



# Annual Report 2015



**AMBER Alert Europe**

The European Child Rescue Alert &  
Police Network on Missing Children

*As supported by European Parliament WD7/2016*

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AMBER Alert Europe is registered  
in the EU Transparency register:

[488692317424-44](#)

and is recognized by the Dutch  
government as foundation with  
charitable status ("ANBI")

RSIN: 852414183

*Brussels, June 22th 2016*

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A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the entire page. The map shows the outlines of the continents and major countries.

# 01

**AMBER Alert Europe**



## 1.1 About us

AMBER Alert Europe is an international not for profit organisation with 22 members (law enforcement, ministries & NGOs) in 17 countries. Its Police Network consists of over 35 experts representing law enforcement from 12 EU countries. AMBER Alert Europe is the biggest European citizen initiative with 3 million participants across the European Union. The goals of AMBER Alert Europe are backed by 465 Members of the European Parliament: most successful Written Declaration since 2011.

### **Saving the lives of endangered missing children**

Dedicated to the protection of missing children, AMBER Alert Europe connects citizens with law enforcement when the police believe the public can help find the child. It provides for training and cross-border coordination to law enforcement.

AMBER Alert Europe provides support in an advisory and knowledge-sharing role to its members and partners, who, together with the network of connected citizens, are on the lookout when a child goes missing across Europe.

### **Crowdsourcing**

AMBER Alert Europe is a crowdsourced organisation. It receives donations in the form of government grants, monies as well as in the form of services (IT, communication) from companies and individuals that, in the context of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and/or their personal engagement, are eager to contribute to the protection of endangered missing children.

Key sponsors: Netpresenter, Sentia, QNH, Axon, Microsoft, Sanoma, Widgets, Google and Bureau Brussels. These sponsors provide for: office space, manpower, software and other operational facilities.



Supported by 465 Members of the European Parliament: most successful WD since 2011

## 1.2 Background

In November 2008 AMBER Alert Netherlands was launched by social enterprise Netpresenter and the Dutch police. With a reach of more than 12 million Dutch citizens, AMBER Alert Netherlands quickly became an example of how citizen sourcing can work; in 75 percent of the AMBER Alerts, the child was successfully found. AMBER Alert Netherlands forms part of the Dutch police services.

### **The creation of AMBER Alert Europe**

Drawing upon the Dutch experience, and in the conviction that it should not matter where a child comes from for its chances to be found, AMBER Alert Europe was launched in March 2013 by a group of specialists in law enforcement and IT services with the following goal:

- To be a life-saving factor in abductions or disappearances of missing children or other vulnerable people throughout Europe;
- To undertake any further actions necessary related to achieving or advancing the above-mentioned goal, in the broadest sense.

### **Goals & way forward**

One of the ways AMBER Alert Europe aims to achieve its objective is by removing bureaucratic, legal, geographical or linguistic obstacles. In order to achieve its objective, the organisation will try to liaise with organisations striving to improve security within the European society.

Today, AMBER Alert Europe is working towards this goal and it has developed a 5 point plan that serve as a first step to save more missing children.

1. A bigger, stronger AMBER Alert network
2. More flexibility in issuing alerts
3. Better cross-border information sharing
4. Better cross-border police co-operation
5. Border checks on children's passports

## 1.2 Members of AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe is backed by police missing children experts, NGOs, law enforcement and 465 Members of the European Parliament: most successful Written Declaration since 2011. It has 22 members in 17 countries, 8 of which are law enforcement organisations. Members include police organisations, ministries and NGOs (with police mandate on the topic) from the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Greece. The police expert group exists of over 35 police experts from 12 countries. The group is coordinated by Charlie Hedges.

AMBER Alert Europe is working closely with organisations that issue or re-broadcast the Canadian and US AMBER Alert as well as with organisations active in this field in Russia and Belarus.

AMBER Alert Europe believes European and transnational cooperation is needed to cope with the growing cross border nature of the problem of missing children. We encourage all organisations active in the field of child alerting to join us

# Organisations part of AMBER Alert Europe in 2015:



Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), part of UK policing (UK)

INITIATIVE  
VERMISSTE  
KINDER

Initiative Vermisste Kinder, working closely with the German police (Germany)



Dutch Missing Persons Bureau, part of the Dutch National Police (Netherlands)



AMBER Alert Netherlands, working with the Dutch police on the Dutch AMBER Alert (Netherlands)



Missing Persons Centre KGP, National Police, managing the Polish Child Alert (Poland)



ITAKA, Centre for Missing People, working with the Polish police regarding the Child Alert (Poland)



National Police – Central Operational Service, Italy



Foundation Tijana Juric, Serbia



Ponimanie, Belarus NGO focused on child protection (Belarus)



Salvați Copiii

Salvați Copiii (Save the Children Romania), Romanian children's rights NGO (Romania)



National Coordination Mechanism of the Search for Missing Children (NKMPPD), part of the Ministry of the Interior (Czech Republic)



Omnibus, the Hellenic Centre for Research & Action for Missing Persons, scientific NGO (Greece)



International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC), working closely with the US AMBER Alert program (US)



Associação Portuguesa de Crianças Desaparecidas (APCD), Portuguese missing children association (Portugal)



Региональный общественный  
Центр интернет-технологий  
[www.rocit.ru](http://www.rocit.ru)

ROCIT, providing technologies to bring Russian missing children home (Russia)



RijnmondVeilig, the crisis alert platform of the Dutch regional authority of Rotterdam-Rijnmond (Netherlands)



Groupcall have been selected to provide the automatic distribution system for the Child Rescue Alert in the UK



MISSING  
CHILDREN  
SOCIETY OF CANADA

Missing Children Society of Canada, the only national not-for-profit organisation that actively searches for missing and abducted children in Canada



Child Helpline at Slovak Committee for UNICEF, working with the Slovak Police to create a Slovak Child Alert (Slovak Republic)



# Coming up: organisations joining in 2016



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure

Ministère de la Sécurité  
Intérieure, Luxembourg



La Police Grand-Ducale,  
Luxembourg



LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de la Justice

Ministère de la Justice,  
Luxembourg



**Victim Support Europe**

Victim Support Europe



Eurojust

## 1.4 Support Members of the European Parliament

In 2008, the European Commission called on Member States to introduce and develop national AMBER Alert systems and improve cross-border coordination. Currently only half of European Member States have a system of which only 8 have been used more than once.

AMBER Alert Europe called on Members of the European Parliament to sign a petition with which they publicly back AMBER Alert Europe's call for improving the protection of endangered missing children. At the end of 2015, more than 160 members of the European Parliament publicly support the goals of AMBER Alert Europe - from all EU member states and from all different political groups.

### 5 point plan

On May 20th Dr. Kay Swinburne MEP (European Conservatives and Reformists, UK) presented AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan to help save the lives of endangered missing children. The 5 point plan is introduced during a high-profile event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During the event Dr. Swinburne, backed by her British Conservative colleagues and 160+ MEPs, called for a stronger European AMBER Alert network. For more information about the 5 point plan, see [annex 2](#).

### Child Alerting Memorandum to the EU

AMBER Alert Europe brought their Child Alerting Memorandum to the EU under the attention of the European Parliament and the European Commission. This memorandum contains recommendations on an effective pan-European approach of the cross border problem of endangered missing children and child abductions. The memorandum is continuously updated. The foundation of the memorandum lies within AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan (see [annex 2](#)), which is backed by more than 160 MEPs.

### Coming up

European Parliament adopts the 5 point plan to save missing children in most the successful Written Declaration since 2011. A great majority of 465 Members of the European Parliament from all 28 Member States and all 9 political groups support AMBER Alert Europe's action plan and call for better European cooperation on saving the lives of missing children.



Proud to be launching @ConMEPs Amber Alert campaign in @europarl today with @AmberAlertEU

Kay Swinburne – Member of European Parliament  
Conservative MEP for Wales

## 1.5 AMBER Alert Europe Board

AMBER Alert Europe is run by a Board of Directors, who develop policy and execute tasks at the benefit of the foundation. AMBER Alert Europe's Advisory Board functions as advisory organ to the Board of Directors, on the subject of the foundation's policy and general affairs.

AMBER Alert Europe's Board and Advisory Board are composed of a selection of experts from law enforcement, academia, civil service as well as civil society. Board membership is an honorary position. Board members do not receive a salary.

AMBER Alert Europe consults its Board Members on regular basis. They are actively involved in realising the goals and mission of the organisation.

### New board members

The Board of AMBER Alert Europe is composed of eight board members. New members welcomed are Carole Bird and Petra Binkova.

#### *Carole Bird*

Ms. Bird has over 28 years of experience in law enforcement, and she specializes in leading change and innovation in policing. As a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada's national police service, she most recently spearheaded the development and implementation of Canada's National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR).

#### *Petra Binkova*

Ms. Binkova works as an expert in the Crime Prevention Department. She focuses on prevention of violence on children, coordination of the search for missing children and international collaboration related to human rights and crime prevention.





# AMBER Alert Europe Board of Directors



## **Carole Bird**

Ms. Bird has over 28 years of experience in law enforcement, and she specializes in leading change and innovation in policing. As a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada's national police service, she most recently spearheaded the development and implementation of Canada's National Centre for Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains (NCMPUR).



## **Frank Hoen**

As the co-founder of AMBER Alert Netherlands, together with Carlo Schippers from the Dutch National Police, Frank Hoen has developed the Dutch AMBER Alert system pro-bono. Now the official nationwide alert system for urgent cases of missing children and child abductions, AMBER Alert Netherlands reaches twelve million persons within minutes after the urgent disappearance of a child.



## **Petra Binkova**

Ms. Binkova works as an expert in the Crime Prevention Department. She focuses on prevention of violence on children, coordination of the search for missing children and international collaboration related to human rights and crime prevention.

# AMBER Alert Europe Advisory Board



## **Caroline Humer**

As a Program Director for the ICMEC, Caroline Humer is an expert in the field of coordinating international efforts in strengthening and developing country's missing children policies and infrastructure, such as child abduction alert programs. She also is responsible for managing the Global Missing Children's Network, a resource that uses technology to disseminate pictures and information about missing children.



## **Lars Bruhns**

In 2005 Lars Bruhns gave up his studies to dedicate his life to finding missing children. As president of Initiative Vermisste Kinder, the largest missing children's organisation in Germany, Lars Bruhns is the man behind the highly successful 'Deutschland findet euch' campaign, mobilizing almost two hundred thousand people on Facebook alone. On top of that, IVK developed AMBER Alert Deutschland and hosts the 116 hotline.



## **Henk Jansen**

Henk Jansen has been longtime member of the Dutch police force and member of various advisory organs in the field of criminal investigations, crime control and international cooperation. He has helped set up National Crime Divisions in various former East European countries and provided them with training in fighting against organized crime and corruption.



## **Rinus van Schendelen**

Emeritus professor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Rinus van Schendelen's research activities focus a.o. on the fields of the European Union and PA affairs. On a professional level, he is active in the field of training, consultancy, mediation and PA management & Lobbying at a EU level. He is the author of over 200 highly acclaimed articles and over 40 books, including recent books such as The Unseen Hand: Unelected EU Legislators and More Machiavelli in Brussels: the Art of Lobbying the EU.



## **Maurice Lenferink**

Is responsible for the risk & crisis communication during major incidents and calamities in the Rotterdam-Rijnmond Safety Region, home to 1.2 million Dutch citizens. As the head of Communications, he is also responsible for the virtual platform RijnmondVeilig, that allows the joint emergency services to communicate with citizens and the media using a mix of existing and new media during crises and disaster. Other highlights of his career include being the police project manager during the Euro 2000 Football event.

# Highlights 2015

**Launch AMBER Alert  
Slovakia**

Czech Parliament supports  
AMBER Alert Europe

MEP Kay Swinburne presents  
AMBER Alert Europe's five key  
points

**35 Police experts from  
12 countries join AMBER  
Alert Europe's Police  
Expert Network**

Joint operation with  
Frontex and UNHCR

**161 MEPs publicly  
back AMBER Alert  
Europe**

**Facebook & Google's Waze  
partner up with AMBER  
Alert Europe**

1848 missing  
children displayed  
on website

29 AMBER Alerts for  
30 children

**First cross border AMBER  
Alert Poland-Germany  
successful**

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue page.

# 02

## Projects

# Saving lives of missing children

AMBER Alert Europe wants to be a life- saving factor for endangered missing children in Europe. See here how we work towards that goal.

## 2.1 European Child Rescue Alert

AMBER Alert Europe provides an always up-to-date overview of recent AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised by law enforcement in Europe. AMBER Alert Europe is the only European organisation that collects and maps data on AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised in Europe. AMBER Alert Europe informs its police expert network, member organizations and even European citizens (website/ social media) on active AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised by law enforcement in Europe.

### How AMBER Alert Europe works

1. AMBER Alert Europe only maps information made available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations.
2. AMBER Alert Europe only maps missing children under 18 that are missing for less than one month. AMBER Alert Europe does this because there is a very high number of missing children in Europe.

3. The link to the public information will be deleted once the child has been found or when the child is missing for longer than one month.

4. AMBER Alert Europe only reproduces information published by law enforcement or an organisation mandated by them and does not make any decisions about risk or the circumstances of the child's reported disappearance.

### Research and statistics

AMBER Alert Europe researches and contributes to research of other organisations on the topic of endangered missing children. AMBER Alert makes this centrally available for all EU member states.

The data collected by AMBER Alert Europe serve to gain more knowledge on the subject of AMBER Alerts and missing children published by law enforcement. In 2015 AMBER Alert Europe shared 1848 cases of missing children publicised by law enforcement from EU Member States, including Switzerland. For 30 of these children an AMBER Alert was issued.<sup>1</sup> For more information, please see [annex 3](#).

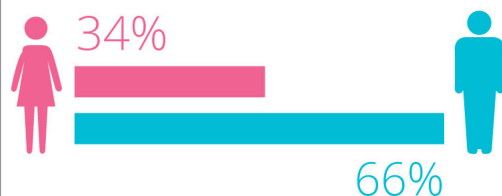
### Coming up

In 2016, AMBER Alert Europe will continuously contribute to research on child alerting and endangered missing children.

<sup>1</sup> 29 AMBER Alerts issued in 2015 involving 30 children. 1 AMBER Alert was issued for multiple children.

**29** AMBER ALERTS  
IN THE **EU** IN 2015

In **2014** there  
were **25**  
AMBER Alerts



**27** children  
were **successfully** recovered

**89%**  
was recovered  
within **24 hours**

AVERAGE AGE: **10**

**47%**

of the countries that  
have an AMBER alert  
system, issued an  
alert in **2015**





# 1848

MISSING CHILDREN MAPPED ON  
WWW.AMBERALERT.EU IN 2015

In 2014 there were

## 1739

missing children

In 2014 the  
average age was

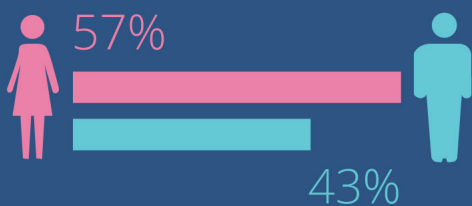
## 14

75% of the missing children  
were **successfully** recovered  
within one month

AVERAGE AGE

## 14

in 2014  
62% girls and  
38% boys  
were  
missing



## 86%

of the missing children  
in the **last quarter** had  
a photo available

Q1 374 missing children

Q2 439 missing children

Q3 477 missing children

Q4 557 missing children

### FEBRUARY

Least children missing (105)

Least **boys** missing (30)

### MAY

Least **girls** missing (68)

### 159

children missing every month

### NOVEMBER

Most **girls** missing (111)

### DECEMBER

Most children missing (202)

Most **boys** missing (101)

## 2.2 Police Expert Network

AMBER Alert Europe calls for the appointment of a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for endangered missing children on a national level. This person/department is to be appointed as SPOC by the relevant authorities in each EU member state, and is the first point of contact for other EU member states when a child goes missing and might have crossed the border. This is also the first point of contact for sharing of police expert best practices and relevant documents on the topic of endangered missing children.

As a first step towards this SPOC, AMBER Alert Europe launched in October 2014 the Police Expert Network on Missing Children.

### Efforts in 2015

In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe has worked to further develop this network. At the end of 2015, the network consists of over 35 experts representing law enforcement from 12 EU countries.

Goal of the network is to allow missing children police experts to quickly and informally contact their colleagues in other European member states and exchange best practices. The network is led by Charlie Hedges, who is acknowledged as one of UK's foremost experts on missing and abducted children.

### Platform for police experts on child alerts & missing children: bringing police experts together

AMBER Alert Europe developed an online platform for Police Experts on Missing Children. The platform is password protected and only accessible for official police experts. It provides an always up-to-date overview of relevant information on AMBER Alert systems in Europe. The platform enables experts to quickly contact or consult colleagues to request an AMBER Alert or advice in case of missing children:

- Contact details of police experts in other countries;
- Criteria for national AMBER Alert systems;
- Overview of documents needed to request a cross-border AMBER Alert;
- Actors involved in issuing an AMBER Alert;
- Technical tools for dissemination.



**“Knowing who to speak to in another country simplifies and speeds up actions to locate and recover the child”**

Charlie Hedges  
Coordinator Police Network on Missing Children,  
AMBER Alert Europe



## Coming up

### *Dutch Presidency: Police Expert Network*

The Netherlands holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2016. In May 2016, the Dutch Minister of Justice and Security will announce a European police network for missing children experts. The network is an initiative of AMBER Alert Europe and AMBER Alert Europe will be working together with the Dutch Presidency to expand and to further develop the European cross-border police expert network.

### *AMBER Alert Europe Missing Children Training Centre*

In 2016, AMBER Alert Europe will launch an online Missing Children Training Centre. In this centre, law enforcement experts in the field of missing children share their knowledge and expertise with law enforcement professionals, parents and children.

The centre will consist of several videos which will cover a wide range of topics related to missing children on how to prevent children from going missing and what to do when a child goes missing. On May 25th, International Missing Children's Day, AMBER Alert Europe is planning to launch an International Campaign: What to do when my child is missing? The campaign will be an addition to the Missing Children Training Centre.

## EU Conference Missing Persons: Missing Information Wednesday 25 May 2016, Amsterdam The Netherlands



## 2.3 Citizen Sourcing

Citizen sourcing is a technique that allows government to make use of the citizenry's collective intelligence, for example in the case of children that have gone missing. AMBER Alert Europe connects law enforcement with citizens in the search for endangered missing children.

### Managing the development of technology modules

AMBER Alert Europe manages the development of technology modules through citizen sourcing and facilitates the sharing of these and other relevant technological innovations, as well as standardized communication protocols. For example, AMBER Alert Europe continuously innovates the AMBER Alert platform by adding new tools, such as online advertising and the Facebook integration. For a complete overview of all aspects of the AMBER Alert Europe platform (see [section 4](#)).

*Best practice: Google's navigation app Waze*

In May 2015 AMBER Alert Europe teamed up with Waze, Google's real-time crowdsourced navigation app powered by the world's largest community of drivers. The app integrated with AMBER Alert Europe and now displays urgent information about AMBER Alerts and missing children, publicised by law enforcement and other police mandated organisations. The integration has helped AMBER Alert Europe amplify its presence within 20 European countries, including France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain, Netherlands and more.

### Navigation App Google Waze shows AMBER Alerts in 20 European Countries

**MISSING!**



**JOANNE DOE**

16 years old. Missing since  
18 May 2015 from ZAGREB.  
Croatia.

**More Info**





### *Best practice: Facebook*

AMBER Alert Europe teamed up with Facebook to display AMBER Alerts on the News Feed of Facebook users when a child has gone missing. In June 2015 it took effect in the Netherlands first, followed by the United Kingdom in September 2015.

In November 2015 an AMBER Alert was issued for a Dutch boy. The AMBER Alert was automatically displayed in the News Feed of all mobile Facebook users in the Netherlands. The boy was found the same day. It was the first time that an AMBER Alert was automatically shown in the News Feed of European Facebook users, meaning also people that did not subscribe to the service received the alert.

### **Coming up**

AMBER Alert Europe will continue working with Facebook and Google to increase the reach of these child abduction alerts even further. For example, the Facebook feature will take effect in other European countries, such as Slovakia and Luxembourg, in cooperation with AMBER Alert Europe.



**“By partnering with AMBER Alert Europe, we can help stretch the reach of this information even further, so that more people can participate in hopefully bringing a child back home safely.”**

Emily Vacher  
Facebook's security , Trust and Safety manager



**“The speed at which a large number of people can be reached and the opportunities for targeting the search area through Facebook will be valuable tools for police forces in the event of issuing a Child Rescue Alert”**

Sherri McAra  
NCA's Manager Missing Children Team  
Member of AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Group

## 2.4 Creating National AMBER Alerts

AMBER Alert Europe helps creating an active AMBER Alert system in all EU member states assisting relevant authorities in EU member states to create and/ or further improve a national AMBER Alert system in line with the 2008 best practices provided by the European Commission.<sup>2</sup> Among these countries are the Czech Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Poland, and the United Kingdom.

### AMBER Alert Slovakia

On March 31st AMBER Alert Slovakia has been launched in Bratislava. Europe's first cross-border child rescue alert is developed by AMBER Alert Europe.

The Slovak National Ministry and Police joined forces with AMBER Alert Europe and UNICEF to save the lives of endangered missing children. With the use of the cross-border AMBER Alert, based on the successful AMBER Alert Netherlands system, not only Slovak, but also endangered missing children and child alerts in neighboring countries, such as the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria and Hungary, are automatically displayed on the website of AMBER Alert Slovakia. By transcending borders, the chances of these children being found alive and well increase dramatically.

The press launch was organized by Unicef Slovakia together with the Slovak Police. The launch brought together Police, Ministry and press representatives of Slovakia, as well as topic owners at Police, Ministry and relevant NGO's from neighbouring countries, such as Hungary, Austria, Poland and Russia.



<sup>2</sup> Written declaration on emergency cooperation in recovering missing children (PE405.176v01-00), adopted by the European Parliament, 21 April 2008, calling on Member States to introduce a child alert system and to reach cooperation agreements, allowing cross-border alerts to be triggered, and also calling for the development of a common organisation to provide assistance and training to national bodies <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+WDECL+P6-DCL-2008-0036+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

## Coming up

### *Launch AMBER Alert Luxembourg*

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has teamed up with AMBER Alert Europe to work towards rolling out a similar AMBER Alert system in Luxembourg on April 28th, 2016.

AMBER Alert Europe advised the the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on the implementation and facilitated contacts between the Luxembourgish police experts and the Dutch Police. Also, AMBER Alert Europe will provide the AMBER Alert technology to Luxembourg, free of charge.

AMBER Alert Luxembourg enables the police in Luxembourg to quickly inform citizens when the police fear the life of an abducted or missing child is in imminent danger. In addition to AMBER Alerts, parts of the system will be used to find endangered missing children. A missing child is considered endangered when there is an immediate and significant risk of harm but the case does not reach the criteria for an AMBER Alert.

