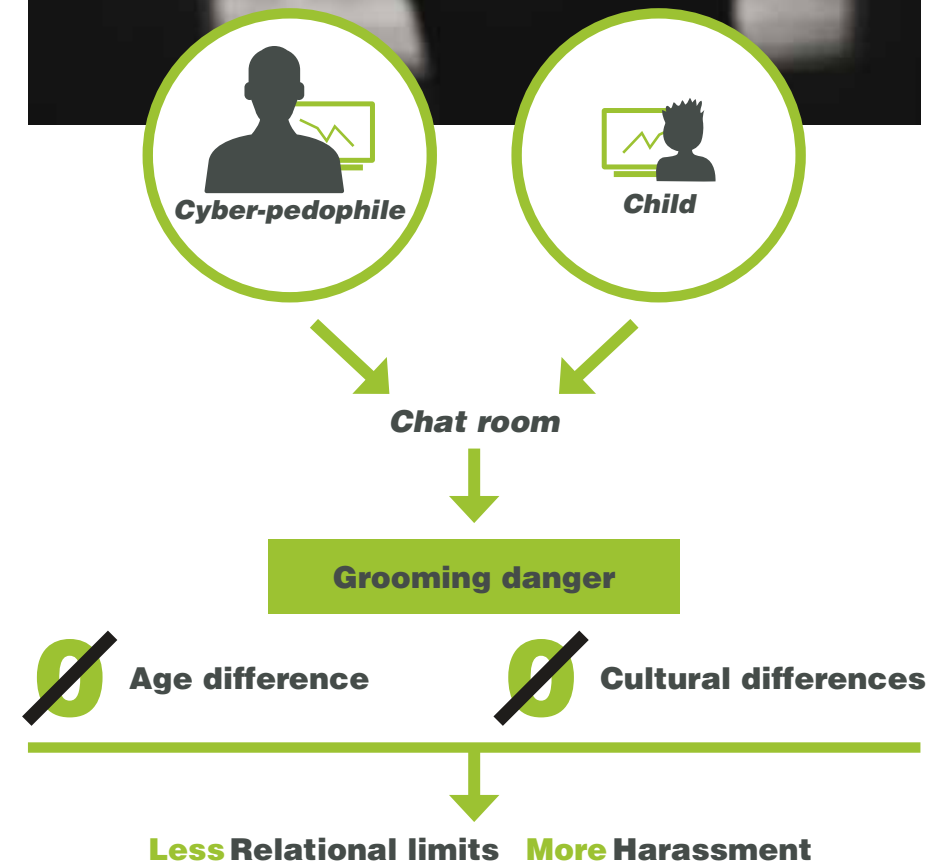
satisfies pulses

increases deviance

steps further away from real life

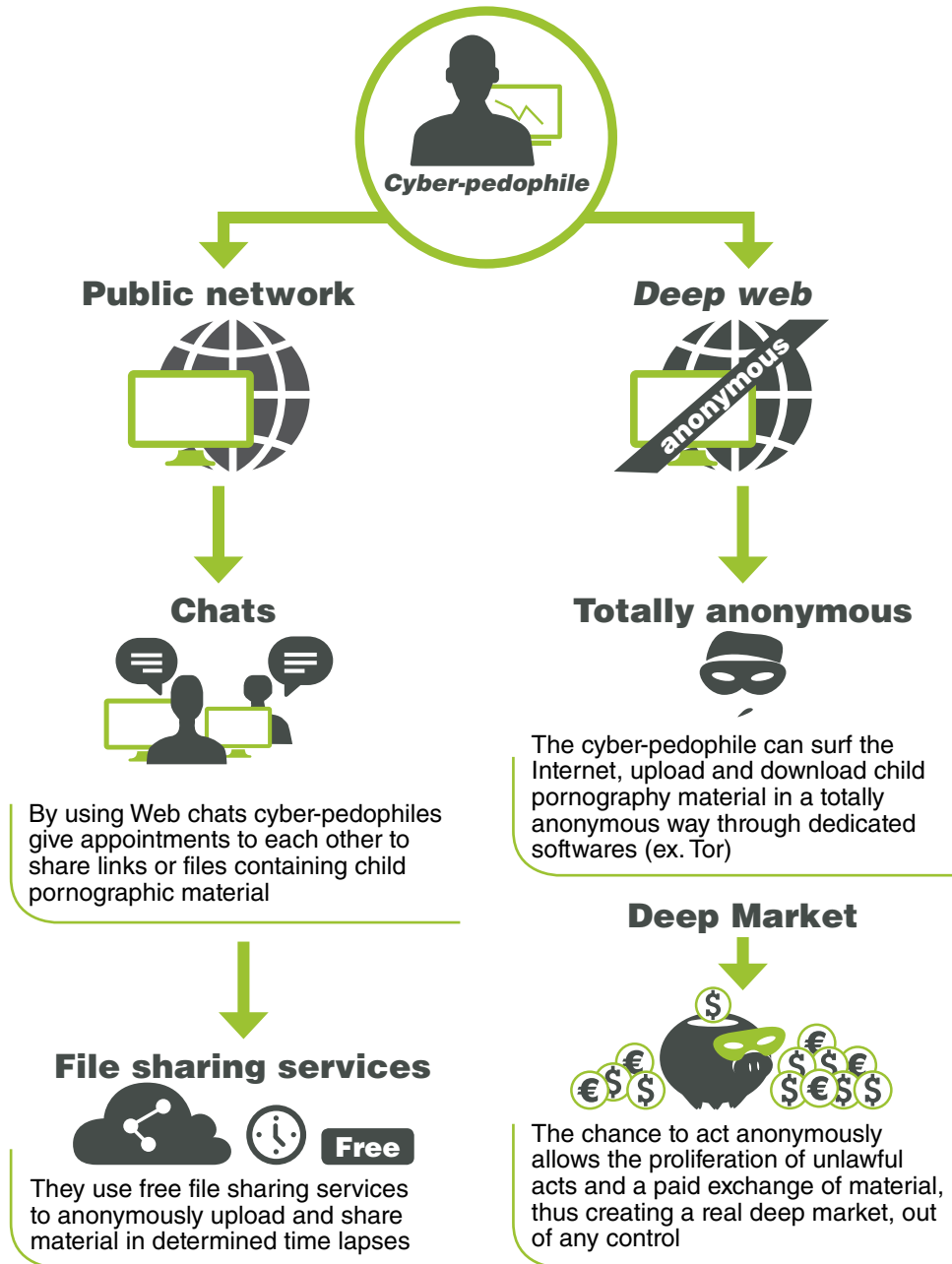**creates networks of contacts and exchange with other subjects**

What to do to protect the youngest?

To give responsibilities to adults and educate children to a safe surfing of the net.

There are two perspectives about online pedophilia: on the one hand there is the belief that child pornography Websites represent a virtual way to satisfy one's desire, on the other hand the belief is that it is just a way to push the Net user pedophile to what had remained dormant until that moment. Chat rooms provide numerous risks of harassment and grooming for children; as a matter of fact, although there is a physical distance between the two interlocutors, it is easy to remove the age and cultural differences that do usually put limits in a face to face relation between children and adults. The Internet often represents a useful tool to pedophiles in an initial phase of contact with minors as it permits them to put in place a kind of "soft" verbal harassment or to approach the minor and foster a real meeting with him, without exposing themselves. The Net offers children wonderful opportunities of growth and of discovering of the world around them, but it also hides dangers that need a particular attention from parents. It is necessary for parents to stay close to their children, to guide them on the Net and to learn their slang so they can better understand the interests and the world where children live in.

Cyber-pedophile   *Child*

Chat room

Grooming danger

Ø **Age difference**   *Ø* **Cultural differences**

Less Relational limits   **More** Harassment

How a cyber-pedophile acts

Cyber-pedophile

Public network

Chats

By using Web chats cyber-pedophiles give appointments to each other to share links or files containing child pornographic material

File sharing services

Free

They use free file sharing services to anonymously upload and share material in determined time lapses

Deep web

Totally anonymous

The cyber-pedophile can surf the Internet, upload and download child pornography material in a totally anonymous way through dedicated softwares (ex. Tor)

Deep Market

The chance to act anonymously allows the proliferation of unlawful acts and a paid exchange of material, thus creating a real deep market, out of any control

The action of the pedophile on the Net in quite complex and in some ways obscure. Very often it is not just about singular individuals, but about real criminal organizations that do not only share, but also profit of the download of child sexual abuse material, as they are the direct producers of the shared material. The sexual abuse is filmed, photographed and shared; they even create real sets where the abuse is documented.

Children are not actors; there is no fiction in this horror movie. Children are actually abused, the violence is absolutely real and the damage they suffer can not be removed. Neither the abusers are actors, they are criminals to drive out and strike down. Once photos and videos have been produced, they are uploaded on the Internet and on the deep Web, entering the flourishing market of illicit material. Without considering the profit business, to share and detain child sexual abuse material is in itself already punishable by law. *Meter* often detects that most of the material that is tracked down through the monitoring of the Net can be found in free online portals and platforms, which are accessible to any user. The reported links are often still active and usable after many years.

FREE FILE HOSTING SERVICES FOR CHILD TRAFFICKING

HUGE
FILE AMOUNT

325
.RAR
compressed folders

.RAR

Huge collections of files discovered with .RAR extension for the trafficking of abused children. Big amounts of photos and videos exchanged on the online child abuse material market.

RARs are file formats able to contain and compress other files and folders, they are primarily used to reduce storage spaces and transfer time on the web between pcs and between diffe-rent users. The characteristic of RAR files is that they do not lose any kind of information during compression and decompression. Very big file sets can be compressed as RAR files and divided in multi-volume storages. These kinds of files need to be decom-pressed to visualize the material they contain.

Organized pedophiles use such space to transfer a big amount of photos and videos, there are so many that it is impossible to QUANTIFY them.

Domains and their features

A **1st level domain** is the suffix (the International "number pla-te") of the Internet address and it is placed on the right side of the URL. It can be generic, with a **gTLD** acronym (Generic Top Level Domain), as for example: **.com**, **.org**, **.edu**, **.info**, which expresses their qualification (.com is for commercial websites, .org is for organizations, .edu is for schools, universities and for bodies dealing with education in general, etc.); or, otherwise, it can have the acronym **ccTLD** (Country Code Top Level Do-main), which identifies the nation of the domain (for example: **.it** for Italy, **.uk** for the United Kingdom, **.fr** for France, etc.).

2nd level domains are made up by an extension (first level do-main) and by a univocal identification name. So the structure of a second level domain is "domainname.extension". An example of a second level domain is "associazionemeter.org", where ".org" is the extension (first level domain) and "associazionemeter" is the second level domain name.

3rd level domains, which are also called sub-domains, are hie-rarchically dependent from a "mother" second level domain. Third level domains have the following kind of structure: subdomainname. domainname. extension. For example: casa.associazionemeter.org

2019

Protocols - CNCPPO reports	2,163
Monitored links	8,489
Links - Italian references	2
Reports (2003 – 2019)	174,731
Form reports by users	280
Deep Web	272
Photo monitoring	7,074,194
Video monitoring	992,300

2018

Protocols - CNCPPO reports	1,780
Monitored links	14,179
Links - Italian references	71
Reports (2003 - 2018)	166,242
Form reports by users	224
Deep Web	261
Photo monitoring	3,053,317
Video monitoring	1,123,793

NATIONAL 1ST LEVEL DOMAINS

.ht	HAITI	640	.bz	BELIZE	1
.fr	FRANCE	484	.eu	EUROPEAN UNION	1
.nz	NEW ZEALAND	410	.gg	GUERNSEY	1
.io	BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN	284	.ml	MALI	1
.pw	COLOMBIA	206	.pl	POLAND	1
.pw	PALAU	90	**TOTAL**		**2,512**
.fm	MICRONESIA	69
.to	TONGA	60
.ru	RUSSIA	47
.is	ICELAND	32
.me	MONTENEGRO	27
.gr	GREECE	25
.al	ALBANIA	21
.sh	SAINT HELEN ISLAND	21
.tv	TUVALU	20
.wf	WALLIS E FUTUNA	15
.cc	COCOS ISLANDS	12
.vn	VIETNAM	11
.ly	LYBIA	8
.pk	PAKISTAN	7
.tk	TOKELAU	5
.jp	JAPAN	4
.nl	NETHERLANDS	3
.ac	ASCENSION ISLAND	2
.ga	GABON	2
.it	ITALY	2

In 2019
2,512
1ST LEVEL DOMAINS

Nel 2018
7,714
1ST LEVEL DOMAINS
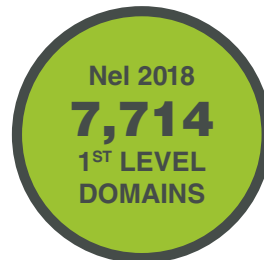
Most relevant 1st level domains in 2018

- 1,717 — .to
- 1,108 — .gg
- 912 — .io
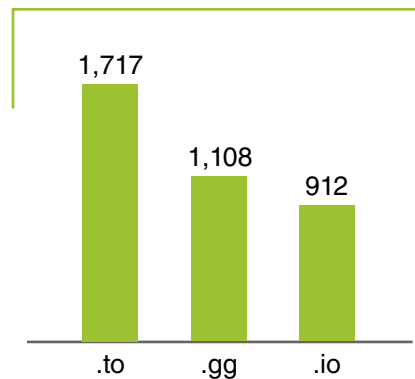
GENERIC 1ST LEVEL DOMAINS

.net	2,977	.moe	3
.com	2,483	.agency	2
.onion	272	.click	2
.club	58	.online	2
.site	43	.work	2
.xyz	35	.asia	1
.top	29	.gid.pw	1
.org	24	.red	1
.fun	15	.vk.me	1
.biz	8	.wang	1
.gdn	6	**TOTAL**	**5,977**
.icu	5
.info	3
.link	3

Most relevant generic 1st level domains in 2018

- 3,031 — .com
- 1,604 — .net
- 303 — .top

In 2019
5,977
GENERIC 1ST LEVEL DOMAINS

In 2018
5,895
GENERIC 1ST LEVEL DOMAINS
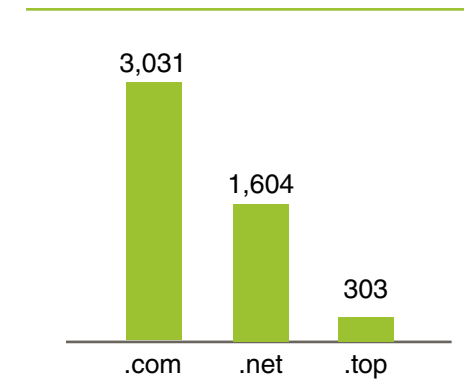
Domain classification of the 5 continents

On the podium of 2019, the Island of Haiti in the Caribbean Sea in Central America is at the first place with 640 links (.ht domain); at the second place France with 484 links (.fr domain); at the third place New Zealand with 410 links (.nz domain). It is clear that this is a worldwide phenomenon, no continent is immune, there are 30 nations involved.

It often results from the analyzed links that, although it does geographically belong to a nation, the extension contains services which are provided by servers located in other parts of the world (usually in America or in Europe), as emerges from the charts of server's geolocation in the next pages. That means that a user which resides in a determined continent can register a domain that does geographically belong to a State of another continent. This makes us understand how complex the Web is, and how users are totally free to act on the Internet without geographic boundaries. The giants of the web have big responsibilities that

they can not avoid by appealing to an extreme protection of privacy. Domain registries and website, file-sharing platforms' administrators have the responsibility to supervise the material that circulates under their names; if it is true that they have no control on the material uploaded by their users, it is also true that they have the power to have such material removed and, if the law in their country allows it, they can also provide the competent authorities with the IP address of those who uploaded and/or downloaded it.

What makes us worry the most is the lack of action of who is in charge, despite the reports there is no effective repression action. There is no organisation of common operations to drive this phenomenon out, and if some investigation is done, it rarely reaches the hoped epilogue of the individualisation of the responsible people and to a possible conviction.
Furthermore repression is made even more complicated since many countries do still not have a legislation which specifically deals with child abuse material or computer crimes linked to such phenomenon.
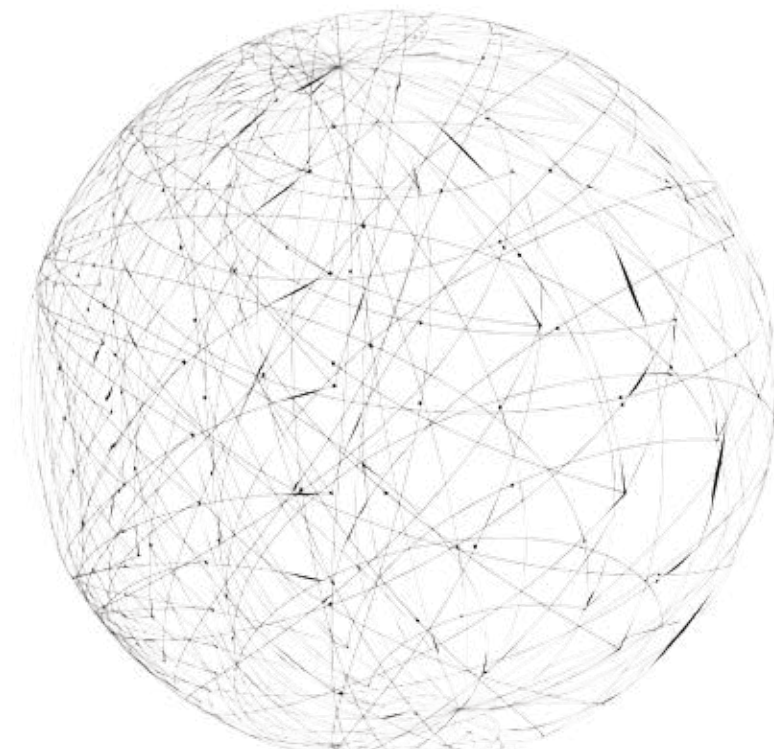
AMERICA DOMAINS		
.ht	HAITI	640
.co	COLOMBIA	206
.bz	BELIZE	1
TOTAL		847

OCEANIA DOMAINS		
.nz	NEW ZELAND	410
.pw	PALAU	90
.fm	MICRONESIA	69
.to	TONGA	60
.tv	TUVALU	20
.wf	WALLIS E FUTUNA	15
.tk	COCOS ISLANDS	12
.tk	TOKELAU	5
TOTAL		681

EUROPE DOMAINS		
.fr	FRANCE	484
.ru	RUSSIA	47
.is	ICELAND	32
.me	MONTENEGRO	27
.gr	GREECE	25
.al	ALBANIA	21
.nl	NETHERLANDS	3
.it	ITALY	2
.eu	EUROPEAN UNION	1
.gg	GUERNSEY	1
.pl	POLAND	1
TOTAL		644

ASIA DOMAINS		
.io	BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN	284
.vn	VIETNAM	11
.pk	PAKISTAN	7
.jp	GIAPPONE	4
TOTAL		306

AFRICA DOMAINS		
.sh	ISOLA SANT'ELENA	21
.ly	LIBIA	8
.ac	ISOLA DI ASCENSIONE	2
.ga	GABON	2
TOTAL		33

In 2019
30
NATIONS
INVOLVED

AMERICA
847

EUROPE
644

ASIA
306

AFRICA
33

OCEANIA
681
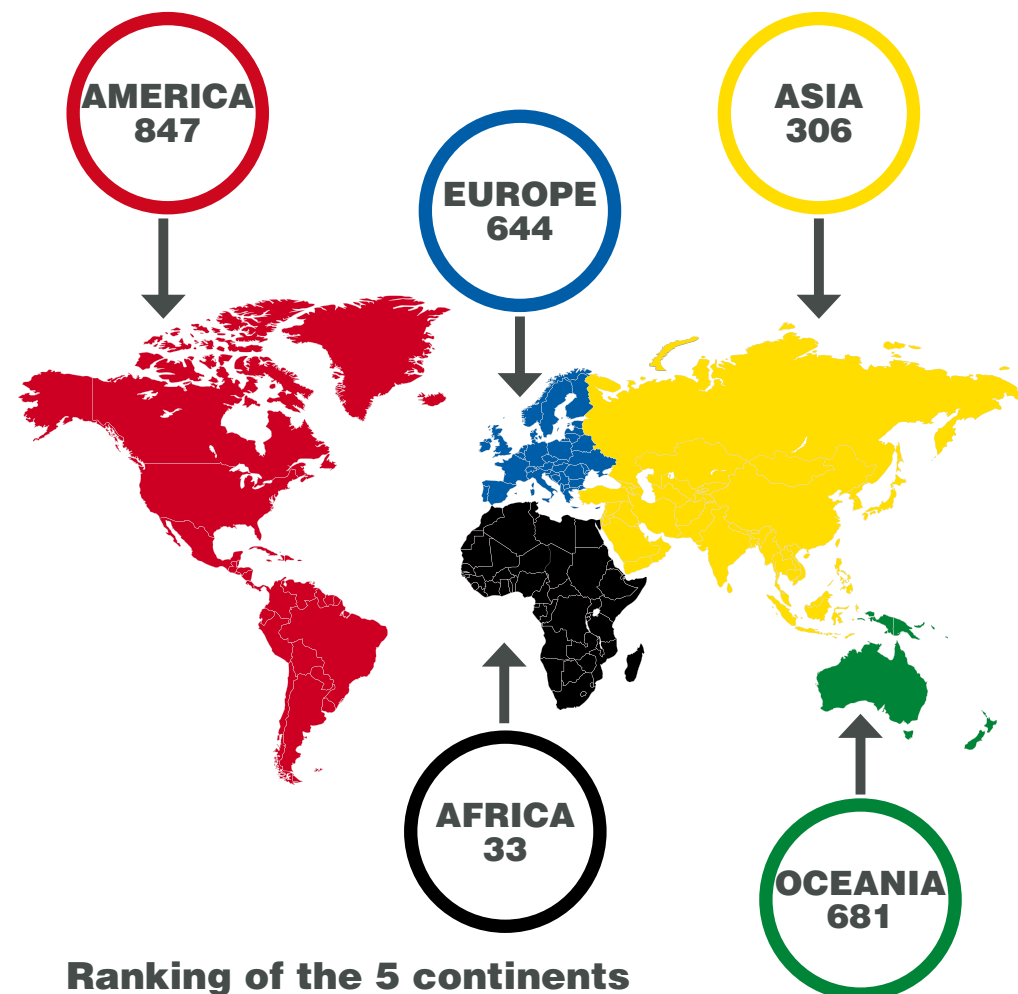
Ranking of the 5 continents

	America	Oceania	Europe	Asia	Africa
	847	681	644	306	33
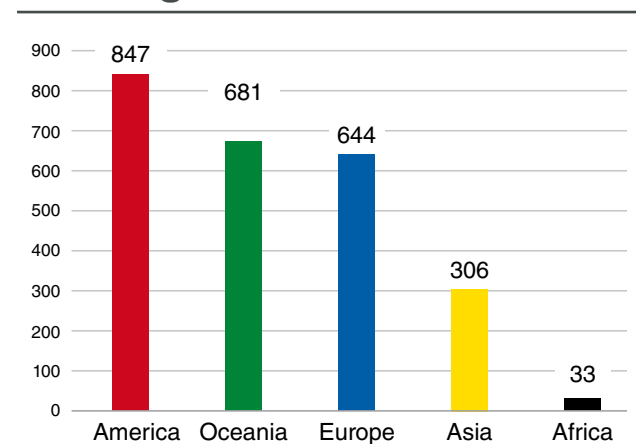
Server geolocation

