

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Every year, 300.000 children go missing in Europe. We strive to change this by protecting and empowering children.

# #ZEROMISSINGKIDS



European Centre for Missing Children



## **AMBER ALERT EUROPE**

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(stichting) with charitable status ("ANBI")  
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Beek, June 15, 2022

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# Welcome letter

Dear friends and supporters,

I am honored to address you all in this annual report for the year 2022. This past year has been nothing short of extraordinary, filled with remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication to our mission. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your invaluable support, which has allowed us to make a significant impact in the lives of missing children and their families throughout Europe.

In 2022, we embarked on a journey fueled by hope and resilience, ensuring that no child is forgotten and that every missing child receives the attention and resources they deserve. Together, we have made substantial progress in raising awareness, strengthening partnerships, and implementing groundbreaking initiatives to safeguard our most vulnerable population.

Throughout the year, we conducted numerous training programs, workshops, and conferences, equipping law enforcement agencies, child protection organisations, and communities with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively in cases of missing children. The commitment and enthusiasm displayed by our partners have been truly inspiring, and we are immensely proud of the progress we have made together.

One of our key achievements was the strengthening of our international partnerships. By collaborating with governments, organisations, and agencies across Europe, we have created a united front in the fight against the phenomenon of missing children.

However, our work is far from over. There are still countless children out there who need our help and protection. With your continued support, we will expand our projects and activities, striving to protect even more children across Europe.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all our partners and supporters who have contributed to our success in 2022. Your dedication and belief in our mission towards #ZeroMissingKids continue to fuel our determination to make a difference.

Let us continue this journey together, standing shoulder to shoulder, until every child is safe, and every family is reunited.



**FRANK HOEN**

Founder and Chairman  
AMBER Alert Europe

01

# Our approach

Together towards a Common European Approach  
on Missing Persons and Missing Children

# Common European Approach on Missing Children – Missing Persons

Every year, 600.000 people go missing in Europe. Half of whom are children. Even though these numbers are staggering, missing is still ‘missing’ on the EU agenda. We want to change this.

Together with the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons, we have devised the Common European Approach on Missing Children and Missing Persons (CEA), a European-wide strategy supported by 4 pillars, that will help prevent children from going missing and ensure that appropriate action is taken if a child does go missing.

## JOIN OUR MISSION TO BRING MISSING CHILDREN HOME SAFELY

Together we can save children’s lives. Support the Common European Approach by bringing it to the attention of your local government and parliamentary representatives.

[View PDF](#) >



## PILLAR 1

### MISSING PERSONS RISK TRIAGE: IMMEDIATE RISK IDENTIFICATION OF MISSING CHILDREN SAVES LIVES

When a missing child is reported to the police, law enforcement agencies should make a timely assessment to qualify or disqualify risk for the life or well-being of the missing child. This risk assessment is crucial to determine which steps need to be taken to successfully recover the child. Under-reaction can result in serious harm or death to the child. Over-reaction and doing too much is wasteful of resources and potentially an unwarranted intrusion on a child’s privacy.

## PILLAR 2

### ENHANCED CROSS-BORDER LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION ON MISSING CHILDREN

With the abolishment of national borders, the Schengen Area, a zone with unrestricted movement of people was created. This also entails that missing children can easily be moved across a border into a neighbouring country. To prevent the investigations from stagnating at the border, resulting in vital time being lost, law enforcement agencies need to be able to quickly communicate and cooperate with their counterparts in other countries. In 2016, this belief resulted in an informal network of law enforcement experts in the field of missing persons. In 2019, this Police Expert Network on Missing Persons (PEN-MP) was officially recognised by the Council of the European Union.

### **PILLAR 3**

#### **CONNECTING THE PUBLIC WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR A MISSING CHILD**

In missing children cases, law enforcement frequently reaches out to the public for assistance. In 2008, the European Commission recognised the urgency of the missing children issue and set an objective for all EU Member States to establish an interoperable child alert system that would enable law enforcement agencies to alert their respective public and even coordinate the search across borders. Interoperability, however, has yet to be realised. In fact, currently, only 20 EU Member States have a child alert system for missing children in place. With 37.5% of Europeans living near national borders, protocols must be examined to ensure citizen sourcing in cases of missing children beyond the borders of the originating country.

### **PILLAR 4**

#### **PREVENTING CHILDREN FROM GOING MISSING AS A JOINT EFFORT OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

Preventing children from going missing consists of two key elements: Firstly, training and awareness-building of key stakeholders to reduce the number of children going missing. Secondly, determining the reason a child has gone missing to prevent children from going missing again. Law enforcement agencies are aware that when a child goes missing, it can be a strong indicator of underlying problems such as abuse, sexual exploitation, gender issues, and trafficking. If a child returns and these issues remain unrecognised and untreated, often children go missing again. In order to prevent this re-victimisation, it is imperative that the risk to the missing child is identified as well as the origins of this risk. Not only does this lead to a reduction in the number of incidents, or reoccurring incidents, of children going missing; it also helps law enforcement agencies identify and address any associated criminal activity.



## EU PARLIAMENT MEMBERS WELCOME AMBER ALERT EUROPE'S EFFORTS, CALL FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK AT EU LEVEL TO FIND MISSING CHILDREN AND MISSING PERSONS AT RISK

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) recognised the efforts of AMBER Alert Europe to improve cooperation on missing children and missing persons cases and called for a comprehensive framework at EU level to tackle the 300.000 cases of children going missing every year.

Addressing European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, during a debate on the need to set up a comprehensive framework for missing children, MEPs said that action is needed at both national and EU level. They stressed the need of rapid intervention by the law enforcement authorities in the search for missing children.

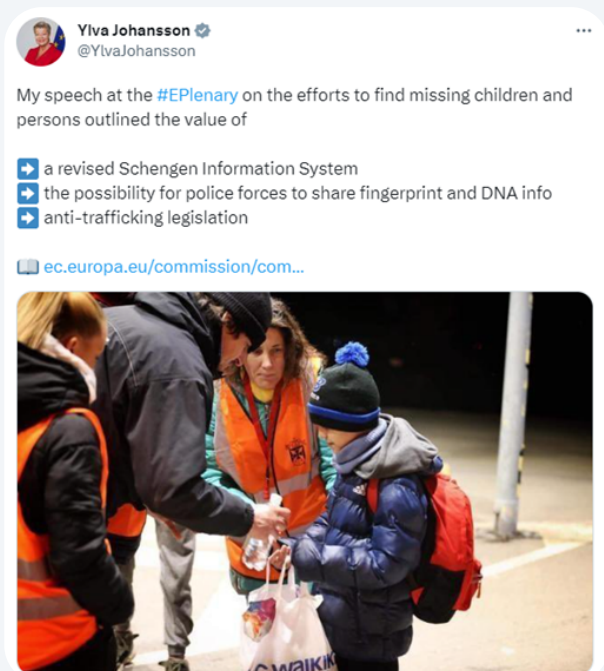
Commissioner Johansson outlined that “to help missing children and adults we need to work across borders and across sectors” involving all actors, including police, helplines, child protection services, judges, civil society organisations to work together. Commissioner Johansson also spoke on the need to allow the use of Prüm exchanges to search for missing persons using DNA, fingerprints and facial

images within the Prüm regulation as “effective law enforcement cooperation can only be as effective as the legislation it is built on”. She stressed the need to protect and empower children to keep them from harm when they go missing and leave no stone unturned to find them.

