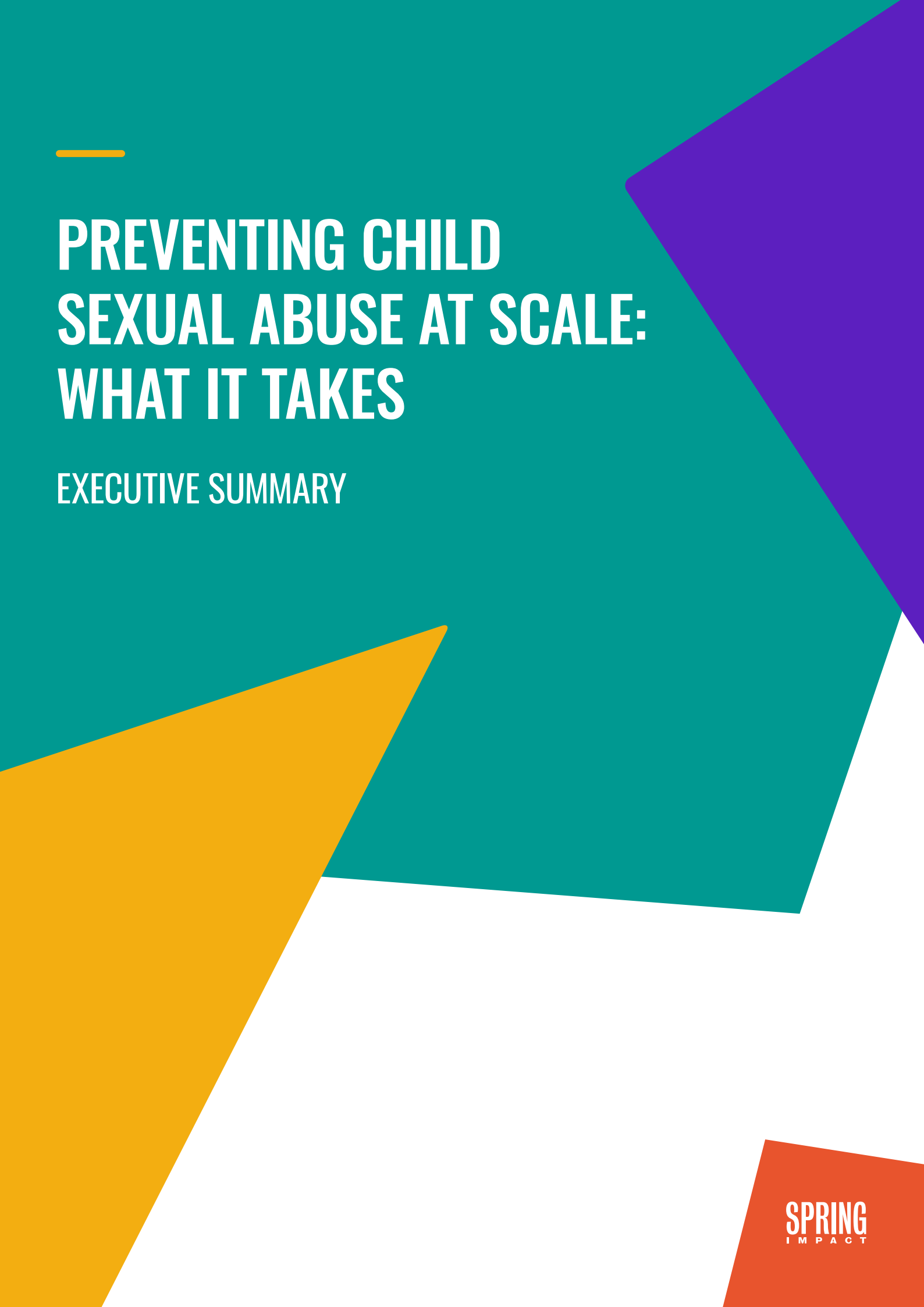




PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AT SCALE: WHAT IT TAKES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREVENTION AT SCALE: URGENT, CHALLENGING – BUT POSSIBLE

Preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) at scale is both urgent and complex. It is estimated that 1 in 5 children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence.¹ CSA remains under-recognised, with prevention often neglected and more efforts focused on response.

Organisations seeking to scale preventative solutions face multiple challenges: the sensitive subject matter, fragmented systems, political and cultural barriers, and a lack of long-term funding.

1 IN 5

children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence

“

CHILD SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS A PROBLEM THAT TOUCHES ALMOST EVERY FAMILY, AND IT'S VERY HARD TO SOLVE A PROBLEM WHEN YOU DON'T SEE IT. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE TRUE MAGNITUDE OF IT IN EUROPE.