### *Continued efforts*

The next year, AMBER Alert Europe will actively help creating an active AMBER Alert system in all EU member states assisting relevant authorities in EU member states to create and/ or further improve their national AMBER Alert system.



**“Special thanks to AMBER Alert Europe for their support and help during the implementation of this sophisticated child rescue system. Also a big thank you to Petra Binkova, Senior Security Officer of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, for her assistance.”**

Tana Ivanic  
Unicef, project coordinator of AMBER Alert Slovakia

## 2.5 Policy

The past year, AMBER Alert Europe has worked bringing forward her 5 point plan to the European Commission and the European Parliament. AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan was written in consultation with law enforcement experts, national ministries and organisations such as Eurojust and Frontex. The action plan contains key recommendations to save more lives of endangered missing children.

### Key recommendations

1. A bigger, stronger AMBER Alert network
2. More flexibility in issuing child alerts
3. Better cross-border information sharing
4. Better cross-border police cooperation
5. Improving the identification and protection of children at borders

For more information about the 5 point plan, please see [annex 2](#).

### Support Members European Parliament

On May 20th, 2015 Dr. Kay Swinburne MEP (European Conservatives and Reformists, UK) presented AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan to help save the lives of endangered missing children. The 5 point plan was introduced during a high-profile event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg in May 2015.

Together with AMBER Alert Europe, Dr. Swinburne called on Members of the European Parliament to sign a petition with which they publicly back AMBER Alert Europe's call for improving the protection of endangered missing children. At the end of 2015, more than 160 members of the European Parliament publicly support the goals of AMBER Alert Europe - from all EU member states and from all different political groups.



**MEP Kay Swinburne presents 5 point plan**

## Support Czech Parliament

In March 2015 AMBER Alert received the support of the Czech Ministry of the Interior, when its Senior Security Officer, Petra Binkova, joined AMBER Alert Europe's Board of Directors.

Two months later, May 2015, the Czech Parliament gave AMBER Alert Europe its full support. By signing AMBER Alert Europe's plan of action the Czech Parliament intended to work closely with AMBER Alert Europe to further expand the Czech child alert and to improve cross-border cooperation concerning endangered missing children.

## Cooperation with Frontex and UNHCR

In close cooperation with FRONTEX and UNHCR, AMBER Alert Europe is currently involved in projects to save children at risk at EU external air borders. Effective cooperation between national police and border guards protecting the outer borders of the EU is a critical to protect children at serious risk of harm such as trafficking and abduction, including refugees and unaccompanied migrant children.

## Coming up

The support of the European Parliament will culminate in 2016. That is, Members of the European Parliament representing its 6 biggest political groups will file a written declaration to better protect endangered missing children. With this Declaration, they call on the European Commission and the European Council to adopt AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan.

The European Parliament will adopt this action plan to save missing children in the most successful Written Declaration since 2011. A great majority of 465 Members of the European Parliament from all 28 Member States and all 9 political groups will support AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan and call for better European cooperation on saving the lives of missing children.



**“On the 28th of April 2015, the Czech Parliament signed AMBER Alert Europe's plan of action calling for improved cross-border cooperation concerning endangered missing children”**

Ms. Radka Maxova  
Chairwoman of the Standing Committee on Family Affairs and Gender Equality,  
Czech Parliament



## 2.6 Connecting EU citizens

In Europe, the border is always near. It is estimated that 37.5 % of Europeans live in border areas. However, information on endangered missing children often stop at national borders. Therefore AMBER Alert Europe wants to improve exchange of information on missing children and connect citizens across borders in the search for missing children.

### Efforts in 2015

Best practice: Successful Polish/ German cross-border child alert

On Wednesday April 15th 2015, the Polish Police issued a Polish AMBER Alert. With the help of AMBER Alert Europe, the photo of the abducted child was also disseminated in neighbouring country Germany by the German NGO Initiative Vermisste Kinder. The girl was successfully recovered in Germany after the AMBER Alert was issued.

*Best practice: Pilot Project for Missing Persons in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine*

Since September 2014, AMBER Alert Europe has closely cooperated with the Euregion Meuse-Rhine and the Province of Limburg (Netherlands) on a pilot project for missing persons in the Euregion Meuse-Rhine. This pilot is intended to develop border protocols to ensure that when someone goes missing in a Euregion, police, media and citizens in the area are immediately informed and on the lookout.

AMBER Alert Europe calls for protocols to ensure that when a child is at risk in a border area or the police suspect that the child may have crossed the border, the police in the other country are informed immediately in order that the media and the public can be informed.

### Coming up

*Meuse-Rhine Euregion Project*

In 2016, AMBER Alert Europe will continue working on cross border police cooperation by using the Meuse-Rhine Euregion project as an exemplary pilot project as a best practice for finding missing persons.







# 03

## Sharing knowledge

# Expert Conferences and Campaigns

In 2015 AMBER Alert Europe attended several expert conferences for police, government and NGO actively involved in the field of missing and abducted children. Also, the AMBER Alert Europe goals and mission were presented at various international conferences.

## 3.1 Launch AMBER Alert Slovakia – March 2015

On March 31st AMBER Alert Slovakia has been launched in Bratislava. Europe's first cross-border child rescue alert ensures that not only Slovak, but also endangered missing children and child alerts in neighboring countries, are automatically displayed on the website of AMBER Alert Slovakia.

The press launch was organized by Unicef Slovakia together with the Slovak Police. The launch brought together Police, Ministry and press representatives of Slovakia, as well as topic owners at Police, Ministry and relevant NGO's from neighbouring countries, such as Hungary, Austria, Poland and Russia.

The Slovak National Ministry and Police joined forces with AMBER Alert Europe and UNICEF to save the lives of endangered missing children.



## 3.2 Presentation AMBER Alert Europe 5 point plan – May 2015

On May 20th MEP Dr. Kay Swinburne presented AMBER Alert Europe's five key points to help save the lives of endangered missing children. The 5 point plan is introduced during a high-profile event in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. During the event Dr. Swinburne, backed by her British Conservative colleagues and more than 100 MEPs, calls for a stronger European AMBER Alert network.

AMBER Alert Europe's Frank Hoen, President and Charlie Hedges, European Alert Coordinator joined the expert panel on this event.





## 3.3 Launch Facebook – June 2015

AMBER Alert Europe teamed up with Facebook to display AMBER Alerts on the News Feed of Facebook users when a child has gone missing. This took effect in the Netherlands first and was launched in The Hague in June.



## 3.4 Presenting AMBER Alert Europe at other conferences and events

### **Conference ‘Protecting young suspects in interrogations – a study on safeguards and best practice’ - January 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe attended the conference ‘Protecting young suspects in interrogations – a study on safeguards and best practice’ organised by the University of Maastricht.

### **Frontex “Operational Heads of Airports Conference 2015” – March 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe attended the conference Operational Heads of Airports Conference 2015, organised by Frontex in Warsaw. Representatives shared their thoughts on current and future developments. AMBER Alert Europe presented her mission to its attendees.

Attendees were mainly Operational Heads responsible for border control at all EU international airports in order to promote the benefit of cooperation in the field of integrated Border Management. The Operations Heads of International Airports of Frontex partner of non-EU Countries and the representatives of Frontex partner organisations.

### **MEP Jeroen Lenaers visits AMBER Alert Europe – May 2015**

On May 22th AMBER Alert Europe facilitated the visit of MEP Jeroen Lenaers to the headquarters of AMBER Alert Europe in Beek (The Netherlands). AMBER Alert Europe’s goals and mission were presented during this meeting.

### **9th European Forum on the Rights of the Child – June 2015**

On June 3rd to 4th the 9th European Forum on the Rights of the Child took place in Brussels. AMBER Alert Europe attended this conference.

### **Meeting “Vermiste Personen/ Personnes Disparues/ Vermisste Personen” – June 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe presented its goals and mission during a meeting with police experts of the Euregion Meuse-Rhine.

### **Meeting Italian Police experts – July 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe attended a meeting with Italian Missing Persons Department of the National Police and presented its mission to the police experts in the field of missing children. Also, AMBER Alert Europe advised the police experts on the improvement of the Italian AMBER Alert system.

### **Frontex Joint Operation VEGA Children 2015 – August/ September 2015**

The VEGA joint operation is organised by Frontex, the agency for securing EU external borders, and UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency. The goal of the operation is to provide border guards with practical guidance. Mr. Charlie Hedges, coordinator of AMBER Alert Europe’s Police Network on Missing Children, is involved in the VEGA joint operation to share his knowledge and expertise with border guards.

Following the VEGA joint operation with Frontex and UNHCR, AMBER Alert Europe called on the European Commission and European Member States to improve the protection of children at risk at EU external borders:

- Make a best effort to immediately enter endangered missing children in the Schengen Information System (SIS II)

- Actively inform border guards about endangered missing children and AMBER Alerts issued by law enforcement agencies

### **Conference Victim Support Europe – November 2015**

Charlie Hedges, AMBER Alert Europe's Police Expert Network Coordinator, spoke at Victim Support Europe's Conference "Putting victims' rights into practice: where are we?" at the European Parliament in Brussels on November 9th.

### **National meeting Dutch prosecutors – November 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe attended the meeting of the Dutch prosecutors and presented its goals and mission to the attendees.

### **Dutch National Rapporteur visits AMBER Alert Europe – November 2015**

The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence Mrs. Corinne Dettmeijer visited the headquarters of AMBER Alert Europe in Beek (the Netherlands) on November 27th. During her visit the Dutch National Rapporteur gained insights in the activities of AMBER Alert Europe. She was also presented with AMBER Alert Europe's 5 point plan.

### **International Conference "Unacceptable" – December 2015**

AMBER Alert Europe attended an international conference on prevention of crimes against children on December 7th. Charlie Hedges, coordinator of the Police Expert Network presented AMBER Alert Europe's vision on police

cooperation on the use of digital technologies, methods and tools in the search for missing children.

### **Coming up**

*Launch AMBER Alert Luxembourg – April 2016*  
AMBER Alert Europe and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are planning to launch the Luxembourgish AMBER Alert system on April 28, 2016.

*Conference on Missing Persons, Missing Information – May 2016*

The Netherlands holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU from 1 January to 30 June 2016. The Dutch Presidency will organise the "Conference on Missing Persons, Missing Information" on May 25th, International Missing Children's Day.

The Dutch Minister of Justice and Security will announce a European police network for missing children experts. The network is an initiative of AMBER Alert Europe. European law enforcement experts from 25 European countries European Commission, Interpol and NGOs will attend the conference.

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of the continents and major landmasses.

# 04

**AMBER Alert in  
action**

# How it looks

An AMBER Alert reaches millions of people within minutes. When an AMBER Alert is issued by the police, the picture of the AMBER Alert child is instantly visible everywhere via dozens of different media. The AMBER Alert system exists out of the following components, such as SMS Text messages, social media and apps:



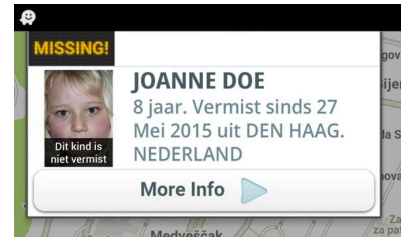
## TV and radio

As soon as an AMBER Alert is issued, it goes on air (during TV programs for example as a tickertape or as an extra news flash). The news flash is automatically and digitally prepared.



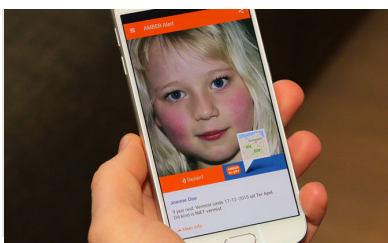
## Social media

Facebook automatically displays AMBER Alerts in the newsfeed of its users. AMBER Alerts are also displayed on other social networks, such as Twitter.



## Google's Waze

Google's Waze, world's leading community based traffic- and navigation app, shows AMBER Alerts and endangered missing children. Users receive a pop-up message with a picture and description of the child.



## Apps

AMBER Alert apps and several newspaper apps display pictures of missing children in your neighbourhood.



## Mobile website

AMBER Alerts are automatically displayed on our mobile website. When there is an active AMBER Alert, this website automatically displays a picture of the missing child.



## Online banners

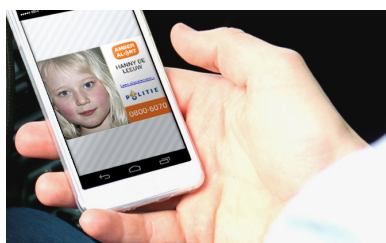
People surfing the web, playing a game on their phone or using an app are informed immediately and proactively of a missing child in their area through online advertisements.





### Large TV screens

AMBER Alerts automatically appear on large TV screens in public spaces, for example supermarkets, cinemas, indoor children playgrounds, day care centers, swimming pools and sports centers.



### SMS with photo

When an AMBER Alert is issued, subscribers immediately receive an SMS message with a link to AMBER Alert's mobile website. On this website, people can see a 'missing' notice featuring a picture of the child.



### Email with poster

When an AMBER Alert is issued, users receive an email alert. The email contains a poster including a picture of the missing child which can be displayed in shops, community centers and schools.



### AMBER Alert poster

When the police issues an AMBER Alert, citizens can forward, display or print out an automatically generated poster with the picture of the missing child.



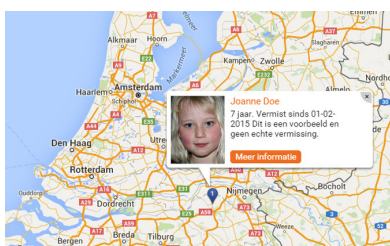
### RSS newsfeed

With the AMBER Alert RSS newsfeed organisations can develop their own applications to display AMBER Alerts.



### Highway signs

If information about the vehicle of the abductor is available (e.g. license plate number), an AMBER Alert is also automatically published on digital highway signs.



### Google map

On the AMBER Alert Europe website you can find a Google map with all endangered missing children and active AMBER Alerts in Europe.



### Public transport

When an AMBER Alert is issued, a picture of the missing child is automatically displayed on TV screens in public transport (e.g. buses, trains).



### Supermarkets / cinemas

When an AMBER Alert is issued, the photo of the missing child is instantly visible on large TV screens in shopping malls, supermarkets and cinemas.



### Large organisations

When an AMBER Alert is issued, employees of large organisations immediately receive a message with a photo of the missing child on their handheld devices.



### PC pop up

When an AMBER Alert is issued, a pop up message with the AMBER Alert notice immediately appears on tens of thousands of PCs. This pop up message is not stopped by pop up blockers.



### Police

AMBER Alerts are also disseminated to the police via various networks, including mobile phones, PCs and TV screens.



### Railway stations / airports / tank stations

When an AMBER Alert is issued, a picture of the missing child is directly shown on large screens in public places, such as tank stations, airports, railway- and metro stations.



### Website

On many major news sites a pop up screen or banner with the picture of the missing or abducted child automatically appears when an AMBER Alert is active and someone visits this website.



### PC screensaver

Active AMBER Alerts are also displayed via a screensaver – intended for schools, libraries and other organisations that have a lot of PCs in screensaver mode part of the day. The screensaver also shows current missing children cases.



# 01

## Annex

Financial Report  
2015

**STICHTING AMBER ALERT EUROPE  
AT BEEK**

Annual Report 2015



## **CONTENTS**

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## **REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANT**





ACCON?AVM ACCOUNTANTS B.V.  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REGISTRATION NUMBER 09173926

GEERWEG 7  
BEZOEKADRES  
6135 KB SITTARD  
TEL 046 - 451 83 51  
FAX 046 - 452 65 55  
WWW.ACCONAVM.NL

To the board of directors of  
Stichting AMBER Alert Europe  
Peter Treckspoelstraat 4  
6191 VK Beek

Reference: 03065479  
Processed by: K.A.M. (Kim) Boon  
Date: June 2, 2016

Dear board of directors,

We hereby send you the report regarding the financial statements of your company for the year 2015.

## **1 SCOPE**

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled your company's financial statements.

The report consists of the following parts:

The report of the accountant, our compilation report, general company information and the company's financial position.

The financial report consists of director's report, the financial statements consists of the balance sheet of December 31, 2015 and the profit and loss accountant for the year 2015, with notes to the financial statements and other information.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES BELONG TO THE ACCON?AVM CONSULTANTS AND ACCOUNTANTS: ACCON?AVM GROUP B.V., ACCON?AVM ACCOUNTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM TAX CONSULTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM LEGAL ADVISORS B.V., ACCON?AVM CONSULTANTS B.V., ACCON?AVM CORPORATE FINANCE B.V.,

APPLYING WITH ALL AGREEMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS AND WORK ACTIVITIES ARE THE GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AS FILED WITH THE OFFICER OF THE COURT AT THE DISTRICT COURT OF ARNHEM, NL. LIABILITY IS LIMITED IN ALL CASES TO THE MAXIMUM PAID OUT IN SUCH CASES PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURER ALL OUR SERVICES, LEGAL ACTS AND/OR LEGAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD PARTIES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCON?AVM, WHICH INCLUDE A LIMITATION OF LIABILITY. THESE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UNDER NUMBER 09171813, ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.ACCONAVM.NL AND WILL BE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE UPON REQUEST. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR AMBITIONS.



## **INDEPENDENT COMPILATION REPORT**

The financial statements of Stichting AMBER Alert Europe at Beek have been compiled by us using the information provided by you. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2015 and the profit and loss account for the year 2015 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 presented explanatory notes. 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. 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).



## **GENERAL**

### **Company**

Stichting AMBER Alert Europe is dedicated to the protection of endangered missing children, and provides for training and cross-border coordination to law enforcement. AMBER Alert Europe connects citizens with law enforcement when the police believe the public can help find the child. AMBER Alert Europe provides support in an advisory and knowledge-sharing role to its members and partners, who, together with the network of connected citizens, are on the lookout when a child goes missing across Europe.

The company is registered in the trade register of the chamber of commerce in Limburg under number 57040559.

### **Incorporation of a company**

The company Stichting AMBER Alert Europe was incorporated by notarial deed on January 23, 2013 at mr.J.T.M. Pas, Beek. The activities are performed as of the aforementioned date or an earlier date respectively at the risk and costs of the Stichting AMBER Alert Europe partnership.

### **Recognition of the 2014 loss**

The result amounting to € 3,878 has been carried forward as accumulated deficit.

We trust that we have compiled with all your instructions.

We will gladly provide more detailed explanations upon request.

Sincerely yours,  
accon avm accountants b.v.

P.J.E.A. van Dinther AA



## **FINANCIAL REPORT**





**2015 MANAGEMENT REPORT**

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



## **COMPANY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2015**

- Balance sheet
- Profit and loss account
- Notes to the balance sheet and profit and loss account



	December 31, 2015		December 31, 2014	
	€	€	€	€
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Equity</b>	(3)			
Allocation reserves		69,099		96
<b>Current liabilities</b>	(4)			
Trade creditors		3,651		0
Taxes and social securities		1,647		0
Other liabilities and Accruals and deferred income		7,756		36
		13,054		36
		82,153		132





## 2 PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2015

		Balance 2015	Balance 2014
		€	€
<b>Income</b>	(5)	185,533	51,692
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Acquisition income</b>			
Expenditures for subsidy acquisition	(6)	11,127	0
<b>Management and administration</b>			
Employee expenses	(7)	74,309	0
Other operating expenses	(8)	30,147	55,399
Financial income and expenses	(9)	947	171
		<u>105,403</u>	<u>55,570</u>
		<u>116,530</u>	<u>55,570</u>
<b>Result</b>		<u>69,003</u>	<u>-3,878</u>



### **3 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2015**

#### **3.1 GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The financial statements are prepared according to the stipulations in chapter 9 Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code. The general accounting principles for the preparation of the financial statements are not changed during the last year.

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.

#### **3.2 PRINCIPLES OF VALUATION OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

##### **Receivables and deferred assets**

Upon initial recognition the receivables on and loans to participations and other receivables are valued at fair value and then valued at amortised cost, which equals the face value, after deduction of any provisions. The fair value and amortised cost equal the face value. Any provisions for the risk of doubtful debts are deducted. These provisions are determined based on individual assessment of the receivables.

##### **Cash and cash equivalents**

The cash is valued at face value. If cash equivalents are not freely disposable, then this has been taken into account in the valuation.

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

##### **General**

The result is defined as the difference between the revenue from goods delivered and services performed on one hand and, on the other hand, the costs and expenses for that year, valued at historical costs. The revenues and expenses are with VAT included.

##### **Financial income and expenses**

Financial income and expenses comprise interest income and expenses for loans (issued and received) during the current reporting period.



### **3.4 NOTES TO THE BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015**

## **ASSETS**

### **CURRENT ASSETS**

	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
	€	€
<b>1. Receivables, prepayments and accrued income</b>		
Other receivables, deferred assets	1,653	0
	<u>1,653</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>2. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Rabobank NL31RABO0177498633	5,011	132
Rabobank NL58RABO3464305996	75,000	0
Cash	489	0
	<u>80,500</u>	<u>132</u>

## **EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

### **3. Equity**

Allocation reserves	69,099	96
	<u>69,099</u>	<u>96</u>
<i>Allocation reserve</i>		
Stand per January 1	96	3,974
Result allocation	69,003	-3,878
	<u>69,099</u>	<u>96</u>
Carrying amount as of December 31	<u>69,099</u>	<u>96</u>

### **4. Current liabilities**

#### **Trade creditors**

Creditors	3,651	0
	<u>3,651</u>	<u>0</u>

#### **Taxes and social securities**

Pay-roll tax	1,647	0
	<u>1,647</u>	<u>0</u>



	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>12/31/2014</u>
	€	€
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>		
Holiday bonus	313	0
Interest and bank charges	72	36
Subsidy	7,371	0
	<u>7,756</u>	<u>36</u>





### 3.5 NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT 2015

	Balance 2015	Balance 2014
	€	€
<b>Income from own fundraising</b>		
Donations and gifts	32,057	51,692
Benefits	6,056	0
	<u>38,113</u>	<u>51,692</u>
<b>Government subsidies</b>		
Dutch government subsidy	<u>147,420</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>6. Expenditures for subsidy acquisition</b>		
Costs project Euregion Missing People	<u>11,127</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>7. Employee expenses</b>		
Wages and salaries	7,537	0
Social security charges	214	0
Pension costs	314	0
Other personnel costs	66,244	0
	<u>74,309</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Wages and salaries</b>		
Salary	7,224	0
Movement of holiday bonus liability	313	0
	<u>7,537</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Social security charges</b>		
Sick pay insurance	<u>214</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Pension costs</b>		
Pension costs	<u>314</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Other personnel costs</b>		
Costs Charlie Hedges Advisory	63,555	0
Commuting expenses	355	0
Supplementary services	2,304	0
Costs WKR	46	0
Other labour costs	-16	0
	<u>66,244</u>	<u>0</u>

#### Staff

During the 2015 financial year the company had two employees.