The debate highlighted that risk of life or serious harm increases the longer persons are missing; this is even more evident for children, the most vulnerable due to their age. Unless a criminal activity has been identified, tools for a rapid interception by law enforcement authorities are limited, while the missing person remains at risk.

As the majority of missing persons cases do not have a criminal component, a gap in protecting their fundamental rights still remains. MEPs expressed support for AMBER Alert Europe’s activities in addressing this gap.

The debate, which supported the need for a comprehensive approach to supporting and protecting children at risk of going missing and improving the search of missing persons and missing children, is consistent with AMBER Alert Europe’s Common European Approach on Missing Children and Missing Persons aimed at improving the search for missing persons with priority and special attention to children considering their vulnerabilities.





**02**

# **Our impact**

What we achieved in 2022

# PILLAR 1

## Missing persons risk triage: immediate risk identification of missing children saves lives

### ACTIVITIES

#### UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING RISK IN THE CONTEXT OF MISSING PERSONS

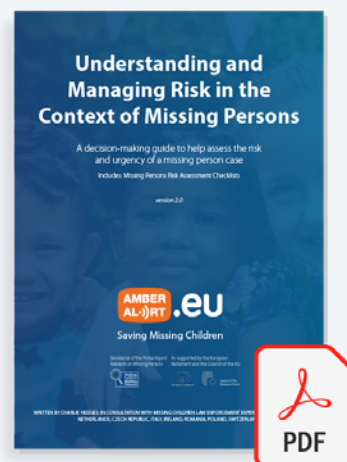
In 2022, AMBER Alert Europe continued to advocate the use of risk identification in missing children cases. This was reflected in all aspects of our work as missing persons risk triage served as the basis for many of our

training and awareness-raising activities, as well as for our efforts to advocate for policy change at EU level.

#### GUIDE ON RISK ASSESSMENT

In consultation with missing children law enforcement experts from all over Europe and Canada, AMBER Alert Europe has developed a decision-making guide on risk management. A quick risk assessment is crucial to identify the correct response.

[View PDF >](#)



#### WEBINAR: THE USE OF RISK TRIAGE IN MISSING PERSON CASES AND ITS BENEFITS – IN COOPERATION WITH CEPOL

On May 19th, we organised a webinar in cooperation with CEPOL: The use of risk triage in missing person cases and its benefits. The webinar brought together representatives from various #LawEnforcement authorities and agencies, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Throughout the webinar, participants gained valuable insights into the application of risk triage as a vital first response to a missing person's report. Our

esteemed speakers and experts guided attendees in developing a common understanding of the risks associated with missing persons, particularly focusing on the vulnerability of children.

By the end of the webinar, participants were equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to identify crucial elements of risk, enabling a targeted response by law enforcement authorities.

# PILLAR 2

## Enhanced cross-border law enforcement cooperation on missing children

### ACTIVITIES

#### POLICE EXPERT NETWORK ON MISSING PERSONS' FORUM 2022

On October 18-19, police experts from 25 countries gathered in Ljubljana, Slovenia, for the Police Expert Network on Missing Persons' Forum 2022. The aim of the annual event, which was organised by the Slovenian Police and AMBER Alert Europe, was to share new knowledge, exchange experience, and practices, as well as come to a common European approach, increasing the chances of bringing missing persons back home.

In addition to police experts from more than 25 European countries, Australia, Canada and the United States, the conference brought together representatives of Interpol, Europol, Frontex, the Law Enforcement Task Force, the Bavarian Police, and police academies from Ljubljana, Zagreb and Lower Saxony in Germany. Also present were representatives of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Slovenia and foreign organisations such as Meta Inc. from the US, Locate International from the UK and Ludwig-Maximilian University from Munich.

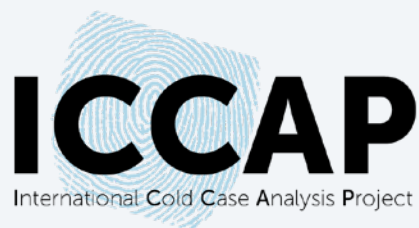


## THIRD INTERNATIONAL COLD CASE ANALYSIS PROJECT (ICCAP) FOCUSES ON NEONATICIDES AND MISSING CHILDREN

For four months, more than 60 students from ten British universities\* worked together with the Australian Murdoch University, the Police College Zagreb and the Police Academy of Lower Saxony on six cold cases of infants and children as part of the third International Cold Case Analysis Project (ICCAP). During the project, the students explored the possibilities to identify the children and their parents through modern forensic methods and a media strategy.

The selection of cold cases in the third ICCAP was oriented towards the recent Council Conclusions on future police cooperation in missing person cases, in which special emphasis is given to children. For this reason, four homicides of children from Lower Saxony who were killed immediately after birth (neonaticides) between 1988 and 2014 were analysed. A missing person case of a 7-year-old child from another European state who went missing in 1994 was also studied. At the end of the ICCAP, the findings were presented to the investigators responsible for these cases – as well as 30 cold case specialists from 14 countries. As a result, further investigation was triggered in one of the cases.

In addition to the cold case analyses, the students, led by Maureen Taylor from Glasgow Caledonian



University, prepared an 'Analysis of Neonaticide investigation' report for the police forces in Europe based on their experiences and ideas from the analysed cases and supplemented with current forensic investigation methods for investigations of other cold cases of neonatal deaths.

### The "Gentleman John Doe" Case – student support continues

After the responsible investigators and prosecutors were convinced of the students' findings from the second ICCAP in September 2021, the exhumation of the unidentified dead man and the launch of a national and international public search to identify the man after almost 30 years was ordered. The investigations continue supported by British universities, Locate International and the Human Remains Service Ireland. Podcasts and TV documentaries on the case are in preparation in the UK and Germany.

### Further steps in 2022

The next analysis is planned from June to September 2022. The Saxony-Anhalt Police Academy from Germany and the French Gendarmerie are set to join the current participants of the ICCAP, expanding the project even further. "It's great to see that more and more police training institutions are getting involved in this great international collaboration", says Karsten Bettels from the Police Academy of Lower Saxony, who helps run the course.

