

The single, toll free, European number for missing children (116000) is in operation from today (July 25th) in Portugal.

Assigned to the [Instituto de Apoio à Criança](#) , the number 116000 is operating on an experimental basis, on working days between 9:00 and 19:00. In the future it will be available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The creation of a single European number for missing children is one of the measures included in the European strategy to defend the rights of children. It was submitted in July 2006 and has received the approval of the European Commission.