	Balance 2015	Balance 2014
	€	€
<b>8. Other operating expenses</b>		
Office expenses	12,250	14,448
Brand awareness expenses	15,619	35,993
General expenses	2,278	4,958
	<u>30,147</u>	<u>55,399</u>
<b>Office expenses</b>		
Office supplies	525	1,297
Automation costs	7,521	11,115
Telephone	595	0
Postage	3,278	2,036
Contributions and subscriptions	331	0
	<u>12,250</u>	<u>14,448</u>
<b>Brand awareness expenses</b>		
Advertising costs	3,571	5,083
Representation costs	2,153	1,272
Conferences and events	3,299	29,638
Travelling expenses	5,991	0
Research costs	605	0
	<u>15,619</u>	<u>35,993</u>
<b>General expenses</b>		
Administration costs	304	0
Consultancy fees	1,815	4,958
Insurance	159	0
	<u>2,278</u>	<u>4,958</u>
<b>9. Financial income and expenses</b>		
Interest and similar income	135	0
Interest and similar expenses	-1,082	-171
	<u>-947</u>	<u>-171</u>
<b>Interest and similar income</b>		
Interest revenue	<u>135</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Interest and similar expenses</b>		
Bank charges	-282	-171
Costs currency difference	-800	0
	<u>-1,082</u>	<u>-171</u>



**Signing annual accounts**

**Beek, June 2, 2016**

F.C.C. Hoen



## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **1 Audit report**

Your company has utilized the exemption from an audit by virtue of art. 2:396, paragraph 7 of the Dutch Civil Code.

### **2 Appropriation of the profit for 2015**

The board of directors proposes to add the profit for 2015 of € 69,003 to the other reserves. This proposal has been processed in the annual account in advance of the adoption by the General Meeting.



# 02

## Annex

Five Key Points  
AMBER Alert Europe



## 1. A bigger, stronger AMBER Alert network

AMBER Alert Europe's ultimate goal is to improve the protection of endangered missing children in Europe and support the EU recommendation for all member states to have child alert systems that can interoperate with other member states. Currently 17 countries have alert systems in place of which 8 have been used at least once<sup>1</sup>. These systems are currently not interoperable with other European AMBER Alert systems.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We are actively working with member states to assist with the development of alert systems but call on the EU to encourage more member states to develop EU child alerts systems.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

It is important to build awareness that the alert platform can be used for other missing children cases. For example for bringing other endangered missing children to the attention of the public. This would make greater use of the technology and networks but would not be called an AMBER Alert.

## 2. More flexibility in issuing AMBER Alerts

In order to significantly increase the opportunities to save children at risk of immediate serious harm, we would like to amend the criteria for issuing child alerts. Several European Member States have already adopted flexible criteria. In the best interest of the child, countries like the UK<sup>2</sup>, The Netherlands<sup>3</sup> and France<sup>4</sup> have issued AMBER Alerts without evidence for a proven abduction. We would like to remove the need for there to be an abduction and be able to issue an alert when law enforcement specialists have assessed the child's life is in imminent danger.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We call for amending the current criteria for issuing child alerts by adding the possibility to issue an alert when law enforcement specialists have assessed that the child's life is in imminent danger.

<sup>1</sup> Case Management for Missing Children Homicide Investigation', Washington State Office of the Attorney General & US Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, May 2006, [http://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/Supporting\\_Law\\_Enforcement/Homicide\\_Investigation\\_Tracking\\_System\\_\(HITS\)/Child\\_Abduction\\_Murder\\_Research/CMIIPDF.pdf](http://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/Supporting_Law_Enforcement/Homicide_Investigation_Tracking_System_(HITS)/Child_Abduction_Murder_Research/CMIIPDF.pdf) (Summary: <http://www.atg.wa.gov/child-abduction-murder-research>)

<sup>2</sup> Information from the CATCHEM database (Centralized analytical team collating homicide expertise and management). CEOP, United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup> '3.2. The common criteria for launching a cross border alert', part of 'Best practice for launching a crossborder child abduction alert', European Commission (DG Justice), 24 November 2008, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/rights/call\\_10014/ramc\\_ag\\_annex\\_5\\_2008\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/funding/rights/call_10014/ramc_ag_annex_5_2008_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> EuroNews, European Affairs Right On, 'Has anyone seen my child', 1 October 2012, <http://www.euronews.com/2012/10/01/has-anyone-seen-my-child/>

### 3. Better cross-border information sharing

Every endangered missing child deserves an equal chance of being found as quickly as possible and this must not be inhibited by them crossing borders. 37.5% of the EU population lives in border areas<sup>5</sup>, ensuring that information about endangered children is shared across borders is essential. Following the Schengen agreement<sup>6</sup> and the freedom of information, information on endangered missing children should immediately cross internal EU borders.

#### **CALL FOR ACTION**

AMBER Alert Europe calls for protocols to ensure that when a child is at risk in a border area or law enforcement suspects that the child may have crossed the border, law enforcement agencies in the other country are informed immediately. When law enforcement decides to inform the media and public about such a case, media and public at the other side of the border should also be immediately informed.

### 4. Better cross-border law enforcement cooperation

We recognise the requirements of the legal process within Member States, and organisations such as Europol, Frontex and Interpol. But it is essential that when a child's life is in danger law enforcement experts must be able to initiate immediate action. As a first step towards this, we are creating a European Police Network on missing children, currently consisting of over 35 law enforcement specialists from 12 countries, led by Charlie Hedges, a renowned expert in the field of missing children. These specialists will form a network of law enforcement authorities throughout Europe, to be the first point of contact in critical cases and to enable the sharing of good practice. We will work with all organisations to ensure that the above does not create overlap or conflicts but rather focus on enhancing the rapid response which is vital to safely locating endangered missing children.

#### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We call for the formal adoption of AMBER Alert Europe's Police Network, consisting of experts from national law enforcement agencies in the field of endangered missing children and child alerts. The network should be part of the law enforcement response and is to be appointed as such by the relevant authorities in each EU member state. We also call for all organisations, statutory and NGOs to work together for the common purpose of protecting vulnerable children.

<sup>5</sup> 'Missing children in the European Union, Mapping, data collection and statistics', research conducted by Ecorys for the European Commission, 2013, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamentalrights/files/missing\\_children\\_study\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamentalrights/files/missing_children_study_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> The European Agenda on Security, European Commission, Strasbourg, 28 April 2015, [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/basic-documents/docs/eu\\_agenda\\_on\\_security\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/basic-documents/docs/eu_agenda_on_security_en.pdf)

## 5. Improving the identification and protection of children at borders

To identify and protect children at risk at EU external borders, European Member States should make a best effort to immediately enter endangered missing children in the Schengen Information System (SIS II). Consequently, border guards should be actively informed about endangered missing children & AMBER Alerts by law enforcement agencies.

Raising awareness and providing practical guidance for border guards is essential to identify and protect children that may be at serious risk of harm such as trafficking, smuggling and abduction. AMBER Alert Europe and Frontex are actively cooperating with border guards on the VEGA children project, a training program and handbook for border guards.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We call for the mandatory insertion and prioritisation of endangered missing children in SIS II<sup>6</sup>, ensuring that international procedures for entering Article 32 Alerts<sup>7</sup> (Missing Persons) in SISII are always followed. In order for this to have effect, the passports of children leaving or entering the EU should be swiped and checked against, at the very least, national- and SISII databases.

### **CALL FOR ACTION**

We call for actively informing border guards, at the very least, about information on endangered missing children and AMBER Alerts made public by law enforcement agencies. Subsequently, we call for more awareness raising and practical guidance for border guards to identify and protect children at risk in close cooperation with Frontex.

<sup>7</sup> Coordination and cooperation in integrated child protection systems, European Commission, Brussels, 30 April 2015, [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/2015\\_forum\\_roc\\_background\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/2015_forum_roc_background_en.pdf)



# 03

## Annex

Analysis of AMBER Alerts  
and missing children in  
Europe 2015



# Analysis of AMBER Alerts and missing children in Europe



**amberalert.eu**

The European Child Rescue Alert & Police Network on  
Missing Children



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AMBER Alert Europe is registered  
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[488692317424-44](#)

and is recognized by the Dutch  
government as foundation with  
charitable status ("ANBI")

RSIN: 852414183

*Brussels, June 20th 2016*

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# Executive Summary

The main aim of this document is to gain knowledge and insight in the number of missing children publicised by law enforcement or police mandated organisations and the use of AMBER Alert mechanisms in Europe. This is based on figures made available by authorities from 21 European member states, and Switzerland. Furthermore, AMBER Alert Europe analysed these data on various parameters, such as nationality, age, gender and the recovery rate within one month.

The research was conducted by AMBER Alert Europe with public data collected from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 and has two main objectives:

- To collect and analyse data and to develop the basis to improve the mechanisms involved when children go missing in Europe;
- To identify differences between countries in missing children cases based on gender, age and the time in which the child was recovered safe and sound.

## Data identified AMBER Alerts

- In 2015, 29 AMBER Alerts were issued in 8 European countries: Czech Republic (n=14), Greece (n=6), the Netherlands (n=2), Poland (n=2), France (n=2), Cyprus (n=1), Ireland (n=1) and the United Kingdom (n=1);
- The AMBER Alerts involved 30 children;
- 89 percent of the AMBER Alert cases were solved within 24 hours (n=25);
- The average age of missing children for which an AMBER Alert was issued is 10 years old;

- The Czech Republic issued the majority of AMBER Alerts with 48 percent (n=14);
- On a monthly basis, most of the AMBER Alerts were issued in November (n=7) and April (n=5).

## Data identified missing children

- The criteria used by law enforcement to publish information on missing children varies per country;
- AMBER Alert Europe mapped 1848 missing children as publicised by law enforcement in 21 countries;
- On average, 75 percent of missing children mapped on [www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu) was recovered within one month.



# 01

## Introduction

# 1.1 Research objectives and approach

The aim of this document is to give insight in the number of AMBER Alerts<sup>1</sup> and missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe, based on figures on missing children publicised by authorities from 21 European member states, and Switzerland on their websites. The criteria to publicly report on missing children cases vary per country.

Estimations of the total amount of children who go missing in Europe every year vary from 250.000<sup>2</sup> to 1 million<sup>3</sup>. Missing children include several categories of child disappearances, including parental abductions, runaways, unaccompanied migrant minors, criminal abductions and lost, injured or otherwise missing children. A small sample of these children is shared by law enforcement or police mandated organisations.

For this report, AMBER Alert Europe collected statistics in two areas: 1) AMBER Alerts and 2) missing children publicised by law enforcement on their websites. While the data collected at 2 is not representative of the true missing children numbers, it does illustrate the disparity between countries in how they record and publicise them. With this report AMBER Alert Europe aims to emphasise the importance of AMBER Alert mechanisms and to enrich the discussion about the differences between member states responses to missing children.

## How AMBER Alert Europe Works

AMBER Alert Europe provides an always up-to-date overview of recent AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised by law enforcement in Europe. AMBER Alert Europe is the only European organisation that collects and maps data on AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised in Europe. AMBER Alert Europe informs its police expert network, member organizations and even European citizens (website/ social media) on active AMBER Alerts and missing children publicised by law enforcement in Europe.

## Missing children

AMBER Alert Europe only maps information made available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations websites as listed in annex A. Additionally, AMBER Alert Europe only maps information on missing children under the age of 18 who are missing less than one month. Information about missing child cases will be deleted from [www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu) once the child has been found or is missing longer than one month. AMBER Alert Europe only reproduces information published by law enforcement or an organisation mandated by them and does not make any decisions about risk or the circumstances of the child's reported disappearance.

<sup>1</sup> In this document, the name AMBER Alert refers to all child alerting systems, including those with alternate names such as Child Rescue Alert, Child Alert, Alerte Enlèvement etc.

<sup>2</sup> Ecorys, Study on missing children in the EU (2013) [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/missing\\_children\\_study\\_2013\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/missing_children_study_2013_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Euronews (2012) <http://www.euronews.com/2012/10/01/has-anyone-seen-my-child/>



## AMBER Alert systems in Europe

December 2015

Source: AMBER Alert Europe

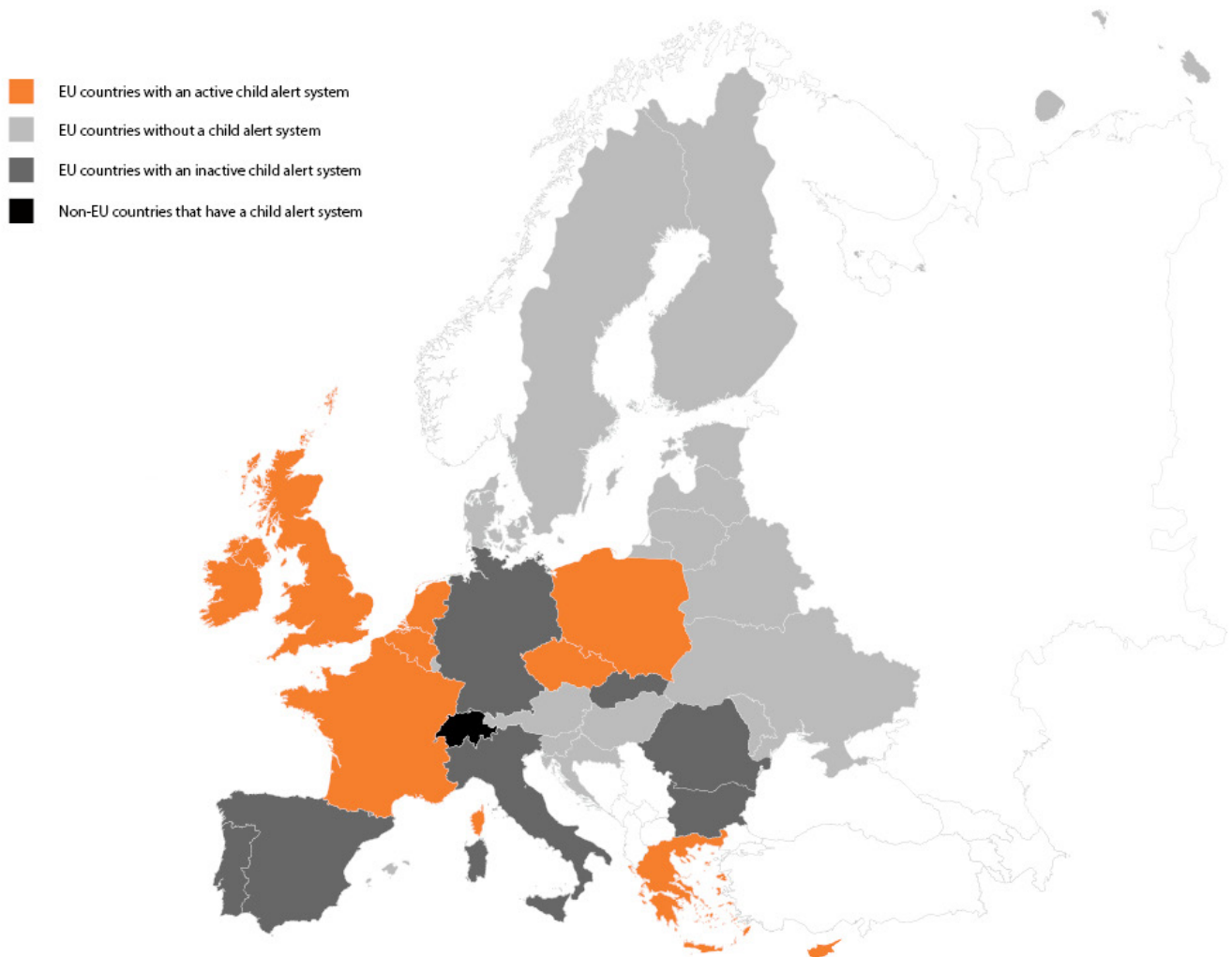


Image 1: AMBER Alert systems in Europe

## 1.2 Definitions

### AMBER Alert

When it is believed that the life or health of a missing child is in imminent danger, the police can issue an AMBER Alert. This allows the police to instantly alert the public and make sure everyone is on the lookout for the child. The national criteria for each country can be found further in this report. Most countries use criteria similar to the criteria recommended by the European Commission in 2008:

*Criteria for issuing an AMBER Alerts as recommended by the European Commission:*

1. The victim is a minor (i.e. under 18 years of age);
2. It is a proven abduction, there are clear elements indicating that it could be a case of abduction;

3. The health or the life of the victim is at high risk;
4. Information is available which, once disseminated, will allow the victim to be located;
5. Publication of this information is not expected to add to the risk facing the victim.

In the best interest of the child, countries like the UK, the Netherlands and France have issued AMBER Alerts without evidence for a proven abduction.

### Missing children

A missing child is considered endangered when there is an immediate and significant risk of harm but the case does not reach the criteria for an AMBER Alert. Police can decide to publicise information and ask the help of citizens to recover the child. However the criteria used by law enforcement to publicise information on a missing child's case vary per country.

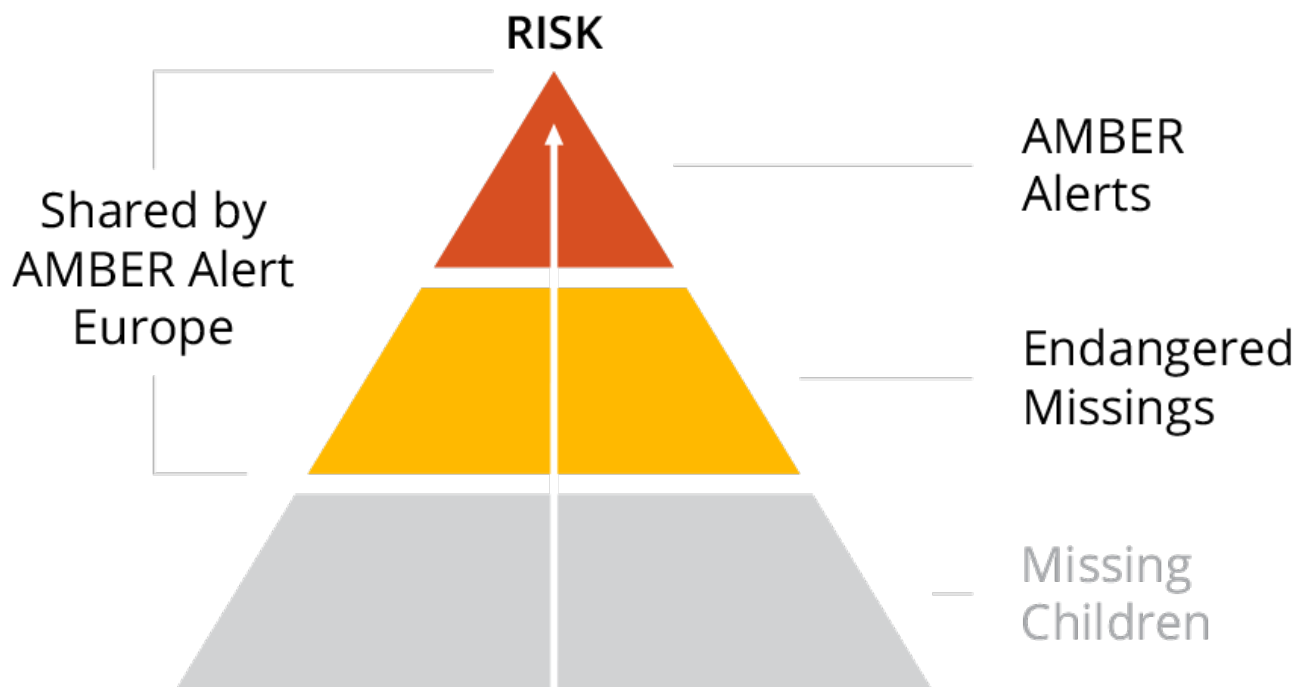


Image 2: Categories of risk. AMBER Alert Europe shares information on AMBER Alerts and (endangered) missing children with police experts partner organisations and European citizens.

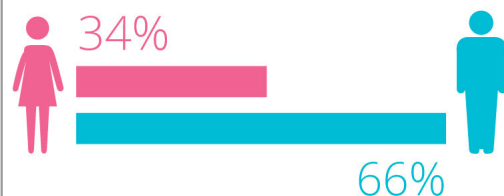
A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of the continents and major landmasses.

# 02

## **AMBER Alerts in Europe**

**29** AMBER ALERTS  
IN THE **EU** IN 2015

In **2014** there  
were **25**  
AMBER Alerts



**27** children  
were **successfully** recovered

**89%**  
was recovered  
within **24 hours**

AVERAGE AGE: **10**

**47%**

of the countries that  
have an AMBER alert  
system, issued an  
alert in **2015**



## 2.1 AMBER Alerts: 29

In total 16 EU member states have an AMBER Alert system in place: Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom. In addition, Switzerland has an AMBER Alert system in place too.<sup>4</sup>

By the end of 2015, 8 AMBER Alert systems have been used more than once by law enforcement agencies: Belgium (n=2), Czech Republic (n=138), Netherlands (n=22), France (n=15), Greece (n=30+), Ireland (n=5), Poland (n=2), United Kingdom (n=3). In addition, 3 AMBER Alert systems have been used once, namely in Germany, Cyprus and Italy. The German and the Cypriot AMBER Alert system have both been used once, Italy partially used the system once.<sup>4</sup>

The 6 remaining countries with an AMBER Alert system have never used it, that is to say Bulgaria, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain

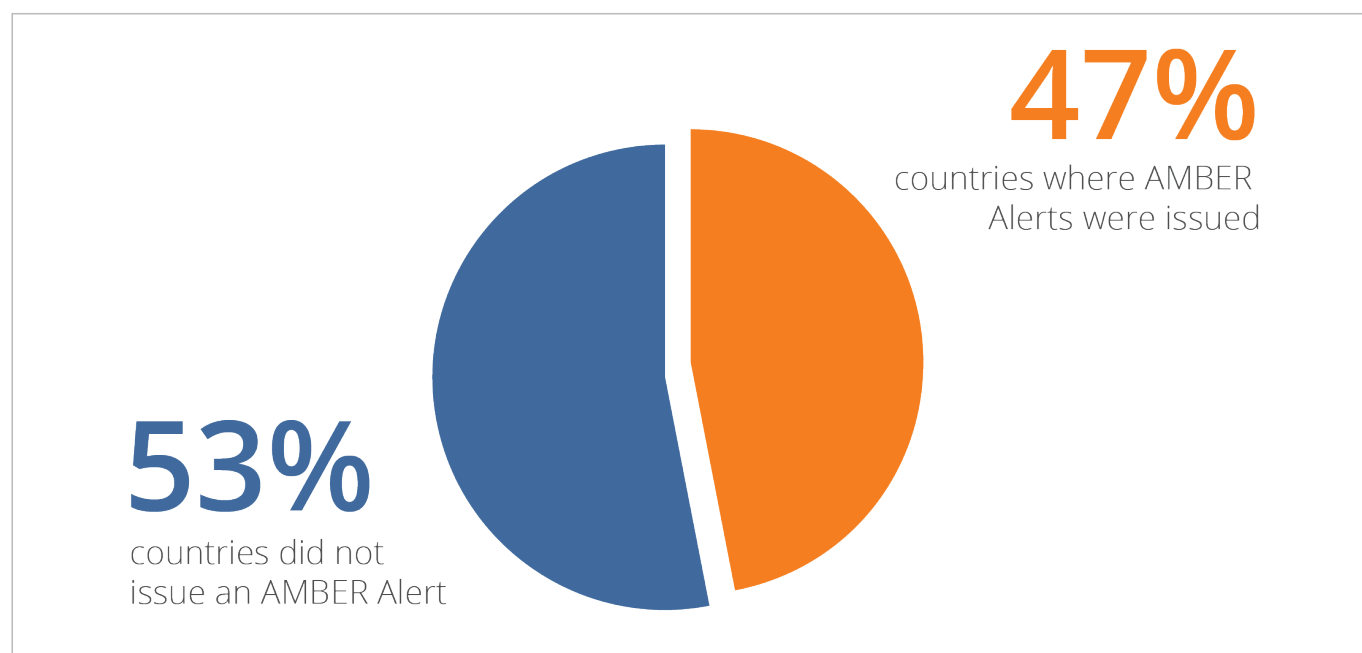
and Switzerland. Additionally, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovenia and Sweden do not have an AMBER Alert system in place.<sup>4</sup>

### Total AMBER Alerts in 2015

In 2015, 29 AMBER Alerts have been issued. The AMBER Alerts involved 30 children: one AMBER Alert was issued for multiple children (Greece, n=2). 47% of the countries that have an AMBER Alert system in place, issued an alert in 2015 (n=8).