\* South Wales, Plymouth Marjon, Canterbury Christ Church, Glasgow Caledonian, Staffordshire, Bath, Winchester, Leeds Beckett, Central Lancashire And Goldsmiths' University Of London



## THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL COLD CASE ANALYSIS PROJECT (ICCAP) PRESENTS ITS RESULTS – INTEREST AMONG EUROPEAN POLICE ACADEMIES AND POLICE UNIVERSITIES OF APPLIED SCIENCES GROWS

For four months, more than 85 students from eight British universities\* worked together again with the Australian Murdoch University, the German Universities of Bonn and Cottbus, the Northern Macedonia University of Skopje, the French Gendarmerie, the Universities of Applied Science of the Police Saxony-Anhalt, the Bundeskriminalamt and the Police Academy of Lower Saxony on four cold cases of homicides and missing persons cases as part of the fourth International Cold Case Analysis Project (ICCAP).

Networking with AMBER Alert Europe, the PEN-MP and Locate International is an important building block for establishing this unique project worldwide.

“It is really great to see how, in addition to the universities with their forensic, psychological, and crimi-

nology faculties, more and more police training institutes are expressing interest in participating,” says Karsten Bettels from the Police Academy of Lower Saxony, who is responsible for organising the course as well as its content. “A total of 35 police students from France, Germany, and Northern Macedonia participated in the fourth ICCAP.”

\* South Wales, Plymouth Marjon, Glasgow Caledonian, Staffordshire, Bath, Winchester, Greenwich, And Goldsmiths' University Of London



At the end of the ICCAP, the findings were presented to the investigators responsible for these cases and to cold case and missing persons units from Europe.

Proposals on forensic issues as well as media strategies were again presented in the cases. In one case of an unidentified victim of a homicide, photographic facial reconstructions and aging images of the man were created in order to carry out publicity measures based on the result of available isotope analyses in other European countries where the murder victim had lived in the past.

Also, in other homicide and missing persons cases, suggestions for further interrogation strategies were presented after analysing the files and identifying inconsistencies.

Bettels: "It is also to be noted that the results and proposals of the students in ICCAP are increasingly being carried out in parallel with investigations by the cold case units and public prosecutors' offices, or are even being integrated into current missing persons cases to work out concrete proposals.

### The "Gentleman John Doe" Case – new investigative approaches

There are also new lines of investigation in the case of the unknown dead man from the North Sea from the second ICCAP, the "Gentleman Case". Through an isotope report, it was determined that the man had spent many years of his life in Australia, in addition to the established relations with Great Britain. A subsequent media strategy in Australia, involving Murdoch University, also led to an interesting missing person lead. A matching of the cases is currently taking place between German and British investigators involved.

### Further steps in 2022

For the fifth ICCAP, which will take place from December 2022 to March 2023, the students will face further challenges: they will have to analyse several missing person cases of young women from the 1970s and 1980s to collect arguments for or against a series context as well as to analyse two homicides of women and homicide of a man who was first a missing persons case in order to check a set context. For the first time, the law faculty from the University of Cologne will participate in the fifth ICCAP.

## WEBINAR: AN INTRODUCTION TO COLD CASE MISSING PERSON INVESTIGATIONS – IN COOPERATION WITH CEPOL

On June 23rd, we organised a webinar in cooperation with CEPOL: An introduction to cold case missing person investigations. The primary objective of this webinar was to raise awareness about the importance of conducting cold case investigations. Throughout the duration of the webinar, the audience had the opportunity to acquire valuable insights into the various possibilities and new techniques available for conducting such investigations. Additionally, the webinar delved into how universities and non-governmental organisations can offer assistance to the police in handling cold cases.



## PILLAR 3

# Connecting the public with law enforcement in the search for a missing child

## ACTIVITIES

### AMBER ALERT EUROPE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO IMPROVE ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF MISSING CHILDREN

The Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vulin, and the Chairman of the AMBER Alert Europe Foundation, Frank Hoen, signed the Memorandum of Understanding in Belgrade today, with the aim to significantly improve activities in the area of finding missing children.

“The safety of our citizens and the safety of our children in particular, is one of the priorities of the Ministry of the Interior. In the world we live in, in the world of many challenges, in the world where you can never be sure enough that you have done everything you could to save your youngest and dearest, the initiative of AMBER Alert is precious, valuable and important,” said the Minister of the Interior Vulin upon signing the Memorandum.

The Minister of the Interior Aleksandar Vulin said that he was grateful to AMBER Alert for the opportunity to learn from each other, to organize various training courses, to recognize best practices and to use the experience of other police forces and other organizations to improve our capacities when it comes to searching for missing persons and missing children.

According to the Serbian Minister of the Interior, there is nothing more disturbing than news of a missing child and when that happens, you ask the state, society, God to do everything to make the one you love come back quickly.

“AMBER Alert is another way to keep our beloved safe and it is good to know that whatever happens there is this tool, mechanism, possibility to solve their disappearance and to return them to where they belong, to their families, where they are safest and most beloved”, said Minister Vulin.

Minister Vulin pointed out that the Ministry of the Interior is fully committed to the fight for the safety of each of our citizens, and especially to the fight for the safety of each of our children.



## TWO-DAY TRAINING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR MISSING CHILDREN HELD IN NORTH MACEDONIA

A two-day training session on the implementation of an early warning system for missing children took place in Skopje, North Macedonia, on September 26th and 27th. The training was organized by NGO Journalists for Human Rights as part of the project “Pilot project for an early warning system for missing children.”

During the training, expert experiences in combating human trafficking, searching for missing persons, and the necessary conditions and challenges in successfully implementing an early warning system were shared. Notable speakers included Lili Šipeć, Senior Strategic Advisor at AMBER Alert Europe, Christian Mader, President of “Austria will find you” (Österreich findet euch), Saško Sirachevski and Biljana Lalova, Chief Inspectors at the National Unit for Suppression of Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking, and Baže Dimitriovski, Chief Inspector at the Property and Violent Crime Unit, Criminal Police Department, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia.



This training session was part of a series of activities aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences and acquiring new knowledge among all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, civil society organizations, and the media. The overarching goal of the project is to enhance existing approaches and develop innovative methods for preventing, investigating, and mitigating human and child trafficking, while also protecting and strengthening the rights of those affected by these crimes.



## WEBINAR: THE USE OF AN ALERT SYSTEM FOR ABDUCTED OR MISSING CHILDREN

On November 8th, we organised a webinar in cooperation with CEPOL: The use of an alert system for abducted or missing children. The aim of the webinar was to optimise the chances of survival for abducted or missing children in life-threatening and/or dangerous situations. Research on the topic of Missing Children Homicide Investigation has shown that in certain cases of abduction of children by adult males unknown to them, these offenders would kill the child within a short time after the abduction had taken place. In such scenarios, no time should be lost, and the use of an alert system, involving the general public in the search for the child, could have saved their lives. The presentation discussed the customised way in which an alert system could be set up and used, the incorporation of modern media, and the legal requirements.



