

# EUROPEAN NUMBER FOR MISSING CHILDREN 116 000 IN SERBIA

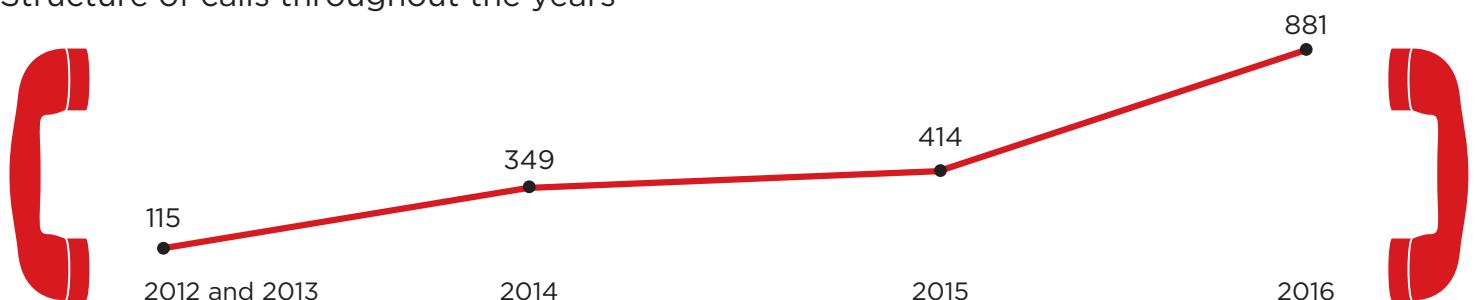
ASTRA has been operating the European Number For Missing Children in Serbia since 2012, as part of the network of European numbers that exist in 27 countries. The process of accreditation of Missing Children Hotlines was initiated at the end of 2015 and ASTRA successfully completed it, receiving the accreditation in 2016. The accreditation was carried out by Missing Children Europe and involved the standardization and formalization of procedures and the functioning of this service with the aim of creating an efficient mechanism of searching for missing children, but also the prevention of disappearances of children in Europe.



## CALLS RECEIVED TO THE EUROPEAN NUMBER FOR MISSING CHILDREN 116 000 IN SERBIA

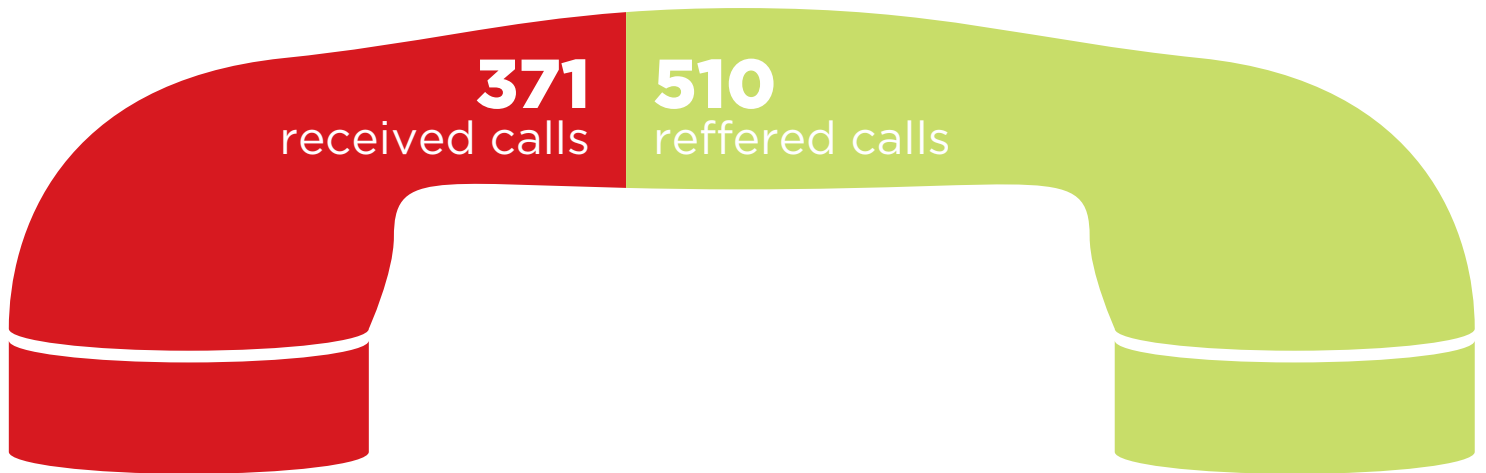
From the beginning of its work in March 2012 up until 31st December 2016, 1759 calls on 116 000 line were made, reporting missing of 81 children, and 184 cases of missing babies<sup>2</sup>.

Structure of calls throughout the years



<sup>2</sup> Cases of parents who suspect that their new-borns were abducted from maternity wards from the middle of 1900s up until today.

In the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016, a total of **881 calls** were conducted over European Missing Children Hotline in Serbia, with over **50% increase** in number of calls comparing to last year.



In the first 6 months of 2016, according to the official data of the Ministry of Interior 550 reports about missing children were reported. 97% of cases were successfully resolved and children were found. According to the official data, the majority of reported missing children cases were children from residential institutions or children placed in foster families.

## Missing children cases opened in 2016 by European number for missing children 116 000 in Serbia

The majority of cases reported to 116 000 line were regarding unaccompanied migrant children.