Internet

Clients

Definition of server

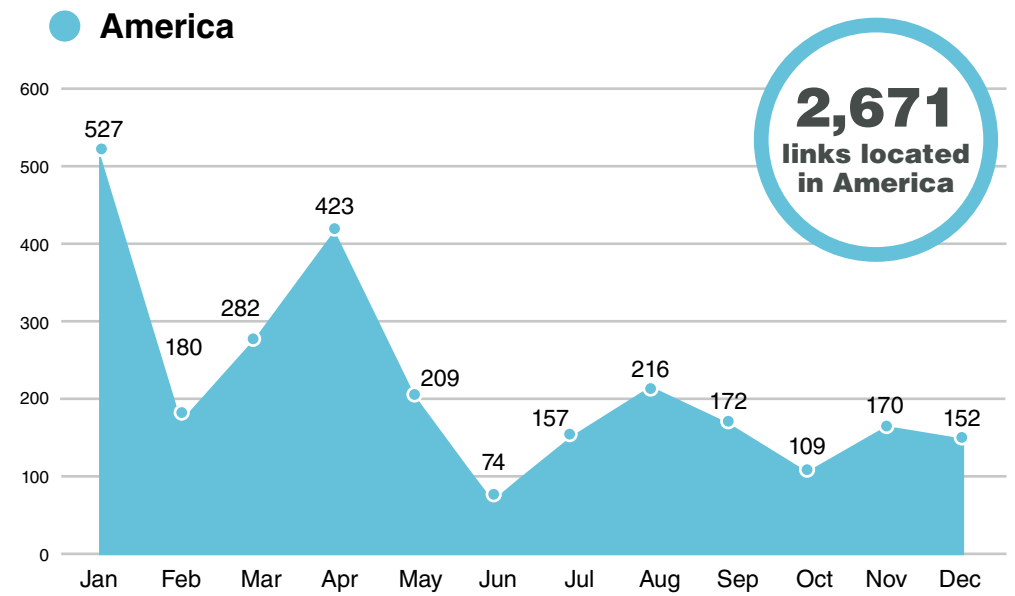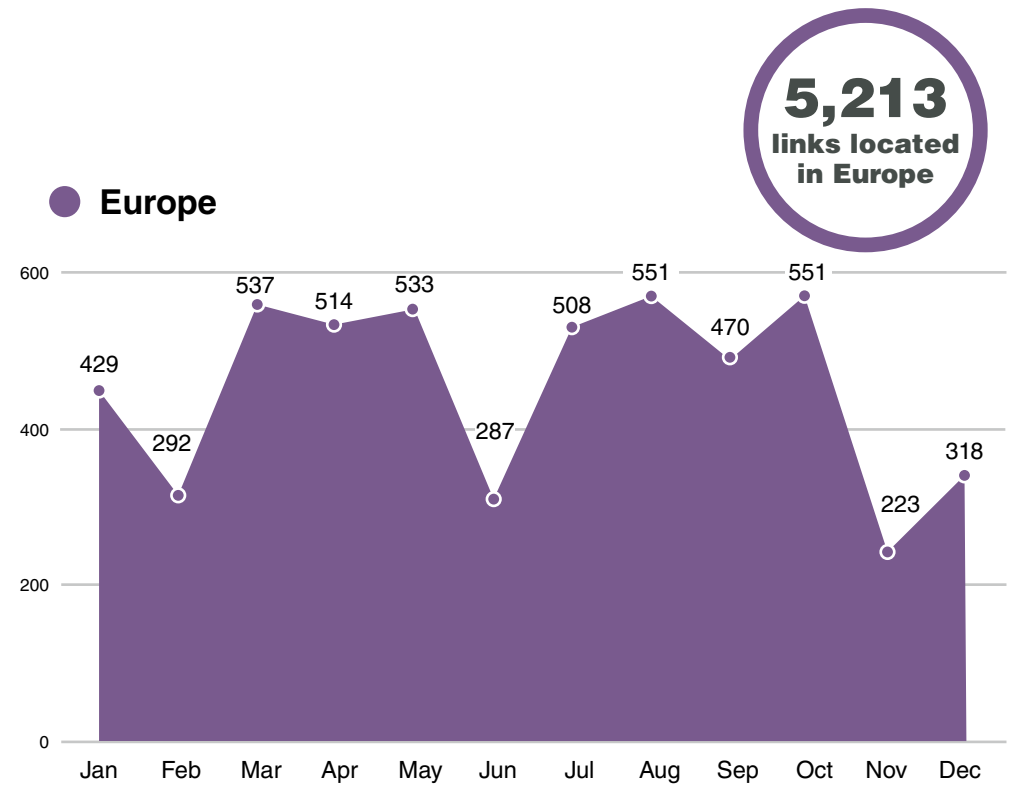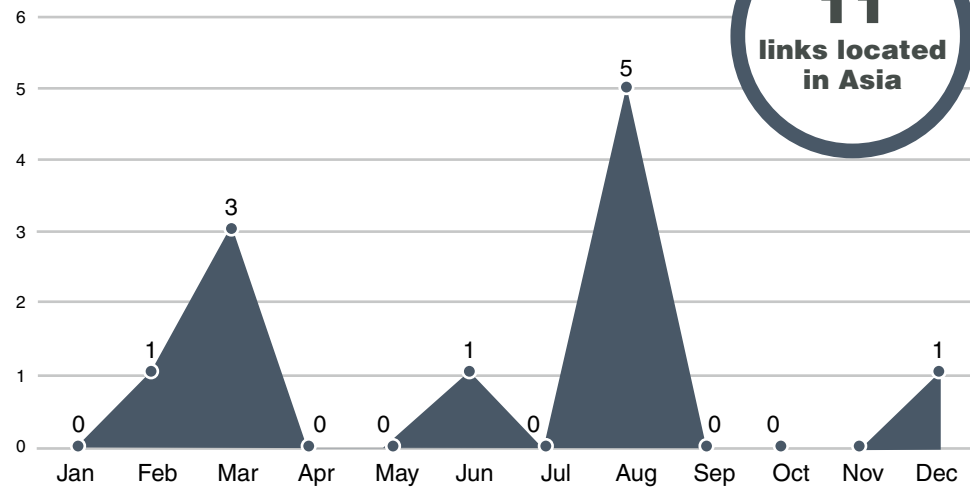A *server* (from the English word (to) "serve", literally servant) is a computer sub-system of elaboration and management of the traffic of information that any kind of service provides to other components called clients; namely clients who request for these services through a computer Net in a computer system or also directly on an computer.In general, what is called server is the hardware component which provides a service via a specific software. On a hardware perspective, servers can reside on a normal PC or on dedicated machines that have higher performances, reliability and costs. Typically a hardware server machine can host one or more services.

What emerges from our monitoring activity of the Net is an important data, it is interesting to understand the economic mechanism behind it, although it is not a new phenomenon. Looking at the chart of the geolocation of servers, it emerges that most of the companies that handle servers which permit the functioning of many Websites and platforms where child sexual abuse material is spread, are located in Europe and America.

5,213
links located
in Europe

● **Europe**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
429	292	537	514	533	287	508	551	470	551	223	318

2,671
links located
in America

● **America**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
527	180	282	423	209	74	157	216	172	109	170	152

Asia

6
5
4
3
2
1
0

0	1	3	0	0	1	0	5	0	0		1
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

11
links located
in Asia

Africa

5
4
3
2
1
0

4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

7
links located
in Africa

Oceania

0

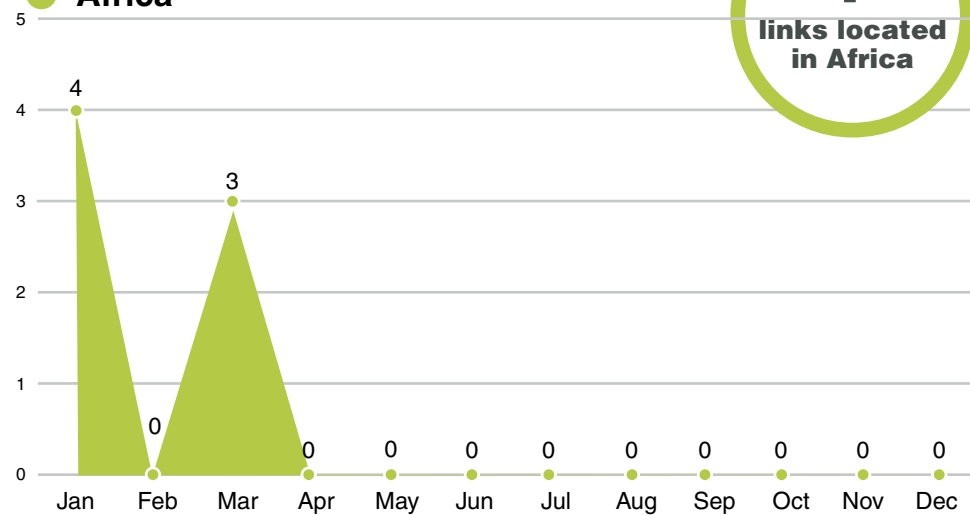|											
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

0
links located
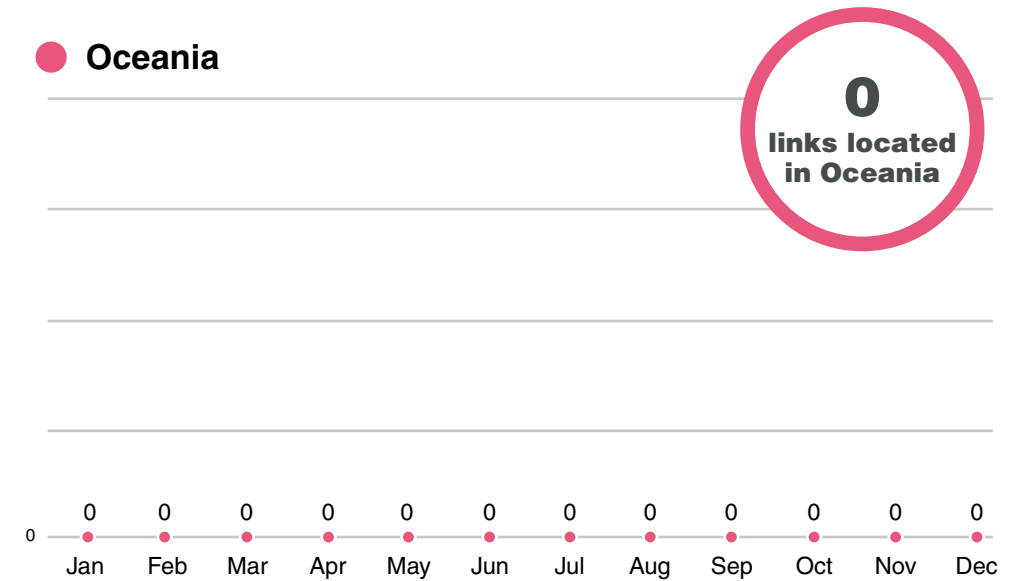in Oceania

Analyzing the chart of geolocation of servers of Asia, Africa and Oceania it is easy to comprehend that the presence of servers in states located in these continents is almost irrelevant.

Oceania has set to zero the links located in its geographical area; we remind that the .to domain (of the island od Tonga) gave a high number of links in the past years. We highlight the important co-operation that has born between Meter Association and the management of the domain extensions of the lands situated in the Pacific Ocean, this has brought to an important action of repression and control. It would be desirable to create an international collaboration network to put at least a brake to the exchange of child sex abuse material.

We are conscious that online child sex abuse material is an enormous plague which bleeds with innocent lives, but we can not accept that nothing or little is done to stem this phenomenon.

As we can see in the charts in these pages, the prominent role of Europe and America remains unchanged; those are the continents of richness, of wealth, but also of profit from illicit material.

2019 Geographical location of servers
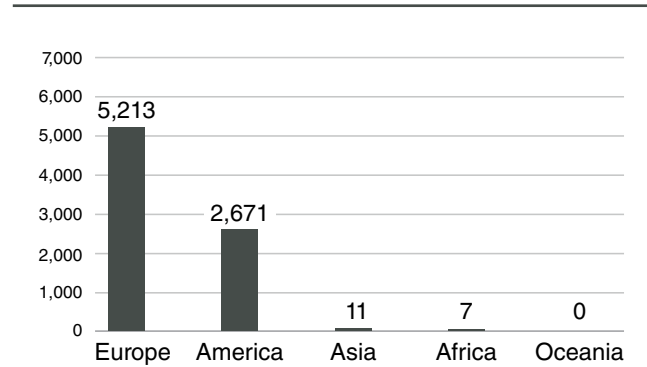
## 2018 Geographical location of servers
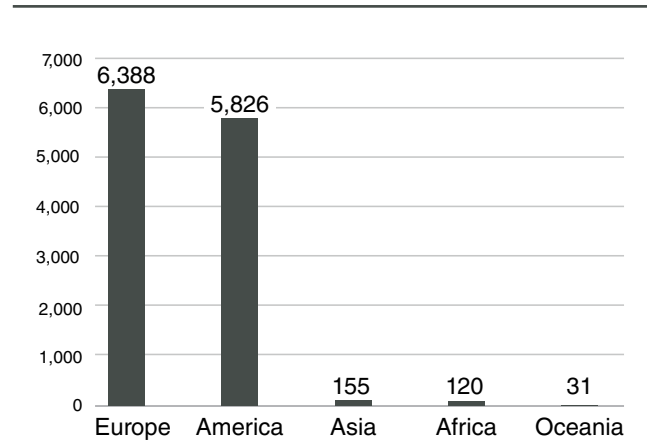
Comparing the charts of the geographical location of servers of 2018 and 2019, the ranking is exactly the same.

Europe and America are still at the first two places. In our opinion, this is where the responsibilities of the companies that manage the servers come from. To this day there are no protocols or filters for the upload of files. In dedicated services it is possible to upload any kind of material, also violent material, with child sexual abuse, with horrifying abuse acts, in a totally free, anonymous way, without any control from the owners of the web space where the material is uploaded.
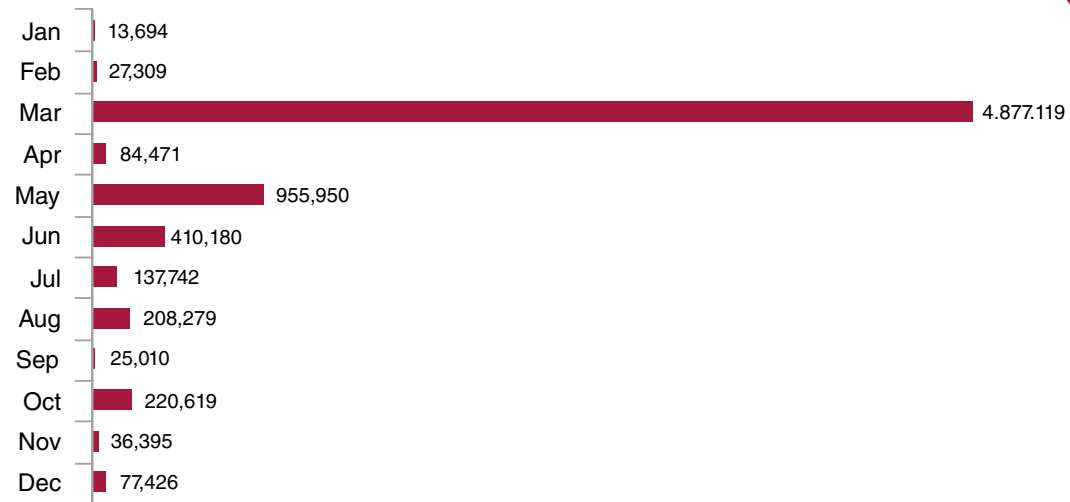
Online pedophilia reported links

2003	8,680
2004	10,120
2005	9,044
2006	9,876
2007	3,480
2008	2,850
2009	7,240
2010	13,766
2011	20,390
2012	15,946
2013	6,389
2014	7,712
2015	9,872
2016	9,379
2017	17,299
2018	14,179
2019	8,489

From 2003 to 2019

174,711
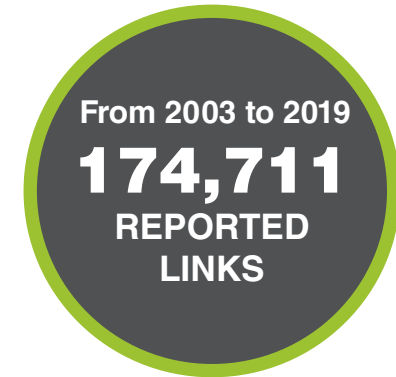
REPORTED LINKS

Our commitment in the monitoring of the net is constant. The variation in the number of reported links is a sign of the change of the distribution dynamics of child sexual abuse material. Moreover, data related to the first years of monitoring of the web are not as detailed as those that can be observed in the latest reports. This is indicative of a constant improvement of the research tools, specific management software that allow to convey the data coming from the monitoring of the suburbs of the web in a single system.