## STATISTICS 2022: NATIONAL AMBER ALERTS AND CHILD ALERTS

AMBER Alert Europe only maps AMBER Alerts and Child Alerts issued by law enforcement authorities across Europe. The aim of this data collection is to gain better knowledge of the number of AMBER Alerts and Child Alerts shared by law enforcement or police-mandated organisations and the use of AMBER Alert systems in Europe.

The data in this report are collected by daily monitoring of law enforcement and police-mandated organisations' websites from European Union Member States. This data does not represent the total number of children who annually go missing in Europe.

### Yearly statistics

In 2022, 37 national AMBER Alerts or Child Alerts were issued by competent law enforcement in Europe. In 85 percent of the cases, the children were safely recovered.

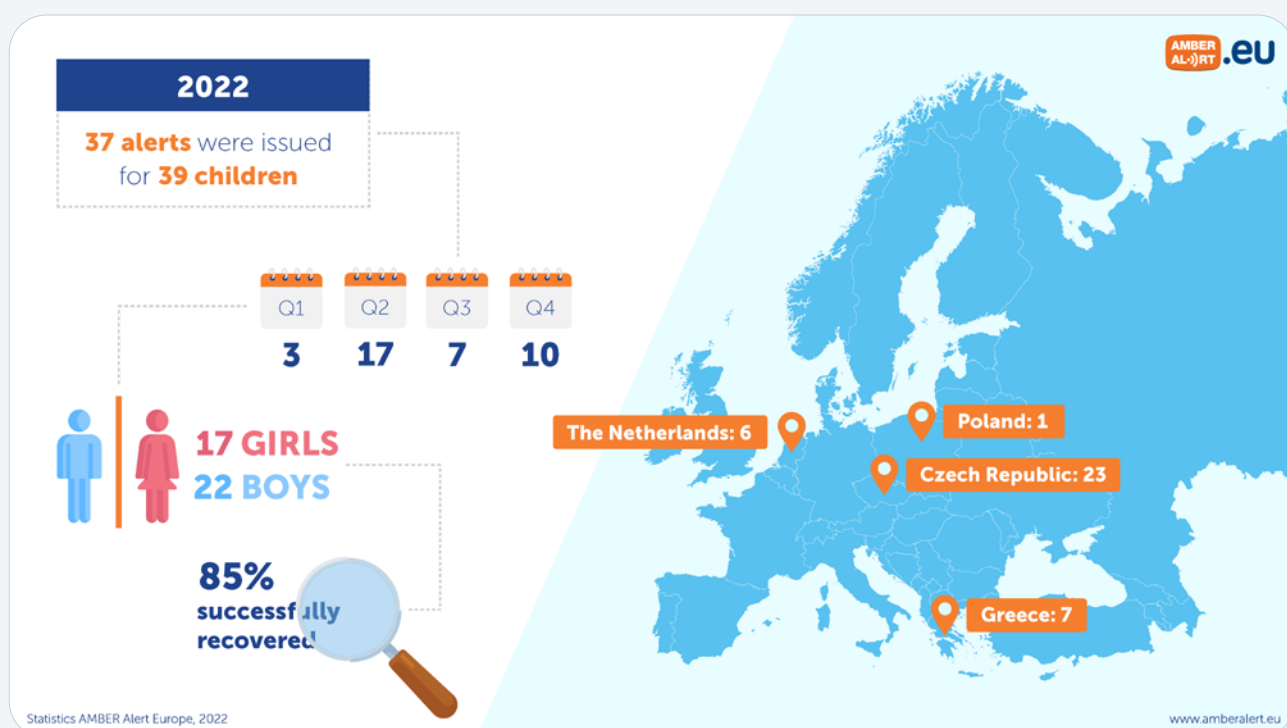
### Highlighted cases

#### The Netherlands: AMBER Alert for 9-year-old boy

In June, a 9-year-old boy went missing from playground in Kerkrade, the Netherlands. An intensive search for the boy was activated with the issuing of an AMBER Alert. Tragically, the boy was found deceased. He was lured by a child predator who abused and murdered the child.

#### Poland: Child Alert for 5-year-old girl

In November, a 5-year-old girl was violently taken from the apartment of her mother in Oświęcim, Poland. Her non-custodial father, a Norwegian native, abducted the girl and transported her to Denmark, where he was later arrested. The girl was found safe and sound and reunited with her mother.



## Quarterly statistics

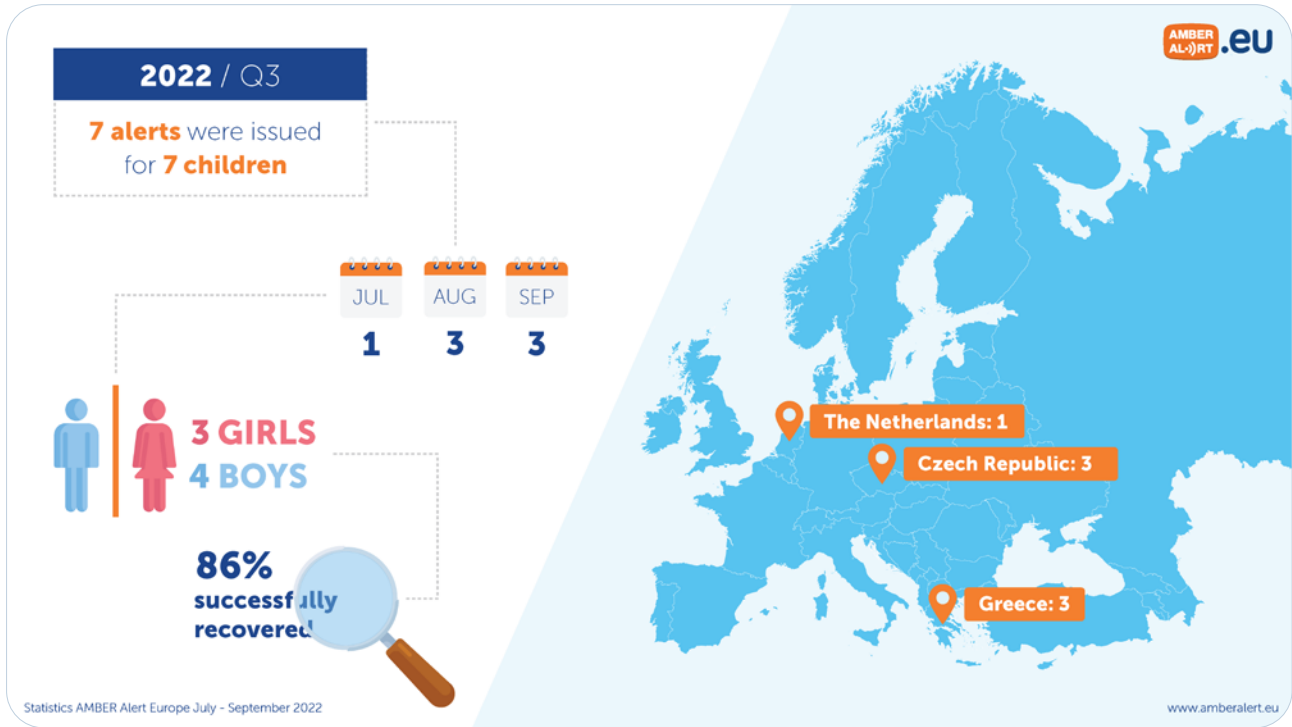
### Quarter 1: January-March



### Quarter 2: April - June



### Quarter 3: July - September



### Quarter 4: October - December



# PILLAR 4

## Preventing children from going missing as a joint effort of all stakeholders

### ACTIVITIES

#### PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

##### Think Before You Share

To mark International Missing Children’s Day, AMBER Alert Europe, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the field of child protection, and law enforcement officers from 28 countries around the globe launched a new campaign with the motto ‘THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE’.