### Range and use of European AMBER Alerts

From 1 January to 31 December 2015, 29 AMBER Alerts were issued in 8 European member states. The Czech Republic issued the majority of AMBER Alerts with 48 percent (n=14). Greece accounted for 21 percent of the AMBER Alerts (n=6). France (n=2), the Netherlands (n=2) and Poland (n=2) account each for 7 percent of the AMBER Alerts followed by Cyprus (n=1), Ireland (n=1) and the United Kingdom (n=1), both accounting for 3 percent.



Graph 1: AMBER Alert use (% countries with an AMBER Alert system in place that issued AMBER Alerts in 2015)

<sup>4</sup> Data retrieved on 1 January 2016

### Time between reported missing and recovery

Of the 30 missing children for which an AMBER Alert was issued (29 AMBER Alerts), 27 children were safely recovered (96%), of which most children even within 24 hours (n=25).<sup>5</sup>

1 child has not been recovered safely, she was murdered (Greece). The whereabouts of 2 children are unknown to AMBER Alert Europe (Czech Republic (n=1) and Cyprus (n=1)). There is no information available about the Cypriot AMBER Alert case. Additionally, in case a child is still missing at the time of withdrawal of a Czech alert, authorities do not publicly notify if the child has been found at a later moment. Therefore, these data were not known to AMBER Alert Europe.

### Age and gender of missing children (AMBER Alerts)

The average age of children (n=30) for which an AMBER Alert was issued, is 10 years old. 66 percent of the AMBER Alerts were issued for boys (n=19).<sup>6</sup>

Graph 3 shows 18 percent of the AMBER Alert cases were represented by children (both boys and girls) younger than 6 years old (n=5). Most missing boys were aged between 6 and 10 years old (n=7) and between 11-15 years old (n=7), while most missing girls were aged between 11 and 15 years old (n=6). The age of 2 children is unknown. As a result, these cases were not taken into account.

### Number of AMBER Alert cases per month

Graph 4 shows the number of AMBER Alerts issued per month ranges from a low of 4 alerts in the first quarter to a high of 10 alerts in the last quarter of 2015. Furthermore, most AMBER Alerts were issued in April (n=5) and November (n=7).

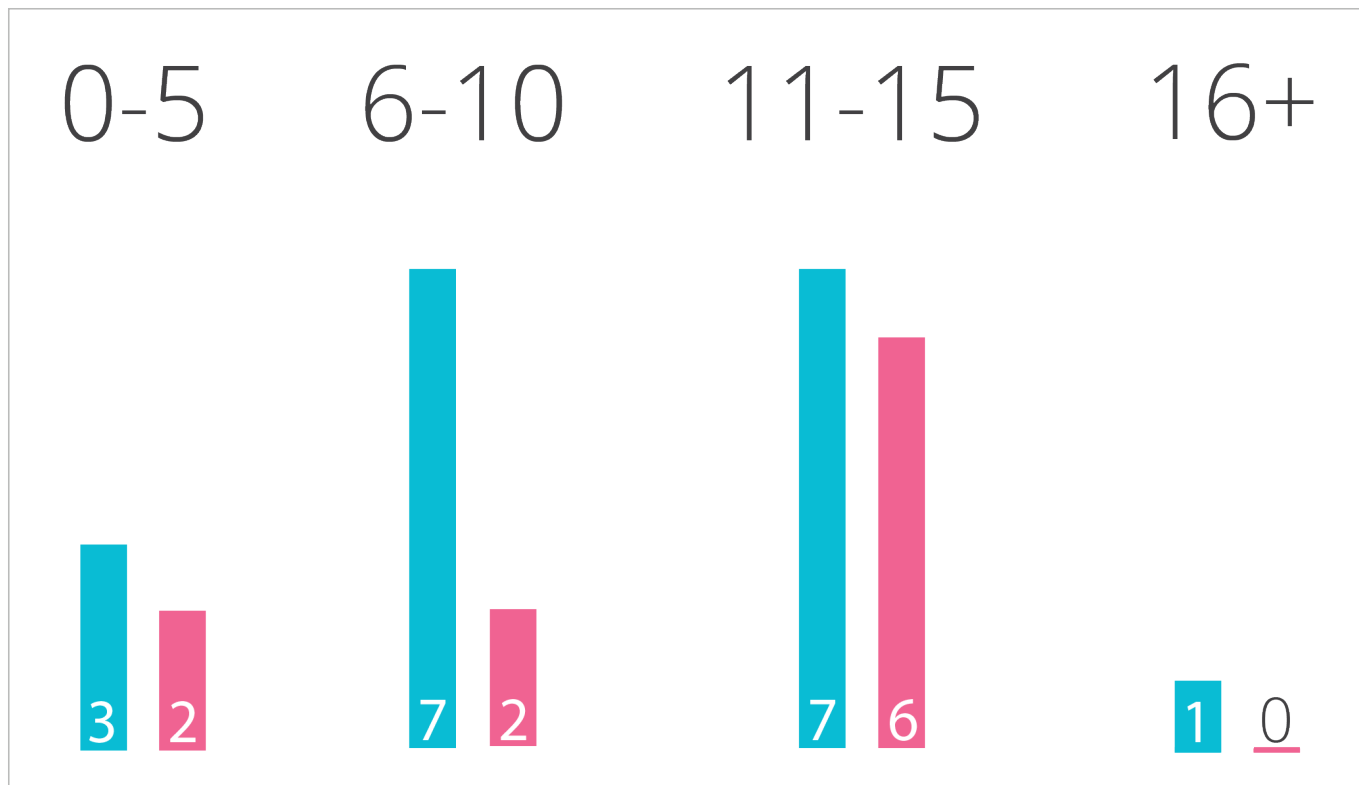


Graph 2: Time span recovered children AMBER Alerts 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015

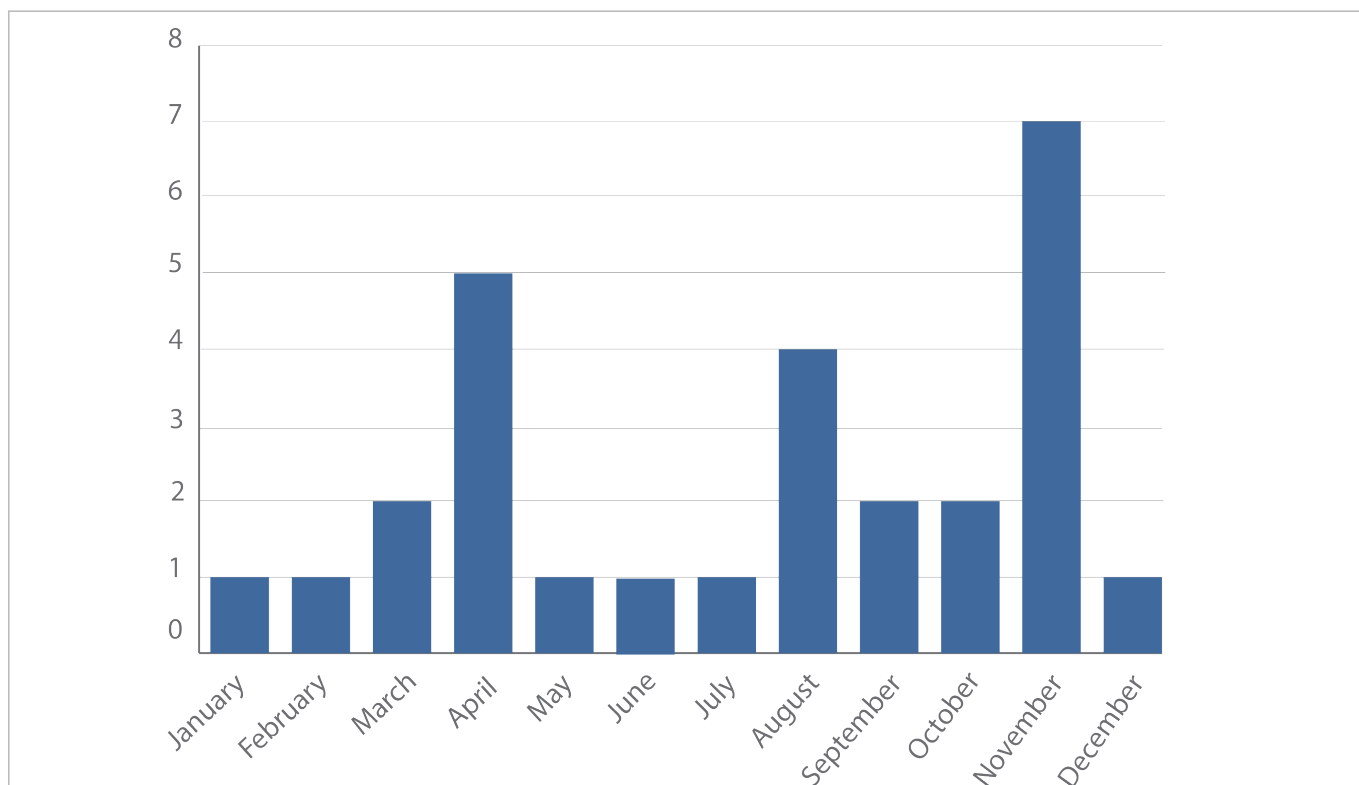
<sup>5</sup> The whereabouts of two children are unknown to AMBER Alert Europe. As a result, these cases were not taken into account.

<sup>6</sup> There is no information available about the sex and age of the Cypriot AMBER Alert (n=1). Also, AMBER Alert Europe has no information available about the age of 1 Czech AMBER Alert. As a result, this case was not taken into account.





Graph 3: Age and gender of missing children (n=30) for whom an AMBER Alert was issued (n=29). The age of 2 children and the gender of 1 child is unknown to AMBER Alert Europe. As a result, these cases were not taken into account.



Graph 4: Number of AMBER Alert cases by monthly activations from 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2015. The date of 1 AMBER Alert is unknown to AMBER Alert Europe. As a result, this case is not taken into account.



# 03

**Missing children  
mapped in Europe**

# 1848

MISSING CHILDREN MAPPED ON  
WWW.AMBERALERT.EU IN 2015

In 2014 there were

## 1739

missing children

In 2014 the  
average age was

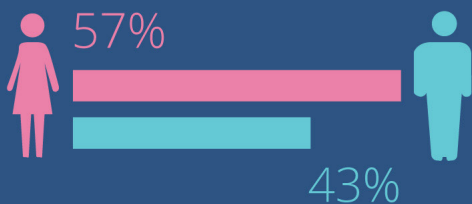
## 14

75% of the missing children  
were **successfully** recovered  
within one month

AVERAGE AGE

## 14

in 2014  
62% girls and  
38% boys  
were  
missing



## 86%

of the missing children  
in the **last quarter** had  
a photo available

Q1 374 missing children

Q2 439 missing children

Q3 477 missing children

Q4 557 missing children

### FEBRUARY

Least children missing (105)

Least **boys** missing (30)

### MAY

Least **girls** missing (68)

### 159

children missing every month

### NOVEMBER

Most **girls** missing (111)

### DECEMBER

Most children missing (202)

Most **boys** missing (101)

## 3.1 Mapped: 1848 missing children

This section will give an insight into the statistics regarding missing children cases mapped by AMBER Alert Europe as described below. As the data are only partial, they cannot be used to draw conclusions on the number, gender, age and recovery rate of missing children in Europe.

The criteria used by law enforcement to publicise information on a missing child's case vary per country. Table 1 shows country specific information on missing children, age, gender ratio and recovery rate within one month.

This section will give an insight into the statistics regarding missing children cases mapped by AMBER Alert Europe as described below. As the data are only partial, they cannot be used to draw conclusions on the number, gender, age and recovery rate of missing children in Europe.

The criteria used by law enforcement and police mandated organisations to publicise information on a missing children cases vary per country. Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because, thankfully, the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate). A very small percentage of those missing children cases will

be suitable for an AMBER Alert, which is why an effective triage process to assess risk is essential and recommended by AMBER Alert Europe. For more information on risk assessment, see articles and videos on our website.

AMBER Alert Europe maps those cases publicised by law enforcement and police mandated organisations on their national websites as listed in [annex A](#). Additionally, AMBER Alert Europe only maps information on missing children under the age of 18 who are missing less than one month. Information about missing child cases will be deleted from [www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu) once the child has been found or is missing longer than one month.

Estimations of the total number of children go missing in Europe every year vary from 250.000<sup>7</sup> to 1 million<sup>8</sup>. Previous research (Missing Children in the European Union. Mapping, data collection and statistics 2013) shows that there are inconsistencies between countries in the way that they record missing children and therefore the annual total of reports. The current publicity surrounding missing migrant children, with Europol stating that there are more than 10,000 refugee children missing and the Summit Report 2016 shows that there is underreporting and incoherent data. These variations are also reflected in the number of cases mapped by AMBER Alert Europe. All of this highlights the need for more consistency in the way that missing children are responded to as it is currently a lottery depending on which country they go missing in as to how this is dealt with.

<sup>7</sup> Ecorys, Study on missing children in the EU (2013) <http://www.ecorys.nl/english/projecten/study-missing-children-eu>

<sup>8</sup> Euronews (2012) <http://www.euronews.com/2012/10/01/has-anyone-seen-my-child/>

## Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 1848 on her website. For 30 of these children an AMBER Alert was issued (n=29). Table 1 shows country specific information on missing children: age, gender ratio and recovery rate within one month.

<sup>9</sup>The criteria used by law enforcement to publicise information on missing children cases vary per country. There is no information available on Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia. Therefore these countries are not included in this table.

<sup>10</sup>Total missing children mapped on [www.amberalert.eu](http://www.amberalert.eu). AMBER Alert Europe only maps information made available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations. Additionally, AMBER Alert Europe only maps information on missing children under the age of 18 who are missing less than one month.

<sup>11</sup> The whereabouts of 1 child are unknown to AMBER Alert Europe. As a result, this was not taken into account.

<sup>12</sup> No numbers available about 1 case to AMBER Alert Europe. As a result this case was not taken into account.

<sup>13</sup> Not an EU member state

<sup>14</sup> Weighted average age of missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe. The average age is weighted per country. The arithmetic average is 13 years old (arithmetic mean is the sum of a collection of numbers divided by the number of numbers in the collection).

Country <sup>9</sup>	Total missing children mapped <sup>10</sup>	Average age	%male	%female	Recovery rate within one month
Austria	6	10	100%	0%	33%
Belgium	26	14	19%	81%	54%
Bulgaria	15	13	20%	80%	40%
Croatia	259	15	41%	59%	81%
Cyprus <sup>11</sup>	5	7	50%	50%	25%
Czech Republic <sup>12</sup>	14	11	64%	36%	100%
Denmark	2	6	100%	0%	100%
France	47	12	28%	62%	47%
Germany	52	13	25%	75%	75%
Greece	22	12	41%	59%	91%
Hungary	651	15	49%	51%	73%
Ireland	24	15	62%	38%	88%
Italy	12	15	34%	66%	83%
Latvia	14	15	29%	71%	36%
Luxembourg	5	12	60%	40%	60%
Netherlands	74	13	31%	72%	97%
Poland	435	14	27%	63%	79%
Romania	12	12	50%	50%	17%
Spain	14	14	29%	61%	36%
Sweden	23	14	35%	65%	78%
Switzerland <sup>13</sup>	14	10	71%	29%	79%
United Kingdom	122	15	52%	48%	71%
Total	1848	14 <sup>14</sup>	43%	57%	75%

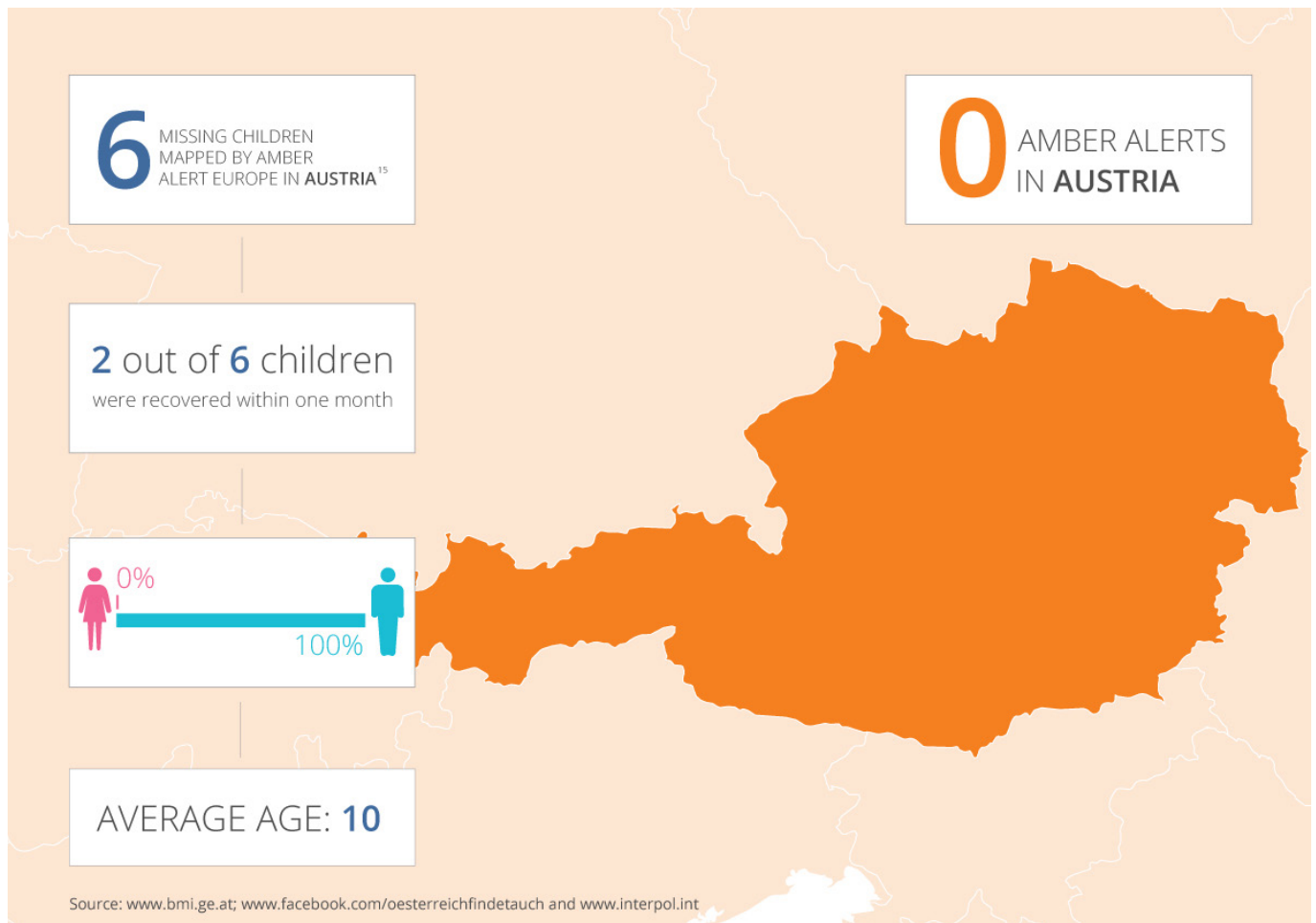
Table 1: information on missing children, age, gender ratio and recovery rate within one month.





# 04

**Austria**



## AMBER Alerts

Austria does not have an AMBER Alert system in place.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 6 cases of missing children that were reported by Austrian law enforcement 2015.<sup>15</sup>

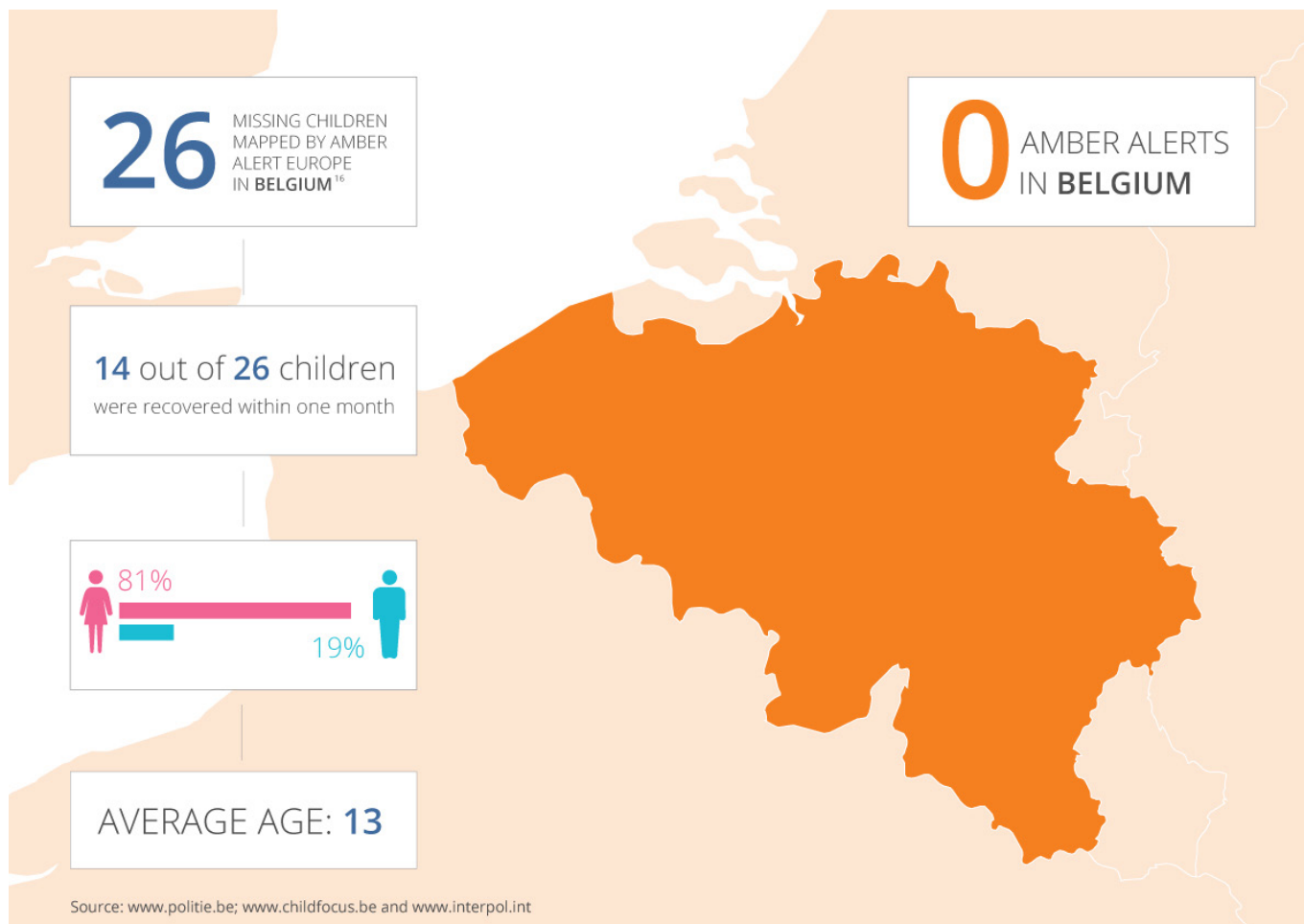
- Average age: 10 years old;
- All cases involved missing boys;
- 2 children were recovered within one month.