Monthly monitoring

PHOTO MONITORING

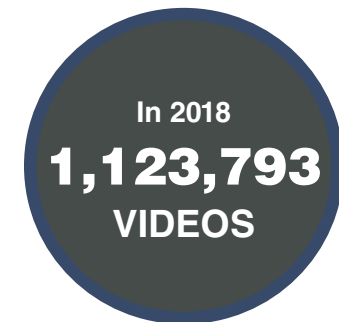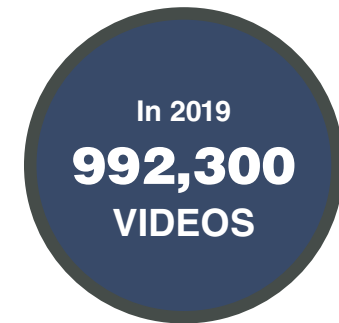| Month	Value
Jan	13,694
Feb	27,309
Mar	4.877.119
Apr	84,471
May	955,950
Jun	410,180
Jul	137,742
Aug	208,279
Sep	25,010
Oct	220,619
Nov	36,395
Dec	77,426

VIDEO MONITORING

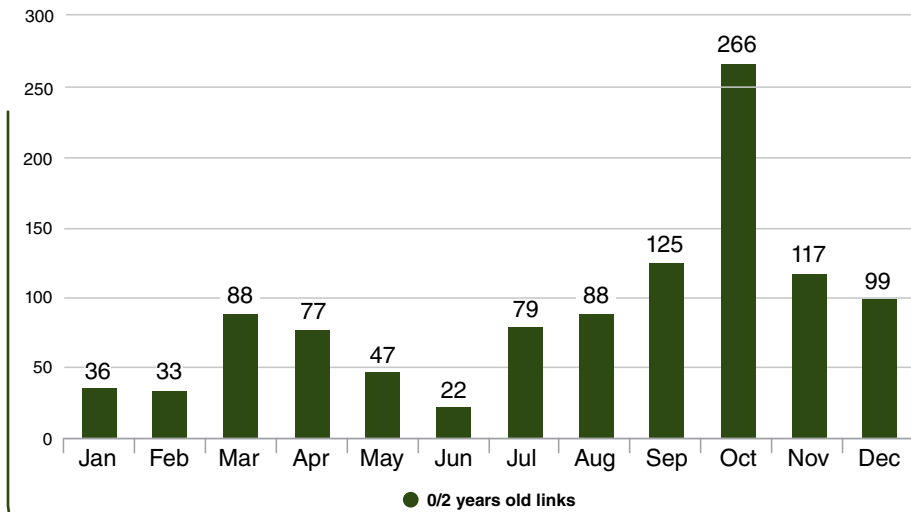| Month	Value
Jan	4,663
Feb	2,925
Mar	73,860
Apr	8,625
May	18,951
Jun	173,109
Jul	10,620
Aug	174,286
Sep	10,590
Oct	338.441
Nov	26,722
Dec	149,508
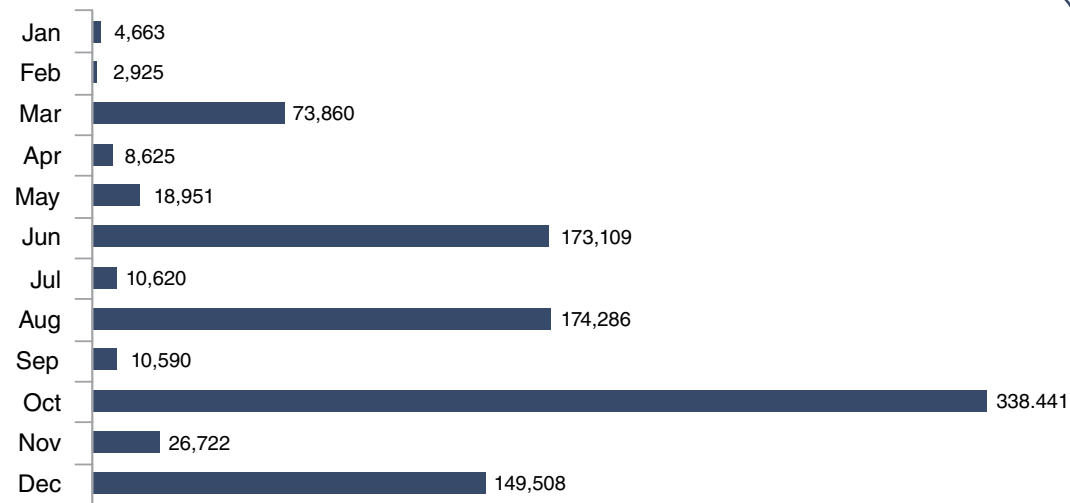
Millions of photos and videos, hundreds of children involved. Numbers testify a spreading and unstoppable phenomenon. A crime against humanity with silent victims. The weeping of these children does not make any noise, it does not shake the muted and numb consciences. Only in March of 2019 we detected 4,877,119 photos of young slaves of the desire of unscrupulous men and women. Millions of images and videos sold, shared like cards of a digital album with infinite pages, there does not seem to be a last card to complete the collection. Inhuman collectors who catalogue and expose bodies, faces, gestures of children on the windows of the web, children whose innocence has been taken for good.

Numbers increase constantly, it becomes more and more complicated to monitor a phenomenon which takes advantage from the power of the web and from the complicity of those who manage the spaces where such criminal activity flourishes, despite we had important collaborations in the past years.
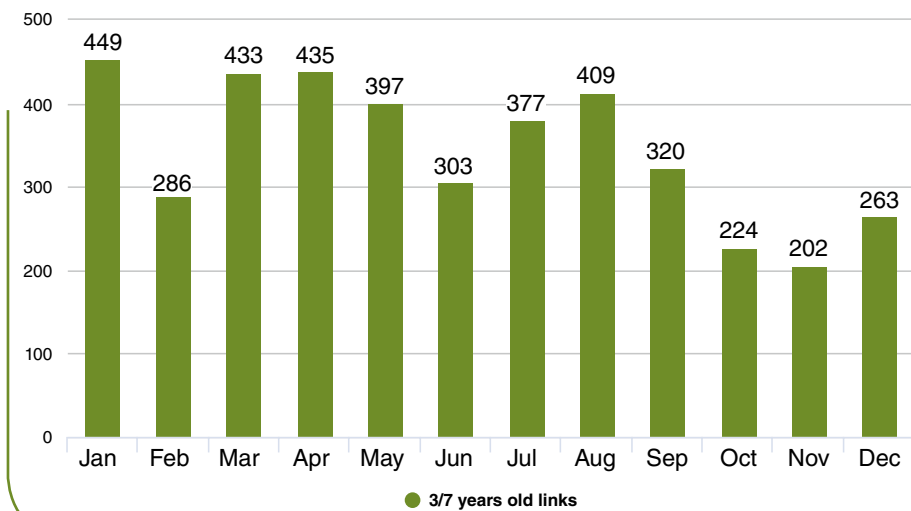
In 2019
7,074,194
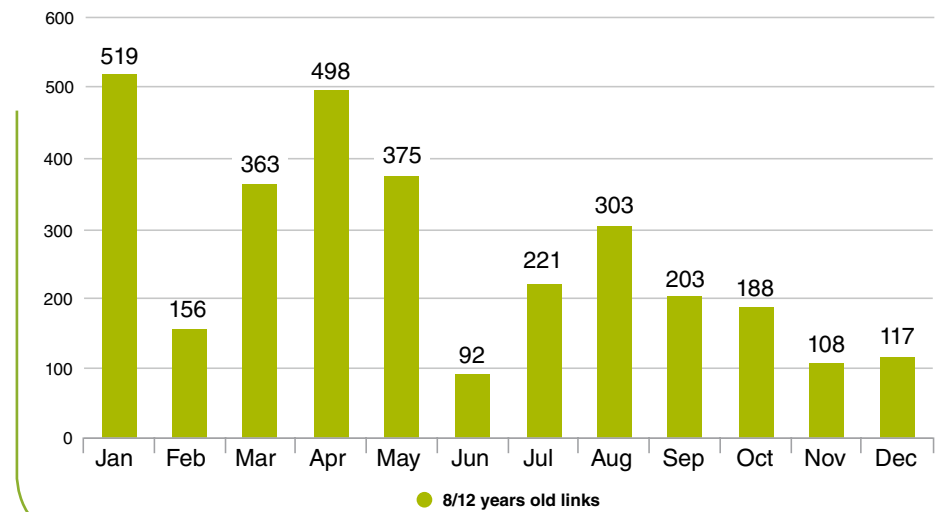**PHOTOS**

In 2019
992,300
VIDEOS

In 2018
3,053,317
PHOTOS

In 2018
1,123,793
VIDEOS

Monitored age groups

0/2 years old links

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
36	33	88	77	47	22	79	88	125	266	117	99

● 0/2 years old links

8/12 years old links

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
519	156	363	498	375	92	221	303	203	188	108	117

● 8/12 years old links

3/7 years old links

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
449	286	433	435	397	303	377	409	320	224	202	263

● 3/7 years old links

Like last year, and as a confirmation of a trend of many years, the age range that pedophiles and cyber-pedophiles require the most remains 8/12 years, we are still talking about children or preteens. Since they are inexpert and solitary surfers of the net, children of this age range become easy victims, in particular of cyber-pedophiles.
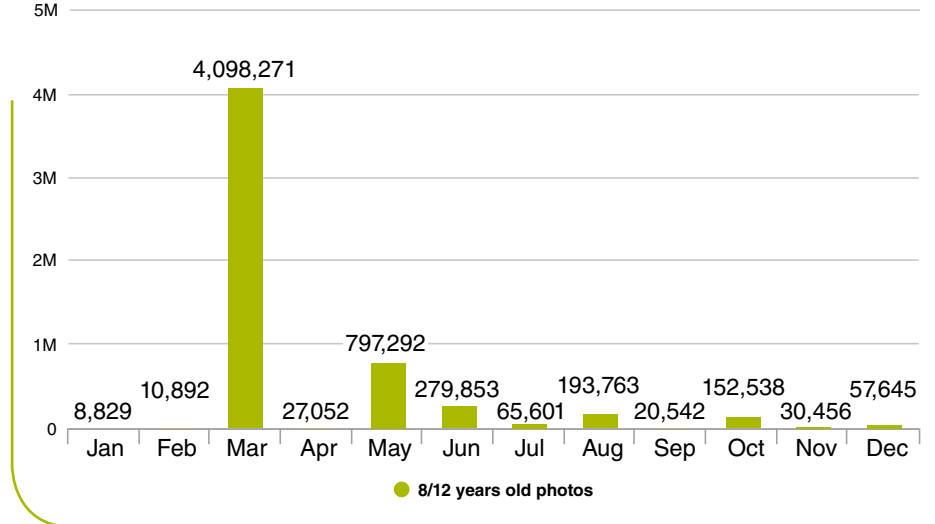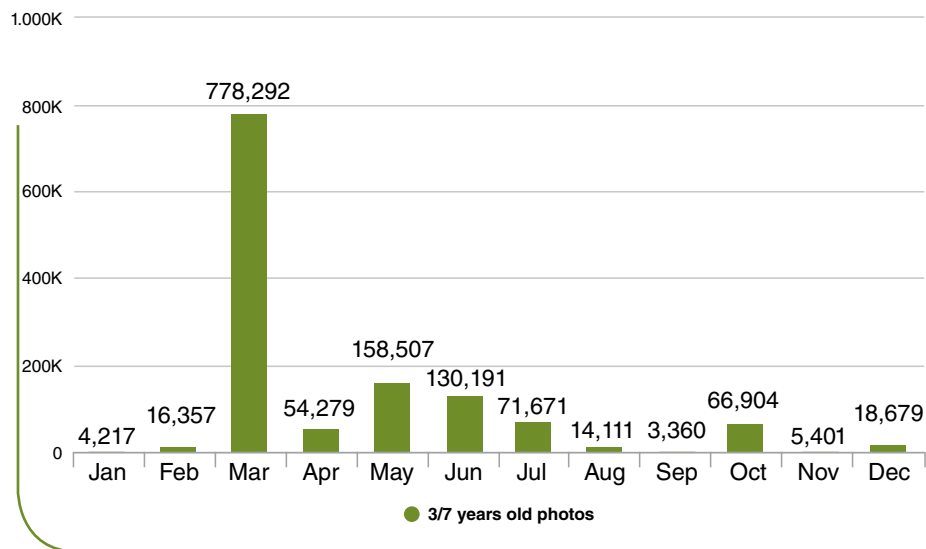
Total of monitored links by age range in 2019
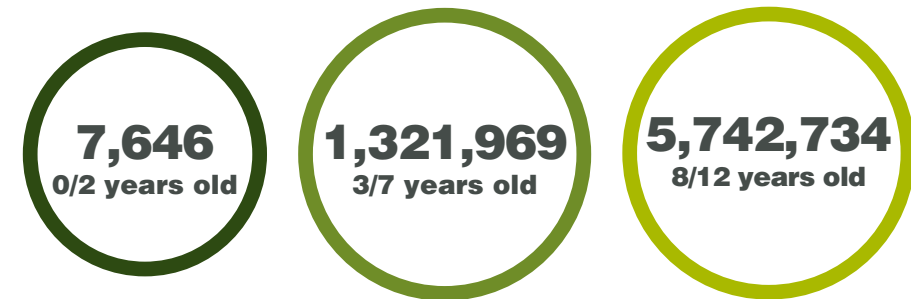
1,077 0/2 years old

4,098 3/7 years old

3,143 8/12 years old

0/2 years old photos

Chart data (0/2 years old photos):
- Jan: 71
- Feb: 51
- Mar: 373
- Apr: 3,121
- May: 99
- Jun: 134
- Jul: 455
- Aug: 398
- Sep: 325
- Oct: 1,107
- Nov: 446
- Dec: 1,066
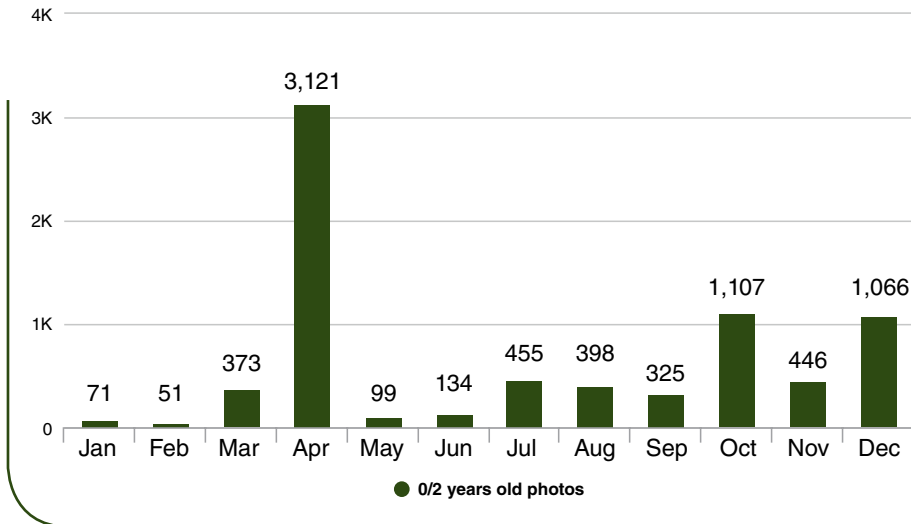
● 0/2 years old photos

3/7 years old photos

Chart data (3/7 years old photos):
- Jan: 4,217
- Feb: 16,357
- Mar: 778,292
- Apr: 54,279
- May: 158,507
- Jun: 130,191
- Jul: 71,671
- Aug: 14,111
- Sep: 3,360
- Oct: 66,904
- Nov: 5,401
- Dec: 18,679

● 3/7 years old photos

8/12 years old photos

Chart data (8/12 years old photos):
- Jan: 8,829
- Feb: 10,892
- Mar: 4,098,271
- Apr: 27,052
- May: 797,292
- Jun: 279,853
- Jul: 65,601
- Aug: 193,763
- Sep: 20,542
- Oct: 152,538
- Nov: 30,456
- Dec: 57,645

● 8/12 years old photos

Total of monitored photos by age range in 2019

7,646
0/2 years old

1,321,969
3/7 years old

5,742,734
8/12 years old

Since many years *Meter* reports the phenomenon of "***infanto-philia***" (0/2 years range) that is the attraction from adults for very young children, infants. Cruel abusers torture very young children, defenceless victims who are never going to tell about the violence, assuming that they survive it.

0/2 years old videos

Month	Value
Jan	37
Feb	3
Mar	8
Apr	1,525
May	37
Jun	29
Jul	87
Aug	429
Sep	152
Oct	632
Nov	27
Dec	1,040

● Video 0/2 anni

3/7 years old videos

Month	Value
Jan	2,175
Feb	526
Mar	15,126
Apr	2,211
May	2,273
Jun	28,348
Jul	3,172
Aug	7,393
Sep	3,664
Oct	140,930
Nov	10,736
Dec	55,809

● Video 3/7 anni

8/12 years old videos

Month	Value
Jan	2,450
Feb	2,394
Mar	58,725
Apr	4,889
May	16,640
Jun	144,732
Jul	7,361
Aug	166,464
Sep	6,774
Oct	196,879
Nov	15,959
Dec	92,659

● 8/12 years old videos

Total of monitored videos by age range in 2019

4,006
0/2 years old

272,363
3/7 years old

715,926
8/12 years old

The differences between the data of the monitoring and the totals by age groups are due to the impossibility to detect the real age of some children because they are not clearly visible.

PHOTOS

Monitoring total	Total by age range
7,074,194	**7,072,349**

VIDEOS

Monitoring total	Total by age range
992,300	**992,295**

File sharing platforms

Important companies handle Web data obtaining a big economic feedback. Most of the monitored links lead to online file sharing platforms. In such Web spaces it is possible to anonymously exchange files in "determined time lapses", which means that once the time established by the user or by the service provider has expired, the uploaded files are removed from the server without leaving any trace. As we said before, the cyber-pedophile is neither inexperienced, nor is he a fresh Net surfer. This is the reason why he relies on services which guarantee him to act freely. For example one of the file sharing platforms monitored by *Meter* provides a service which is advertised with these key words "simple, anonymous, free and secure". The user doesn't even need to register himself, the upload of material is immediate and it is possible to upload up to 1 gigabyte for 24 hours. Files can only be downloaded by people to whom the link has been supplied. Furthermore, the Website does not use cookies or any kind of traffic monitoring (*Google Analytics*), nor advertisement that could trace the user back. The perfect place for the exchange of child sexual abuse material.
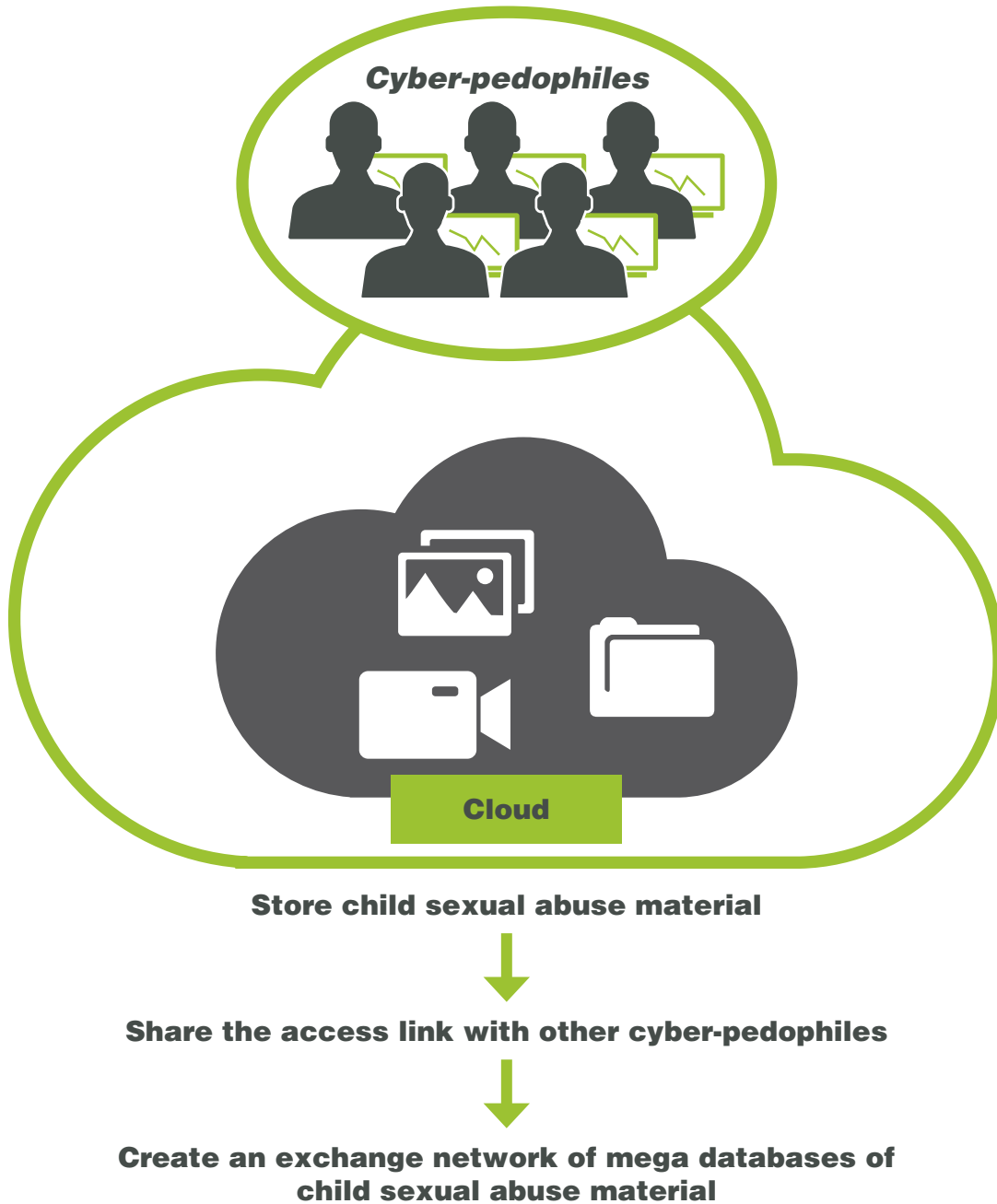