The campaign was dedicated to raising awareness around a topic that has increasingly become an issue for minors over the past years – sharing self-generated naked images, otherwise known as “nudes”.

The COVID-19 pandemic along with the continuous growth of social media platforms, have increased the amount of self-generated naked teen pictures uploaded and shared daily online. A dramatic rise of 77 percent since 2019, according to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). This worrying behaviour has become normal among younger generations, to the point that 1 in 3 teenagers have admitted to having seen non-consensually shared nudes.

Frank Hoen, Chairman and Founder of AMBER Alert Europe said: “Social media and messaging apps have become increasingly popular among teenagers as means of exploring and expressing their sexuality. This also includes taking and sharing nude images of themselves. Many teens feel that this is completely harmless and trust that their images will remain only with the intended recipient. Unfortunately, reality teaches us that this is often not the case. We would like to make teens aware that these kinds of self-generated images can have far-reaching consequences on their health and wellbeing once shared, and could also lead to sexual extortion and coercion – even criminal charges.”

The film and posters of the campaign, created by Innocean Berlin in collaboration with Zauberberg Productions, depicted a relatable situation for many; loving parents sharing cute naked baby pictures of their children with their friends and family. While the campaign was not intended to keep parents from



taking innocent baby pictures, this familiar scene was used to make teens aware that no one can be trusted with their naked pictures, not even their parents.

This important message of a sensitive topic was executed with light-hearted tonality – something the younger generation can relate to. As Ricardo Wolff, Executive Creative Director of Innocean Berlin said: “Often, humor is the best way to address a serious topic. So when our friends at AMBER Alert Europe asked us to develop a concept to raise awareness about minors sharing nudes, we turned to comedy. But with a powerful, truthful twist. By depicting a 15-year-old birthday girl whose reputation melts in front of her eyes as her parents proudly overshare her toddler nudes, we’re sending a message that will

resonate with the kids. I’m pretty sure they’ll laugh, but deep down they’ll know exactly what NOT to do from now on.”

Directed by Micky Suelzer, and with photos by Sven Schrader, the campaign kicked off the annual campaign by AMBER Alert Europe. It went live worldwide on social media, digital advertisement screens, and was shared globally by ministries, national police forces, and NGOs in the field of missing and exploited children.

### Worldwide campaign

The ‘Think Before You Share’ campaign was made available in 23 languages and shared by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the field of child protection, and law enforcement officers from 28 countries around the globe. The campaign was featured in news broadcasts, posts, articles, school programs, etc.

Participating countries: Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

### Euronews

The ‘Think Before You Share’ campaign was aired by Euronews for five consecutive months as part of the news outlet’s One Minute of Responsibility programme, reaching millions of viewers in 155 countries.



## 'THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE' CAMPAIGN PRESENTED AT THE SEMINAR REGARDING THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN PARIS

On June 14-16, we attended a seminar in Paris regarding the fight against child sexual exploitation organised by the Central Unit for Protection of Minors (GCMV) of the Central Directorate of the Judiciary Police on the occasion of the French Presidency of the EU.

At the event, we had the opportunity to present our 'Think Before You Share' campaign, dedicated to raising awareness around a topic that has increasingly become an issue for minors over the past years – sharing self-generated naked images, otherwise known as “nudes”.



03

# Our organisation

AMBER Alert Europe Foundation

# About us

AMBERAlert Europe, the European Centre for Missing Children, is a foundation that strives to improve the protection of missing children and to prevent children from going missing by empowering them and raising awareness on the issue of missing children and its root causes. We connect experts from 44 governmental organisations, in particular ministries of the interior and police forces, and non-governmental organisations from 28 countries in our mission towards zero missing children in Europe.

## Our activities

Our activities cover training, research, child alerting, and prevention and awareness-raising, as well as launching initiatives aimed at impacting policies and legislation in the area of children's rights. Our joint efforts with police experts in the field of missing children even paved the way for a European police expert network in this area.

All of our activities are implemented in line with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and with respect for the privacy of children and data protection laws.

## Our beginnings

As a response to missing children cases exceeding geographical borders, the AMBER Alert Europe Foundation was founded in 2013 to contribute to better cross-border coordination and cooperation in the search for missing children.

Since then, our network has expanded and now encompasses different experts from a variety of backgrounds who make their know-how and expertise available to improve existing practices and procedures for a fast and safe recovery of missing children and safeguarding of children against going missing or an abduction.

## Board of Directors



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**FRANK HOEN**  
The Netherlands  
Founder and Chairman  
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Foundation



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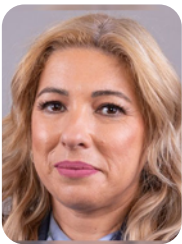
**CAROLINE HUMER**  
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Global Expert on Missing Children – HMC Group LLC



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Initiative Vermisste Kinder



**PATRÍCIA CIPRIANO**  
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Staff Officer to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Missing People Lead



**KARSTEN BETTELS**  
Germany

Detective Director at the Police Academy of Lower Saxony and Course Leader of the International Cold Case Analysis Project (ICCAP)



**VICTOR REUTER**  
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Grand Ducal Police

# Organisations that support us

## Participating organisations



## Participating organisations



## Partners



## Sponsors

In 2022, AMBER Alert Europe had the support of multiple organisations that contributed to the cause by providing us with valuable in-kind services.

### **2MANYDOTS**

Website builder and hosting partner 2MANYDOTS sponsored the redesign of the AMBER Alert Europe website and subsequently also hosts our website. The services are provided entirely free of charge and can be quantified at an amount of approximately € 7,000 annually. In 2022, 2MANYDOTS valued its one-time in-kind contributions at € 24,840.

### **Axon Advocaten**

Axon is a law firm based in Amsterdam that specializes in internationally oriented services. They apply an hourly rate of € 325 (excl. VAT). The service, as requested by AMBER Alert Europe, is provided free of charge. An exact amount to be quantified cannot be provided in advance. No min-max has been agreed upon between parties.

