UNICEF Safe Spots
Safe Places for Children in Local Communities
What are UNICEF Safe Spots?

*UNICEF Safe Spots* are various easily accessible places where children experiencing distress can seek immediate support, advice and referral to child protection services when needed.
[...] Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. [...]
Where children can find UNICEF Safe Spots?

• At various public spaces and private businesses; e.g. capital city public bus transport hub, groceries, flower shops, pharmacies, hair salons, libraries, banks, youth centres, health care centres, Police stations, museums and even National Parliament, National broadcasting Radio and television of Slovenia.

• Capital city public bus system proudly joined the initiative in October 2019, with all city buses becoming first mobile UNICEF Safe Spots in the world. In all public and private entities, trained volunteers are available to offer immediate support, advice and guidance to children seeking help.
OK, but where?!?

Population: 2,1 million
Area: 20,273 km²
Capital city: Ljubljana (pop.: app. 300 thousand)
International affiliations: EU member state (2004)
GDP per capita: EUR 22,182
Average age: 43,4 years
Life expectancy: men 78 years, women 84 years
Average number of children born per woman: 1.6
Share of children aged 0-15: 15%
Share of foreign citizens: 6.9%
Celebrities

SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK

BORUT PAHOR
How children can find UNICEF Safe Spots?
# UNICEF Safe Spots in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of cities and towns with UNICEF Safe Spots</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of UNICEF Safe Spots</td>
<td>750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of volunteers</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of children who approached UNICEF Safe Spots in school year 2018/2019</td>
<td>110 (10 referrals)</td>
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Who can become UNICEF Safe Spot?

- Private business, public organisation, NGO who comply with requirements.
- UNICEF Safe Spots sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) where:
  - Assign person responsible
  - Assure that all staff is regularly trained
  - Share and update staff list to local coordinator
  - Assure participation of all staff at year trainings
  - Regularly report to NatCom (incident reports and end-of-the year rep)
  - Participate at end of school year evaluation
Trainings of UNICEF Safe Spots volunteers

• Why trainings?: Quality assurance
• Who is trained?: all volunteers
• How often trainings are provided?: initial training & refreshment trainings (once per year)
• Contents of trainings:
  ▪ CR principles
  ▪ basic child protection framework: child psychology, identification and reaction to emotional and behavioural distress in children,
  ▪ child-friendly communication,
  ▪ referral mechanisms.
What UNICEF Safe Spots benefit from participation?

- Recognition
- Opportunity of cobranding
- Proactive involvement in CR agenda
- Cocreation of safe environment for every child
- Assuring participation of children
UNICEF Safe Spots vision statement

In 2030 every child from the age of 6. to the age of 18. experiencing distress will be aware of the presence and role of UNICEF Safe Spots. UNICEF Safe Spots will be proud members of a wide network of collaborative organisations and businesses that not only care about children's rights but are trained in providing basic psychosocial support and referral to ensure that every child is protected and cared for.
Thank you!

Child Friendly Cities Summit
Cologne, October 2019