Information about missing children is reported not only by family members, but also by associates from CSOs in country and abroad, but also from institutions as well. During 2016, in order to provide assistance and support SOS consultants received and conducted number of calls with:



394

Parents

205

Institutions\*

76

Associates\*\*

24

Cousin

182

NGO

\* social welfare centers, police and other institutions

\*\* psychotherapists, lawyers, NGOs etc

## Missing children who were found in 2016

70% of children whose disappearance was reported to 116 000 in Serbia have been found.



8

Runaways

3

Parental  
abductions

8

Missing  
unaccompanied  
migrant  
children

4

Lost, injured  
or otherwise  
missing children

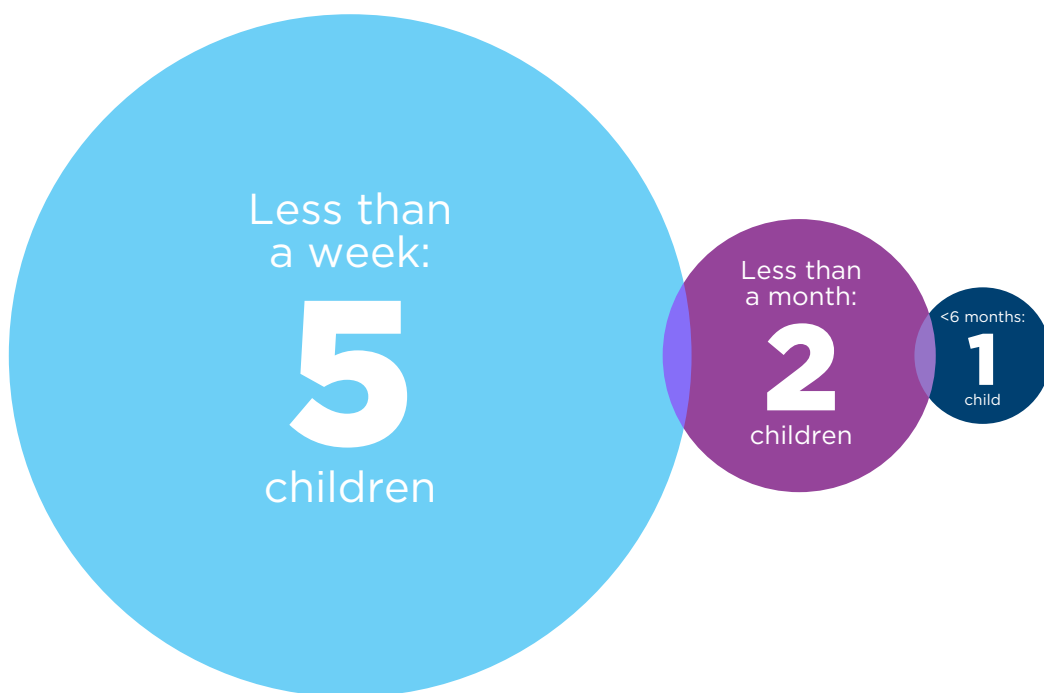
# Runaway children

Children runaway from:



The majority of runaway children that were reported to 116 000 in Serbia run away from home. The parents/legal guardians were the ones who reported the case to ASTRA. This shows that ASTRA is recognized among citizens as a relevant organization, but even though the number of children that run away from institutions according to the official data is the highest, ASTRA received the smallest number of reports made by institutions. Children who run away and were reported to ASTRA were teenagers, age between 11 and 16, while the most were 15 years old.

Timeframe in which children were found:



# Missing and unaccompanied migrant children

Nationality of children:



Who reported the case:



## Place of disappearance:



## Timeframe in which children were found:



Out of 14 reported cases of missing unaccompanied migrants, 8 children were found, while for 6 the search is still on.

The youngest child reported missing among migrant children was 4 years old, while in general the age range was quite diverse, between 4-16.

More information about children who are still missing can be found on ASTRA's website: <http://www.astra.rs/european-missing-children-number116-000/?lang=en>.

If you have any information about their whereabouts, please contact European number for missing children 116 000.

## International Missing Children Day - May 25th

For the occasion of the International Day of Missing Children - May 25 ASTRA has conducted a social experiment with the purpose of raising awareness among parents about necessity of educating their children and teaching them to be careful when communication with strangers (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAbrcCXZuR8&feature=youtu.be>). The international Missing Children Day was marked with a street action in Belgrade for children and adults. Children from elementary school "Kralj Petar Prvi" from Belgrade joined ASTRA in marking the day and helped in raising public awareness about the 116 000 number in Serbia.



## Cases of “missing babies”

In February 2016 the Working Group, consisted of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health and Ministry of the Interior came out with the final proposal of the Law which was presented to the representatives of the parents and CSOs. ASTRA’s lawyers and representatives of parents sent comments on the Law pointing out to the shortfalls of certain articles that would not protect the rights of parents and would not enable parents to establish the truth about their babies.

However, the comments were not accepted and in November the Law was forwarded to the Parliament for adoption. ASTRA sent letters to all 250 MPs pointing out to the existing problems with the Law and fearing that if it was adopted it would not provide parents with the adequate remedy.

The Law was withdrawn from the Parliament’s agenda and the parents are still waiting for the resolution.