### **MN Adviseurs & Accountants**

MN Adviseurs & Accountants provides AMBER Alert Europe with financial advice, as well as financial

statements. This service, costing around € 10,000 annually, is provided free of charge.

### **Notariaat Pas**

A contract has been concluded with notary office Notariaat Pas whereby the necessary notarial-legal advice and support will be given free of charge. This is difficult to quantify in advance.

### **INNOCEAN Worldwide**

INNOCEAN Worldwide is a global marketing and communications service provider that offers creative marketing solutions. From December 2021 until May 2022, INNOCEAN Berlin has helped us set up several prevention and awareness-raising campaigns. For this, the services of different employees from five fields (project management, design, strategy, PR, creative) were made available to us free of charge.

04

# Annex

Financial Report 2022

**YOUR FUTURE  
IS OUR MISSION**



**Stichting AMBER Alert Europe  
To the board of directors  
Peter Treckpoelstraat 4  
6191 VK BEEK**

**Annual report 2022**

**MN adviseurs &  
accountants**

Holleweg 23  
6131 AA Sittard

+31 (0)85 - 040 11 20  
info@mnadviseurs.nl

[mnadviseurs.nl](http://mnadviseurs.nl)



**Stichting AMBER Alert Europe**  
**To the board of directors**  
**Peter Treckpoelstraat 4**  
**6191 VK BEEK**

**Annual report 2022**

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## **1. REPORT OF THE AUDITORS**



Stichting AMBER Alert Europe  
To the board of directors  
Peter Treckpoelstraat 4  
6191 VK BEEK

Reference: 11489  
Subject: Annual report 2022

Sittard, June 27, 2023

Dear board of directors,

Herewith we submit you a report of our activities on the annual account 2022 of your foundation.

The balance sheet as of december 31, 2022, the statement of income and expenses 2022 and the notes, together forming part of the financial statements 2022 are components of this report.

## **1.1 Accountant's compilation report**

The financial statements of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe (AMBER Alert Europe Foundation, registered charity under Dutch law, RSIN 852414183), Beek have been compiled by us using the information provided by you. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at december 31, 2022 and the statement of income and expenses for the year 2022 with the accompanying explanatory notes. These notes include a summary of the accounting policies which have been applied.

This compilation engagement has been performed by us in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standard 4410, "Compilation engagements", which is applicable to accountants.

The standard requires us to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. To this end we have applied our professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting.

In a compilation engagement, you are responsible for ensuring that you provide us with all relevant information and that this information is correct. Therefore, we have conducted our work, in accordance with the applicable regulations, on the assumption that you have fulfilled your responsibility.

MN adviseurs &  
accountants

Holleweg 23  
6131 AA Sittard

+31 (0)85 - 040 11 20  
info@mnadviseurs.nl



To conclude our work, we have read the financial statements as a whole to consider whether the financial statements as presented correspond with our understanding of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe.

We have not performed any audit or review procedures which would enable us to express an opinion or a conclusion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements.

During this engagement we have complied with the relevant ethical requirements prescribed by the "Verordening Gedrags- en Beroepsregels Accountants" (VGBA). You and other users of these financial statements may therefore assume that we have conducted the engagement in a professional, competent and objective manner and with due care and integrity and that we will treat all information provided to us as confidential.

For further information on the nature and scope of a compilation engagement and the VGBA we refer you to [www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring](http://www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring).

We have compiled these financial statements for the management of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe to enable Stichting AMBER Alert Europe to comply with the obligation to prepare the financial statements. Our compilation report is intended solely for the management of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe and should not be distributed to or used by other parties.



## **Stichting AMBER Alert Europe**

### **1.2 General**

#### **Incorporation**

The Stichting AMBER Alert Europe was incorporated by way of deed dated January 23, 2013. The company has been registered at the Chamber of Commerce under file number 57040559.

#### **Foundation**

Stichting AMBER Alert Europe (AMBER ALert Europe Foundation), the European Centre for Missing Children, is a charitable foundation based in the Netherlands that strives to improve the protection of missing children and to prevent children from going missing by empowering them and raising awareness on the issue of missing children and its root causes. Its activities cover training, research, child alerting, and prevention and awareness-raising, as well as launching initiatives aimed at impacting policies and legislation in the area of children's rights.

#### **Board of directors**

The management is conducted by:

- F.C.C. Hoen
- P. Binkova
- C. Schippers



### 1.3 Results

Below we provide an analysis of the foundation's results, based on the statement of income and expenses.

	2022		2021	
	€	%	€	%
Income	169,606	100.0%	528,474	100.0%
<b>Sum of the benefits</b>	169,606	100.0%	528,474	100.0%
Expenditures towards fulfilling the foundation's objectives	485,454	286.2%	325,425	61.6%
Office costs	5,699	3.4%	7,805	1.5%
General costs	46,598	27.5%	119,673	22.7%
Other operating costs	537,751	317.1%	452,903	85.8%
<b>Balance before financial income and expense</b>	-368,145	-217.1%	75,571	14.2%
Interest and similar expenditure	-4,713	-2.8%	-809	-0.2%
<b>Total financial income and expenditure</b>	-4,713	-2.8%	-809	-0.2%
<b>Other reserves</b>	-372,858	-219.9%	74,762	14.0%



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 1.4 Comparative overview

Below we provide an analysis of the foundation's results, based on the statement of income and expenses.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Budget 2022</u>	<u>Difference 2022</u>
	€	€	€	€
Income	169,606	528,474	265,207	-95,601
<b>Sum of the benefits</b>	<u>169,606</u>	<u>528,474</u>	<u>265,207</u>	<u>-95,601</u>
Expenditures towards fulfilling the foundation's objectives	485,454	325,425	491,750	-6,296
Office expenses	5,699	7,805	7,500	-1,801
General expenses	46,598	119,673	31,400	15,198
<b>Total operating costs</b>	<u>537,751</u>	<u>452,903</u>	<u>530,650</u>	<u>7,101</u>
<b>Balance before financial income and expense</b>	<u>-368,145</u>	<u>75,571</u>	<u>-265,443</u>	<u>-102,702</u>
Interest and similar expenditure	-4,713	-809	-8,000	3,285
<b>Total financial income and expenditure</b>	<u>-4,713</u>	<u>-809</u>	<u>-8,000</u>	<u>3,285</u>
<b>Other reserves</b>	<u><u>-372,858</u></u>	<u><u>74,762</u></u>	<u><u>-273,443</u></u>	<u><u>-99,417</u></u>



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 1.5 Financial position

Below we provide an analysis of the foundation's financial position, based on the balance sheet.

	december 31, 2022		december 31, 2021	
	€	€	€	€
<b>In short term available:</b>				
Receivables	9,434		3,189	
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,240,495</u>		<u>2,138,648</u>	
Total current assets		1,249,929		2,141,837
Less: current liabilities		<u>1,553,065</u>		<u>2,046,366</u>
Working capital		<u>-303,136</u>		<u>95,471</u>
<b>Fixed on long term:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	<u>26,449</u>		<u>700</u>	
		<u>26,449</u>		<u>700</u>
<b>Funded with on long term available assets</b>		<u><u>-276,687</u></u>		<u><u>96,171</u></u>
<b>Funding occurred as follows:</b>				
Reserves and funds		<u>-276,687</u>		<u>96,171</u>
		<u><u>-276,687</u></u>		<u><u>96,171</u></u>

According to this analysis the working capital as of december 31, 2022 compared to december 31, 2021 decreased by € 398,607.

