

Who are we

The www.siguronline.md platform was launched in January 2013 by the International Centre "La Strada Moldova". The online assistance service, that is free of charge, is managed by professionals with extensive knowledge and experience in the field and it allows for multiple requests to be processed simultaneously.

Our mission

Our mission is to help the children who are suffering or have suffered from an online sexual abuse to overcome this experience and continue to grow with harmony and integrity, benefiting from the necessary legal and psychological assistance; to provide the society and all interested parties with information and tools to prevent online sexual abuse of children.

Our area of competence

To prevent online sexual abuse of children by cultivating abilities allowing them to identify and manage existing risks, particularly in terms of communication and relationships.

To provide assistance to children that are facing or have faced an online sexual abuse, taking into account their needs.

The following actions are indicators of potential online sexual abuse of a child:

- Online conversation with a child on intimate topics or topics of a sexual nature
- Asking a child to produce photographs or videos with sexual content
- Offering goods in exchange of photos or videos with sexual content
- Inviting a child to meet in real life in order to have sexual intercourse
- Blackmailing the child in order to get sexual favors (intimate photos, videos; involving the child in livestream sexual activities), money or other benefits, while threatening to share compromising information about the child
- Distributing intimate photos/videos of the child on social media or on other online platforms
- Sharing photographs or videos of a sexual nature of a child without his/her consent.

Who can reach out to us

- Any child who has faced an unpleasant situation online
- Any person who wants to help a child who is experiencing an online sexual abuse or who wants to report a potential case of abuse
- Any person who wants to get information on how they can protect a child from unpleasant experiences online

Our services

- ✓ **Provide information** on safe browsing of the Internet for children
- ✓ **Provide guidance** on identifying optimal solutions for children who do not know how to react in certain situations happening to them online
- ✓ **Provide emotional support** for children facing or who have faced an unpleasant experience online
- ✓ **Refer**, if necessary, to the free services of psychological and legal assistance

Contacts

Web: www.siguronline.md

E-mail: helpline@siguronline.md

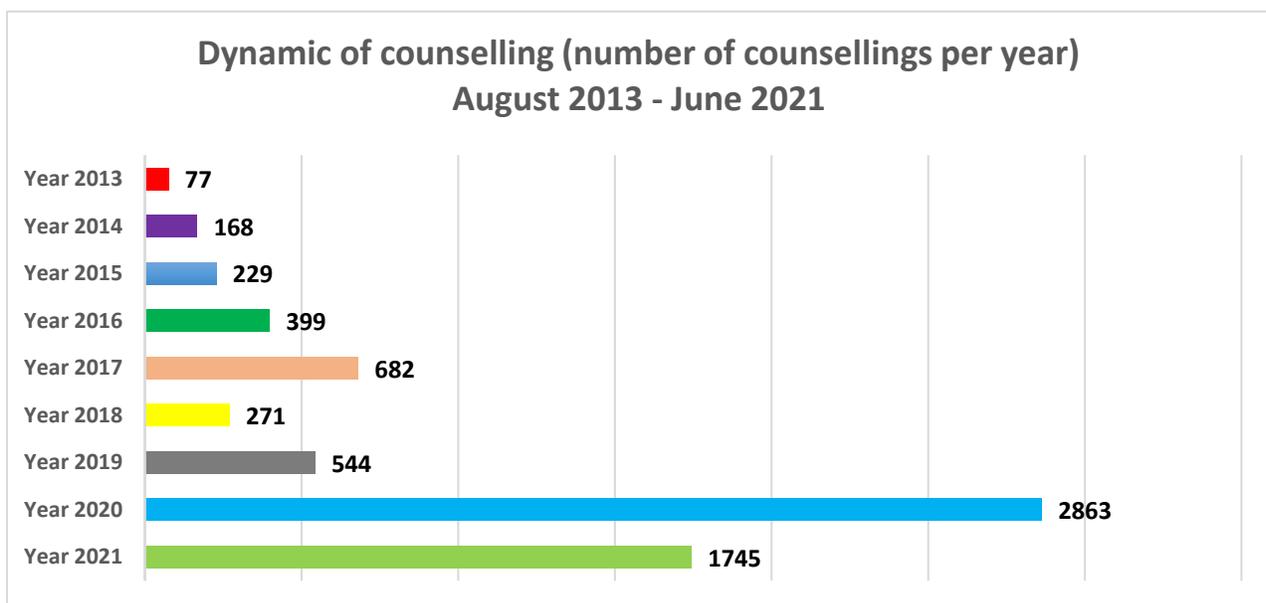
Facebook: [@SigurOnline](https://www.facebook.com/SigurOnline)

Instagram: [siguronline](https://www.instagram.com/siguronline)

Youtube: [SigurOnline.md](https://www.youtube.com/SigurOnline.md)