File sharing platforms
Exchange of child sexual abuse material

anonymous

free

timed

Cyber-pedophiles

Cloud

Store child sexual abuse material

↓

Share the access link with other cyber-pedophiles

↓

Create an exchange network of mega databases of child sexual abuse material
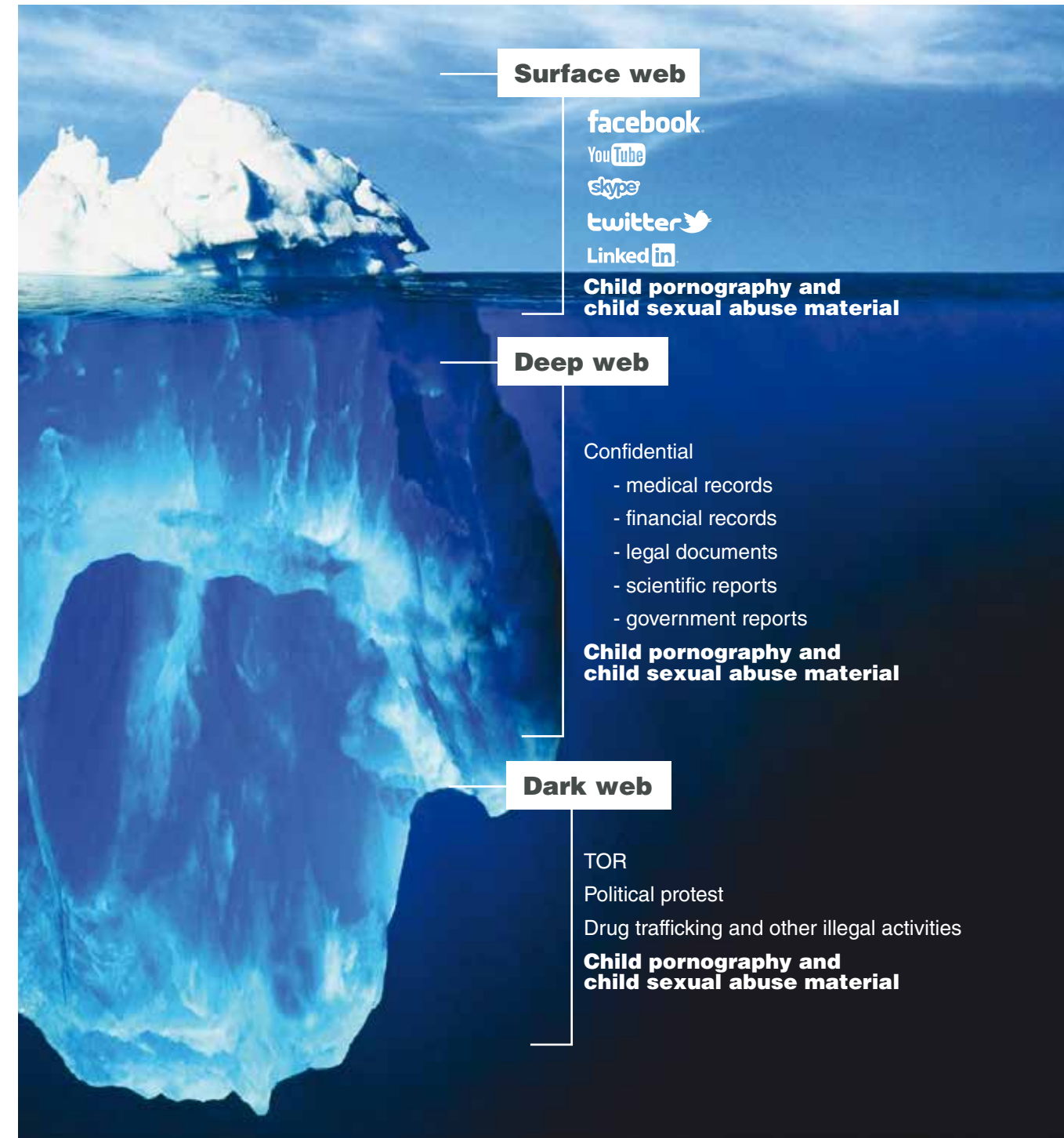

Other platforms monitored by *Meter* work with cloud technology: stuff is uploaded on an online personal space and stays there until it is deleted by the user; again, it is possible to access the files only if the link is supplied by the owner of the space. Right on these Web services the association has traced mega file storages of child sexual abuse material. For example on one of those monitored cloud platforms it is possible to upload up to one terabyte of material. The cloud has born to provide the user with a secure place to store photos, videos and files. One's memories risk to be lost if left on a pc or a mobile phone that could break. The cloud assures a duration over time of the files, makes them available on all devices of the user and allows to share them. Obviously the chance to have such a big space available teases the perversion of a cyber-pedophile which takes advantage of such technologies to satisfy his inexpressible cravings and to share them with others who are guilty of the same crime.

Deep web monitoring

The deep web is an open space where criminal associations from all over the world expand their traffics. This phenomenon has exponentially moved in this unmanageable free zone which makes it difficult for police forces to intervene immediately. In order not to nullify its monitoring activity, Meter has shifted its attention to the research and cataloguing of computerised archives in the deep Web. The deep Web is a submerged area of the Net which is very difficult to individualize and explore. This is why police forces of all states should cooperate with each other; in this way they would avoid the loss and waste of vital information in an immediate fight against the **pedo-criminal web**, and bring to the release of children involved in this obscene violence market. The monitoring of online pedophilia still continues to be ignored by political forces which have no interest to put this important fight against pedophile crime in their agendas. All what is not done is for sure at the expense of young victims: people remain silent, waiting for other minors to be involved in this atrocity, because remember that the Web does not rest or stop. We are waiting for who has supervision and justice responsibility to act so that whatever happens on the Web every day will not remain silent. We also expect the same sensibility from common citizens because children represent the future for us all.

272
Reported links

Surface web

facebook
You Tube
skype
twitter
Linked in

Child pornography and child sexual abuse material

Deep web

Confidential
- medical records
- financial records
- legal documents
- scientific reports
- government reports

Child pornography and child sexual abuse material

Dark web

TOR

Political protest

Drug trafficking and other illegal activities

Child pornography and child sexual abuse material

Pedophile and child pornographic online tourism with likability indexes is growing

The phenomenon of pedophilia through rankings is spreading on the web: users can freely express their preferences by voting for their category of interest.

The strategy has the purpose to test the real interests of the users in order to produce material which is consistent with the demand, and to obtain a higher financial gain.
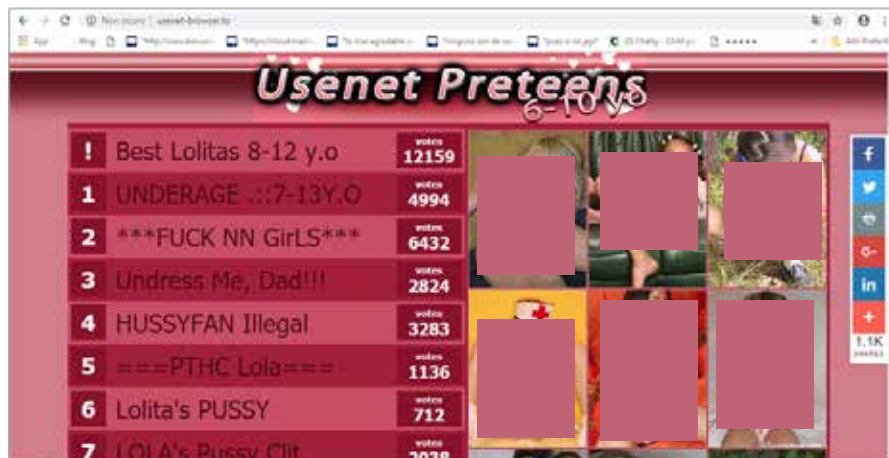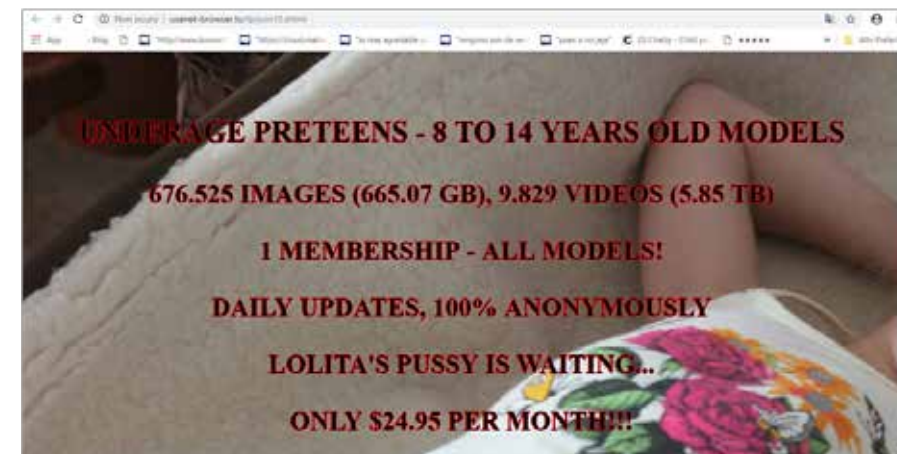

The link has been removed by the owner

Thus, likability indexes lead to a home page with a file package of photos/videos of preteens which is consistent with the expressed interest; in the following specific case: "*8 to 14 years old models, the total number of images and videos, the chance to become a member to all platforms, daily updates, 100% anonymous, Lolita's pussy is waiting, only $24.95 per month*".

Simplicity and anonymity of the payment method facilitate the trafficking and the offence of child pornography and pedophilia, creating addiction and repeatability in the acquisition and dissemination of the kind of material we are talking about.

The link has been removed by the owner

The link has been removed by the owner - **One of the many reported platforms on the Web which allow to draft a ranking***
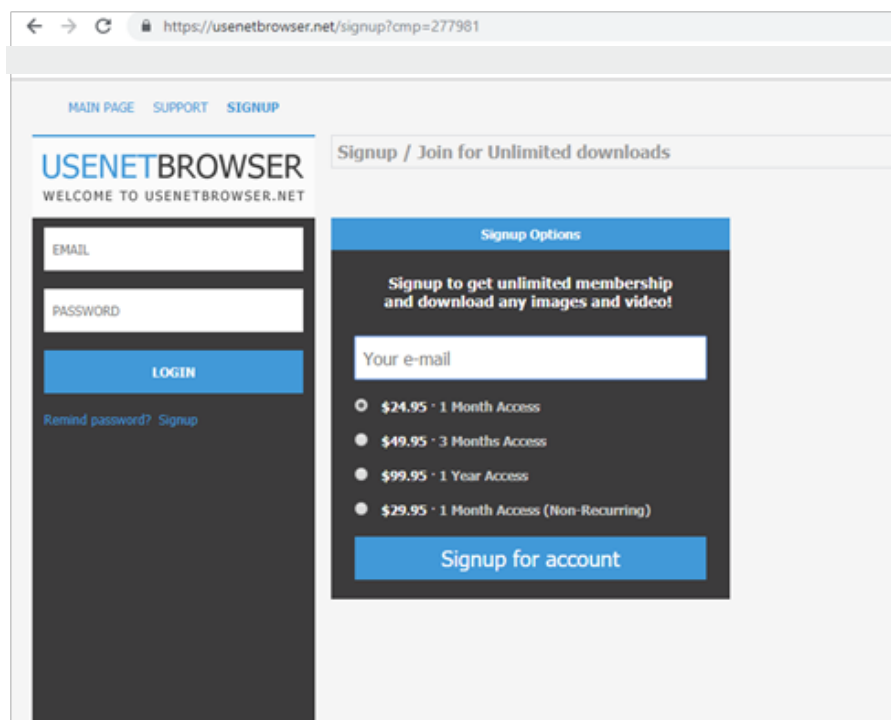
Registered and verifiable Reports have been forwarded to the Italian Postal and Communications Police (Eastern Sicily Compartment), according to the agreement we signed with them.

Foreign Police forces

French, Polish, New Zealander, Swiss, German, Russian, Israeli, Slovak Police forces have received reports through their dedicated institutional forms. Regretfully, from many of them, we did never receive a feedback and/or notice of the opening of an investigation procedure or deepening of the case.

Server Provider

A close cooperation has been started with some domain managers who promptly intervened, removing child sexual abuse material and assuring that they would forward every useful element to the competent authorities.

The ".to" domain has been checked during 2018 by the responsible of the ".to" domain registry who immediately closed all the web portals or host services we reported with a ".to" domain; he directly involved the people responsible for those platforms.

Server providers as:
Picr.de; instra.com; mega.nz; solidfiles.com; datafilehost.com; anonfile.com; freetexthost.com; promptly intervened after our reports and shut down the involved portals. We obtained the removal of the material and in some cases cooperation with the Police (unfortunately without any investigative following).
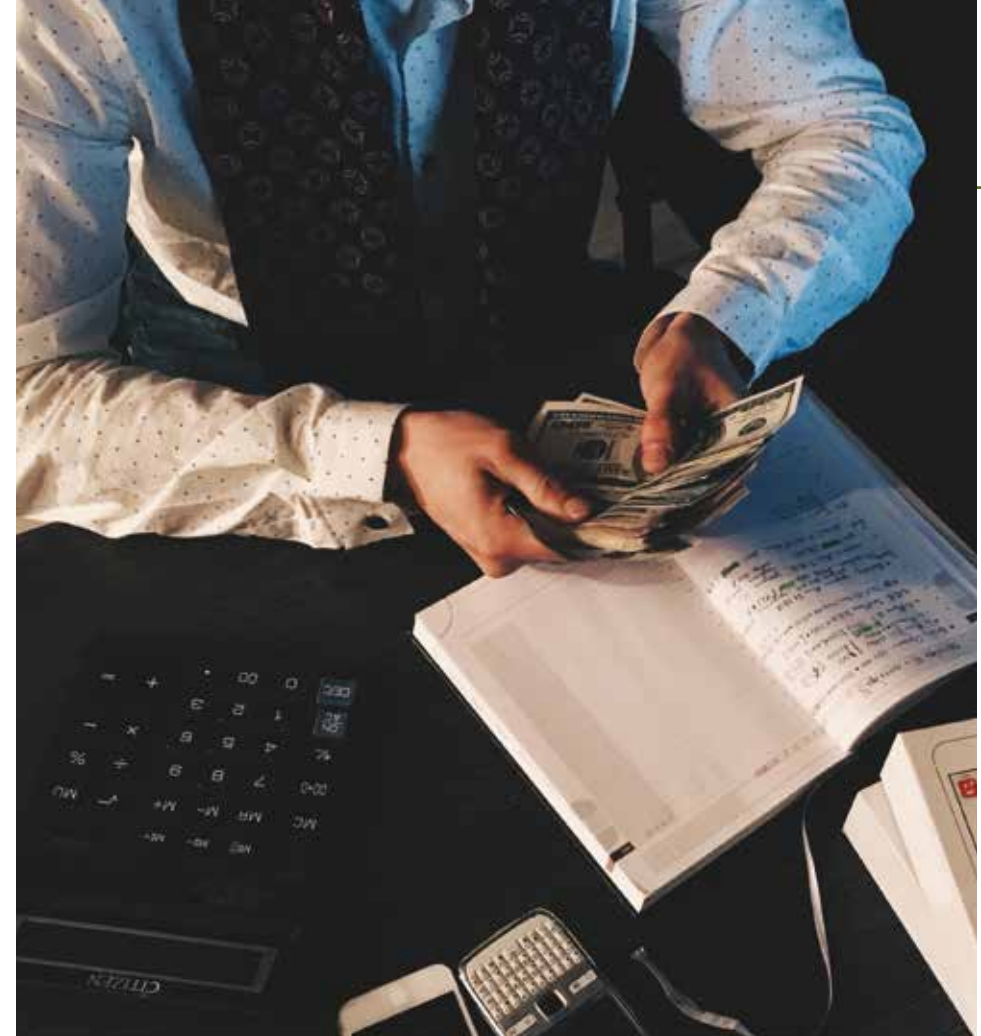
Responsibilities

Web giants and **shareholders** are more and more responsible in human trafficking crimes like pedophilia and child pornography.

The trend is to develop and put online child sexual abuse platforms with images and videos to increase the approval rating by creating boards of pre-teens; the trend is also to survey the users' approval tendency of such "stuff" with the aim to sell the contents.

The responsibility of the Web giants and of the shareholders of such system can not be denied, but, if it is true that there is a growth in the percentage of economic gain, it is also true that the percentage of the views of child sexual abuse material is connected to a mind-boggling economic traffic which allows the partners to directly and indirectly make big money.

Squares and villages of the "good" net are contaminated by deed and business. Everyone reads newspapers: **Gurus**, **CEOs**, **Marketing Managers**, **Domain directors** and **Managers**, but none of them has ever had the bravery to vigorously face this sad and criminal phenomenon.

Responibilities
Online child sexual abuse material

National surveillance authorities

Web giants

Shareholders

Domain administrators

Cultural pedophilia

Pedophiles and child pornographers do not only use the Net as a means to spread photos and videos to get richer, they also use it to stick up for pedophilia and try to normalize it. It is a real structured and well organized lobby (fund raising and international pro-pedophilia day) which provides advice on how to groom children and suggests Websites where it is possible to find child sexual abuse photos and videos. There are countless groups and "rooms" where they tell stories about sexual encounters with children and run tests to "measure" their sexual attraction towards children.

To oppose the pedophile ideology in 2012, with law 172, Italy has ratified the Lanzarote Convention of the 25th of October 2007; this introduced the art. 414 bis in the Italian Penal Code. For the first

time the expressions "pedophilia and cultural child pornography" have entered the Italian regulations: «Unless the fact constitutes a more serious offence, anyone who with any computerised means and also with just a cultural aim, spreads legitimizing judgements, instigates to commit or carries out apology of the behaviours required by the articles 600-bis, 600-ter, 600-quater, 600-quater.1, 600-quinquies, 609-bis, 609-quater and 609-quinquies, carried out with minors is punished with imprisonment from 3 to 5 years».

Cyber-pedophiles Structured lobby

Normalization of pedophilia

Experience exchange

Grooming suggestions

Despite the Lanzarote Convention (2007), websites continue to flourish on the Web. Pedophiles have various identification logos or symbols to recognise each other, to distinguish their sexual preferences and to specifically indicate their favourite gender; as a matter of fact members of pedophile organizations do encourage the use of descriptions like "boylove", "girllove", and "childlove".
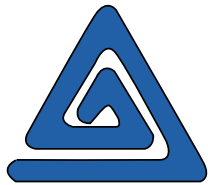
(U) BLogo aka
"Boy Lover"

The "Boylover logo" (BLogo) is a small light blue triangular spiral, surrounded by a bigger triangle; the smaller triangle symbolizes the child and the external one symbolizes an adult.


(U) LBLogo aka
"Little Boy Lover"

A variant of the BLogo is the "Little Boy Lover logo" (LBLogo), which in turn represents a small triangular spiral inside a larger triangle; in this case the angles of the logo are rounded to give the impression of a drawing made by a youg child.

(U) GLogo aka
"Girl Lover"

The "GirlLover logo" (GLogo) represents a small heart surrounded by a bigger external one, to symbolize a relation between an adult man or woman and an underage girl.
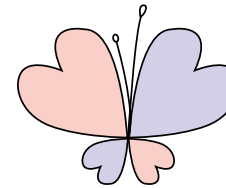
(U) GLogo aka
"Child Lover"

The "ChildLover logo" (CLogo) looks like a butterfly, it represents child molesters which have no gender preferences.

(U) CLOMAL aka
"Childlover Online Media"

"The Childlove Online Media Activism Logo" (CLOMAL) is a logo that has general aims, it is used by individuals to identify online media as blogs or Webcasts with pedophile and pro-pedophilia contents.

LISTENING AND FIRST WELCOMING CENTRE

During the years *Meter* has tried and still tries to give hope to young victims of abuse; a series of services are offered to families who ask for our intervention; among these services there is the *Listening and first welcoming Centre*.

The *Centre* is **the heart of Meter**, the heart from the assistance relation, where the listener and the listened one bind in order to create a cosy and safe place, that allows to read the psychological and emotional discomfort of the child.

Empathy and professional competences also allow to provide information and answers to problems dealing with child discomfort and particularly with sexual, physical and psychological abuse, to pedophilia and to all situations where children's safety is endangered. This is the place where we work every day to coordinate the characterizing activities of *Meter*'s associative spirit. The *Listening Centre* operates by activating a network between the services that are available on the territory. The aim is to guarantee a more adequate response to emerging needs.

Organization and operation

The main task of the Centre is **listening**, which is the center of the assistance relation, where the listener and the listened one are involved, with different roles, in a relation which aims to a liberation process of the person from being needy.

- *Welcoming*: all those who contact *Meter* find a welcoming and calming atmosphere. People who are in need are put at ease and informed about the service that is offered to them.
- *Attention*: at the *Listening Centre* people find maximum time, discretion and problem comprehension availability.
- *Accompaniment*: those who ask for help are usually experiencing a lack of landmarks. The Listening Centre offers hope for change and the chance to find professionals who are able to follow those who ask for advice during their "healing" process and during the process of reacquisition of their autonomy.
- *Taking charge*: to "take charge" of the problems and difficulties of those who ask for help means to consider the person as "unique", to offer an adequate answer, to spend time, energies and competences in the search for solutions that, first of all, enhance the person and his/her resources.
- *Orientation*: the *Centre* expresses itself in the choice of concretely possible interventions, taking into account the specific problem of the person, rereading the real needs and according to the way of acting of the *Listening Centre*. In some cases it is necessary to address people towardsthe structures and services available on the territory that could provide the best answers to the expressed needs.

Functions and tasks
Operators

The *Listening Centre* has a person in charge that guarantees the organisation of appointments and interventions and that maintains the contacts between the operators who periodically meet to discuss their actions.

Operators work in team, with various functions, performed by the subjects according to their respective professionalism:

- *listening operators* are the first to welcome the help request and they define an intervention project together with those who contact the Centre;

- *Secretarial operators* receive the phone calls and update the files;

- *Specialized operators* respond to the specific needs, providing their expertise for any possible psychological, legal, medical, spiritual, computer consultancy.

Team work is important because in some complex situations, which require the intervention of more professionals, confrontation is fundamental since it allows an objective reading of the situations and of the detected difficulties and it facilitates a correct planning of adequate personal interventions. The team work stimulates a good organisation of ideas and actions for an adequate division of tasks and functions and, consequently, a specialized targeted intervention.

