

# COMPARISON OF CRIMINAL LAW PROVISIONS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



CRITERIA	GERMANY	FRANCE	IRELAND	SWEDEN	SPAIN
Age of sexual consent	14 years	15 years	17 years	15 years	16 years
Higher age of consent in cases of authority figures / relatives	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Penalty for severe sexualised violence against children	Min. 2 years, in severe cases min. 5 years	20 years	Min. 15 years, max. lifelong	Min. 3, max. 6 years, in severe cases min. 5, max. 10 years	8-12 years, in severe cases 12-15 years
Limitation periods for severe sexualised violence against children	20 years after the 30th birthday of the affected person	30 years after the age of majority of the affected person	None	None	20 years after the 35th birthday of the affected person



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Consent as a rule of approval	✗	✓	Yes, but no practical application	✓	✓
Refrain from punishment for consensual sexual acts between peers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Criminal offence sexual abuse material covers all persons under 18	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Explicit criminal offences committed in the digital space	✗ but § 176b StGB as a criminal offence of online grooming	✓	✗	✗	✓

You can find more information  
in the Overview (in German)



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