<sup>15</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.bmi.gv.at](http://www.bmi.gv.at); [www.facebook.com/oesterreichfindetauch](https://www.facebook.com/oesterreichfindetauch) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue page. The map shows the outlines of the major landmasses of Europe, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region.

# 05

**Belgium**



### AMBER Alerts (Child Alert)

No AMBER Alerts were issued in 2015, although Belgium has an AMBER Alert system in place.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Belgium:*

- Life of the child is in danger
- Official request from the State who ask the launching of the alert
- Serious elements of the presence of the child in Belgium

*The display of AMBER Alerts in Belgium*

Belgian AMBER Alerts are displayed across the country on internet banners, social media, TV,

Radio, traffic signs on the motorway and a paper poster campaign if needed.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

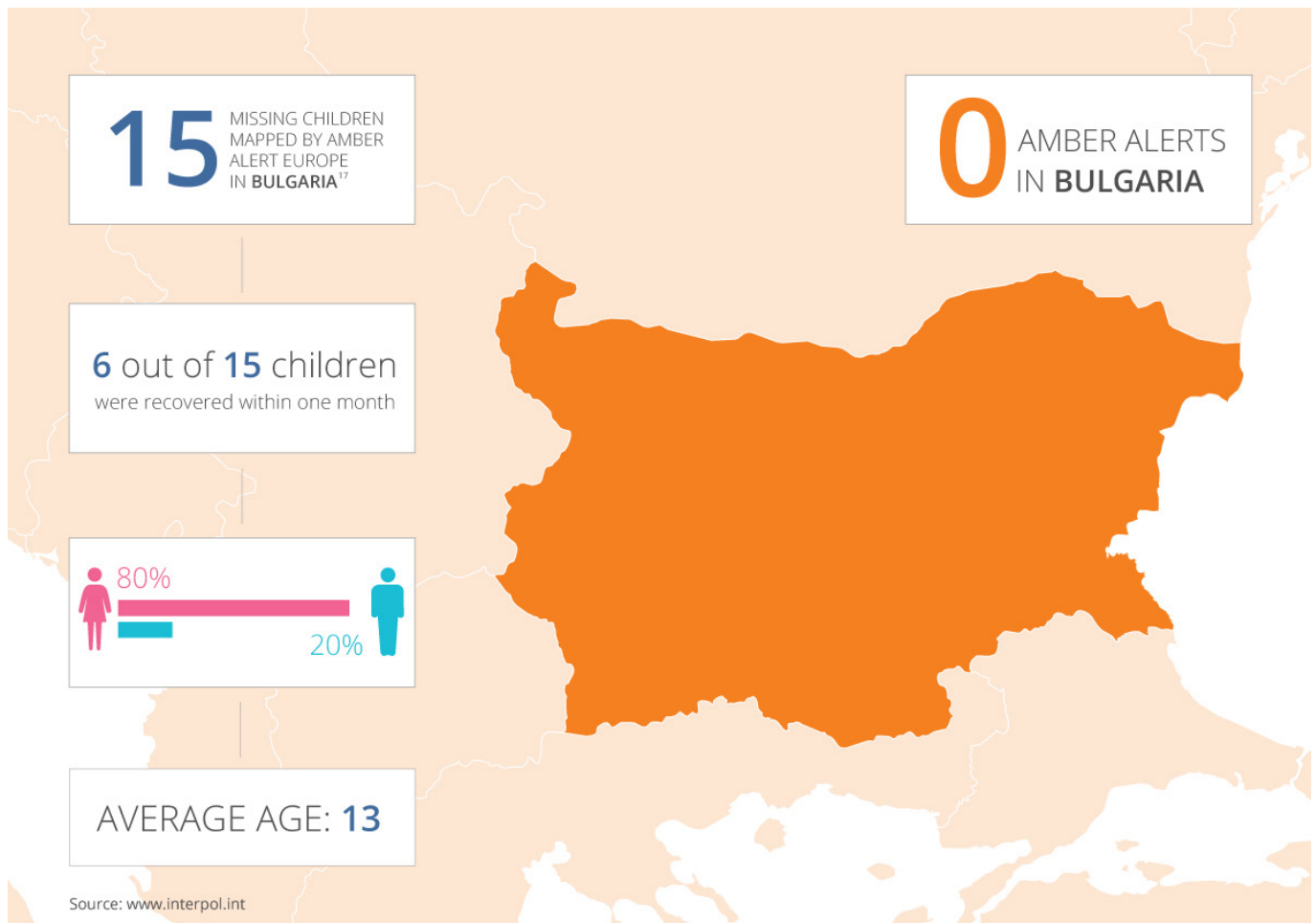
In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 26 missing children cases reported by Belgian law enforcement.<sup>16</sup>

- Average age: 14 years old
- 81 percent girls (n=21); 19 percent boys (n=5).
- 14 of the 26 missing children were recovered within one month (54%)

<sup>16</sup>Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.politie.be](http://www.politie.be); [www.childfocus.be](http://www.childfocus.be) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 06

**Bulgaria**



### **AMBER Alerts (European Child Alert Automated System (ECAAS))**

There were no AMBER Alerts issued Bulgaria in 2015. Nevertheless, Bulgaria has an AMBER Alert system, but has never used it before.

### **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 15 cases of missing children that were reported by Bulgarian law enforcement in 2015.<sup>17</sup>

- Average age: 13 years old;
- 80 percent of the cases involved girls (n=12);
- 6 of the 15 children gone missing were recovered within one month (40%).

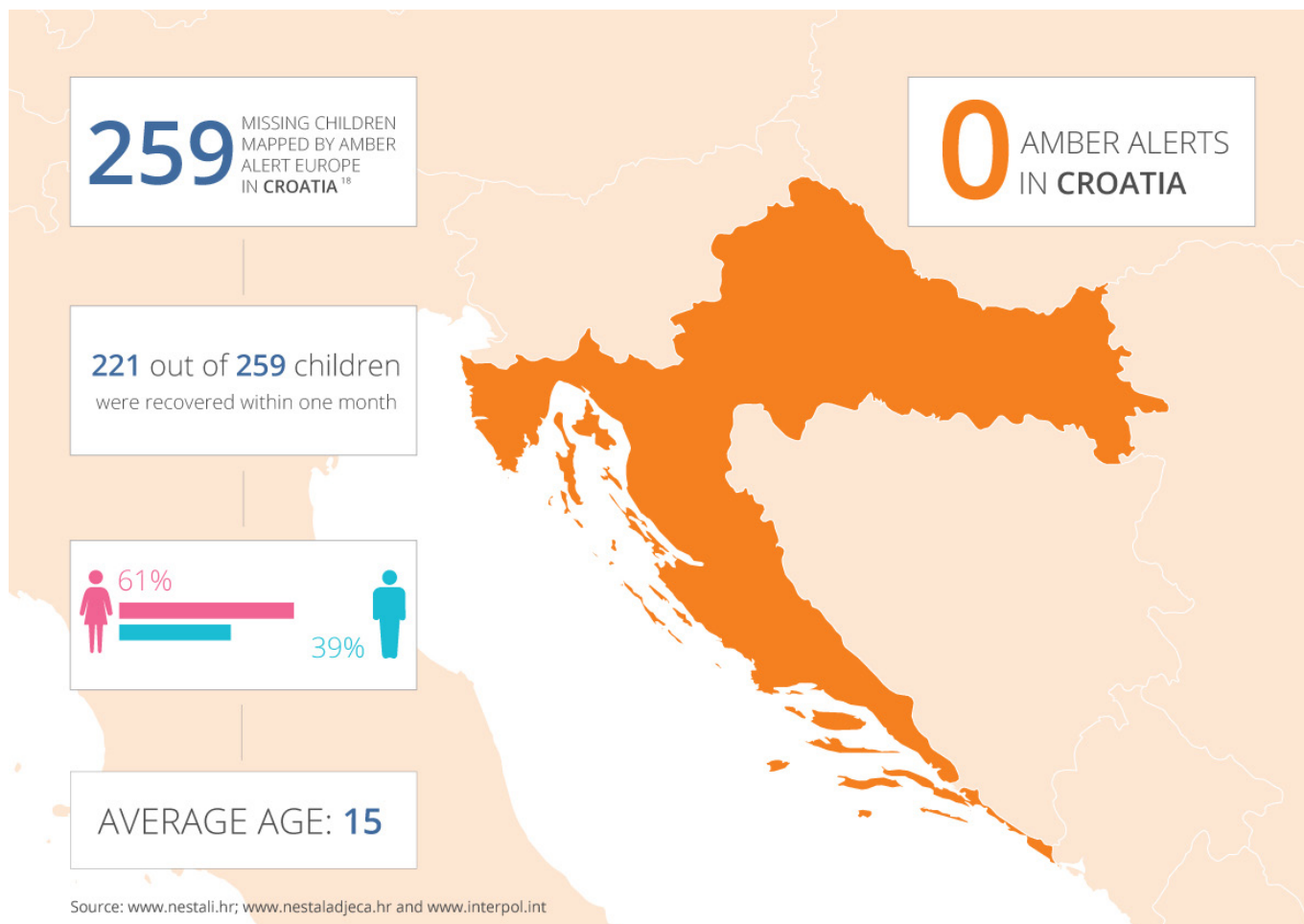
<sup>17</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).



A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue cover. The map shows the outlines of the continents and major countries.

# 07

**Croatia**



## AMBER Alerts

Croatia does not have an AMBER Alert system in place.

## Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 259 Croatian missing children cases.<sup>18</sup>

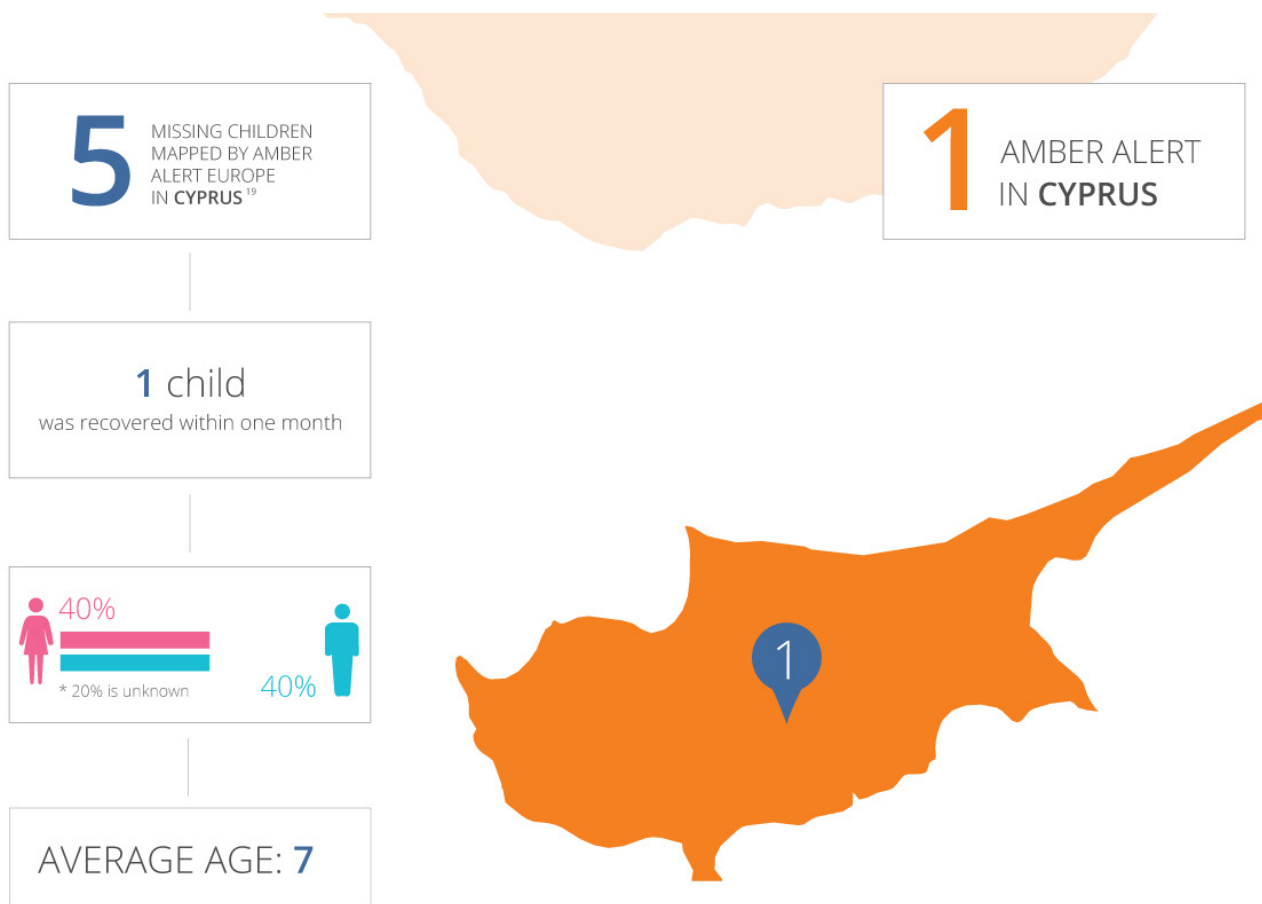
- Average Age: 15 years old;
- 61 percent of the cases involved girls (n=153), 39 percent concerned boys (n=106);
- 81 percent of missing children was recovered within one month (n=247).

<sup>18</sup>Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.nestali.hr](http://www.nestali.hr); [www.nestaladjeca.hr](http://www.nestaladjeca.hr) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is visible in the background of the dark blue page. The map shows the outlines of the major landmasses of Europe, including the British Isles, Scandinavia, and the Mediterranean region.

# 08

**Cyprus**



Source: [www.childalert.org.cy](http://www.childalert.org.cy) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int)

### AMBER Alerts (Child Alert)

In 2015, the Cypriot police issued 1 AMBER Alert. However, there is no information available about this case.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Cyprus:*

- Report declaring the disappearance by the Cyprus Police or a relevant international body
- Affidavit of parent(s)/guardian(s), i.e. written consent for use of personal data and photograph

- In the case of parental abduction, custody document and all accompanying legal documents as well as evidence that the child's well-being is at severe risk or danger
- In case of unilateral guardianship a true copy of the judicial decision that proves guardianship rights

#### *Technical tools available for dissemination*

In Cyprus, AMBER Alerts are shown by transport and billboard companies, banks, radio stations, electronic media and printed messages.

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

In Cyprus, there were 5 missing children cases reported by law enforcement (including the AMBER Alert case) which were mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>19</sup> There is no information available about 1 missing child's case (the AMBER Alert). As a result, this case was not taken into account in the results below.

- Average age: 7 years old;
- 2 cases involved girls and 2 cases involved boys;
- 1 child was recovered within one month.

<sup>19</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations [www.childalert.org.cy](http://www.childalert.org.cy) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 09

## Czech Republic





### AMBER Alerts (The National Coordination Mechanism for Missing Children (NKMPPD))

The Czech Republic issued the majority of AMBER Alerts with 48 percent (n=14). The average age of the children for which an AMBER Alerts was issued was 10 years old, which is exactly the European average. The high number of AMBER Alerts might be explained by the criteria. According to the Czech authorities, law enforcement also issues AMBER Alerts for endangered missing children. As in most European countries AMBER Alerts are only issued for 'life or death' cases, the Czech Republic does not require this condition.

The numbers on gender and recovery rate also reflect the European average. 56 percent of the cases involved missing boys (n=8). 13 children were recovered within 24 hours (93%).

The whereabouts of 1 child are unknown to AMBER Alert Europe. In case of a child which is still missing at the time of withdrawal of the alert, Czech authorities do not publicly notify if and when the child has been found at a later moment. Therefore these data were not known to AMBER Alert Europe. This procedure is unique for Europe.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in the Czech Republic:*

- The missing child is under 15 years of age and his/her life or health is in danger plus any of the following criteria:

- The child may become a victim of an accident due to his/her age
  - The child has no access to his/her life-supporting medicine
  - The child is physically or psychologically handicapped
  - The case involves abduction with signs of violence, with the potential offender suffering from mental condition, unstable with possible unforeseeable reactions, or when previous threats by the potential offender or other circumstantial evidence suggest that the child's life or health are in danger.
- The child is aged 15 to 18 and subject to other conditions (i.e. the child is physically or mentally handicapped or has no access to the life-supporting medicine)

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

The Czech Republic issues AMBER Alerts via TV channels, radio stations, internet, online broadcasting and email.

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

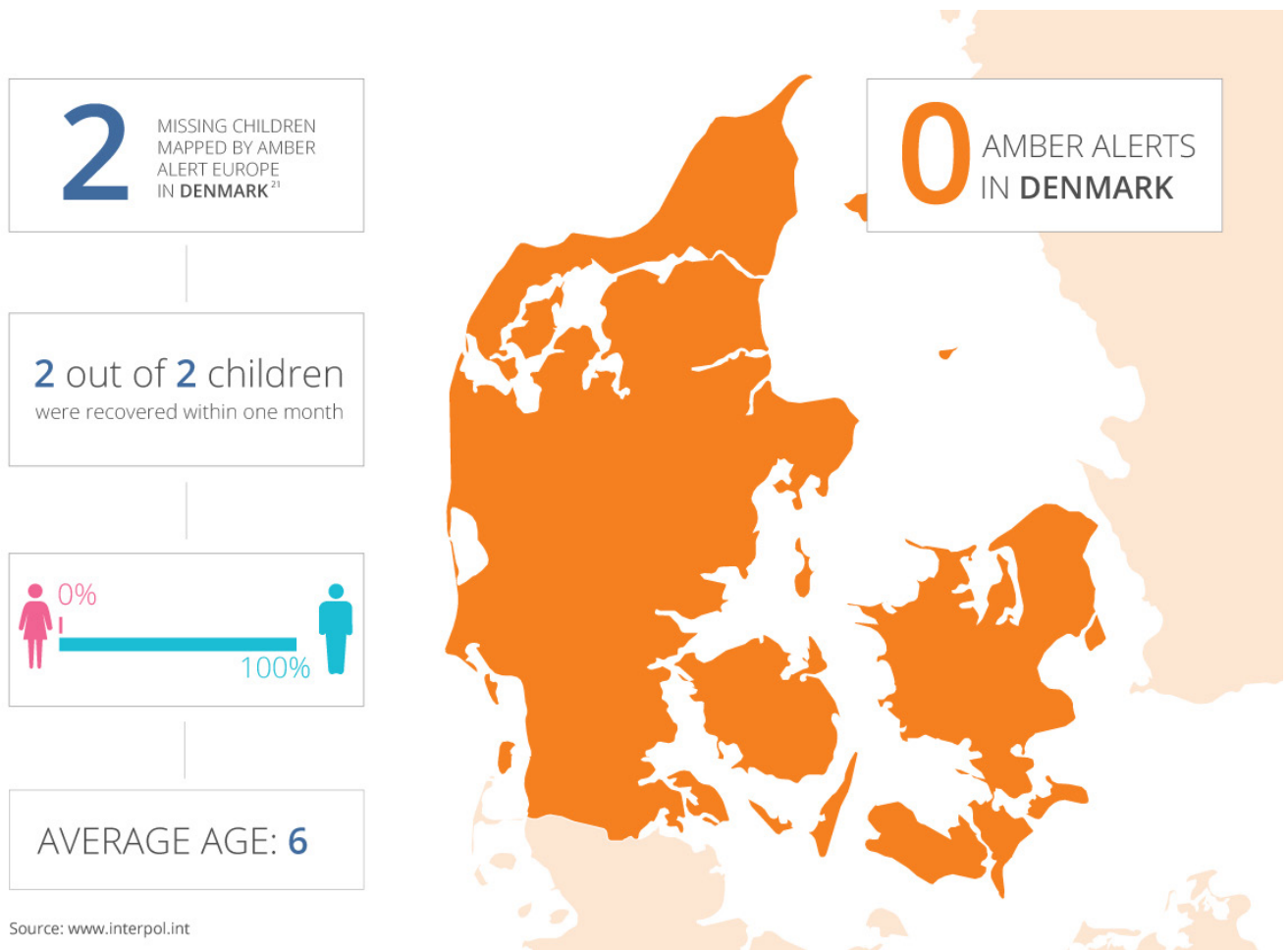
AMBER Alert Europe only mapped the AMBER Alerts in the Czech Republic. <sup>20</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.policie.cz](http://www.policie.cz). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).