Intervention techniques

Listening operators are the first to have a contact with those who ask for help. It is important for these operators to be able to:

- LISTEN CAREFULLY: listen to contents, ideas of the speaker, his fatigue, embarrass, satisfaction signs are all elements that allow to have an active communication with him, bringing him to talk and express himself freely. It is often necessary to be silent to allow the speaker to communicate without interruptions;

- WELCOME: it is important to be able to suspend any judgment, to not criticize or express personal opinions about the listened story and to be willing to put oneself in the shoes of the other (empathy);

- ACCEPT: the main characteristics are to receive the other for what he is and for the experience he carries with him and not to be conditioned by prejudices;

- BEING ABLE TO ASK QUESTIONS: it is useful to collect as much information as possible about the story of those who contact the association, but it is equally important to pay attention to how questions are asked. It is necessary to ask just for clarifications about what has been said and not to ask excessively investigative or inquisitorial questions;

- USE TOOLS: having tools to collect information can be useful to be able to outline what is told and to avoid to pollute the story of who is asking for help;

- ADDRESS: it is important to understand the real need of who has asked for a consultation, trying to individuate the specialised expert for that kind of request.

The following meetings will be carried out by the identified professional who will formulate a personalised project according to the emerged needs; the project will be agreed with the concerned person or with his parents if it is a minor; the project considers:

- the personal situation;
- the kind of the emerged difficulties;
- the internal and external resources from the person.

For example, in situations of suspected sexual abuse on a child, the usual procedure provides:

- an initial meeting with the parents, or with who stands in for them, to collect the help request;
- they will be address to the most suitable professional who will collect as much information as possible during meetings;
- interviews with the child with the aim to create an alliance and offer a place where he can feel safe and listened, free to tell whatever he wants;
- give a feedback to the parents about the meetings held with the child;
- written relation describing the meetings.

In particular, after the report, professionals will:

- accompany the family during the trial;
- give psychological support to the child to reduce the risks deriving from the abuse;
- give psychological and spiritual support to the family;
- give guidance to the family on how to behave with the abused child.

Documentation

Each operator will take care to write a record of the meetings, by describing the help requests, the interventions that have been carried out, if there have been forwards to other structures or services, the resolution of the problems.
If it is adequately filled and constantly updated, the personal file is an essential working tool because it allows to know the particular need condition of the interested person and, through the interventions that have been carried out and future perspectives, to verify if the project for the promotion of the person does actually help him to overcome the discomfort.
To carry out its helping service effectively, the *Listening Centre* always handles personal and sensitive data with the maximum respect of everyone's privacy.

Listening to the child. Towards "liberation"

«Younger children do not fully understand the seriousness and what they say is that they don't like that "game". Older children are nervous, they are not able to remain seated, they go around the room. There is a motor agitation linked to the emotional one. Some keep asking me to promise I won't tell anyone».

Meter Listening Centre

To tell about the abuse

It is never easy to tell about the undergone abuse, it not easy for adults, let alone for children. It is important to create a context which is suited for their age and to build a trusting relation, a real alliance. Game is the most suited technique to get in touch with children and their world. It is necessary to respect their needs of time, any forcing could be harmful.

When children are able to get rid of their "secret" they live this step as a liberation, as a key to open a door back to their childhood, although the path they will have to face is still long and difficult. Children need to see the adult as a reference figure again and not the ogre that has taken their childhood.

The biggest effort that an educator has to do is to regain children's trust and show himself as an adult that takes care and can help the child to never undergo abuses again.

Some data

In the last 11 years the *Listening Centre* has welcomed 10,039 phone calls and 896 consulting meetings at the national office. On one hand these numbers demonstrate the constant work of *Meter* in assisting and supporting all those who ask for help, on the other hand they represent stories, faces and, most of all, children who live in suffering. Many of them have been assisted during their denunciation and healing process, others found answers to their questions and others are still on their way.

From 2002 to 2019
1,721
FOLLOWED CASES

Followed cases

In 2019 *Meter*'s *Listening Centre* has welcomed 142 help requests. Those who turned to *Meter* to be listened and oriented do mainly come from Sicily (96). The higher relevance of the Sicilian territory derives from the fact the National Office resides there, and from a higher possibility to meet. Lazio, Calabria and Lombardia follow (see origin chart).

Problems we have dealt with in 2019 regard mostly *familiar dysfunctional relations* (32 out of 142); there has been an increase for what regards *sexual abuse* situations (22 out of 142) that together with sexual abuses happened in the past and with suspects of abuse represent a large part of the requests we received and, consequently, of the support we offered.

In 2019 it is possible to observe new kinds of discomforts. Part of them is linked to the *sexual sphere*, particularly help requests for relatives belonging to *sexual sects*; another part is connected to *new technologies*, especially to the phenomenon of *Hikikomori*, which refers to youngsters who decide to shut themselves in their rooms, for months or years, with the only company of technological tools and of the internet.

Origin

SICILY	96
LAZIO	9
LOMBARDIA	6
CALABRIA	6
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	4
CAMPANIA	3
PUGLIA	3
TUSCANY	3
LIGURIA	2
MARCHE	2
PIEMONTE	2
ABRUZZO	1
MOLISE	1
SARDINIA	1
UMBRIA	1
VENETO	1
ANONYMOUS	1
TOTAL	**142**

Problem

Dysfunctional familiar relation	33
Sexual abuse	22
Sexual abuse in the past	14
Suspect sexual abuse	13
Relational difficulties	8
Dangers of the Internet	7
Behaviour problems	7
Anxiety disorders	6
Sexual related problems	6
Online grooming	5
Behaviour disorders	4
Child pornography	4
Depressive symptoms	3
Membership to sexual sects	2
Bullying and cyber-bullying	2
Drug addiction	2
Hikikomori	2
Homosexuality	2
Total	**142**

In 2018
177
FOLLOWED CASES

In 2019
142
FOLLOWED CASES

Telephone requests

In 2019 *Meter* 385 phone calls reached the toll free number and the institutional number from several Italian cities (look at Origin chart). Meter answered to many kinds of phone requests; this year there has been an increase of calls to collect information about the association and about the services it offers, about meetings and about how to become a member (113), followed by calls to ask for educational interventions by the professionals of the Association (76), interviews (54), Psychological counselling (49), spiritual advice (47).

Also in 2019 the majority of telephone reports (215 out of 385) originated from Sicily, where our National office resides.

Origin

SICILY	215
LAZIO	78
LOMBARDIA	19
CAMPANIA	19
CALABRIA	12
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	9
VENETO	8
TUSCANY	5
ABRUZZO	4
PIEMONTE	4
LIGURIA	3
MARCHE	2
PUGLIA	2
SARDINIA	2
TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE	1
UMBRIA	1
VALLE D'AOSTA	1
TOTAL	**385**

In 2018
692
TELEPHONE REQUESTS

In 2019
385
TELEPHONE REQUESTS

Type

Information about services, meetings, volunteering	113
Conferences	76
Interviews	54
Psychological counselling	49
Spiritual advice	47
Multi-functional Centre for childhood and adolescence	13
Thesis/Internship	18
Legal advice	8
Internet reports	3
Computer advice	2
Denounce	1
Tv and media reports	1
Total	**385**

How does the human being work?

The human being does always appear as divided in his manifestations, like he is inhabited by another part of himself. On one side he is the subject of rationality (self-being), on the other side he is subject to something that does not respond, this has been called drive. Neuroscience does also confirm that the will that we express through conscience and self-being does not exactly know what happens in that space of mental processes where there is no access.

Human biology is different from the animal one, sexual practices do not respond to natural rules. The absence of biological adjustment makes the human to develop his sexuality as subject to anticipatory and unpredictable effects;for animals sexuality has a finalistic and linear model. Contrarily to the animal world the human being can be perverse. A pervert feels pleasure when enjoying the specific pleasure that he obtains from photos and videos of children on the Internet (in the case of a pedophile). That particular kind of pleasure, that we can call enjoyment, can be found in all the objects which make it possible. In this particular relation, perversion can be found in the enjoyment of a subject/child which is reduced to an object.

Classification of pedophiles

The **seducer pedophile**: very affectionate, he gives gifts to the child and obtains his silence by using his manipulation abilities.
The **introvert pedophile**: he rarely uses seductive approaches, he barely communicates with children.
The **sadistic pedophile**: he is the most dangerous. He gets pleasure when seeing physical and psychological suffering. He stretches traps and uses force to kidnap children and ultimately kill them.
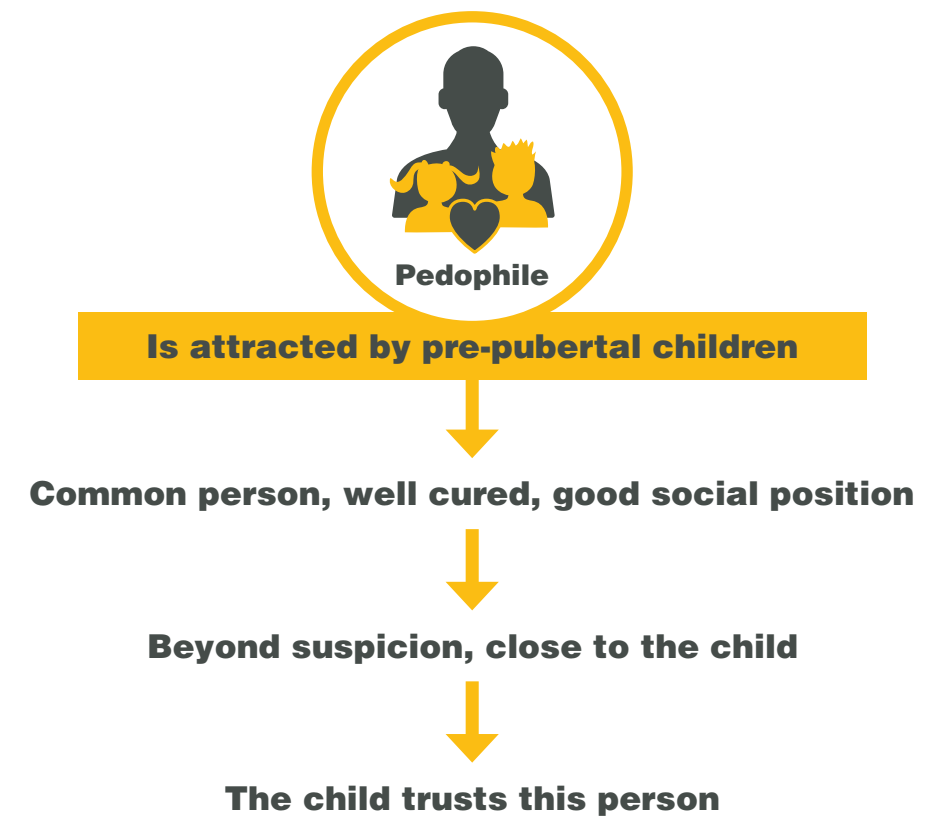The **cyber-pedophile**: he does not concretely abuse children, but he makes use of child sexual abuse material that he can find on the Internet or in the submerged market of photos and videos. Although he does not personally produce the material, he makes use of it, he brings to an increase of the demand on the market of images production and thus of child abuse.

In the imagination of people a pedophile is a monster, an individual which can be recognised among others: in reality he usually is a common person, aesthetically well cured and does often have a good social position, he is beyond suspicion and often very close to the child; it can be a father, a mother, an uncle, a grandfather, a neighbour or in any case someone trusted by the child. Pedophiles are mostly males which have a strong attraction for pre-pubertal children, who are between 0 and 13 years old. This kind of attraction does sometimes remain silent for a long time, it can break out from casual events or situations; situations like being close to the child, smelling his skin, seeing

ambiguous photos, touching the child in a certain way or meeting people who have had sexual experiences with minors and tell about them in a very positive way.

Independently from the causes which drive an adult to be attracted by a child, the kind of therapy that can be used does not always provide a solution. Psychotherapy has often to deal with the fact that the pedophile does not admit he has a problem. Pharmacological therapy did not have big results, this is because psychological factors have a big importance in the determination of the behaviour of the pedophile.

Pedophile

Is attracted by pre-pubertal children

Common person, well cured, good social position

Beyond suspicion, close to the child

The child trusts this person

The criminal action of the pedophile

A pedophile chooses his victims among children who are actually alone, neglected and with no friends; children who could easily mistake his attention for gestures of affection.
His *modus operandi* is usually the same:

- he tries to obtain the child's trust and esteem, by becoming a legendary person in his eyes;

- he starts to spend a lot of time with the child, he becomes his best friend, listens to him and gives him advice, he shoulders him and covers him up when he behaves badly;

- he makes the child develop a kind of addiction towards him;

- he takes advantage of the natural curiosity for sexuality to show pornographic and child pornography material;

- he starts to propose ambiguous games;

- after abusing the child he pushes him not to tell anyone, at first without scaring him; in a second time obliging him to remain silent leveraging on scare and shame.

The **American Psychiatric Association** (APA) has approved the definitive diagnostic criteria of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders (known as DSM V)

Diagnostic criteria for pedophilia

- Fantasies, sexual impulses or recurrent and sexually exciting behaviours, which lead to sexual activity with one or more pre-pubertal children (generally 13 years old or younger) during a period of at least 6 months.

- Fantasies, sexual impulses and behaviours that cause a clinically significant discomfort or an impairment of the social, the working and other areas.

- The subject is at least 16 and is at least 5 years older than the child or children.

Note
Do not include a late teenage subject which is involved in a durable sexual relation with a 12-13 old.

Specify if:
Sexually attracted by males
Sexually attracted by females
Sexually attracted by both

Specify if: Limited to incest

Specify the type:
Exclusive type (only attracted by children)
Non exclusive type

The victim child

Children who are victims of pedophiles have a common feature: LONELINESS. A pedophile takes advantage of this loneliness to fill it, to become a friend and reference figure, to make the child fall in an emotional trap. It is called emotional trap because, if he wanted to, the child could ask for help to parents, to teachers, to catechists, to whoever is close to him; but the guilt feelings he has drive him not to tell anything, to keep the secret and continue to suffer. The child will be able to tell about it and return free only if pushed by the hope to be understood and helped.

Consequences on the child

Future consequences on abused children do often affect all spheres of his life: social, sexual, working, couple life, etc. What emerges from case studies is that the younger a child is, the less he is likely to remember and thus develop consequences in his adult life; but this is just partly true: many people who experience a big trauma develop the defence mechanism of removal. Removal happens in the case of traumatic accidents, in fact victims often tell they do not remember anything. The same mechanism happens for abused children: they don't remember the abuse, but this does not mean that they will not have consequences in their life. No matter the age, an abuse can create a more or less serious damage to the psycho-physical equilibrium of the victim.

The thousand faces of abuse

A sexual abuse does not remain limited to the violence of the pedophile, it lasts in time under many facets (secondary victimization):

- Often the child continues to be abused by society: he is marked by the "scarlet letter", he is no longer considered as all the others; the violence he has suffered is seen in all his behaviours;

- More than once the child is pushed to tell the violence he has suffered, even if these stories make him suffer more and more;

- Courts do often not have a proper environment to welcome a child or procedures that are adequate to the listening of his story; frequently the child has to expose the abuse episodes in a cold court room at the presence of many stranger adults;

- The adult which listens to the tragic story of the minor is often not prepared as he should be; he asks questions about details of the traumatic situation the child has gone through, using a speech that is not suitable for the young age of the victim, and without respecting his times.

To listen is a skill you can find in Meter. Children and families can always find comfort, support and help, whatever the problem they ask help for.

Special training courses against pedophilia

It is important
for every baptized
to feel involved

Pope Francis

"A loved child will never be abused"
(Father Fortunato Di Noto).

As pope Paul VI said in 1978, the defence of childhood is a permanent commitment for the Church. We are all involved in the defence of the youngest.
With a ten year experience and a high professional and scientific profile, the course has pastoral character and purposes. It has the aim to provide theoretical and practical contents, that help to rapidly recognize the signals of discomfort coming from the child, signals which are indicators of abuse and need the intervention of skilled professionals.
Throughout the course,learning about the phenomenon of child abuse committed by ecclesial and non ecclesial men, about the civil and canonical laws on the matter of abuse, about abuse regulations coming from the Italian Episcopal Conference, allows to build and spread a juvenile pastoral aimed to the defence and prevention of childhood.

The special courses on pedophilia held by *Meter*'s professionals are structured according to the recipients, with different modalities and approaches. Religious people are provided with tools and patterns of effective operation, the community is provided with educational inputs and elements to prevent the phenomenon.

Operational tracks against pedophilia and sexual abuses on minors

Recipients
Priests, seminarians, religious and consecrated lay women

Educational action against pedophilia and sexual abuses on minors

Recipients
Congregations, associations and pastoral movements

Teaching Methodology

Frontal lessons and laboratories. Modules are held under the conditions arranged with the subjects who required the course; the modules are spelled out in detail in the next page.
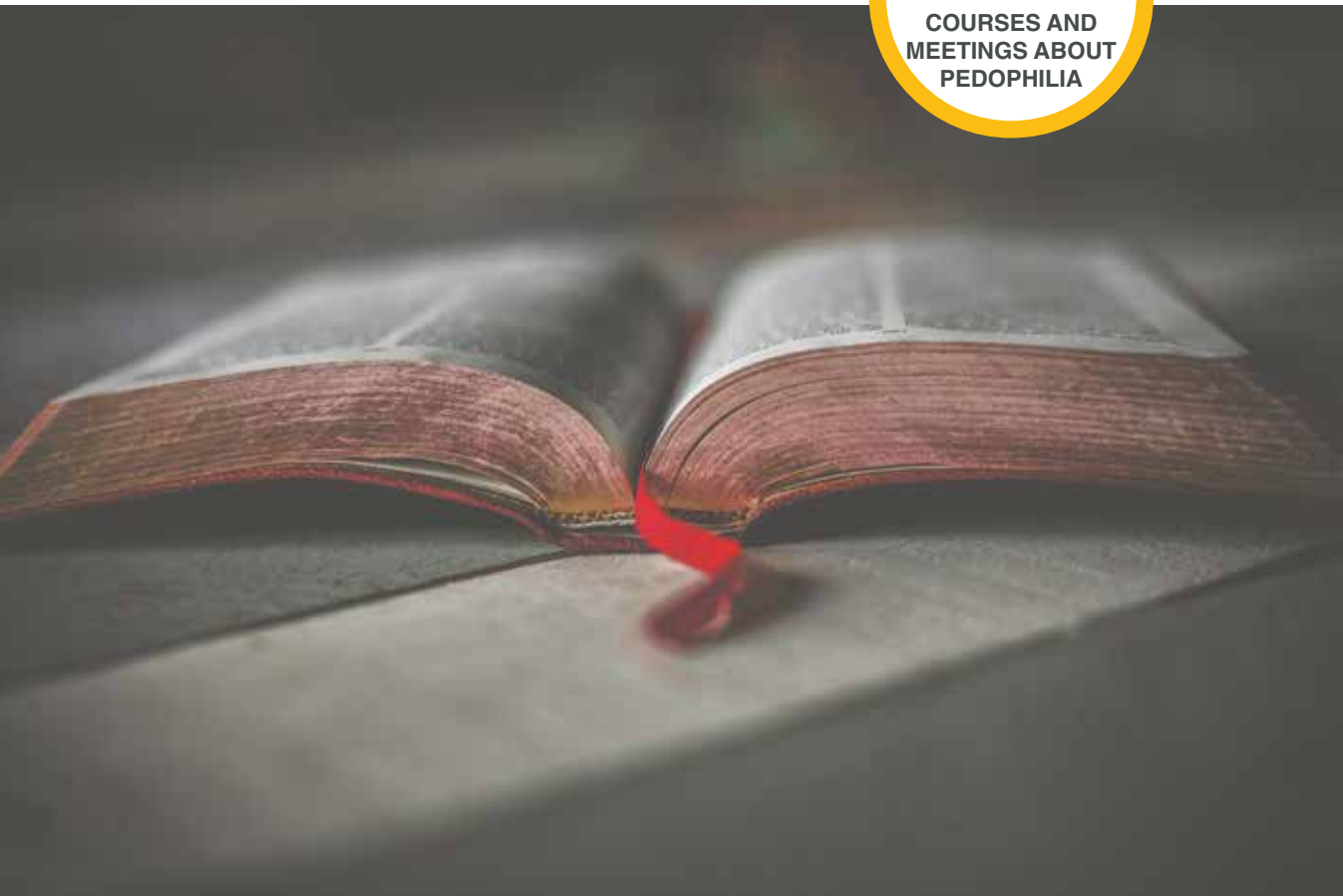
Material

Study compendiums, operative sheets, bibliographic texts and videos.

We want to offer a 30 years experience in a delicate and painful field like the one of child abuse.
As the Pope said, we must protect children from the monster of pedophilia.