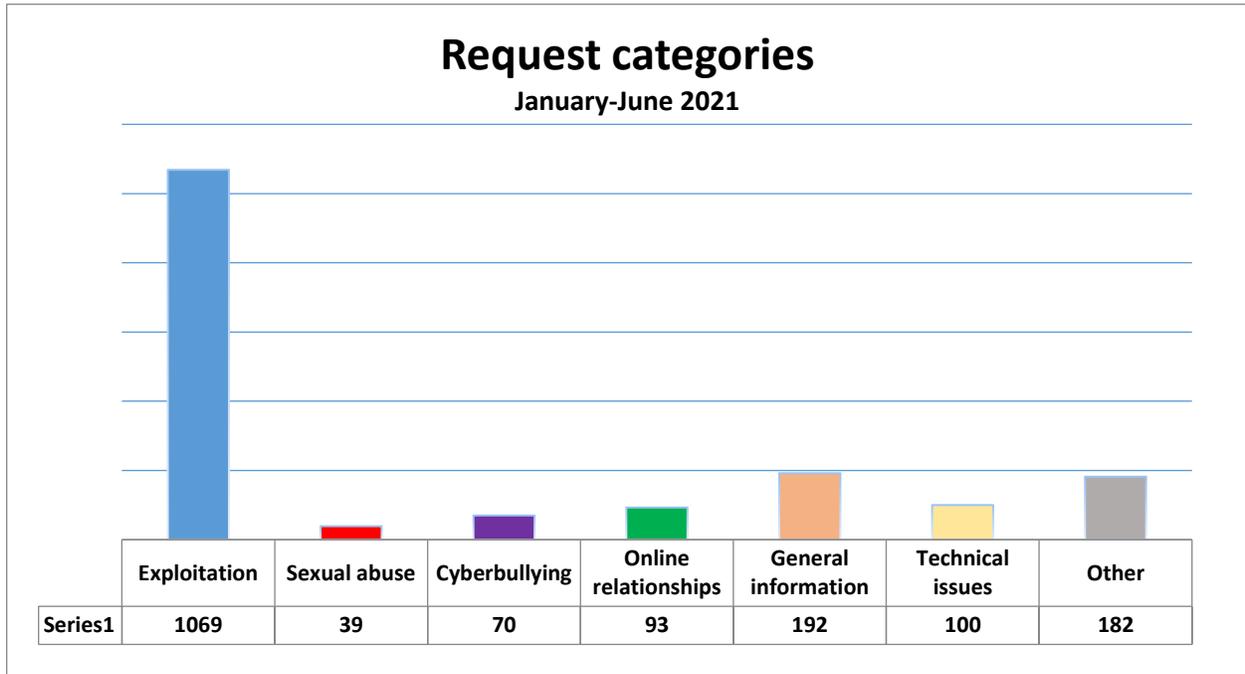
Overview of the counselling service over the last 7 years

From the moment it was launched, siguronline.md was a useful and trusted tool in promoting child online safety. The network of beneficiaries expands year on year.



In the period January-June 2021, 89% of requests (1554) came from children. 40% of the beneficiaries have found out about siguronline.md from classmates or peers, the others found out from teachers or from the siguronline.md professionals who carried out informative activities online and in schools. 49% of the beneficiaries have accessed the platform regularly. The number of requests coming from children who have found us via social media has increased as well (by 9%).

The number of requests on the www.siguronline.md platform in the first half of 2021 is similar to the figure from the first half of 2020.



Most of the children that have contacted us through siguronline.md just wanted to know more about what online safety means, what kind of information they can find on the website, and to see in what scenarios they should ask for help from a siguronline.md consultant. 7% of these children have subsequently returned to the online chat when they encountered a situation where they didn't know how to proceed.

1. The number of children interested in how to safely communicate with other users is increasing.

The number of such requests doubled compared to the requests from the same period last year. This confirms that interacting and communicating online is of high interest for children. Most often, this refers to socializing with people they know in real life, but who they speak to online in order to maintain the friendship/relationship.

2. Children report more and more cases of being messaged by people they don't know.

Such reports constitute about 40% of the total number of reports regarding online relationships. Children don't know how to proceed in such situations, and how to protect themselves if they do accept to socialise online with someone they don't know.

3. Children report more and more situations of online harassment.

The number of such reports increased by 150% compared to the same period last year. This increase can be explained in part by the interest children have in online interactions and communication.

4. Identity theft – an increasingly common harassment method (25% of the total cases of cyberbullying).

In the majority of cases, photographs and personal information is taken from the child's profile and a clone-account is created. Usually, these fake accounts send nasty messages to the child's classmates and friends.

6. The profile of the parents reaching out to siguronline.md is changing.

Previously, parents of children who were only learning to navigate the online environment would reach out to siguronline.md, now we notice a significant decrease in the requests coming from parents of preschool children (January-June 2020 – 77%, January-June 2021 – 50%). Parents of preteens and teens are more conscious of the importance of discussions about online safety, even though their children are already 'experienced users'.

7. The number of children exposed to pornographic content is increasing.

This type of reports has increased by 5 times compared to the same period last year. Usually, children are added by unknown people into groupchats in which people exchange pornographic images. After the children leave the group, they are added back into the group either by the same person, or another unknown person. Less frequently, the children are sent a link to pornographic materials.

8. The majority of the reported online sexual abuses are cases of sexual blackmail (sextortion).

This trend is maintained over several years. In the past, the abuser would blackmail the child in order to get more nude pictures, threatening to publish the photos he already has, now the children are asked for money or material goods in exchange. Both girls and boys are victims of sextortion in equal proportion.

18% of children who have reached out to us about an online sexual abuse have been provided with services of psychological and legal assistance by the Child Safeguarding Team.