We trust to have been of service. We are available to provide further explanation.

Yours sincerely,  
MN adviseurs & accountants

M.A.A.M. Mulders  
accountant-administratieconsulent



## **2. DIRECTORS' REPORT**



## **Stichting AMBER Alert Europe**

### **2.1 Directors' report**

#### **General**

The report is available for inspection at the partnership's premises.





### **3. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.1 Balance sheet as of december 31, 2022

(After result appropriation)

<b>ASSETS</b>	<u>december 31, 2022</u>		<u>december 31, 2021</u>	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	[1]			
Equipment	<u>26,449</u>	26,449	<u>700</u>	700
<b>Current assets</b>				
<i>Receivables</i>	[2]			
Other prepayments and accrued income	<u>9,434</u>	9,434	<u>3,189</u>	3,189
<i>Cash at bank and in hand</i>	[3]	1,240,495		2,138,648
<b>Total assets</b>		<u><u>1,276,378</u></u>		<u><u>2,142,537</u></u>

Compilation report issue dated June 27, 2023



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.1 Balance sheet as of december 31, 2022

(After result appropriation)

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	december 31, 2022		december 31, 2021	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Reserves and funds</b>				
Other reserves	[4]			
		-276,687	96,171	
				96,171
		-276,687		
<b>Current liabilities</b>	[5]			
Accounts payable		21,942	15,380	
Taxes and premiums social insurance		19,839	359,074	
Accrued liabilities		1,511,284	1,671,912	
				2,046,366
		1,553,065		
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>1,276,378</u>	<u>2,142,537</u>	

Compilation report issue dated June 27, 2023



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.2 Statement of income and expenses

		2022	Budget 2022	2021
		€	€	€
Income	[6]	169.606	265.207	528.474
<b>Sum of the benefits</b>		<u>169.606</u>	<u>265.207</u>	<u>528.474</u>
Expenditures towards fulfilling the foundation's objectives	[7]	485.454	491.750	325.425
Office costs	[8]	5.699	7.500	7.805
General costs	[9]	46.598	31.400	119.673
<b>Total operating costs</b>		<u>537.751</u>	<u>530.650</u>	<u>452.903</u>
<b>Balance before financial income and expense</b>		<u>-368.145</u>	<u>-265,443</u>	<u>75.571</u>
Interest and similar expenditure	[10]	-4.713	-8.000	-809
<b>Total financial income and expenditure</b>		<u>-4.713</u>	<u>-8.000</u>	<u>-809</u>
<b>Other reserves</b>		<u><u>-372.858</u></u>	<u><u>-273.443</u></u>	<u><u>74.762</u></u>

Compilation report issue dated June 27, 2023



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.3 Notes to the financial statements

#### General notes

##### Activities

The activities of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe, having its registered office at Beek primarily consist of:

- Stichting AMBER Alert Europe, having its registered office at Peter Treckpoelstraat 4, 6191 VK Beek, The Netherlands, aims to contribute, on the one hand, to the protection of missing persons in Europe, particularly missing children due to their vulnerability, and on the other hand, to the prevention of disappearances in Europe by undertaking activities that contribute to this goal in any way possible and by carrying out all that is related or conducive to the aforementioned objectives.

The foundation seeks to achieve this goal by:

- a. overcoming barriers in terms of bureaucratic, legal, geographical, or linguistic boundaries. With a view to this objective, the foundation will seek cooperation with organizations that pursue the improvement of safety within European society.
- b. promoting the involvement and participation of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations, businesses, and civil society to achieve its objective.
- c. supporting national or international police organizations and encouraging cooperation between them for the aforementioned goal.
- d. facilitating and organizing education and training on the subject of missing persons, especially missing children, and closely related topics for a wide range of stakeholders and actors.
- e. engaging in activities focused on prevention and increasing public awareness regarding the subject of missing persons, especially missing children, and closely related topics.
- f. conducting research on the subject of missing persons, particularly missing children, and closely related topics.
- g. upon request from national authorities, contributing to the implementation of an AMBER Alert system and other forms of citizen participation in European member states, or connecting these or similar systems.
- h. launching initiatives aimed at influencing legislation and legal processes in the field of children's rights and other relevant regulations.
- i. carrying out all further actions that are broadly related to or conducive to the aforementioned, provided that the foundation operates independently, neutrally, and based on expertise and evidence.

##### Registered office, legal form and registration number at the chamber of commerce

Stichting AMBER Alert Europe, at Beek has been registered at the Chamber of Commerce under file number 57040559.

The foundation is a registered charity under Dutch law as ANBI, #852414183.



## **Stichting AMBER Alert Europe**

### **3.3 Notes to the financial statements**

#### **General accounting policies**

##### **General**

The financial statements are prepared according to directive RJK.C2 "Kleine fondsenwervendeorganisaties". The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with directive RJ650 "Fondswervende organisaties van de Raad voor de Jaarverslaggeving".

The annual accounts have been prepared based on the historical cost. Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result takes place under the historical cost convention.

Given that the budget of this foundation is not used as an important steering tool for controlling the activities, the differences between the budget and the balance aren't analyzed.

##### **Comparison with previous year**

The valuation principles and method of determining the result are the same as those used in the previous year, with the exception of the changes in accounting policies as set out in the relevant sections.

##### **Exceptional items**

Exceptional items are items of income and expense from the normal, non-incident activities or transactions, but which need to be disclosed separately on the basis of the nature, size or incidental character of the item.



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.3 Notes to the financial statements

#### ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED TO THE VALUATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Other tangible fixed assets are valued at historical cost or production cost including directly attributable costs, less straight-line depreciation based on the expected future life and impairments.

##### **Accounts receivable**

Receivables are initially valued at the fair value of the consideration to be received, including transaction costs if material. Receivables are subsequently valued at the amortised cost price. Provisions for bad debts are deducted from the carrying amount of the receivable.

##### **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand represent cash in hand, bank balances and deposits with terms of less than twelve months. Overdrafts at banks are recognised as part of debts to lending institutions under current liabilities. Cash at bank and in hand is carried at nominal value.