In 2019

12

COURSES AND MEETINGS ABOUT PEDOPHILIA

PROGRAMME AND CONTENT

Module 1 | Child abuses in the Church and in society
- Pastoral care for children
- Church and children
- Guide lines
- Pastoral care office for fragilities

Module 2 | Psychological analysis about violated childhood
- Definition of maltreatment types
- The pedophile: DSM V classification, characteristics and behavioural analysis
- The abused child: discomfort signs, defence mechanisms, effect of the abuse on psycho-physical development
- The operator/educator: reactions, defence mechanisms, specialized interventions
- *Meter Listening Centre*

Module 3 | Cyber-criminality: analysis and intervention
- Social networks: from addiction to benefits
- Minors involved in social media: educate to a conscious use
- OS.MO.CO.P – World Observatory against Pedophilia: interventions and strategies to curb the phenomenon

Module 4 | Child abuse
- Criminal Law: rules on sexual violence, pedophilia and child pornography
- Canon Law: new rules in the matter of child and vulnerable protection

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

The *Training and educational Complex* is a multi-disciplinary harmonic space equipped with rooms with high technical and functional standards. It has an inner surface of 1,500 square meters and an external area of 10,500 square meters, with linked services which are structured to give answers to all social and ecclesial needs. The training activities of the Complex are followed by Meter's professionals, who also make use of collaborators from important private and public Bodies. The Complex stands to train high profile human resources, to contain and respond to social problems in the field of childhood, adolescence and family. Activities are studied and elaborated for any kind of social interest.
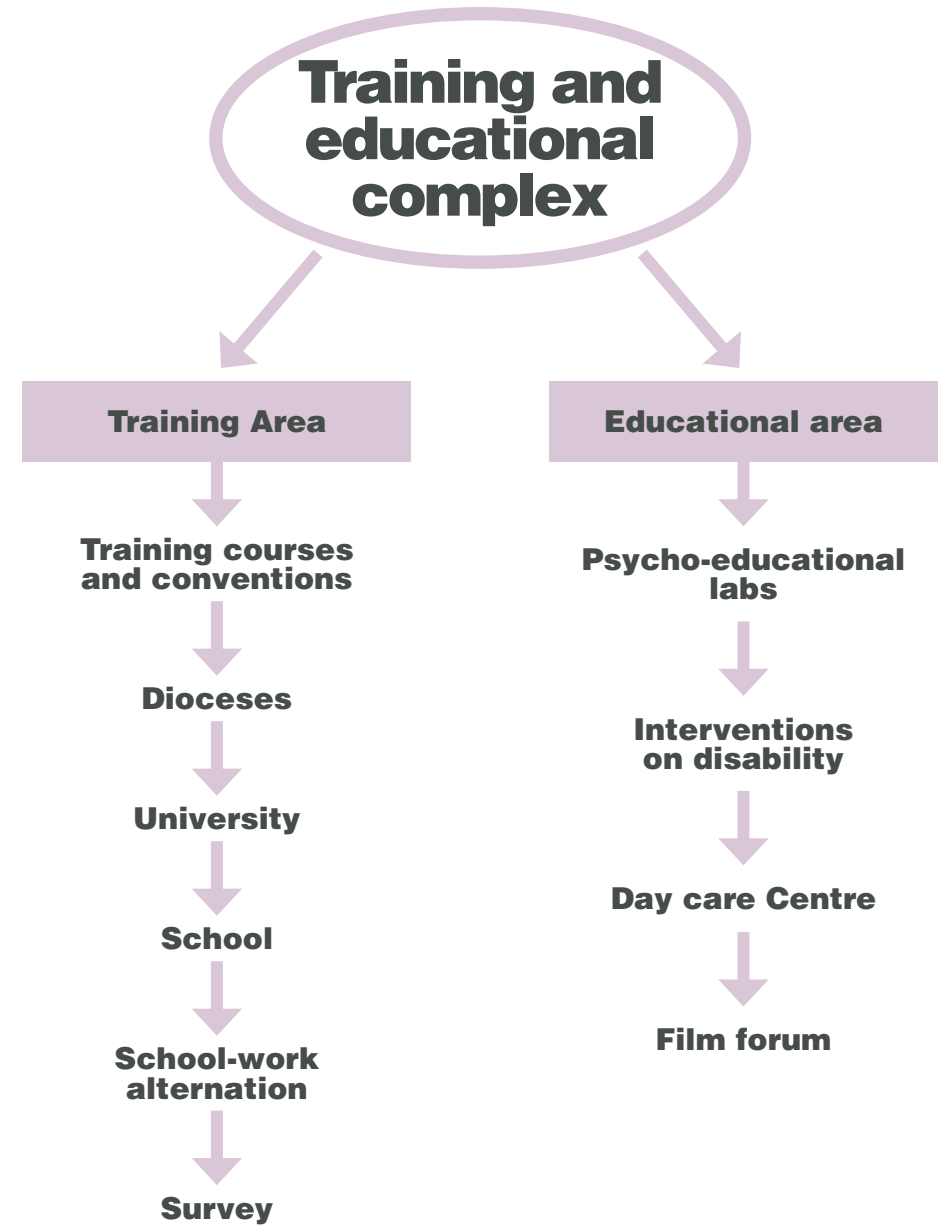
Training area and Educational area

The Complex supplies a varied range of services studied for different kind of users: children, adolescents and also adults who have the need and want to learn about the various fields and issues which are specific of the Association. *Meter*'s professionals team does also work on the territory: the Association is present since many years, it is a landmark whose key elements are training and education; these elements move in harmony with each other in a complex but homogenous structure. *Meter*'s recognisable and recognized modus operandi generates some kind of loyalty and heartfelt adhesion in those who join the association, even if just for once; this produces a meditation action, a participation to a common mission: the protection and valorisation of childhood.

One of the goals of the Association is to raise a common mindset, sensitive and careful to the universe of children and weak people; in this way internet will not be like a jungle were to get lost, but a place of sharing and cooperation. So that abuse is not just a stain in the life of a few children, but a crime to face conscientiously; so that disability is the destiny of a few, but a gift for the whole society.

Training and educational complex

- Training Area
  - Training courses and conventions
  - Dioceses
  - University
  - School
  - School-work alternation
  - Survey
- Educational area
  - Psycho-educational labs
  - Interventions on disability
  - Day care Centre
  - Film forum

Training represents the main resource we have to prevent and intervene, but also promote childhood culture. There is an increasing need to acquire the necessary knowledge and techniques to prevent and solve the difficulties that children and teens show during their growth. Training, sensitization and information meetings provide tools to enable a work which is aimed to prevent and intervene, thanks to the professional experience and technical skills of Meter's multidisciplinary team. The need of a correct and professional training, requested by governmental education agencies, working for prevention and managing of discomforts, has led to the organization of training courses about problems concerning pedophilia, child abuse, bullying, cyber-bullying, safe use of the Internet, integration and disabilities. Training is a moment of professional and personal growth, very important for an incisive and competent intervention in the promotion of childhood.

Meter Training
Childhood culture

Specialised knowledge

Prevention tools

Tools for the management of discomfort

Meetings

Like in the past years, in 2019 *Meter* has been involved in conventions and training, sensitization and prevention meetings on request of public and private bodies all over the national territory and beyond.

The professionals of the Association have been involved in the training of educators and operators, particularly about the topics concerning childhood, this proves a steadily increasing attention towards children and educational problems connected to our technological society.

Covered topics continue to deal, indeed, with the world of children, observed in its multiple aspects.

The main topic that *Meter*'s professionals dealt with, also in 2019, relates to *pedophilia* and *pitfalls of the Net*, the analysis of the profiles of pedophiles and victims, the dynamics of the phenomenon and the risks which hide behind Internet and technology. Attention has been reconfirmed to the topics of *education*, of *childhood rights* and *social commitment*, by holding into account the responsibility that adults have for the wealth of children. There has been an increase in requests for meetings on the themes of *bullying* and *cyber-bullying*, that involved schools from every grade and order. In 2019, Meter has been engaged, once again, in meetings about *disability* and *social inclusion*.

Our professionals met 12,819 people: summary cards that accompany each event to which *Meter* participates, allow us to calculate the number of encountered people, the kind of meetings and the issues we dealt with on the various occasions.

In 2019
113
MEETINGS

From 2002 to 2019
2,521
MEETINGS

In 2019
12,819
PEOPLE MET

Covered topics

Pedophilia and pitfalls of the net

Education, social commitment, childhood rights

Bullying and cyber-bullying

Inclusion and several kinds of discomfort

Disability

School and University

Relations between Meter Association and schools are granted by the activation of Agreements signed with educational Institutions of every grade and order. The aim is to build an educational union to intervene preventively on discomfort situations shown by students (ex. Relational difficulties, learning disorders, bullying and isolation phenomena, addiction and violence forms related to new technologies).

Advice centres for schools

This service is available in schools since many years and has been acknowledged from teachers and families for giving voice to discomforts of children. Through information, sensitization, training and psycho-educative intervention activities it is possible to provide a direct support to schools which have difficulties in the management of problems relating to childhood and adolescence. Advice centres are established inside schools who request for it:

- to organize meetings with families of students at risk, helping them in finding the right ways to communicate with their children;
- to intervene with the right tools towards students on whom a traumatic event could have blocked the process of growth;

- to intervene for the recovery of particularly "complicated" students who had bad and recidivist behaviours;
- to as a means between schools and families to better the dialogue between them and to implement common interventions with the aim to find a solution to the problems shown by students as soon as possible;
- to organize conventions and training courses for adults (parents, educators, teachers) to enable them to decode the discomfort signals coming from the child which are almost never verbal, but are often "covered" messages.

Analysing the reported data it is possible to highlight the continuous commitment of the School Advice Center.

In 2019 *Meter*'s professionals have been engaged in training courses and conferences in schools and in counseling and support activities for teachers particularly difficult situations.

The topics covered during the meetings, on request of schools, were: *bullying* and *cyber-bullying*, *Internet* and *social networks*, *pedophilia* and *child abuses*, *protection of childhood rights*, *disability* and *social inclusion*.

We met 938 teachers and 4,220 students in prevention, training and intervention activities aimed to educate to affectivity and management of emotions, to the good use of the Internet and of its tools, to childhood rights and to the management of bullying and cyber-bullying episodes. We met 100 families, once again over topics linked to the problems related to childhood and adolescence.

In 2019 in schools

4,220
STUDENTS MET

938
TEACHERS MET

100
FAMILIES MET
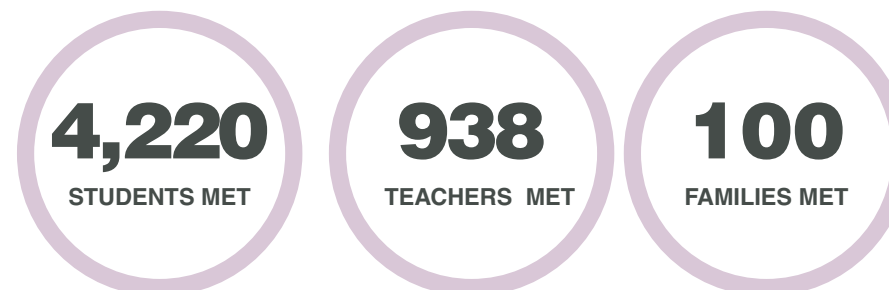
University training

Meter signed many agreements with universities, granting an intern training of students throughout the organization of seminars, conventions and training courses. Students are provided with guide lines which are necessary to recognise child abuse and child maltreatment signals, to analyze the behaviour of the pedophile and the effects of an abuse on the psycho-physical development of a child; also guide lines about the specialised intervention of *Meter*'s professionals, to widen the knowledge on this topic, and to acquire instruments and principles of professional ethic.

In 2019

550
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MET

Dioceses meetings

In 2019

13

DIOCESES MET

Meter was born as a catholic reality embedded in the life of the Church; every year the cooperation becomes more and more synergic and participated. As proof of such cooperation , during 2019 Father Fortunato has been appointed as representative for the Diocese of Noto at the Regional Service for child protection by the the Sicilian Episcopal Conference CESI (CESI); they also nominated him as person in charge for the regional listening desk.

In 2019 *Meter* has continued its presence in ecclesial realities who asked for it, both for training and for sensitisation, and to answer to help requests and specialized counselling requests. Topics covered in meetings deal mainly with childhood, particularly with *pedophilia* and *pitfalls of the net*. From 2002 to today 85 dioceses have been met, 13 in 2019.

Like every year Father Fortunato was invited to celebrate the Mass in particular moments of the liturgical year, as a sign of *Meter*'s presence also in religious celebrations. Numerous parish communities commit themselves every month to say the Holy Rosary: "In defence of children... let's pray".

Meter also deals with the training of priests, religious people, seminarians and operators of the ecclesial community to allow them to get to know and recognize discomfort situations, promoting the construction and diffusion of a pastoral care for the defence and prevention of childhood. Since many years *Meter* offers a specialized training course for Dioceses and Seminaries to train future priests on the drama of pedophilia and child pornography, through a sociological presentation of this phenomenon, through the knowledge of notions of canonical and criminal law, and the study of psychological dynamics linked to the abuser and the victim child.

Dioceses met in 2019

Catania
Catanzaro - Squillace
Georgia (Caucasus - Black See)
Milan
Monreale
Noto
Padua
Piacenza-Bobbio
Piana degli Albanesi
Ragusa
Reggio Calabria-Bova
Rome
Syracuse

Covered topics

Pedophilia and pitfalls of the net

Bioethics and social commitment

Education and family

In 2019

28

MEETINGS

In 2019

606

PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE TRAINED

In 2019

2,425

PARTICIPANTS IN MEETINGS IN PARISHES

CHILDREN ONLINE!
Internet and Security

Since it is a new way of communication, the use of the Internet is certainly a great opportunity for teenagers and children.

There is the need to promote its knowledge and use, since it is an amazing tool of democracy and growth.

Furthermore, the net provides a valuable access to educational resources, it allows cooperation ways of learning, it offers discussion opportunities with experts on certain topics, it simplifies the contact with the diversity of cultures.

The Internet is like an open door from where one can walk out to go all over the world… but anyone could enter from that very same door!

Things that happened seem to suggest that children are very vulnerable to the dangers of the Internet, anonymous tool with easy access to contents. In addition, the inter-generational gap in the use of the net is broad and deep; maybe for the first

time, children have a larger knowledge of technology than their parents. "Digital children" are the real experts in the house.

The net can also be used as a communication tool for illicit, harmful purposes, which are dangerous for children. Hence the need to favour a more conscious use of the Internet to protect children in the surfing and most of all in the use of social networks.

General purposes of the course

- To know the internet: resources and dangers
- Social networks and digital natives
- Provide key elements for primary prevention
- Promote a "security" culture

Knowledge and training guarantee a development of consciousness.

Meter spends many energies on this topic; to educate youngsters to a good use of the net is a way to protect them.

The Association proposes specific courses every year; information and sensitisation meetings with parents and teachers; confrontation and discussion meetings with students in the class, structured on the age of the recipients; experience-based courses on the correct use of the net.

Since some years *Meter* makes use of the survey as a tool to learn about the use of the net among youngsters, to understand how online surfing could influence children's emotions and behaviours.

CYBER-BULLYING AND BULLYING

In the last years the term bullying has often appeared on newspapers' and television's chronicles; teachers do also often witness signals of violent behaviours at school: many kids are mocked, threatened, blackmailed by their peers. Bullying is an authentic form of oppression where a child or an adolescent experiences a condition in which his sureness and self-confidence are strained by a bully peer, procuring him physical and psychological suffering. This kind of situations does often outrun the eyes of adults, they are not prepared to recognise such ruthless oppression and persecution manifestations among kids.

Consequently it appears fundamental to start intentional and effective interventions; the aim is trying to contain the problem and create a positive coexistent atmosphere in the school, not just between bullies and victims, but also among other kids that

could develop progressive desensitisation attitudes towards the suffering of others and attitudes of feeling civilly not responsible, by tolerating and justifying the bullying. Interventions have to regard also the relevant adults, teachers and parents; in their educational duty they can have a decisive role in the resolution of some deviant dynamics.

General purposes of the course

- To know bullying and cyber-bullying:
  a) In which ways it occurs;
  b) Psychological features of bullies and cyber-bullies;
  c) How families of bullies and cyber-bullies are;
  d) Psychological features of the victims;
  e) Bullying dynamic among the group;
  f) Relationship between teachers and bullies.

- To promote a respect and solidarity based culture

- To intervene on bullying phenomena in the class

- To provide teachers with the tools to face and manage bullying episodes

The training activity involved teachers and parents about the topics of bullying and cyber-bullying. Concrete tools were delivered during laboratories, to intervene when the situation requires it. Meetings with students of different age groups allowed the kids to confront each other about the topic and to be personally involved trough role playing activities.

EDUCATE TO EMOTIONS

Emotions represent the very first way of communication and relation of the child when he is born. Through the emotions it is possible to recognize, individuate and distinguish his needs, but also his reactions to stimuli coming from the external environment. Many scientific studies demonstrated that the quality of intellectual development of a child is influenced by the way he receives the adequate care as an answer to his needs; it is also influenced by the quality of care which has an important role since it modulates and determines the emotional condition of the child.

Through the emotions the child communicates his emotional condition, but he also tries to shape his thoughts, he communicates affinity or repulsion (by smiling or crying) towards those who relate with him, he establishes relational bonds, conveys his interest for learning; that is to say that emotions contribute to enrich all the dimensions which are necessary to his cognitive, relational and affective growing process.

The management of emotions is an important element of the self, which intervenes in the concept of self esteem and identity and influences the way in which we act and relate with others. The first social context where children have to relate with others outside the family is nursery school.

School appears to be among the privileged places where the cognitive, relational and emotional aspects combine together and feed each other; thus, it seems to be necessary to direct educational tools considering these dimensions, the aim is to enhance different communication channels to favour and activate the birth of positive interpersonal relations with peers and adults. The course aims to promote empowerment, meaning the strengthening of individual and community resources of children to help them to recognize their own emotions and those of others; to grow with their peers through well-balanced interpersonal relations and to relate with the adults that take care of them, in order to identify stable landmarks.

General purposes of the course

- To know the rules of the family
- To know the rules at school
- To know their body
- To know the rules about how to behave with people they know and they don't know
- To know their own emotions and those of others
- Learn to tell their own experiences and to ask for the help of parents or of adults they trust

The training activity involved parents and teachers on the topics related to the development and recognition of emotions and on the ability to create positive relationships with children. Operative tools were delivered during laboratories, for a proper emotional education.

SCHOOL AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER: ALTERNATIVE AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Alternative augmentative communication (AAC) is the set of knowledge, strategies and technologies which facilitate and increase communication in subjects with a severe communication disorder both on the expressive and receptive side. The aim of AAC is to build communication competences both in the disabled person and in people within his/her life environment (house, school, work). AAC facilitates expressive abilities, favours comprehension and reduces problem behaviours, such as aggressiveness, self harm or socially inappropriate behaviours. The course provides theoretical and practical notions to support the communicative and relational development of disabled children in school context, with the help of communicative aids and through the structuration of the environment.

General purposes of the course

1. To transmit theoretical basis information about Alternative Augmentative Communication;

2. To transmit theoretical and practical information about the use of books in symbols and about communicative tables in the school context of children with complex communicative needs;

3. To provide tools for the design of inclusive interventions in the school environment: AAC methodologies and tools.

The course provides the realization of labs with the aim to apply what has been learned during lectures; thus, parents and teachers build AAC aids on the basis of their children's competences so they can recreate an experience which is tangible and, consequently, applicable in the life contexts of the child.

TO BE A PARENT OF A CHILD WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Every family goes through a series of steps during its lifetime; steps that require on one hand changes of domestic roles, on the other hand the involvement of every member in other social systems (school, work etc.). In front of certain "transitions" every subject has to face variations in his role because that phase requires so.

A couple becomes family with the birth of a child which is added to the system, re-structuring and transforming it. The spouses become parents and take physically and affectively care of the newborn with the help of relatives, friends and experts.

The birth of a child with disability is an event that does totally redefine the life project of a couple of parents.

The diversity of the awaited child does indelibly mark the future that will be full of difficulties and pledges; the family will thus have to reach a new stability. The development of the child and his family becomes a long journey between normality and diversity. The course aims to assist parents from the moment of the diagnosis of Autism spectrum Disorder to the help request.

What is autism? Which are the criteria to deliver a diagnosis? Which are the treatment programmes for children with autism

spectrum disorder? From the development of inter-subjectivity to communication, from the management of problematic behaviours to the structuring of the living environments of the child, from the training for single families to group training: through the laboratories the course allows young parents to deepen their knowledge on the topic, to define their role and to acquire useful operational tools for the handling of the child.

General purposes of the course

1. To deepen the knowledge about the topic
2. Analysis of the family dynamics at the birth of their child
3. To recognise the markers of the disorder
4. To acquire strategies to enhance inter-subjectivity
5. To acquire useful operational tools to handle the behaviour of the child.

The course involved parents of children with autism spectrum disorder of an age between 2 and 6. It was structured in frontal classes and diversified lab activities, in line with the age of their children.

School-work alternation

The Association represents a complementary learning context for students, alongside with school; meaning it is a place aimed to an "on the ground" acquisition of technical and professional skills.
Practical experience in *Meter*'s environment becomes an enrichment of school learning, it increases learning motivation by orienting and discovering personal attitudes.

Aims

1. To implement flexible and equivalent ways of learning under a cultural and educational perspective, in order to connect class training with practical experience.

2. To enrich school learning with the acquisition of technical competences.

3. To favour students' orientation in order to enhance personal attitudes, interests and individual ways of learning, trough a first operational approach with a professional context.