Oak Foundation

”

¹ Council of Europe, 2020. The latest data from [Together for Girls](#) (2024) has a global lens: 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 7 boys will experience some form of sexual violence before their 18th birthday.

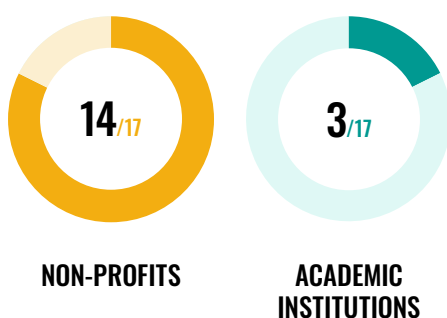
LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO ARE MAKING IT HAPPEN

This study explores how practitioners across Europe are working to scale preventative solutions to reach more children, integrate them into public systems, and sustain impact over time. It presents practical insights to enhance sector-wide understanding of effective scaling strategies, and to equip organisations with the tools needed to expand their solutions sustainably.

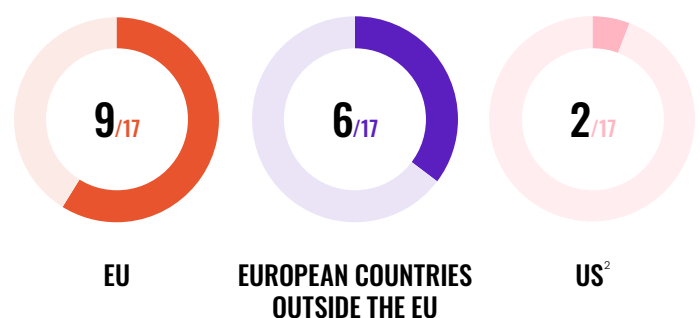
Spring Impact conducted in-depth interviews with 17 organisations delivering CSA prevention across a range of European contexts. These interventions ranged from school-based and therapeutic programmes to digital solutions.

The study focuses on organisations that have moved beyond small-scale delivery and are on the journey to scaling their impact, whether through system integration, partnerships, or direct delivery. While the sample was weighted toward CSA prevention, a few response-focused solutions were also included, both to reflect the relative maturity of the response sector compared to prevention and to capture transferable lessons for scaling preventative solutions.

ORGANISATION TYPES



GEOGRAPHY



² Headquartered in the US, but have scaled services across Europe

KEY LESSONS

01

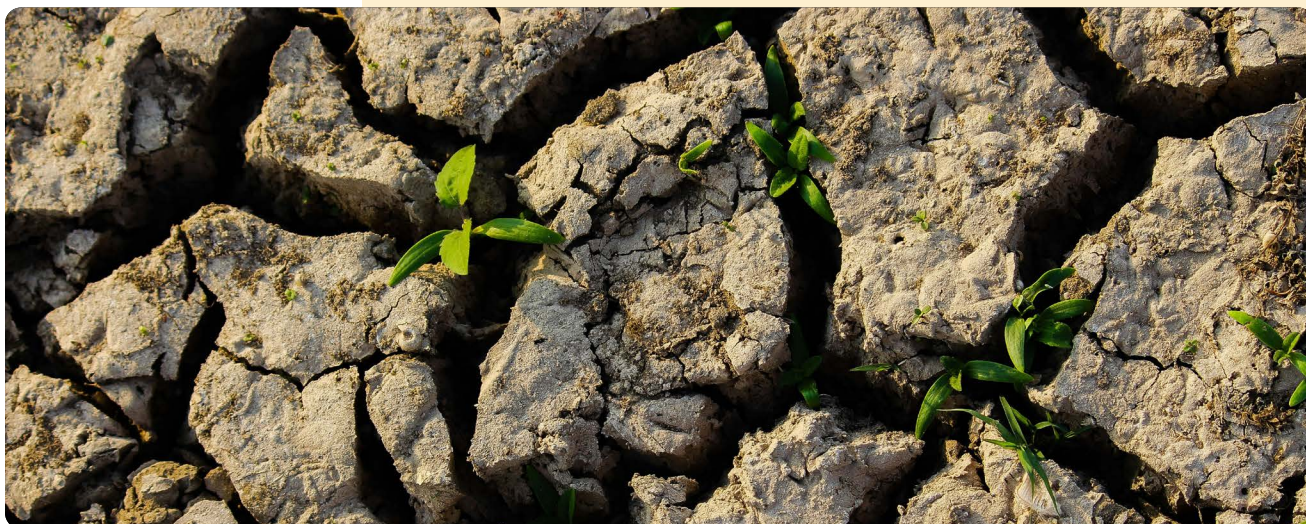
Make the system ready

Prepare the ground, so your solution can take root

Scaling preventative solutions requires an enabling environment – where prevention is recognised as a national priority, and supported by public discourse, legislation, and policy. Organisations play an active role in fostering this environment, by raising visibility of the problem, aligning solutions to legislation and building champions within local systems and institutions.

