

# ECPAT Belgium

# (De)clic project



*The John Cockerill Foundation works for the safety of young people in the use of new technologies.*



**The John Cockerill Foundation becomes a partner of ECPAT Belgium, a member of ECPAT International, which is the only network exclusively dedicated to eradicate the sexual exploitation of children\*, by supporting the (Dé)clic project.**

The (De)clic initiative, developed by ECPAT Belgium, is a project for training young people by young people in the risks associated with the use of new technologies. ECPAT recalls that Internet can expose minors to different types of abuse such as cyberstalking (online harassment), sexting/sextortion (exchange of material of a sexual nature, which can lead to blackmail and threats) or grooming (the act of an adult seeking to gain the confidence of a child with the aim of sexually abusing him or her). Concretely, (De)clic aims to train young people through an interactive methodology combining playful and participatory activities to ensure maximum involvement of young people. The training aims to give children and teenagers sufficient tools to learn how to protect themselves from risks and to be able in turn to advise others. In fact, it has been observed that a young person in difficulty more often asks for help from an individual of his or her own age. In order to reach as many young people as possible, training courses are organized in schools, youth movements and reception centres.

By financing 12 training courses, the John Cockerill Foundation is helping ECPAT to perpetuate the social (De)clic project. "Following a presentation by Stéphanie (project sponsor), this project was selected because it makes sense with the current problems of our society. It also seems to us that it is the responsibility of a company like John Cockerill to participate in raising awareness, particularly among its employees, of this type of phenomenon", explains Véronique, spokesperson for the Foundation.

In addition to the 12 training courses dedicated to young people, awareness training will therefore be organized in Belgium for John Cockerill staff in the course of 2020.

### **Prevent, listen and mobilize**

The ECPAT network works on three main pillars: alerting professionals (hoteliers, lawyers, guardians) to the realities of child sexual exploitation; listening to children's voices reflected in strategic campaigns and programmes; and mobilizing other actors in this daily struggle. As the local representative of "The Code" initiative (the Coordination of NGOs for the Rights of the Child), ECPAT Belgium is responsible for supporting (future) tourism professionals based in Belgium in the implementation of the Code's criteria. The Code brings together (among others) Amnesty international Belgique francophone, UNICEF Belgique and the Ligue des droits de l'Homme. ECPAT Belgium is also a member of KIRECO, the Dutch-speaking equivalent of the CODE. ECPAT also benefits from the support of authorities such as the Police, Defence, Foreign Affairs, and bodies as diverse as the Federation of Industry and Tourism, FEBETRA, Plan Belgique and Child Focus, etc.

\* Any person under 18 years old