4. To include and integrate students with special needs in the class environment.

Purposes

1. To promote, orient and train to educational value.

2. To promote childhood culture, and the protection of children's rights.

3. To increase knowledge and consciousness of prevention and intervention strategies about discomfort.

4. To favour a University and professional orientation through the knowledge of the professional positions in our structure (psychologists, educators, TNPEE, computer technicians, lawyers, graphic designers).

5. To extend knowledge related to the topics *Meter* deals with (pedophilia, child pornography, net linked issues, disabilities).

6. To promote the learning of standards and rules in working environments.

The theoretical and practical training provided to the students during the school-work alternation includes frontal classes, lab activities and "on the field" work, with respect to the activities of the Association, in order to reach the goals provided by the educational and didactical perspective of their study course.

Survey – Pilot study

The dangers of the net: sexting, grooming and cyber-bullying

To communicate on the Internet has many advantages for a child, but it could also turn out as a trap. *Meter* continues to commit itself in the education to a conscious use of the Internet of children, but also of relevant adults, parents, teachers, educators in order for them to have the adequate knowledge and tools to protect children from the dangers of the net. Thus, the Association considered it appropriate to carry out a survey about the use of the Internet and in particular about the dangers kids are exposed to: *sexting*, *grooming*, *cyber-bullying*.

Hypothesis

The purpose of the survey is the study of the use of the net among kids and of their knowledge about the dangers they could encounter: *sexting*, *grooming*, *cyber-bullying*.

Recipients

The survey was conducted on a sample of 357 participants, balanced in gender (200 males and 157 females), aged between 14 and 16 years old, attending the first and second year of High School class.

Procedure

The procedure provided the delivery of a structured survey with fixed predetermined alternatives; there were yes-and-no questions, and open questions to accurately explore some aspects of the yes-and-no questions. The answers to the open questions were categorised in order to better define the type of the detected data; inserted examples provide the meaningful relevance of each category. The survey has 48 items, it was designed ad hoc for the aims of the research. Since we are talking about minors, after the authorization of the parents, we proceeded to the delivery of the survey, guaranteeing anonymity. The procedure provided the delivery of the survey in the class environment, during school time. The length of the delivery was of about 20 minutes.

Results

Analysis of the data (item2) show that minors use the Internet to surf the net (35%), chat (30%), play (18%), do their homework (12%), download music, photos and videos (5%), as pointed out in chart 1.

Chart 1


For what reason do you use the Internet?
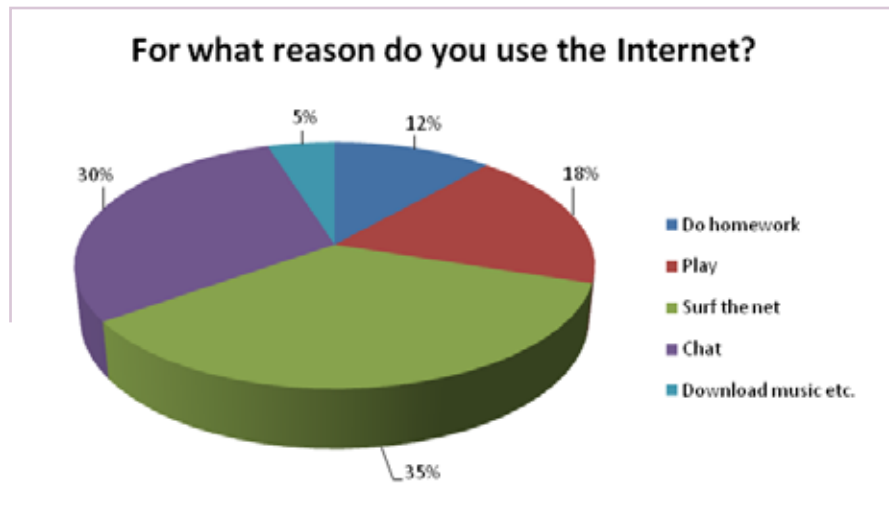
In item 3 it can be observed that the reference sample uses the following social networks: Instagram (45%), Whatsapp (31%), Facebook (14%), Twitter (6%), Badoo (4%). Instagram and Whatsapp confirm to be the most used social networks by the young, who prefer them to Facebook, which is the favourite social network of adults (chart 2).

Chart 2

Which social network do you use more?
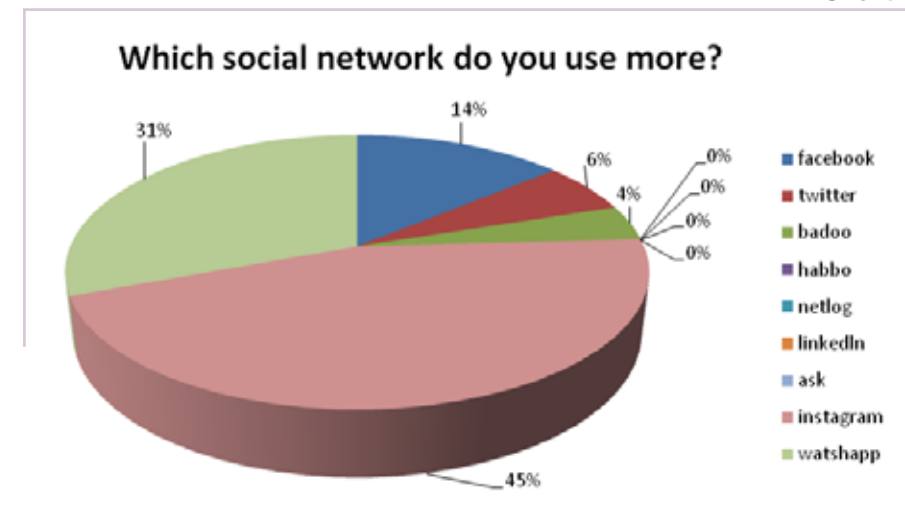
From item 7 it is possible to see that youngsters do not put any limits to the chance to publish photos of their own to obtain the largest consensus, indeed, 54% declares to use personal images to obtain more "likes", 25% publishes images of friends, 8% natural images, etc (chart 3).

Chart 3

Which image would you use as profile image on a social network to get more "likes"?
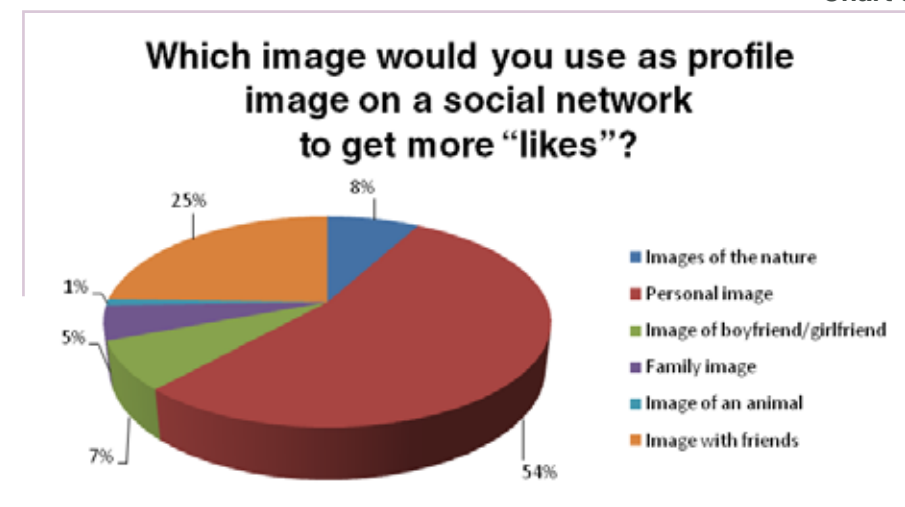
46% of the sample declare they use chats especially with friends, but the most worrying datum is the one that concerns 18% of youngsters that declare they mostly chat with people they met on the web. This datum is important to underline the increasing difficulties that youngsters have in being able to communicate without hiding behind a screen (chart 4), this is also confirmed by the fact that 54% of the sample chat to tell something about themselves (30%) and to have a conversation (24%) (chart 5).
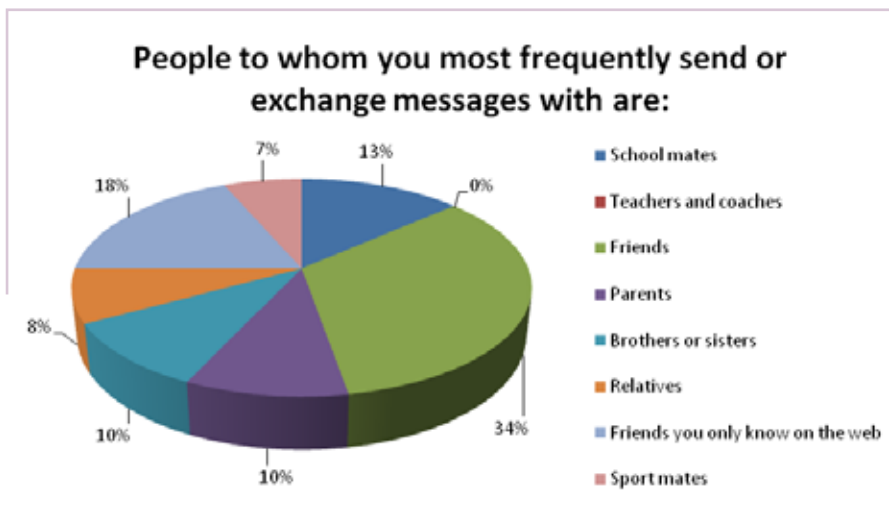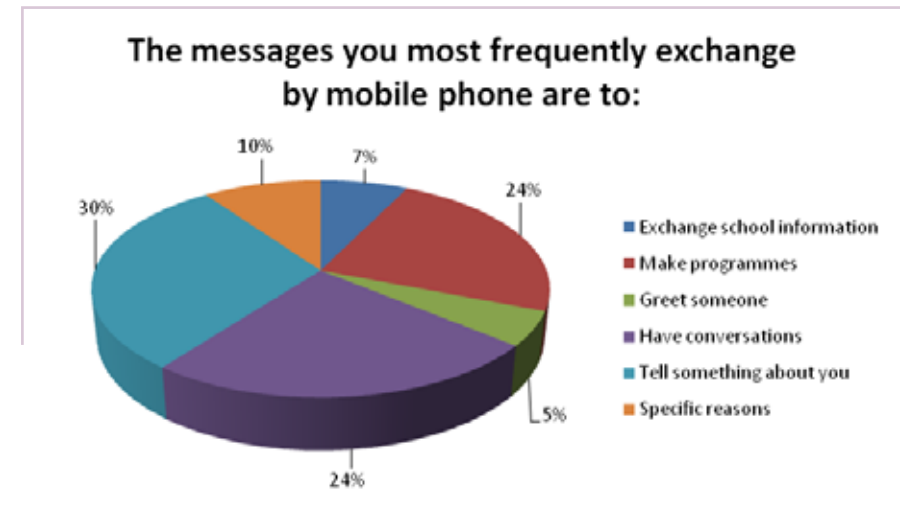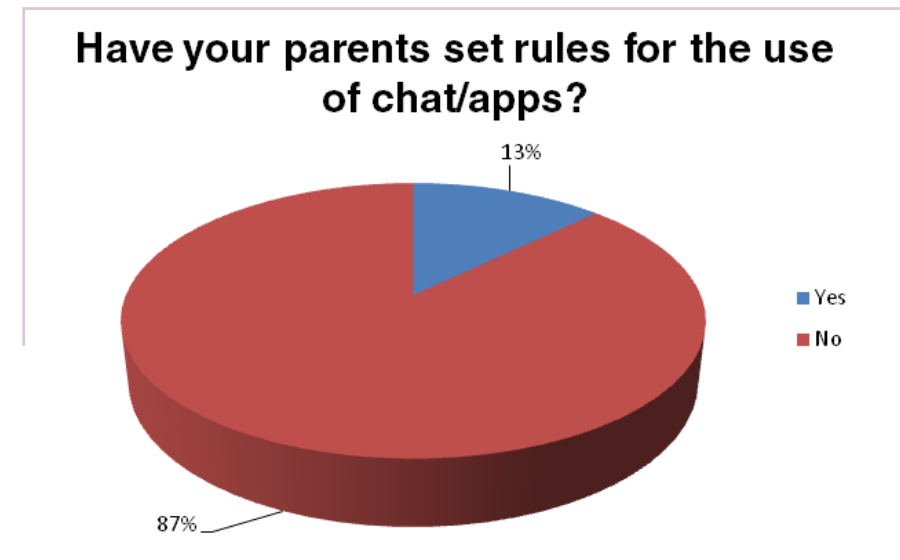
Chart 4

People to whom you most frequently send or exchange messages with are:

- School mates
- Teachers and coaches
- Friends
- Parents
- Brothers or sisters
- Relatives
- Friends you only know on the web
- Sport mates

Chart 5

The messages you most frequently exchange by mobile phone are to:

- Exchange school information
- Make programmes
- Greet someone
- Have conversations
- Tell something about you
- Specific reasons

An interesting figure regards the setting of rules from parents for the use of the net. From chart 6 it is evident that 87% of parents does not set any rule about the use of chats. This sharply increasing figure compared to the past years shows the lack of consciousness on behalf of parents about the risks for their children on the web.

Chart 6

Have your parents set rules for the use of chat/apps?

- Yes
- No

13%

87%

Data from the survey have clearly highlighted that 49% of minors declared they received images that were not suitable for their age (item 14), and that it is about sexual or violent images (chart 7).

Chart 7

Have you ever received images that were not suitable to your age?

51% | 49%
- Yes
- No
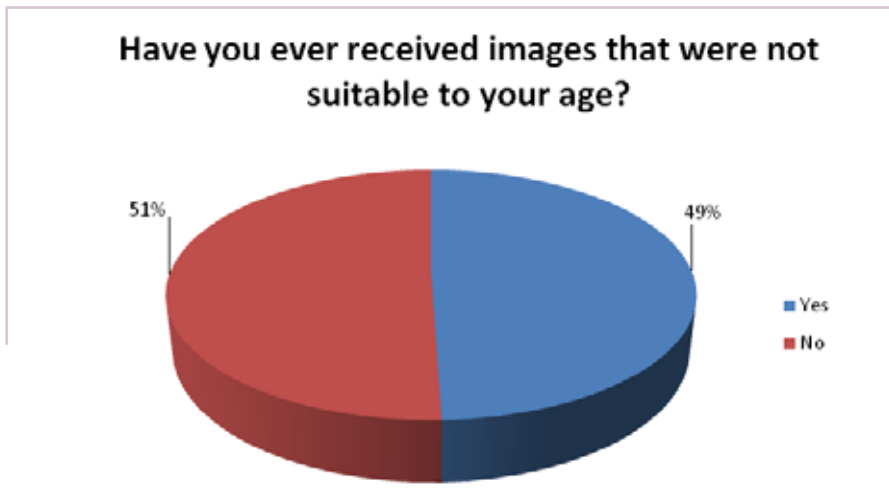
37% declare they receive negative comments about what they publish or write (chart 8).

Chart 8

Have you ever received negative comments?

7% | 15% | 28%
- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always

37% | 13%
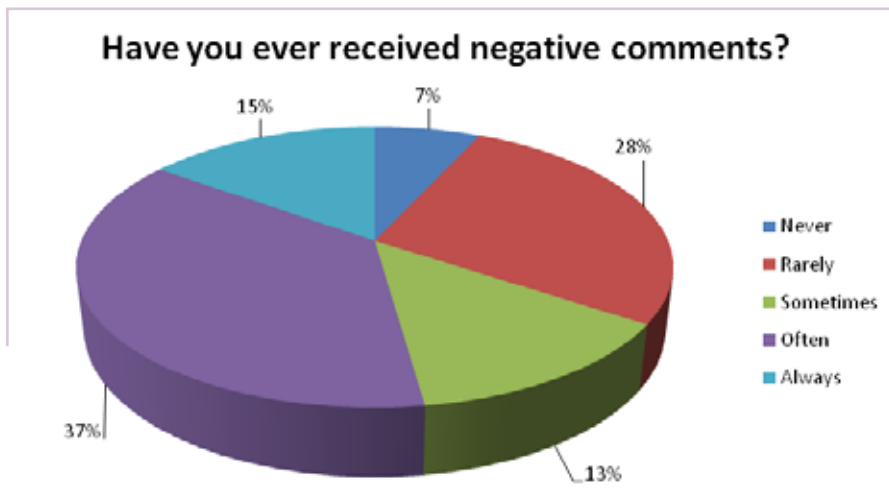
Item 19 makes to think about the answer of some kids on the likeliness to send sexually explicit photos to their boyfriend/girlfriend, indeed, 32% agrees (chart 9); in item 20 they specify that sending that kind of photos is for fun (28%) or a joke (11%), while 18% declares to do it as a stunt, 10% was forced to it, 3% as proof of love. It is interesting to note how 30% declare they do it to be accepted, once more this proves the emotional fragility of youngsters who need to display themselves on the net in order not to feel outcasts or different.
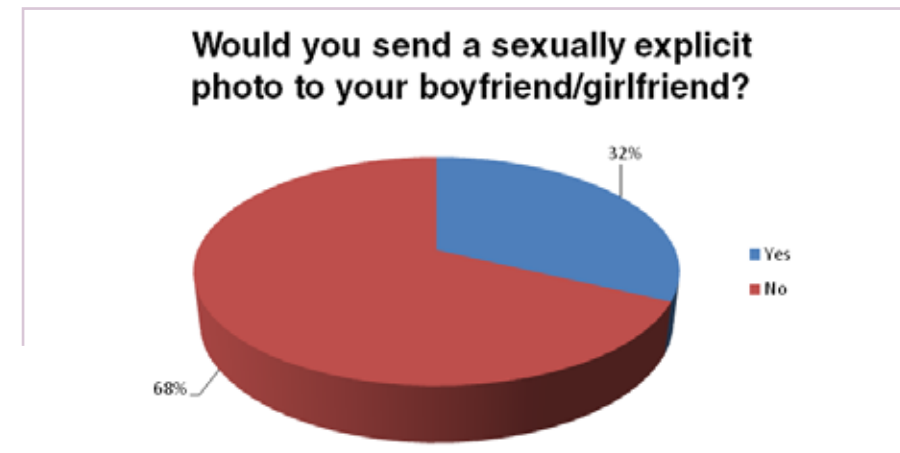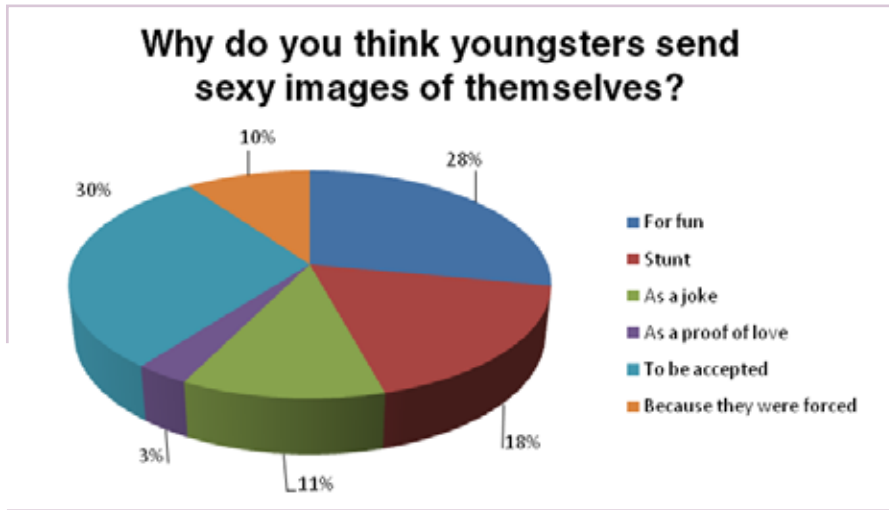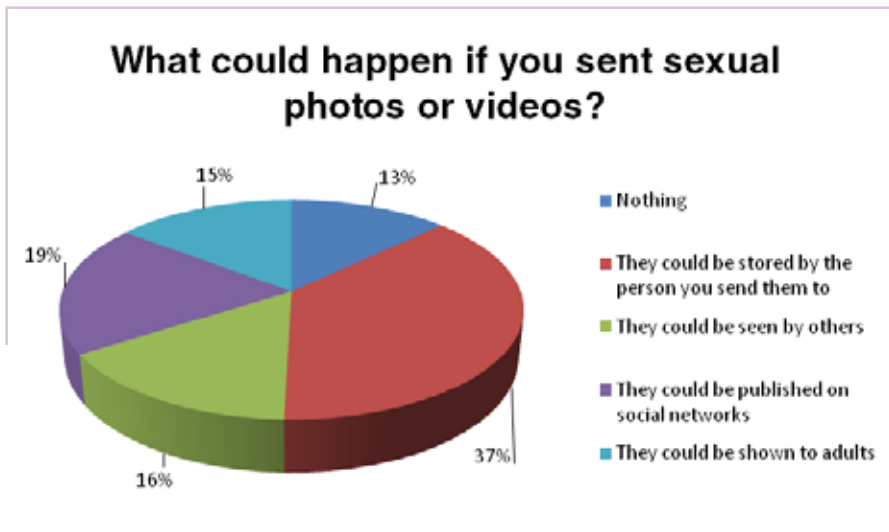
Chart 9

Would you send a sexually explicit photo to your boyfriend/girlfriend?

32%
- Yes
- No
68%

Chart 10

Why do you think youngsters send sexy images of themselves?