“Interventions can scale when they happen to be hitting something that is of particular national interest at that time.”

— CSA Centre



02

Make your solution ready

Flexible where it counts, firm where it matters

This means being evidence-informed, cost-efficient, and adaptable, without compromising what makes the intervention effective. The organisations we interviewed invested in refining their models, simplifying delivery, and developing clear quality assurance mechanisms. Scaling often required iteration, strengthening the solution as they went.

Successful scale requires striking a balance between adapting to local contexts and maintaining the integrity of an intervention. The organisations emphasised that rigid replication doesn't work, and each took a different but careful approach to identifying the balance in their context.



“It is this flexibility that has been an engine to spread the model, as long as international standards are upheld.”

— Barnahus Network

03

Make government your strongest partner

As implementer, enabler, or ideally, funder

Engaging with government early and meaningfully proved critical. Collaboration takes time and often requires trust-building, adaptation to public system processes, and framing the work in line with national priorities. In some cases, organisations began by working with municipalities to build early support, which later enabled national-level adoption.

Long-term, system-integrated funding is a lifeline. This has been achieved by aligning interventions with existing

public funding streams (e.g. education, health, child protection) or by demonstrating long-term cost-effectiveness to unlock government investment.

16 of the 17 organisations interviewed are involving the government in their journey to scale.

Government involvement plays a critical role in enabling scale and sustainability of these organisations' solutions:



Legitimacy

Collaboration with local authorities enhances credibility and trust within communities.



Funding

Partnerships with government can unlock long-term, stable funding and resources, reducing reliance on short-term charitable support.



Policy Integration

Embedding programmes into policy is often essential for achieving systemic change.



Cultural Acceptance

Official backing helps reduce stigma and increase acceptance of sensitive topics in schools and communities.

04

Don't do it alone

Enable others to take your impact further

Building delivery capacity through partnerships was a common approach. Rather than delivering everything themselves, many organisations trained and supported others, such as schools, therapists, or partner agencies, to take on delivery.

In all cases, scale was supported by clarity on non-negotiables, early co-creation with partners, and support structures like training and quality assurance that allow for consistency without rigidity.

780.000+ STUDENTS

By carefully training a diverse range of licensed partners to deliver KiVa – including ministries, non-profits, and training providers – with careful oversight and fidelity assurance from the university, KiVa now reaches **over 780,000 students** daily in 2,400 schools worldwide.

25+ COUNTRIES

KiVa, an anti-bullying programme, is delivered in schools in over 25 countries combining lessons on respect and harassment prevention.

05

Make it last

Handing over isn't the finish line

Sustaining scale requires more than just funding or policy change. Organisations that successfully transition to government ownership have invested in long-term advocacy, demonstrated system compatibility, and provided continued support such as training or supervision. In most cases, they retained a strategic role, even after handing over day-to-day delivery.

Successful organisations also invested in monitoring and evaluation systems that both track outcomes and guide improvement. This helps demonstrate continued value to funders, policymakers, and communities. Continuous learning, flexible funding, and multi-sector collaboration were essential to maintaining momentum and embedding prevention into systems over time.



“We need to make sure that we are still having an impact and we are staying current, and try to evidence that impact.”

— Lucy Faithfull Foundation

CASE STUDIES

The report also includes in-depth case studies of three organisations' journeys to scale, illustrating how these lessons play out in practice.



Charité's **Kein Täter Werden** – confidential therapy tailored to people with paedophilic disorder delivered in 11 German states



Save the Children.

Save the Children Spain's journey to embed the **Barnahus Model** nationally – a response-oriented intervention co-locating legal, medical, and psychosocial services for children under one roof – which is embedded in five regions in Spain

NSPCC

NSPCC's **Speak out Stay safe** – a school-based prevention programme for primary schools delivered in over 8,000 primary schools in the UK

SUSTAINABLE SCALE IS WITHIN REACH

These lessons do not offer a one-size-fits-all approach, but they do provide a practical and credible foundation for organisations seeking to scale solutions to prevent child sexual abuse.

The organisations featured in this study show that, despite the challenges, it is possible to build and sustain solutions at scale. Their experiences offer valuable insights for others seeking to scale preventative solutions, pointing to approaches that are not only necessary, but increasingly feasible.





To get the full report,
[please visit this page.](#)

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