# 10

**Denmark**



### AMBER Alerts

Denmark does not have an AMBER Alert system in place, hence no AMBER Alerts were issued.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 2 missing children cases that were reported by Danish law enforcement.<sup>21</sup>

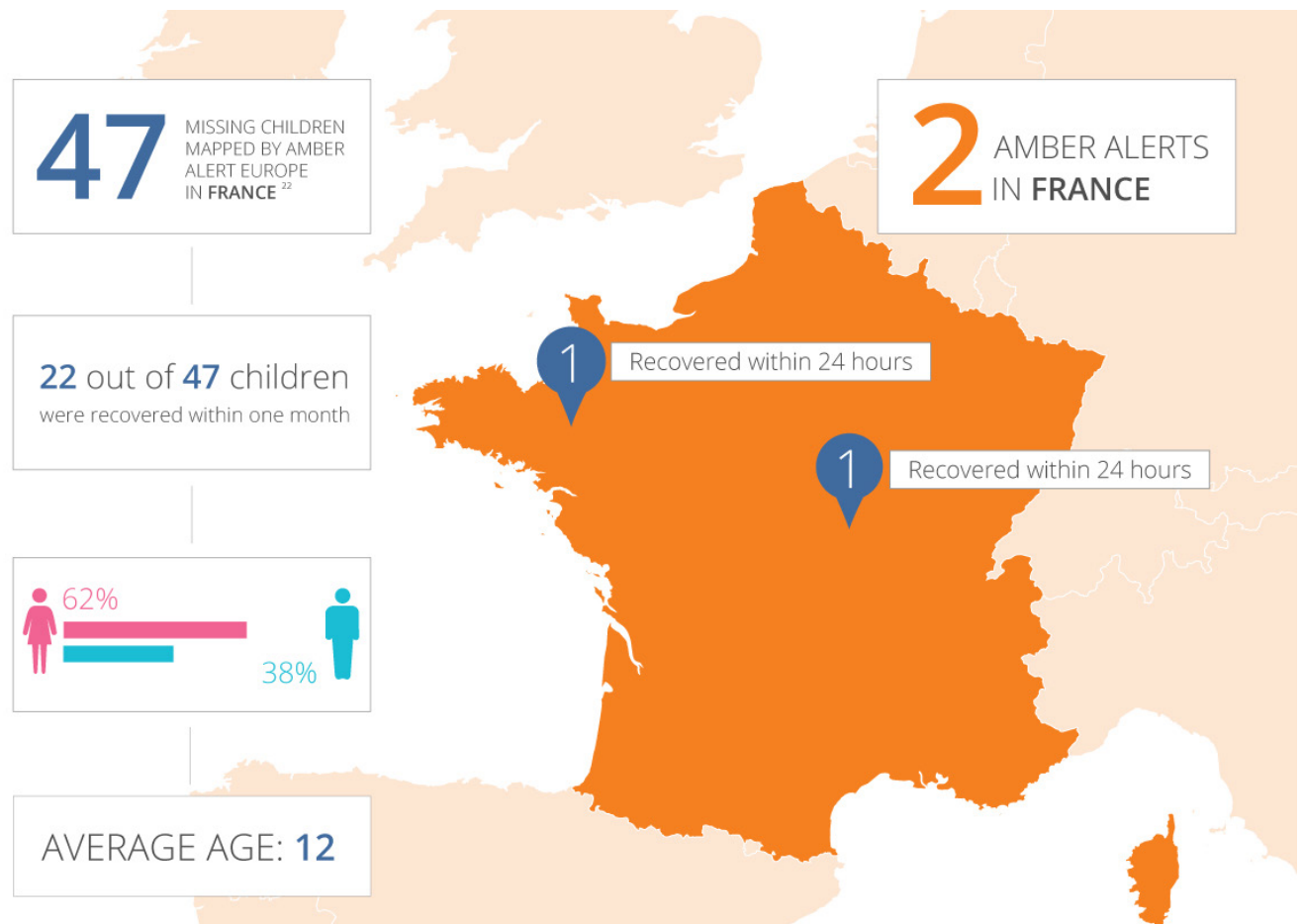
- Average age: 6 years old;
- Both cases involved boys;
- Both children were recovered within one month.

<sup>21</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 11

**France**



### AMBER Alerts (Alerte Enlèvement)

In 2015, 2 AMBER Alerts were issued in France ( $\bar{x}=6$ ). One case involved a girl, the other a boy.

The first AMBER Alert was issued in April for a 7-year old girl from Sancy. She was found within 24 hours after someone recognised her following the AMBER Alert. The second AMBER Alert was issued in August for a 4-year old boy from Rennes. This child was also recognised following the AMBER Alert, resulting in a quick recovery (less than 24 hours).

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in France:*

- Victim is a minor
- Abduction confirmed
- Victim is in danger
- Existence of elements to distribute

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

French AMBER Alerts are displayed and issued across the country on TV, radio, billboards, email, social media and digital screens. There are also partnerships with major transport companies and social networks to provide information on the missing children.



## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 47 cases of missing children which were reported by law enforcement in France.<sup>22</sup>

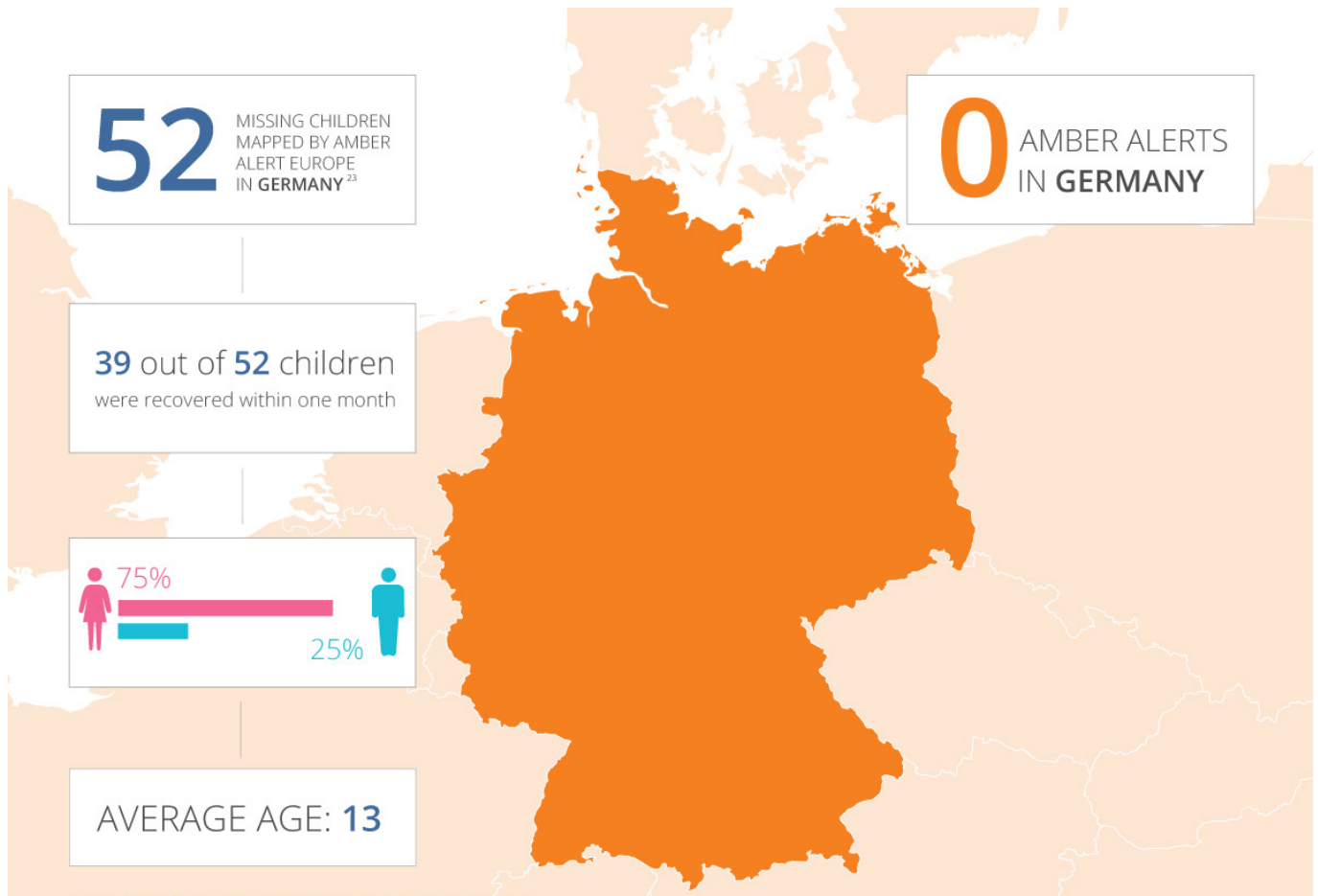
- Average age: 12 years old;
- 38 percent of the cases involved boys (n=18), 62 percent concerned girls (n=29);
- 22 children were recovered within one month (47%).

<sup>22</sup>Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr](http://www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).



# 12

**Germany**



### AMBER Alerts

In 2015, the German Police did not issue any AMBER Alerts. Nevertheless, the German NGO responsible for issuing AMBER Alerts closely worked together with the Polish Police in issuing a cross border AMBER Alert. As a result of this swift cooperation, the girl was found quickly in Germany.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Germany:*

- The missing child is 14 years or younger
- The investigators assume the missing youngster is in physical danger or in a life-threatening situation (for example an abduction)

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

A German AMBER Alert is issued to press and citizens via email, Apps, QR Code, social media (Facebook, Twitter), SMS (only locally), Radio, TV, digital billboards (metro stations, railway stations, shopping malls, airports).

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

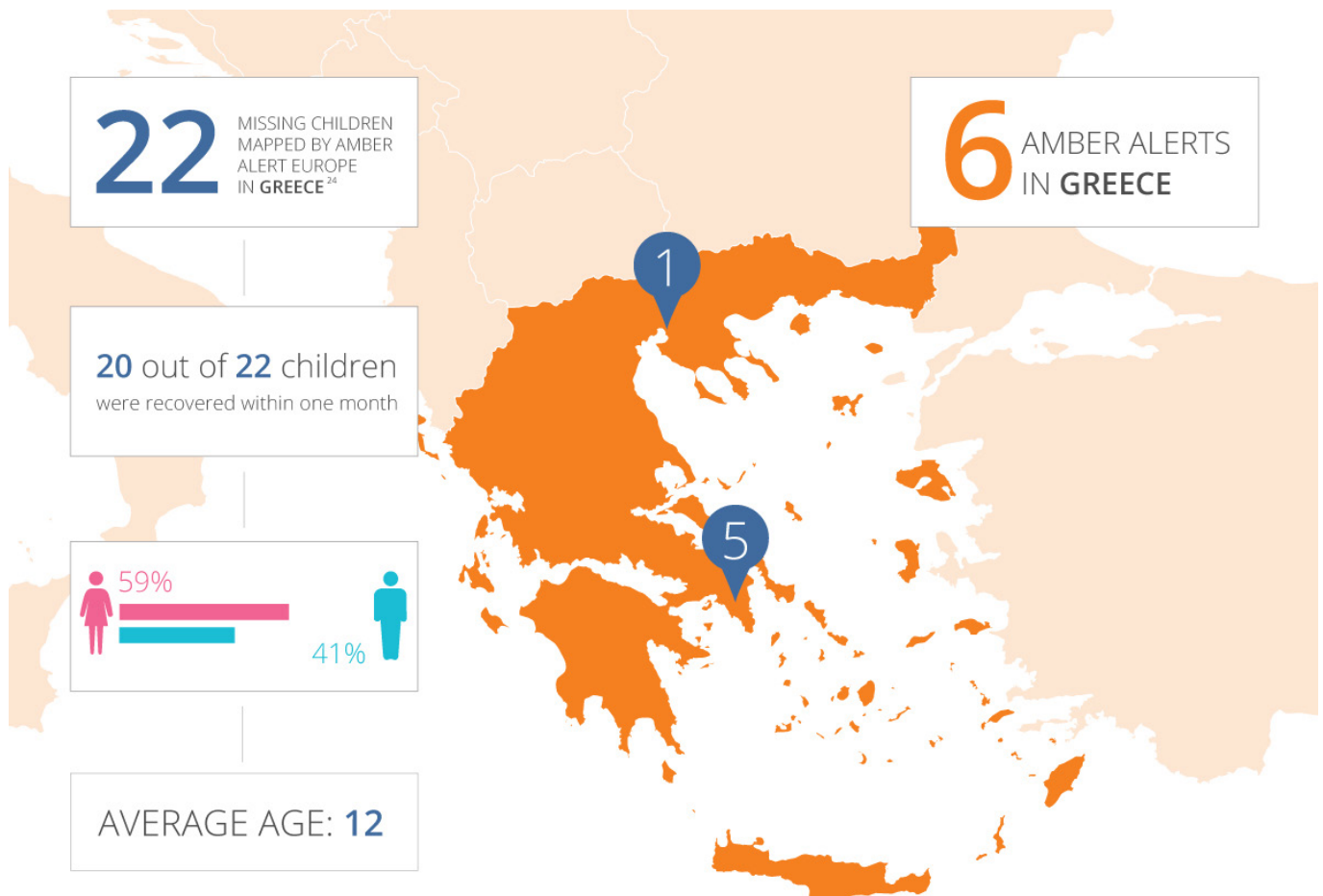
In 2015, there were 52 missing children cases in Germany mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>23</sup>

- Average age 13 years old;
- 39 girls (75%)
- 75 percent of the children was recovered within one month.

<sup>23</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.initiative-vermisste-kinder.de](http://www.initiative-vermisste-kinder.de) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 13

Greece



### AMBER Alerts (AMBER Alert Hellas)

In 2015, 6 AMBER Alerts (7 children) were reported by Greek police mandated organisations. The children, 6 boys, 1 girl, had an average age of 10 years old. One AMBER Alert was issued for 2 children. 5 AMBER Alerts (6 children) had a positive outcome: the children, all boys, were found safe and well. The girl (4 years old) for whom an AMBER Alert had been issued, has been murdered.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Greece:*

- The child involved is a minor
- Strong indications that the minor's life or health might be in danger
- Suspicion that the child might have been abducted
- The launch of the AMBER Alert will offer assistance in locating the child

- Police determines that the activation of the Amber Alert will not endanger the minor's life

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

When an AMBER Alert in Greece is issued, the Greek Police informs the public via posters, SMS text messages, social media, radio, TV and highway signs.

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

In 2015, 22 missing children publicised by law enforcement or police mandated organisations in Greece were mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>24</sup>

- Average age: 12 years old;
- 59 percent concerned girls (n=13);
- 91 percent of the children was recovered within one month (n=20).

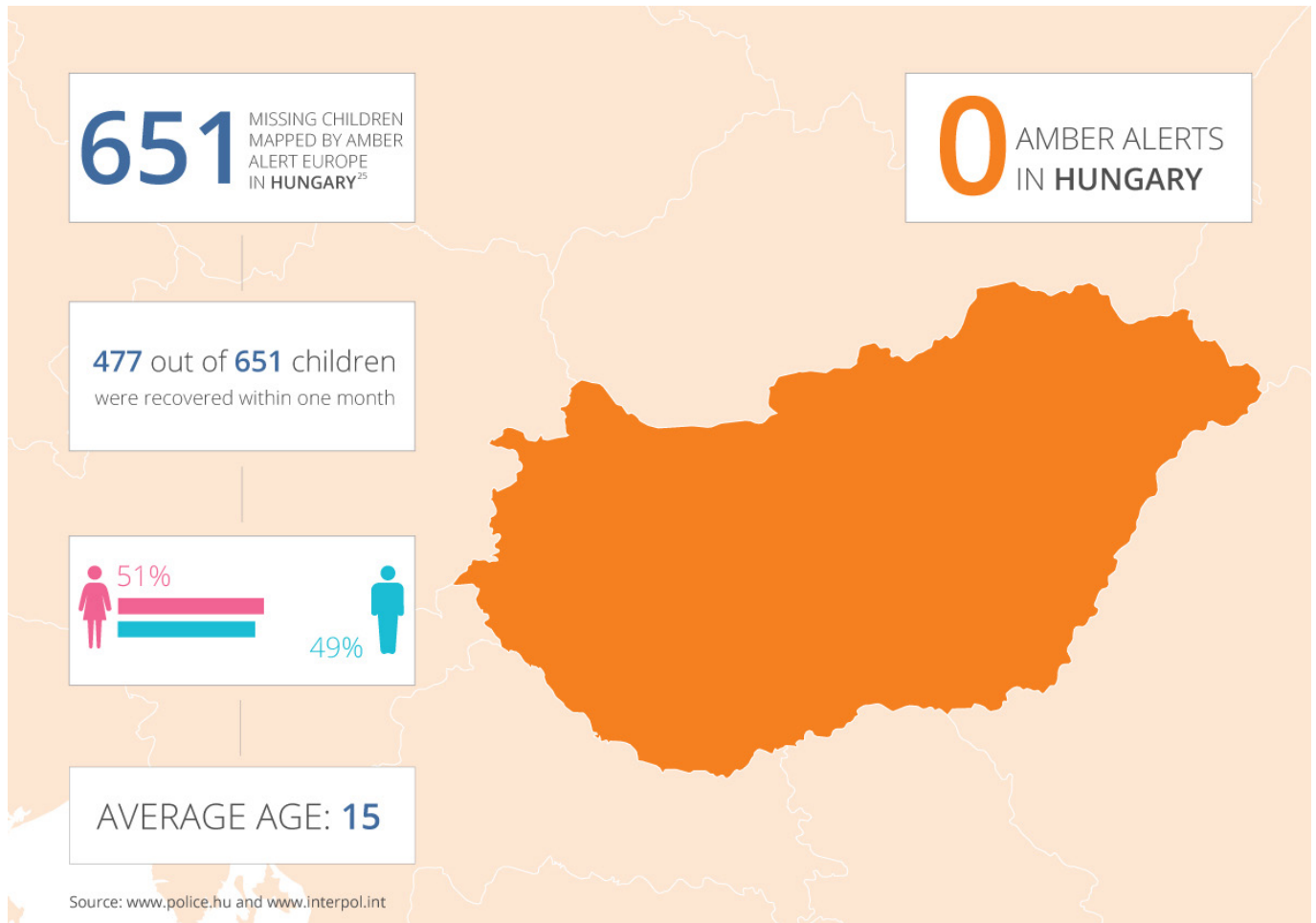
<sup>24</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.hamogelo.gr](http://www.hamogelo.gr) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 14

**Hungary**





### AMBER Alerts

Hungary does not have an AMBER Alert system in place, hence no AMBER Alerts were issued.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 651 missing children cases reported by law enforcement in Hungary.<sup>25</sup>

- Average age: 15 years old;
- 51 percent of all missing children were girls (n=335), 49% were boys (n=316);
- 477 children were recovered within one month (73%).

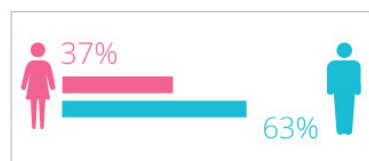
<sup>25</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.police.hu](http://www.police.hu) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 15

**Ireland**

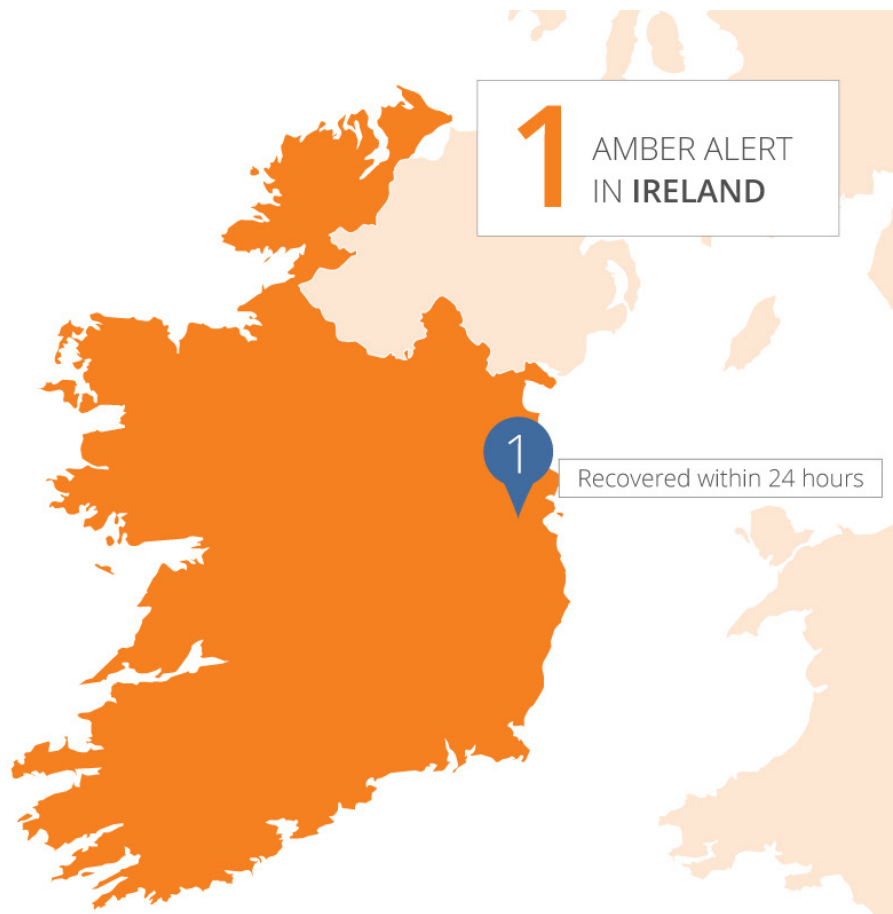
**24** MISSING CHILDREN  
MAPPED BY AMBER  
ALERT EUROPE  
IN IRELAND<sup>26</sup>

**21** out of **24** children  
were recovered within one month



AVERAGE AGE: **15**

**1** AMBER ALERT  
IN IRELAND



### AMBER Alerts (Child Rescue Ireland (CRI) Alert)

In April an AMBER Alert was issued for a 3-year old girl from Dublin. She was safely recovered within 24 hours.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Ireland:*  
All four criteria must be met before an AMBER Alert can be considered:

- The child is under the age of 18 years old
- There is reasonable belief that the child has been abducted
- There is a reasonable belief that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of a child
- There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist An Garda Síochána in locating the child.