##### **Reserves and funds**

When the foundation purchases treasury shares, the consideration paid is deducted from other reserves or any other reserve if the articles of association allow so) until the shares are cancelled or reissued. Where such shares are subsequently reissued, any consideration received is included in other reserves or any other reserve. The consideration received will be added to the reserve from which earlier the purchase price has been deducted.

Incremental costs directly attributable to the purchase, sale and/or issue of new shares are shown in reserves and funds as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

##### **Current liabilities**

On initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at fair value. After initial recognition current liabilities are recognised at the amortised cost price, being the amount received, taking into account premiums or discounts, less transaction costs. This usually is the nominal value.



### **3.3 Notes to the financial statements**

#### **PRINCIPLES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULT**

##### **General**

The result is the difference between the realisable value of the goods/services provided and the costs and other charges during the year. The results on transactions are recognised in the year in which they are realised.

##### **Costs**

Costs are determined on a historical basis and are attributed to the reporting year to which they relate.

##### **Exceptional items**

Exceptional items are items of income and expense from the normal, non-incidental activities or transactions, but which need to be disclosed separately on the basis of the nature, size or incidental character of the item for reasons of analysis and comparability of the results.

##### **Financial income and expense**

###### *Interest income and interest expenses*

Interest income and expenses are recognised on a pro rata basis, taking account of the effective interest rate of the assets and liabilities to which they relate. In accounting for interest expenses, the recognised transaction expenses for loans received are taken into consideration.

###### *Currency translation differences*

Currency translation differences arising upon the settlement or conversion of monetary items are recognised in the income statement in the period that they are realised, unless hedge accounting is applied.





## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.4 Notes to the balance sheet

#### ASSETS

##### FIXED ASSETS

##### Tangible fixed assets [1]

A summary of the movements of tangible fixed assets is given below:

	Equipment €	Total 2022 €
Acquisition value	726	726
Accumulated depreciations	-26	-26
Book value as of januari 1, 2022	<u>700</u>	<u>700</u>
Investments	30,159	30,159
Depreciations	-4,410	-4,410
Movements 2022	<u>25,749</u>	<u>25,749</u>
Acquisition value	30,885	30,885
Accumulated depreciations	-4,436	-4,436
Book value as of december 31, 2022	<u>26,449</u>	<u>26,449</u>

Depreciation percentages:

Equipment

20 %

##### CURRENT ASSETS

##### Receivables [2]

	december 31, 2022 €	december 31, 2021 €
<b>Other prepayments and accrued income</b>		
Other receivables	<u>9,434</u>	<u>3,189</u>

##### Cash at bank and in hand [3]

Rabobank NL31RABO0177498633	40,407	96,060
Rabobank NL58RABO3464305996	1,200,000	2,040,000
Visa Card	-	2,500
Cash	88	88
	<u>1,240,495</u>	<u>2,138,648</u>

The balance of cash is freely available.



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.4 Notes to the balance sheet

#### LIABILITIES

##### Reserves and funds [4]

	2022	2021
	€	€
<b>Other reserves</b>		
Value as of januari 1, 2022	96,171	21,409
From proposal result appropriation	-372,858	74,762
Value as of december 31, 2022	<u>-276,687</u>	<u>96,171</u>

##### Proposed appropriation of result for the financial year 2022

The purpose of the foundation is to contribute, on the one hand, to the protection of missing persons in Europe, particularly missing children due to their vulnerability, and on the other hand, to the prevention of disappearances in Europe by undertaking activities that contribute to this goal in any way possible and by carrying out all that is related or conducive to the aforementioned objectives. In accordance with the statutes of the foundation there is no profit motive.

The result from the current financial year is allocated to the other reserves.

The statutes of the foundation don't determine a minimum or maximum balance of the other reserves.

The foundation hasn't formed a specific allocation reserve.

In accordance with the legal provisions, the loss for the financial year 2022 in the amount of € 372,858 has been deducted from the other reserves. This has already been incorporated in the annual accounts.

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES [5]

	december 31, 2022	december 31, 2021
	€	€
<b>Accounts payable</b>		
Creditors	<u>21,942</u>	<u>15,380</u>
<b>Taxes and premiums social insurance</b>		
Value added tax	3,576	351,155
Wage tax	16,263	7,919
	<u>19,839</u>	<u>359,074</u>
<b>Accrued liabilities</b>		
Vacation pay still to be paid	19,077	18,416
Bank charges / insurance costs	4,270	635
Lunch expenses to be paid	641	795
Compensation Amber Alert	1,486,859	1,652,066
net wages payable	437	-
	<u>1,511,284</u>	<u>1,671,912</u>



## Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

### 3.5 Notes to the statement of income and expenses

	<u>2022</u>	<u>Budget 2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	€	€	€
<b>Income [6]</b>			
Donations and gifts from organisations	0	20.000	0
Donations and gifts from individuals	3.160	20.000	1.072
Income as a counter performance for goods delivered and / or services	0	60.000	0
Other benefits	166.446	165.207	527.402
	<u>169.606</u>	<u>265.207</u>	<u>215.130</u>

Besides mentioned income, Stichting AMBER Alert Europe receives most of its sponsorships in kind. Several companies and individuals offer their services free of charge in the context of their Corporate Socials Responsibility (CSR). These sponsorships in kind are specified and valued in the management report of the foundation.

#### **Expenditures towards fulfilling the foundation's objectives [7]**

To contribute tot the protection of missing persons in Europe, particularly missing children due tot thier vulnerability,

and to the prevention of disappearances in Europe.

<u>485.454</u>	<u>291.100</u>	<u>325.425</u>
----------------	----------------	----------------

#### **Honorarium of directors and supervisory directors**

The honorarium of the directors totals at € 0.

#### **Staff**

At partnership during 2022, an average 5,4 employees were employed (2021: 4).

#### **Office costs [8]**

Other office costs

<u>5.699</u>	<u>7.000</u>	<u>7.805</u>
--------------	--------------	--------------

#### **General costs [9]**

General costs

<u>46.598</u>	<u>11.400</u>	<u>119.673</u>
---------------	---------------	----------------



**Stichting AMBER Alert Europe**

**3.5 Notes to the statement of income and expenses**

**Financial income and expenditure**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>Budget 2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	€	€	€
<b>Interest and similar expenditure [10]</b>			
Banking fees and provision	<u>4.713</u>	<u>8.000</u>	<u>809</u>

Beek, June 23, 2023  
Stichting AMBER Alert Europe

F.C.C. Hoen

C. Schippers

P. Binkova

## Annex

### Specification of Expenditures towards fulfilling the foundation's objectives

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
	€	€
Wages	283.182	213.789
Social security costs	58.770	42.199
Pension costs	20.283	6.590
Other personnel costs	21.719	8.469
Costs of work by third parties	17.526	2.841
Costs to generate income for delivered services	0	14.662
Other costs	83.974	36.875
Total	<u>485.454</u>	<u>325.425</u>

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