10% 28%

30%

■ For fun
■ Stunt
■ As a joke
■ As a proof of love
■ To be accepted
■ Because they were forced

3% 18%

11%

Furthermore, a good percentage of the sample (19%) is conscious that such kind of photos or videos could be published on social networks or seen by others (16%) (chart 11).

Chart 11

What could happen if you sent sexual photos or videos?

15% 13%

19%

■ Nothing
■ They could be stored by the person you send them to
■ They could be seen by others
■ They could be published on social networks
■ They could be shown to adults

16% 37%

With regard to emotionality, 61% of the sample declares to feel more free to express their emotions on the net than in reality (chart 12).

Chart 12

Do you feel more free to express your emotion in a chat than in reality?

39%

■ Yes
■ No

61%
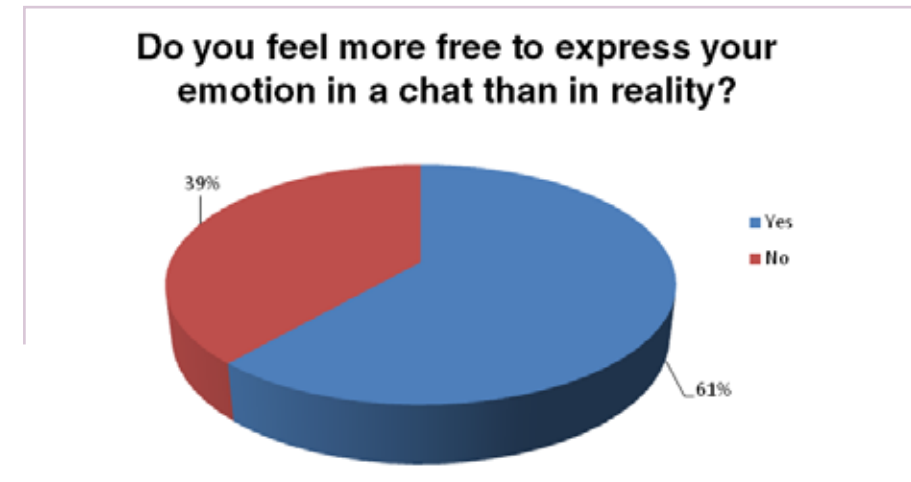
About cyber-bullying, 63% of kids declares they have heard about it often (chart 13) and that they obtained such information at school (48%), on tv (22%) and on social networks (21%). Families are not very present, just 5% of youngsters declare they have talked about cyber-bullying within their household (chart 13).
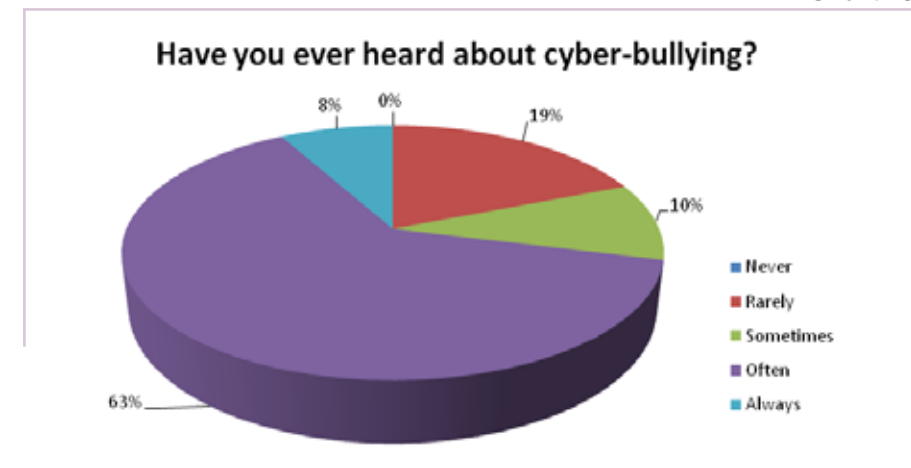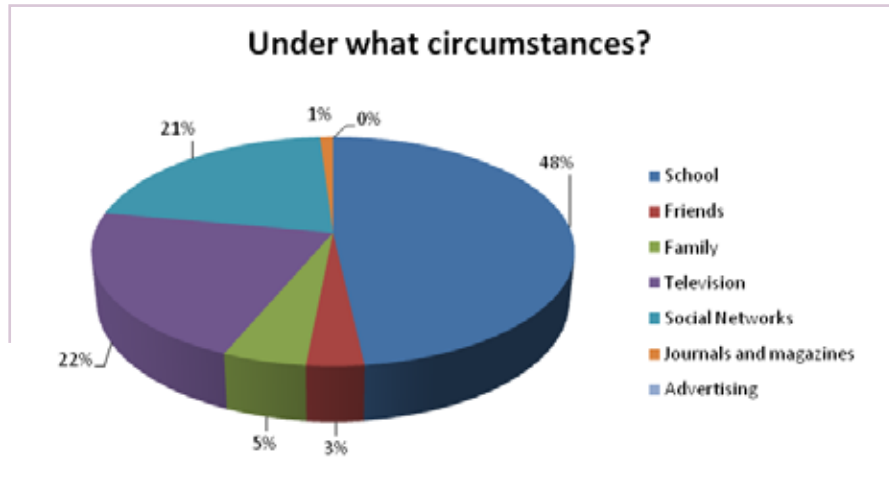
Chart 13

Have you ever heard about cyber-bullying?

8% 0% 19%

10%

■ Never
■ Rarely
■ Sometimes
■ Often
■ Always

63%

Chart 14

Under what circumstances?

- ■ School
- ■ Friends
- ■ Family
- ■ Television
- ■ Social Networks
- ■ Journals and magazines
- ■ Advertising

48%
1%
0%
21%
22%
5%
3%

The answers to the open question: "What do you think about cyber-bullying?" have been categorised: it is unfair (36%); cyber-bullies are people with problems (14%); it is the same as bullying, it is not less dangerous (12%); it causes pain and anguish (12%); it affects the weakest (11%); it is a stunt (6%); it should be reported (6%); it is necessary to help both bullies and victims (3%) (chart 15).

Chart 15

What do you think about cyber-bullying?

- ■ It is unfair
- ■ It causes pain and anguish
- ■ It is a stunt
- ■ It should be reported
- ■ It is the same as bullying
- ■ Cyber-bullies have personal problems
- ■ It affects the weakest
- ■ It is necessary to help bullies and victims

11%
3%
36%
14%
12%
6%
6%
12%
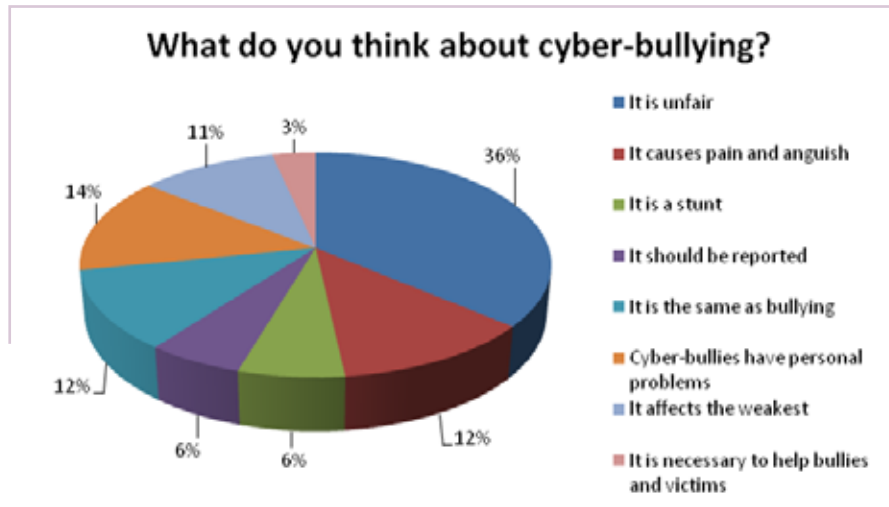
The analysed data allow us to detect a variation compared to the surveys of the past years, youngsters are more and more lonely and this is reflected in their attempts to attract attention on social media, even at the expense of their intimacy. It is interesting to know the kid's consciousness about the chance that their photos, also intimate ones, could be published on socials if shared with others; despite this certainty, a small percentage declares to be willing to share their own photos.

They often declare that they use social media to communicate with others and that they are able to express themselves better, also emotionally, when using their mobile phone keyboard. Every year Internet and social media become preponderant in kids' lives, they receive are less and less parental control and rules, despite there is material that is not suitable for their age on the net.

The frame that emerges from the analysis of the surveys puts a lot of questions in place for us educators, about our responsibility in being more present in kids' lives and about the communication difficulties they show in the relation with peers.

A targeted intervention on young generations and parents would be desirable to modify the trend that emerged from the survey and to favour youngsters in the contact with themselves and others.

Day Care Centre
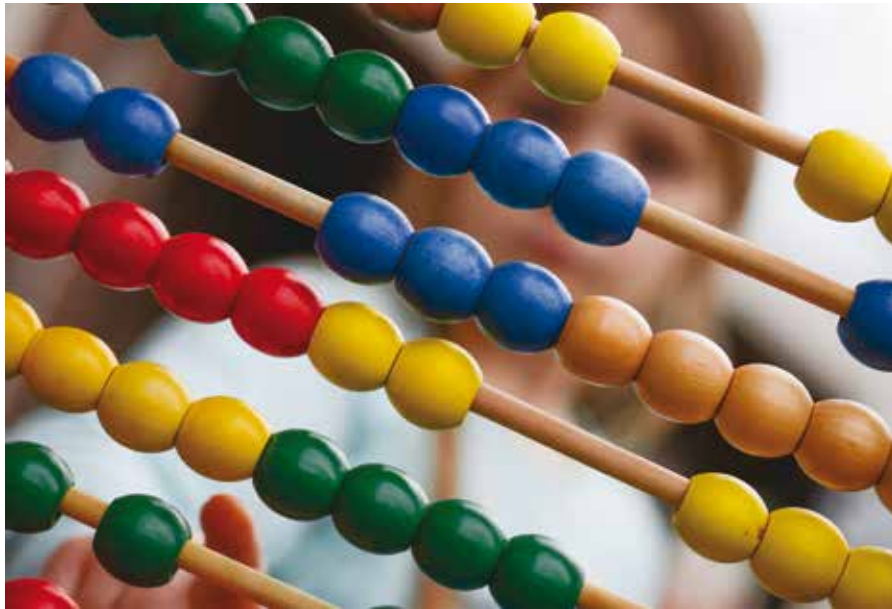
The Day Care Centre aims to give concrete answers to the educational needs of the territory, of the children and their families in order to safeguard the children's identity and develop their personality, and to guarantee, promote and defend their rights, to offer the conditions for a better quality of life through prevention and/or to overcome discomfort conditions; the Day Care Centre aims to support the "responsibilities" and "competences" of the family through socialisation and educational interventions, meant for children in need and intended to contrast deviation and/or marginalisation phenomena and to intervene especially in those situations where social and cultural lacks compromise a healthy and balanced growth of the child.

The planned activities are aimed to provide a physical and relational space to promote integration among youngsters, their participation to the various activities, their education for a positive growth process and a real prevention of discomfort.

Specific achieved results are:

- Support of school commitment, trough educational tutoring;
- Involvement of the children in playful, recreational and lab activities;
- Educational and playful-recreational support aimed at achieving didactical and educational goals, and at providing a better administration of free time;
- Improved socialisation;
- Enhanced participation of the child at a proactive, decisional level in unifying experiences so as to offer him an educational space where he can express himself and achieve self-determination;
- Strengthening of life skills.

Recipients

The Day Care Centre welcomes children and youngsters aged between 6 and 14; specific issues are identified for each of them; those issues are due to familiar difficulties to fulfil the educational role, to transitional difficulties which are recoverable through a structured educational intervention, to situations with a risk of marginalisation and maladjustment of the children.

Personalized project

The activities of the Day Care Centre provide a personalized project designed by the multi-disciplinary team.
Every project points out: the goals to achieve, the specific programmed educational activities, the ways of involvement of the main educational and socialisation agencies on the territory, the time-frame and ways of monitoring and of following-up, who is in charge for the implementation, the specific tasks of the involved staff, the ways of information and involvement of the family.

Kind of activities

The educational activities are divided in the following areas:

- Self-valorisation: sharing and implementation of the personalised educational project, motivational, educational, orientation meetings;

- Integration: socialisation and integration activities through rational, recreational processes, through artistic and expressive, manual and sports labs, social farm;

- Education: didactic support in cooperation with schools, improvement and recovery activities using tools like computers, didactic material, thematic labs, study groups, school and educational guidance;

- Social: organisation and participation to events with educational aim, summer camps.

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL CENTRE FOR CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

Sensitivity, welcoming, professionalism put the children and their families at the centre of our attention. Specifically, the *Centre* has provided its services to 50 families. The children we followed are aged between 2 and 10 years old, and adolescents are aged between 11 and 17.

The provided interventions, regardless of the age group, are not limited to our structure, but to all the environments where the child lives in; the aim is to generalize the acquisitions, to facilitate their continuation and to promote the learning. Living environments are those who allow to obtain greater improvements in the cognitive, behavioural, relational, emotional development; therefore the *Centre* works on the territory to improve the quality of life of each child.

In 2019

50

FAMILIES WELCOMED

Our aim

To support and train families, making them the main characters of their children's well-being.

Specifically:
- To train parents on educational intervention programs to better the performance in their relation with their children;
- To provide parents with strategies and tools, also technological and innovative ones, to intervene on the child in a more conscious way;
- To reduce parents' level of stress about the acceptance of children with some kind of disability by involving them in the therapy;
- To increase parents' consciousness about their competences in the relation with their children;
- To stimulate the relation between siblings;
- To favour the processing of emotions in siblings;
- To sensitise and inform the territory about disability;
- To favour early diagnosis;
- To implement a prompt and intensive intervention on the child;
- To better the social, relational and communicative sphere of the child.
- To create a more welcoming and functional domestic environment, this consequently leads to an improvement of the quality of life of the family;
- To promote the psychophysical well-being of the child.

In 2019

Family room	336
Telephone consultancies	88
Psycho-educational interventions for children	1.140
Psycho-educational consultancies for teachers	37
Snoezelen room	37
Sensitisation meetings in schools	30
Summer camp	1
Sensitisation events	1

In 2019
336
MEETINGS

Family room

The Family Room provides the involvement of parents, who are the main mediators of the intervention, improving the parent-child interaction, reducing the anxiety and stress levels in the handling of children with special educational needs. Parents are received in a cosy, warm, exclusive, technological room that was created to embrace every family's request; they will be able to: watch the intervention and the activities of their child through dedicated network channels, monitor improvements by watching videos, consult the professional to obtain information and training about how to manage everyday's life.

Thus, the family is not just the recipient of the project, but it is actively included in the programme and training to acquire the suitable competences to autonomously handle the education of their own child and the parent-child interaction.

The training of parents is planned on the most practical educational competences to face problems observed in families with children. Psychological support proves to be an essential tool to analyse the emotional status of the individual and of the couple, to process the feelings of all members of the family and to facilitate a correct perception of the child and of his potential.

Snoezelen room

The term snoezelen is a neologism made up of two Dutch words: "*snuffelen*" (find, explore) and "*doezelen*" (doze, nap). It is a therapeutic technique which makes use of a multi-sensorial approach, which allows the child to explore, get to know the environment

In 2019
37
CHILDREN ACCESSED THE SNOEZELEN ROOM

and interact with it in a nice context, by using a multi-sensorial stimulation and integration.

The room is equipped with particular lights, colours, music, perfumes, landscapes, soft corners. It is made up of refined and sophisticated materials which create a cosy, relaxing and stimulating environment, specially for children with special needs. It arises from the need to create a protected and structured space, accessible to everyone, aimed at developing the capacity of the child to relate with others and to get to know the external world through sensory channels in a playful and soothing context. The professional will also involve parents when applying this methodology in order to recreate a peaceful and familiar environment.

Meter at school

Meter acts through a network work and builds bridges between the school and the family to provide answers to the questions of parents, teachers and to supply psycho-educational interventions in the class of the child. Meter promotes sensitisation and information, the integration of the child in the school and improves the emotional experience of the family at the moment of schooling.

What *Info Meter* does in schools:

• Organizes meetings with the families of the students, supporting them in the right intervention methods with their children;

• Intervenes with appropriate tools towards students;

• Intervenes on the class group with the aim to provide teachers and class mates with tools that are functional for the handling of children that show inadequate behaviours and with the purpose to promote scholar and social integration.

Laboratory Psycho-educational activities

Laboratories on autonomy

Autonomy is a fundamental goal for all children and youngsters with disability. The aim is not simply to provide assistance, but to structure every moment and activity in order to enable the acquisition of the necessary competences to make them autonomous in everyday life.

When teaching abilities to favour autonomy, there are some definite and specific rules to observe, like: sharing of goals and strategies to reach it, to analyse and deconstruct the task, systematic observation, continuous evaluation, adjustment and structuring of the environment, necessary resources, teaching methods, generalisation of acquisitions.

Thus, according to the age, laboratories and activities in the outside environment are created in order to provide the children with the necessary information and competences to lead a healthy and risk-free life by acquiring essential abilities.

Practical lab activities have the aim to implement a journey towards the growth and acquisition of competences intended to improve the quality of life of the kids and to allow to enhance their potentialities; this is for a social inclusion, through the drafting of an individualised programme with specific purposes:

1. Personal autonomies

2. Social competences

3. Meta-cognitive abilities about emotions

4. Professional competences and practical orientation to the working environment

Labs provide highly structured and organised activities, programmed by the kids' tutors with the help of Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Specifically, goals are reached through the following laboratories:

1. Gardening and horticulture lab

2. Cooking lab

3. Household management lab

4. Lab of preparation and arrangement of printed material for the solidarity graphic and printing service.

5. Manual creative lab

6. Sport lab

Every lab is integrated with the following ones in order for the kid to reach global competences; thus placement provides a preliminary evaluation of their basic competences. Activities are carried out in group, 3 hours every week.

Gardening and horticulture Lab

From the knowing of the plant or vegetable that is meant to be planted to the soil preparation, from the plantation to the caring of the products, from the harvesting to the packing: this lab allows to reach a higher knowledge and to acquire real competences in the handling of a garden.

Cooking Lab

From the harvesting of what they cultivated, children move on to the preparation and realisation of a recipe with the harvested products and with ingredients from the *SuperAutonomous* shop; this environment, structured through AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication), consents to do autonomous shopping, but mediated by supports.

The recipe is chosen in accordance with the basic competences of the participants. Through this lab we verified an expansion of the vocabulary related to the kitchen environment, an improvement of fine and motor skills, the acquisition of the realisation sequence of the recipe, the reaching of partial autonomy in the preparation of a meal, acquisition of working competences (ex. To knead fresh pasta).

Besides the enabling work, those activities do also represent a sharing and socialisation moment; therapists, educators, grandparents, parents and friends share recipes, they "roll up their sleeves" to create a learning environment, and especially a peaceful environment that pours into daily life.

Household management Lab

It is important for the kids to be enabled to the care of the household and working environment. *Meter* recreated a household environment in order to consent them an autonomous management of themselves in the various spaces and to favour a psycho-educational intervention of the parent at home. It is thus necessary to involve parents to share strategies and modalities.

Manual creative Lab

It is a moment of creative expression through the realisation of objects made from different materials in festivity occasions and of creative elements for our structure. Each realised object is wrapped and delivered to the families of the children from *Meter* Association.

Sport Lab

Throughout sport children and youngsters create an integration environment aimed to develop social skills, to enhance global motility and to manage emotions. Athletics, basketball for the respect of rules, for the respect of the other, having fun together.

Team

Every expert has a specific role and works in synergy with the other professionals to strengthen individual curriculum skills through a constant monitoring of the goals that have been established for each child.

The purpose is the well-being of the child and of the family.

Parents and children are constantly monitored and assisted during the rehabilitation process.

Day for Children Victims

The *Day for Children Victims* (in Italian Giornata Bambini Vittime) *of violence*, *exploitation and indifference* was born in Avola in 1996, in the neighbourhood of the Parish of Madonna del Carmine, cradle of the Association. It came from the suffering, the tears, the anger, the pain for the violated childhood of a girl of 11 and a boy of 14.

These violence episodes brought Father Fortunato Di Noto to concentrate his efforts and resources on the fight against pedophilia and child pornography.

The Day for Children Victims is celebrated from the 25th of April to the first Sunday of May in response to the *Pedophile Pride days* promoted by pedophiles all over the world to endorse legitimation; it is divided in two celebrative moments: a first commemorative one (to remember victims with prayers and to to give reflection points), a second one dedicated to children and families in an information and prevention perspective.

The Day for children Victims has reached a national and international relevance for Church, civil society and politic and cultural realities. Specifically, parish communities pray and reflect about childhood's conditions; high offices of the State, Ministries and local bodies join through reflection and sensitization moments. Universities, schools and political, trade and cultural aggregations are quite sensitive to the topic and do also participate.

On the Day for Children Victims the Pope sends "special greetings" to *Meter* Association: this is a prestigious acknowledgement sign over *Meter*'s action. Every year our members go to Piazza San Pietro in Rome to receive the greeting of the Pope and testify the unrestrainable fight in defence of childhood started in 1989 in the heart of Sicily.

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