### *Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

Gardaí supplies information such as the name and description of missing children and the adults they are with, along with details of where they might be or the kind of vehicle in which they are travelling. The alert is issued through the media but Gardaí also use other means to spread the notices, such as electronic road signs, social media, apps, internet, email and Garda Portal Intranet

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 24 cases of missing children that were reported by Irish law enforcement.<sup>26</sup>

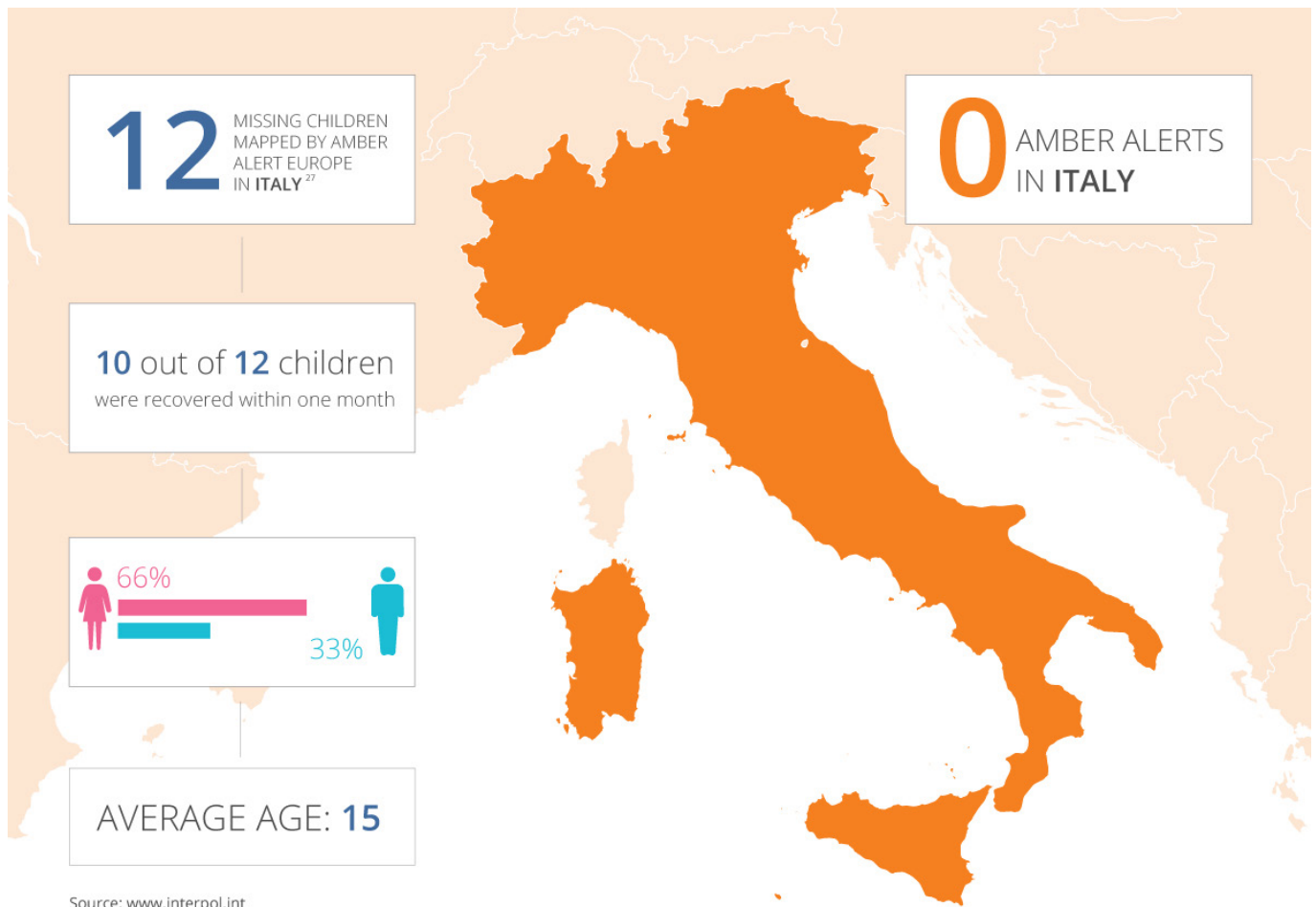
- Average age: 15 years old;
- 15 cases involved boys (63%), 9 cases concerned girls (38%);
- 21 children were recovered within one month (88%).

<sup>26</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on <http://ie.missingkids.com>; [www.internationalmissingchild.org](http://www.internationalmissingchild.org) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 16

**Italy**





### AMBER Alerts (Italian Child Alert Automated System (ICAAS))

Although Italy has an AMBER Alert system in place, there were no alerts issued in 2015.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Italy:*

- Under 18 years
- Imminent danger
- Disappearance not voluntary, not just missing, must be an abduction or kidnap

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

The Italian AMBER Alert System has partnerships with Sky, Autogrill, ports and some other telecom and news organizations. There is the

option to send a pre-formatted video that is edited for the relevant case and was developed for them by Rai, a broadcast organization

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 12 children that were reported missing by Italian law enforcement in 2015.<sup>27</sup>

- Average age: 15 years old;
- 8 cases involved girls (67%), 4 cases involved boys (33%);
- 10 children were recovered within one month (83%).

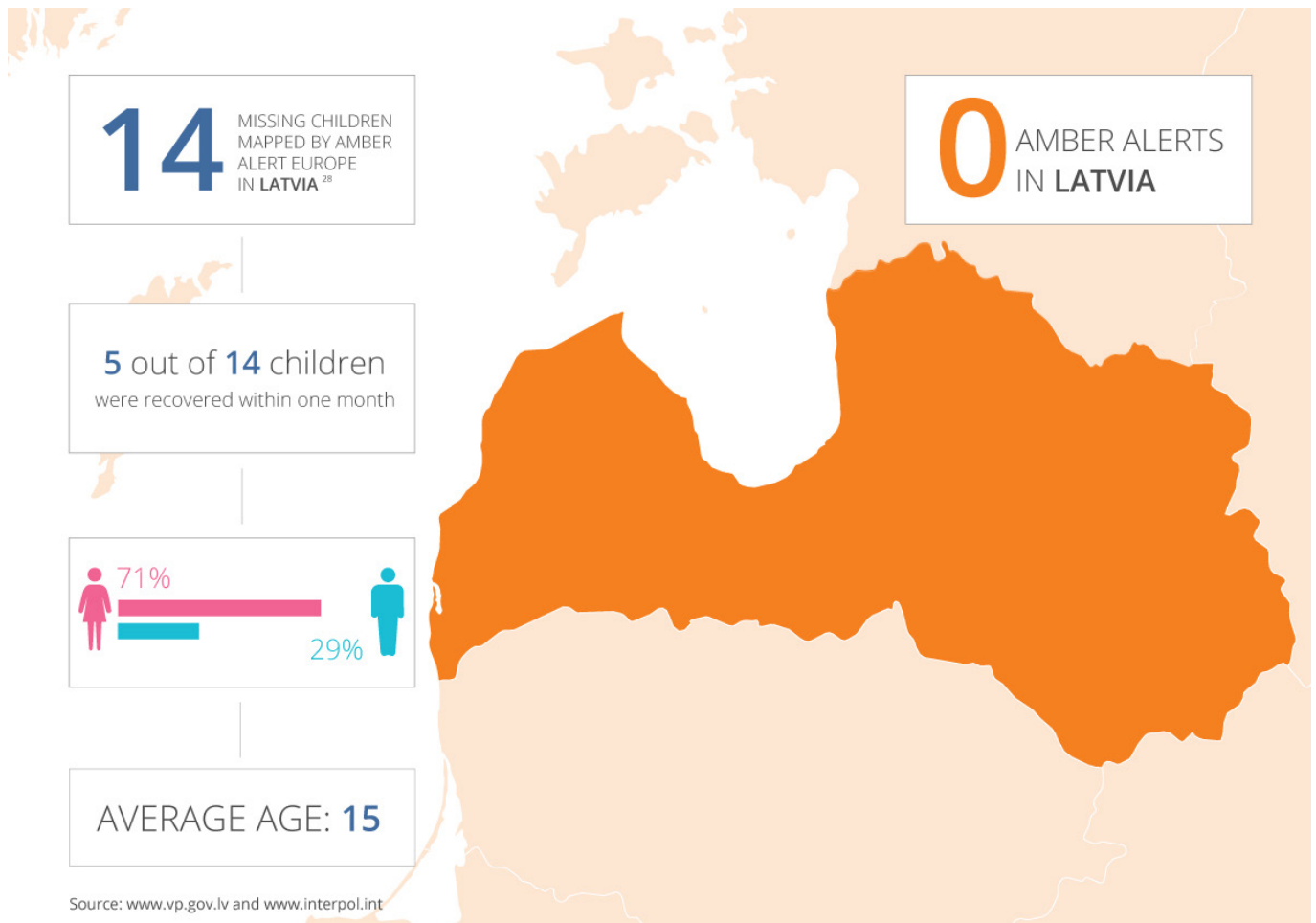
<sup>27</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 17

**Latvia**





### AMBER Alerts

Latvia does not have an AMBER Alert system in place, hence no AMBER Alerts were issued.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

In 2015, there were 14 missing children reported by law enforcement in Latvia which were mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>28</sup>

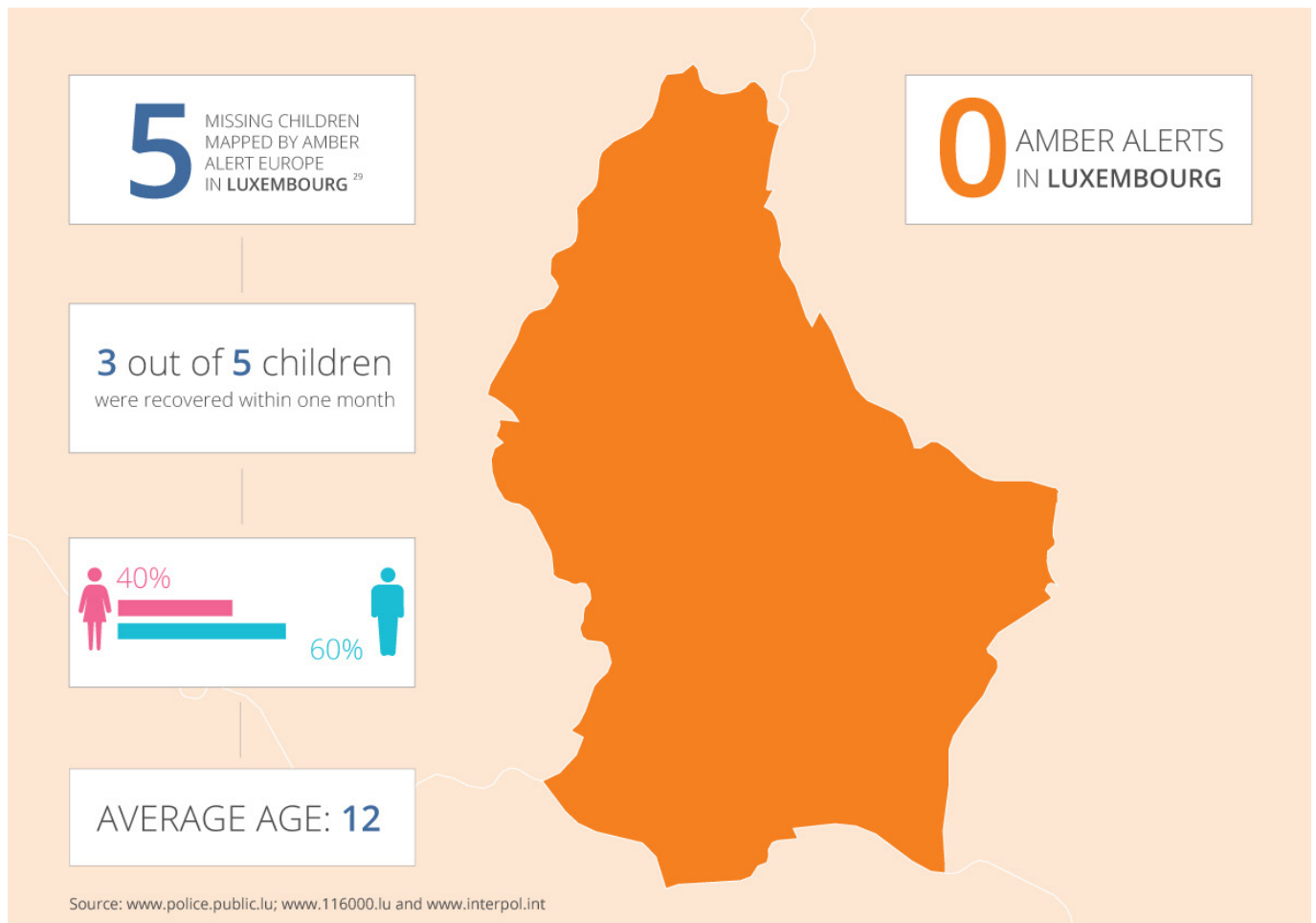
- Average age: 15 years old;
- 10 cases involved girls (71%), 4 cases involved boys (29%);
- 36 percent of the children was recovered within one month.

<sup>28</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.vp.gov.lv](http://www.vp.gov.lv) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 18

Luxembourg



### AMBER Alerts

In 2015 Luxembourg did not have an AMBER Alert system in place, hence no AMBER Alerts were issued. However, Luxembourg has launched a national AMBER Alert system in 2016.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

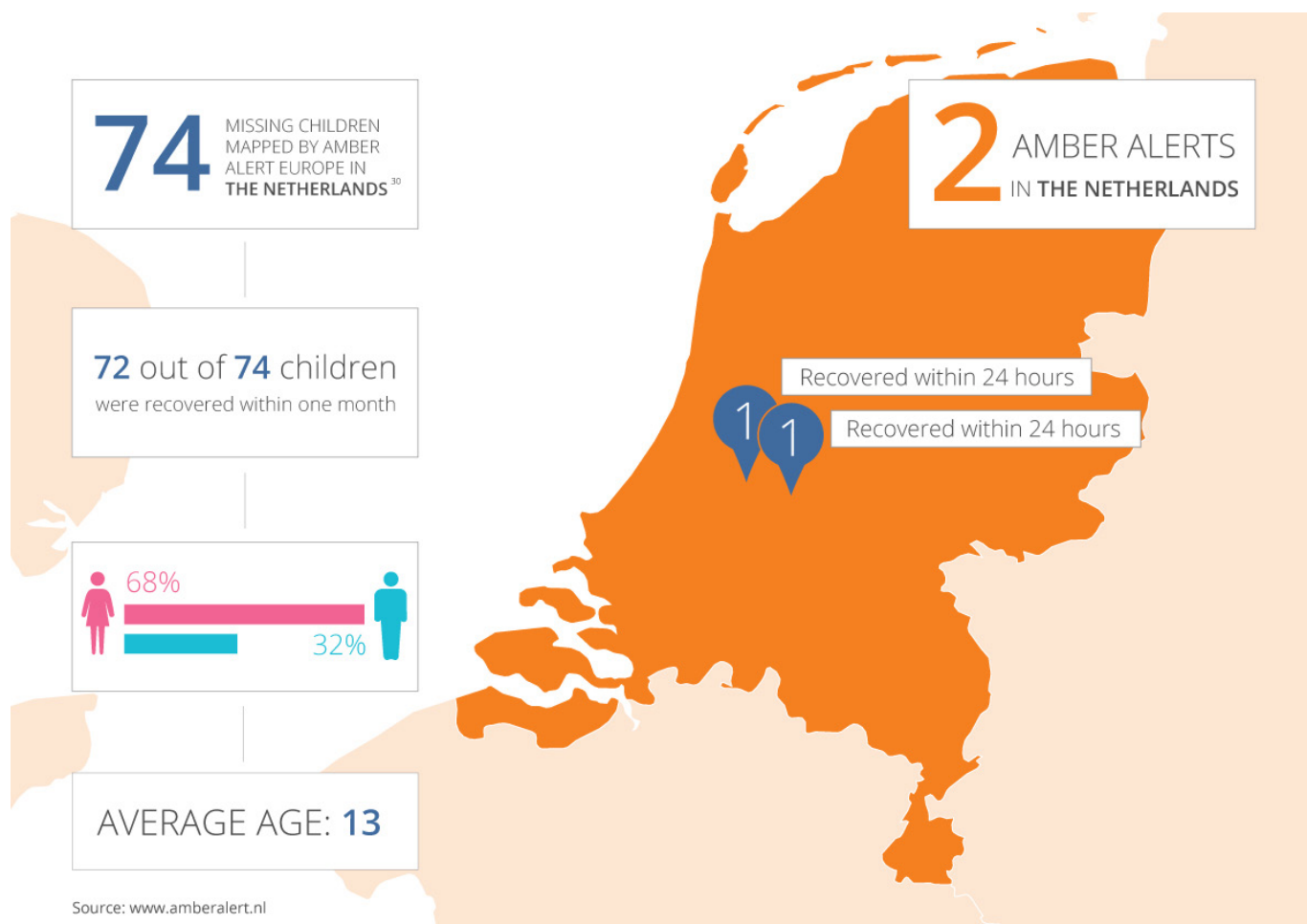
In 2015, 5 children reported missing in Luxembourg were mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>29</sup>

- Average age: 12 years old;
- The cases concerned 3 boys (60%) and 2 girls (40%);
- 3 of the 5 children were recovered within one month (60%)

<sup>29</sup>Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.police.public.lu](http://www.police.public.lu); [www.116000.lu](http://www.116000.lu) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 19

**The Netherlands**



## AMBER Alerts

In 2015, the Dutch Police issued 2 AMBER Alerts. The first alert was issued in March for a 9-year old boy from Utrecht. The second alert was issued in November for 12-year-old boy from Vleuten. Both missing children were recovered safe and sound within 24 hours.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in the Netherlands:*

- The child is below 18 years of age
- Immediate life-danger or risk of serious harm to the child
- Sufficient information of the victim, including a picture
- Indication that the child is in the Netherlands

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

An AMBER Alert reaches 12 million citizens and organizations. When an AMBER Alert is issued, the picture of the AMBER Alert child is instantly visible everywhere: on TVs, radio, highway signs, billboards signs in buses, social media (Twitter, Facebook), Apps, mail, screensavers, text messages and on thousands of websites. Millions of people are reached indirectly as the alert is also seen on TV, cable news, newspapers, websites of press agencies, highway signs, billboards, ATMs etc.

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 74 missing children that were publicised by the Dutch National Police on [www.amberalert.nl](http://www.amberalert.nl).<sup>30</sup> These children are considered to be endangered (see: [www.amberalert.nl](http://www.amberalert.nl)).

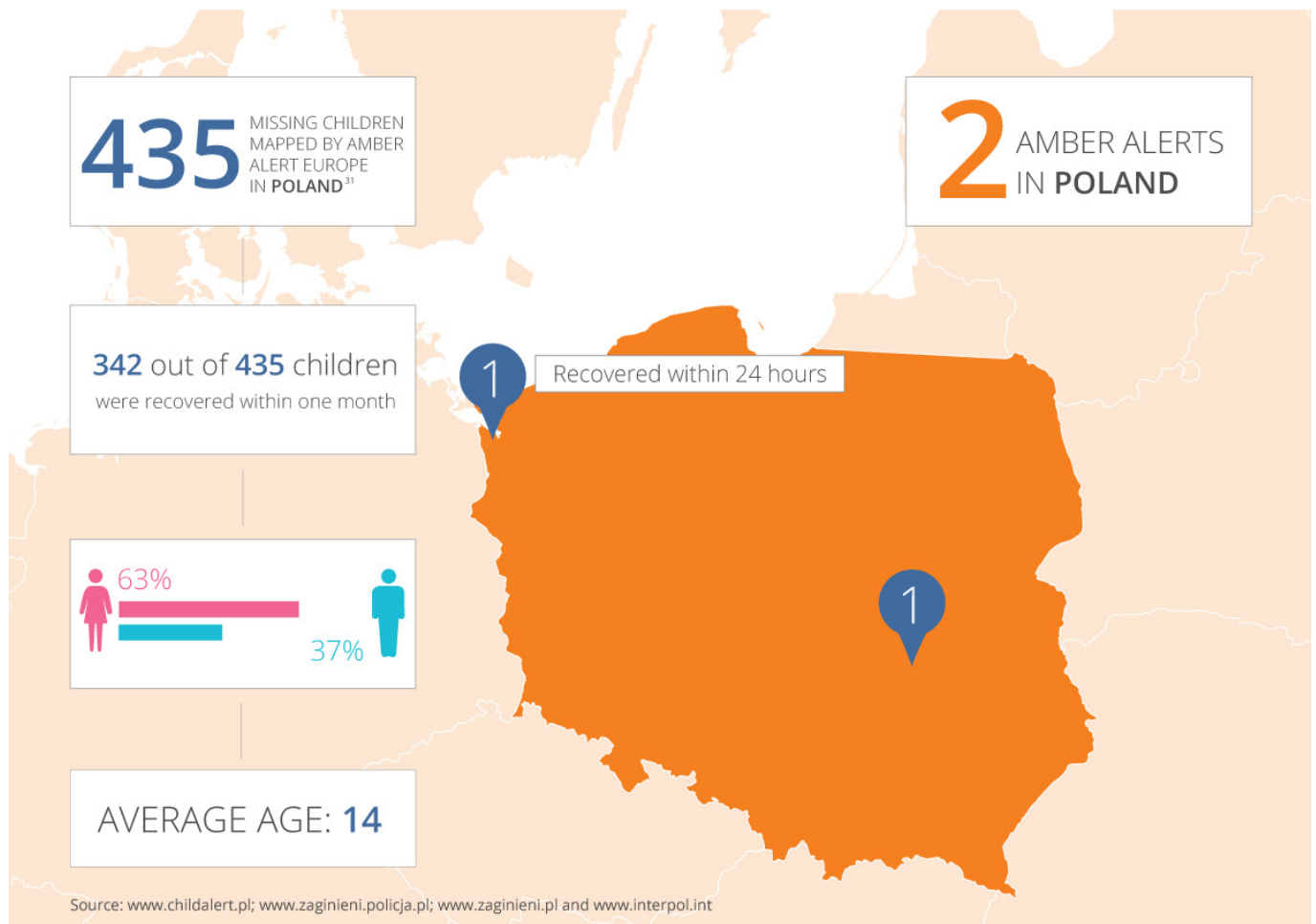
- Average age: 13 years old;
- 68 percent of the cases concerned girls (n=50), 32 percent involved boys (n=24);
- 72 of the 74 missing children were recovered within one month (97%).

<sup>30</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.amberalert.nl](http://www.amberalert.nl). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 20

**Poland**



### AMBER Alerts (Child Alert)

In April 2015 the Polish Police issued an AMBER Alert for a 10-year-old girl from Szczecin, Poland, close to the German border. The girl was successfully recovered within 24 hours after the AMBER Alert was issued. In this case, the Polish Police closely cooperated with the German Police. This case demonstrates the importance for cross border cooperation on endangered missing children cases.

In November 2015, the Polish Police issued an AMBER Alert for a 3-year-old boy from Radom, Poland. The child was abducted in front of his house. At the time the AMBER Alert was withdrawn, the boy was still missing. The boy was found in December.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Poland:*

- Missing minor is under 18
- Justified suspicion that the child's life or health is directly threatened, or the disappearance circumstances may be linked to a crime of abduction
- Written permission of the parent or legal carer for publication of the communication
- Justified conviction that the AMBER Alert would be a real support in search
- Collected data is sufficient to prepare the communication

Polish AMBER Alerts are displayed and issued across the country on TV, radio, email, social media and digital screens.



## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert**

### **Europe**

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 435 missing children that were reported by law enforcement in Poland in 2015.<sup>31</sup>

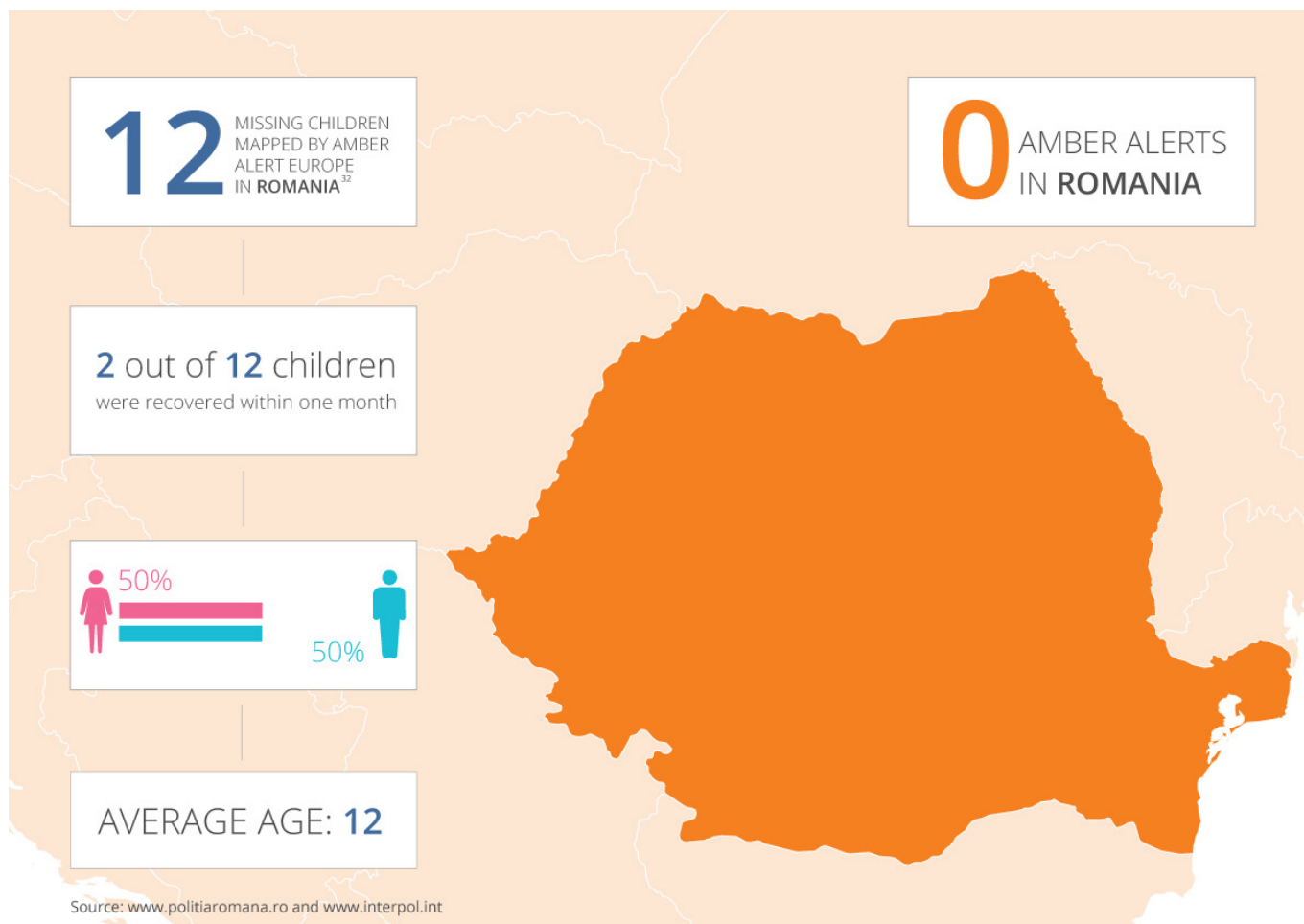
- Average age: 14 years old;
- 63 percent of the missing children concerned girls (n=276), 37 percent of cases involved boys; (n=159);
- 79% of the children was recovered within one month (n=342).

<sup>31</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.childalert.pl](http://www.childalert.pl); [www.zaginieni.policja.pl](http://www.zaginieni.policja.pl); [www.zaginieni.pl](http://www.zaginieni.pl) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

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# 21

**Romania**



### AMBER Alerts (Alertă Răpire Copil)

Although Romania has an AMBER Alert system in place, there were no alerts issued in 2015.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Romania:*

- The missing person must be under 18
- The missing person has to be been kidnapped in the presence of a witnesses
- The life of the child is in imminent danger, or there is fear he/ she will be seriously injured
- There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist the police in locating the child

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

TV radio, SMS, billboards, information screens, email, banners on websites.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

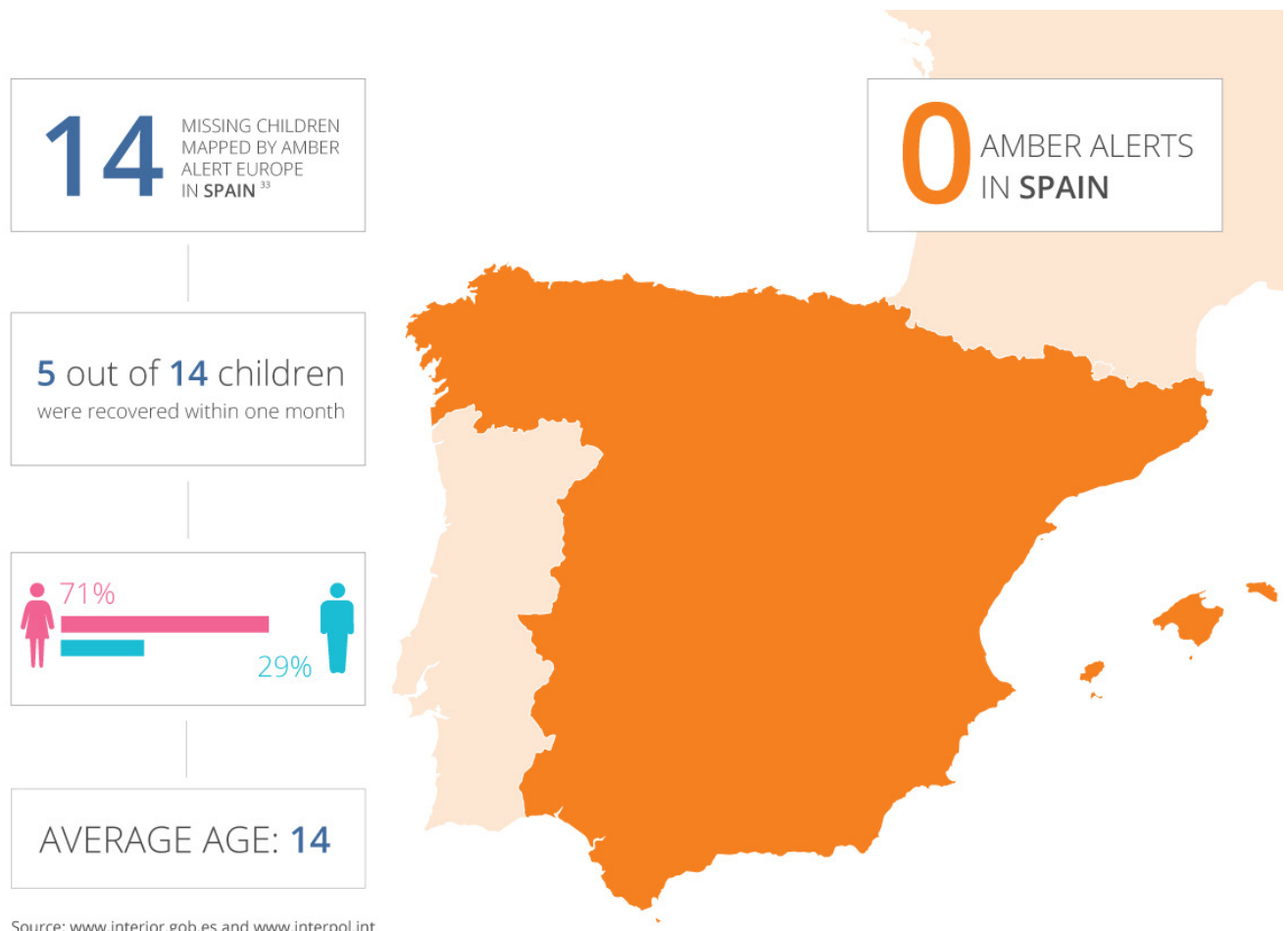
AMBER Alert Europe mapped 12 children that were reported missing by law enforcement in Romania.<sup>32</sup>

- Average age: 12 years old;
- 50 percent of the cases involved girls (n=6), 50 percent concerned boys (n=6);
- 2 children were recovered within one month (17%).

<sup>32</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.politiaromana.ro](http://www.politiaromana.ro) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 22

Spain



### AMBER Alerts (Alerta Menor Desaparecido)

Although Spain has an AMBER Alert system in place, Spanish law enforcement did not issue any AMBER alerts in 2015. Moreover, the system has never been used before.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Spain:*

- The child is under 18 years;
- The child's disappearance has been previously classified as high risk (according to the Instruction 1/2009 of the Ministry of Security)
- There are reasonable indications that the disappearance has been forced
- The police investigators believe the missing child is in imminent danger and assume that activation of the alert system serves the needs of the investigation

- There is sufficient information about the missing child available which will contribute to a positive result on the cooperation of the public
- Permission of the parent or legal carer for publication of the communication

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

The alert message is distributed by the Ministry of the Interior to the media, organizations, public and private entities who have signed an official cooperation agreement. For example: radio, TV, press (print and online), highway signs, large screens on airports, bus, railway and metro stations.

## **Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe**

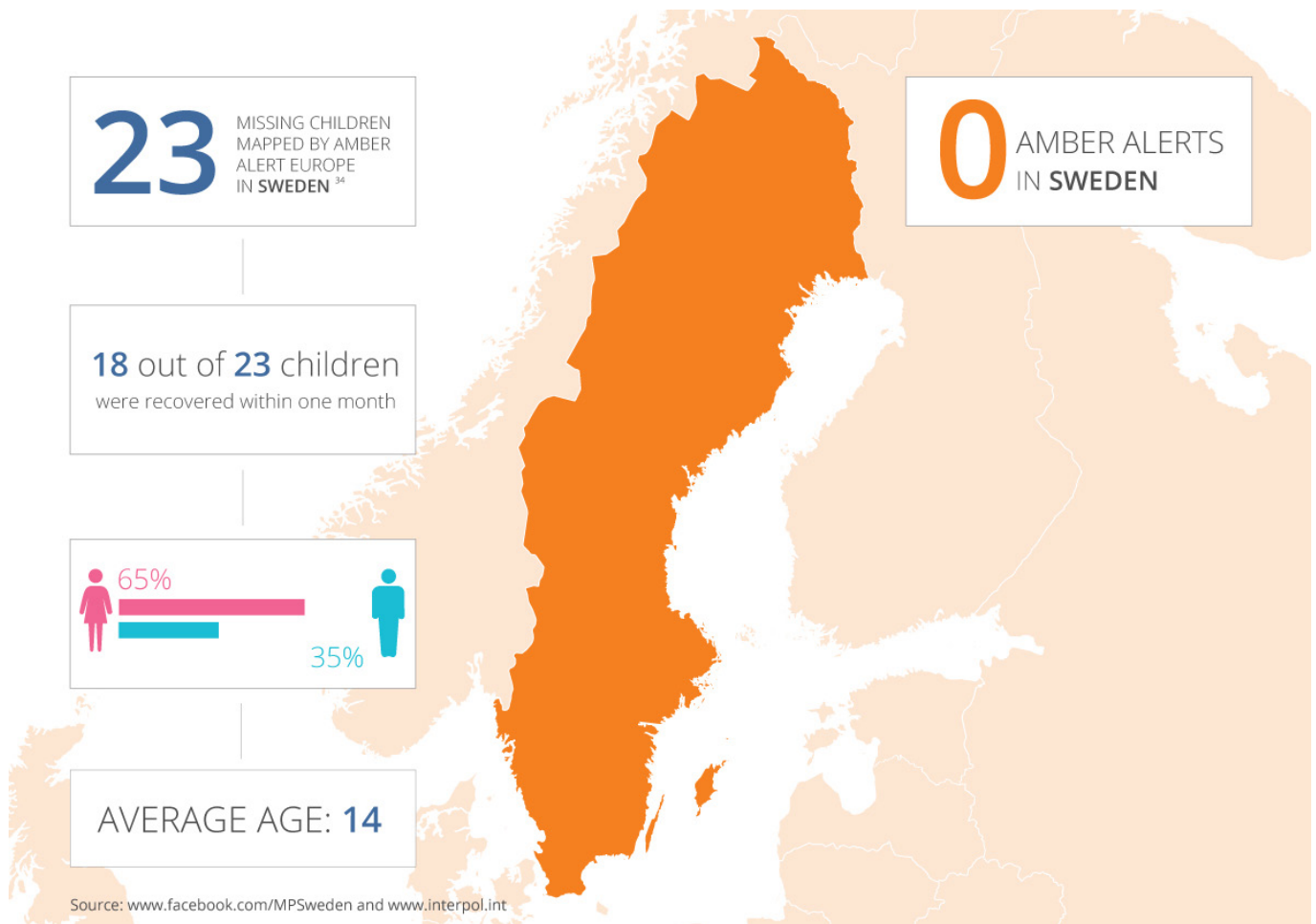
In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 14 children that were reported missing by Spanish police mandated organisations.<sup>33</sup>

- Average age: 14 years old;
- 71 percent of the cases concerned girls (n=10);
- 36 percent of the Spanish missing children were recovered within one month (n=5).

<sup>33</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.interior.gob.es](http://www.interior.gob.es) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 23

Sweden



### AMBER Alerts

Sweden does not have an AMBER Alert system in place, hence no AMBER Alerts were issued.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

Information on 23 missing Swedish children was mapped by AMBER Alert Europe.<sup>34</sup>

- Average age: 14 years old;
- 65 percent of the cases concerned girls (n=15), 35 percent involved boys (n=8);
- 18 children were recovered within one month (78%).

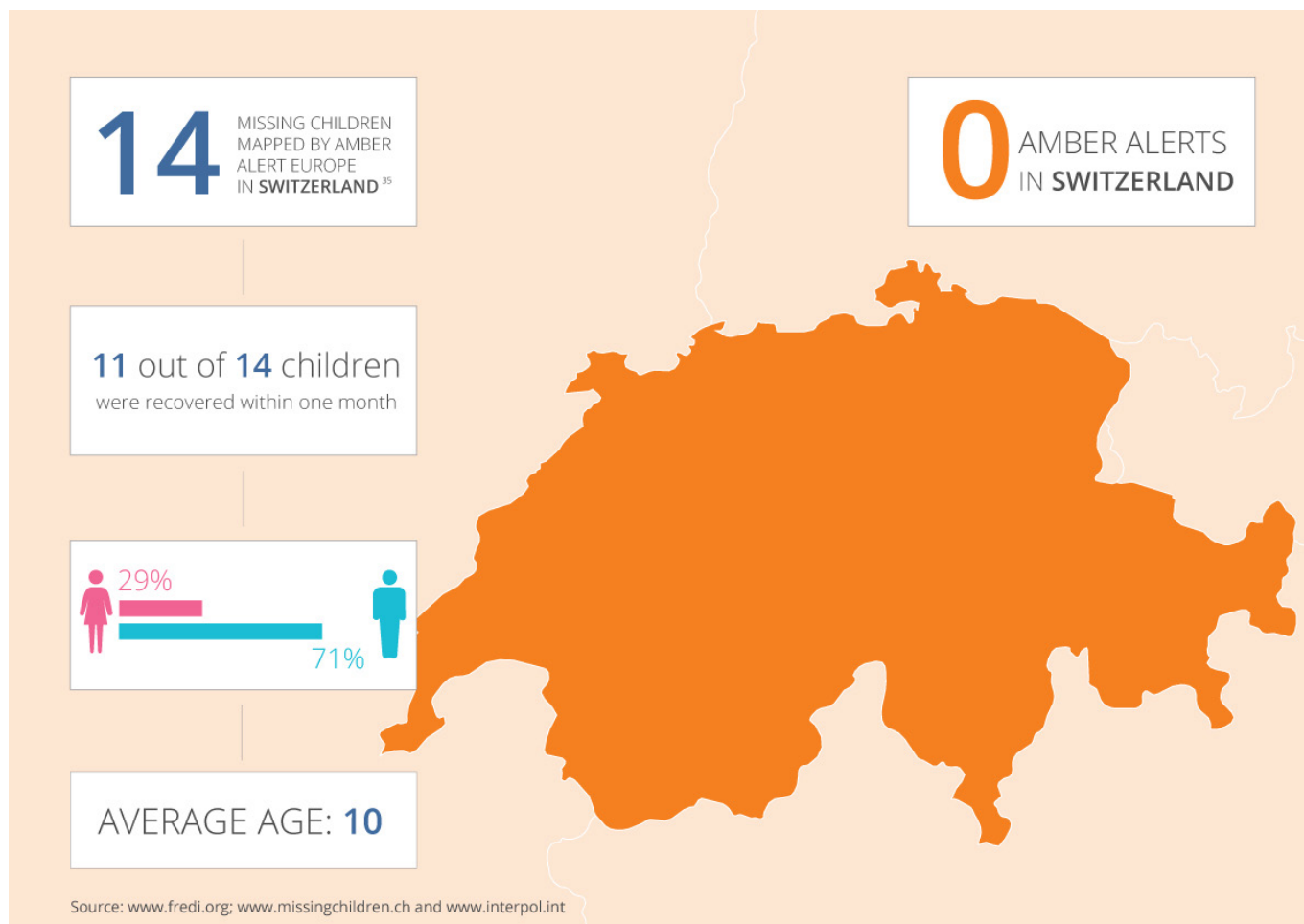
<sup>34</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.facebook.com/MPSweden](https://www.facebook.com/MPSweden) and [www.interpol.int](https://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).





# 24

Switzerland



### AMBER Alerts (Alerte Enlèvement)

Although Switzerland has an AMBER Alert system in place, there were no alerts issued in 2015.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in Switzerland:*

- Strong suspicion or evidence that an abduction of a minor has taken place;
- Physical, sexual or mental integrity of the abducted is at risk;
- Enough information available to increase the chance to localize the perpetrator and/or the victim by issuing an alert;
- At least one person with parental powers or legal guardianship agrees on issue of alert.

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

A Swiss AMBER Alert is issued via radio, television, text messages, billboards on airports, railways and through advertisement providers.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 14 children that were reported missing by Swiss law enforcement.<sup>35</sup>

- Average age: 10 years old;
- The Swiss cases involved 71 percent boys (n=10), 29 percent girls (n=4);
- 11 children were recovered within one month (79%).

<sup>35</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.fredi.org](http://www.fredi.org); [www.missingchildren.ch](http://www.missingchildren.ch) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

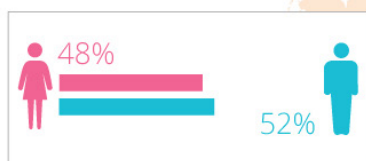


# 25

## The United Kingdom

**122** MISSING CHILDREN  
MAPPED BY AMBER  
ALERT EUROPE  
IN THE UK<sup>36</sup>

**87** out of **122** children  
were recovered within one month



AVERAGE AGE: **15**

Sources [www.uk.missingkids.com](http://www.uk.missingkids.com) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int)

**1** AMBER ALERT  
IN THE UK

**1** Recovered within 24 hours

### AMBER Alerts (Child Rescue Alert)

In 2015, one AMBER Alert was issued for a 14-year-old girl from Chilwell. She was safely recovered within 24 hours.

*The criteria for launching an AMBER Alert in the United Kingdom:*

- The child is apparently under 18 years old;
- There is a perception that the child is in imminent danger of serious harm or death;
- There is sufficient information available to enable the public to assist police in locating the child.

*Technical Tools available for dissemination:*

Automated dissemination via social, digital and internet media plus SMS, which can be local, regional or national.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

In 2015, AMBER Alert Europe mapped 122 missing children cases that were reported by UK law enforcement.<sup>36</sup>

- Average age: 15 years old;
- 52 percent of the cases involved boys (n=63), 48 percent involved girls (n=59);
- 87 children were recovered within one month (71%).

<sup>36</sup> Information on missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe which was made publicly available by official sources from law enforcement or other police mandated organisations on [www.uk.missingkids.com](http://www.uk.missingkids.com) and [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int). Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate).

# 26

## Conclusion

## 26.1 Main findings

With this report AMBER Alert Europe aims to emphasise the importance of AMBER Alert mechanisms and to enrich the discussion about the differences between member states responses to missing children. Therefore AMBER Alert Europe collected statistics in two areas: 1) AMBER Alerts and 2) missing children publicised by law enforcement and police mandated organisations on their websites. While the data collected at 2 is not representative of the true missing children numbers, it does illustrate the disparity between countries in how they record and publicise them.

### AMBER Alerts

- In 2015, 29 AMBER Alerts were issued in 8 European countries: Czech Republic, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, France, Cyprus, Ireland and the United Kingdom;
- The AMBER Alerts involved 30 children;
- Most cases involved boys (66%); The average age of missing children for which an AMBER Alert was issued is 10 years old;
- 96 percent of the children were safely recovered, 89 percent even within 24 hours.

### Missing children mapped by AMBER Alert Europe

AMBER Alert Europe mapped 1848 missing children in 2015, which is a sample of data publicised by law enforcement and police mandated organisations in Europe (as listed in annex A). However, the data does not contain all missing children publicised by law enforcement or police mandated organisations. Therefore it must be clear that the report does not give

any indications of the total number of missing children in Europe or specific member states.

The criteria used by law enforcement and police mandated organisations to publicise information on missing children cases vary per country. Also, the number of children reported as missing will be considerable higher than those who are given publicity. This is because, thankfully, the vast majority of missing children are found quickly, not every case is suitable for publicity and of those that are publicised, not all are put on a website (often because other means of publicity are more appropriate). A very small percentage of those missing children cases will be suitable for an AMBER Alert, which is why an effective triage process to assess risk is essential and recommended by AMBER Alert Europe. For more information on risk assessment, see articles and videos on our website.

### Next steps

This report emphasises the need for more consistency in the way that missing children are responded to as it is currently a lottery depending on which country they go missing in as to how this is dealt with. Therefore, AMBER Alert Europe calls for more consistency and clearness to save more missing children.



# A

## **Annex A: sources**

## Sources used by AMBER Alert Europe to map missing children:

[www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int)

[www.bmi.gv.at](http://www.bmi.gv.at)

[www.facebook.com/oesterreichfindeteuch](http://www.facebook.com/oesterreichfindeteuch)

[www.politie.be](http://www.politie.be)

[www.childfocus.be](http://www.childfocus.be)

[www.nestali.hr](http://www.nestali.hr)

[www.nestaladjeca.hr](http://www.nestaladjeca.hr)

[www.childalert.org.cy](http://www.childalert.org.cy)

[www.policie.cz](http://www.policie.cz)

[www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr](http://www.116000enfantsdisparus.fr)

[www.initiative-vermisste-kinder.de](http://www.initiative-vermisste-kinder.de)

[www.hamogelo.gr](http://www.hamogelo.gr)

[www.police.hu](http://www.police.hu)

<http://ie.missingkids.com>

[www.internationalmissingchild.org](http://www.internationalmissingchild.org)

[www.vp.gov.lv](http://www.vp.gov.lv)

[www.police.public.lu](http://www.police.public.lu)

[www.116000.lu](http://www.116000.lu)

[www.amberalert.nl](http://www.amberalert.nl)

[www.childalert.pl](http://www.childalert.pl)

[www.zaginieni.policja.pl](http://www.zaginieni.policja.pl)

[www.zaginieni.pl](http://www.zaginieni.pl)

[www.politiaromana.ro](http://www.politiaromana.ro)

[www.interior.gob.es](http://www.interior.gob.es)

[www.facebook.com/MPSweden](http://www.facebook.com/MPSweden)

[www.fredi.org](http://www.fredi.org)

[www.missingchildren.ch](http://www.missingchildren.ch)

[www.uk.missingkids.com](http://www.uk.missingkids.com)



