

## **Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)**

### **Work programme and deliverables for 2020-2021**

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division  
Directorate of Anti-Discrimination

## 1. Background and overview of the CDENF Workplan and deliverables

1. The Committee of Ministers has entrusted the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (hereafter CDENF) to guide the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work in the field of the rights of the child and advise the Committee of Ministers on appropriate action to be taken in its field of competence, taking due account of relevant transversal perspectives.
2. Table 1 (see Annex I) sets out the Work programme for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020 through December 2021 in the light of the "main tasks" of CDENF under its terms of reference. It reflects the priorities defined by the Committee of Ministers at the time of adoption of the CDENF's terms of reference for the biennium 2020-2021 and includes the specific types of activities during the biennium and methods planned.
3. Table 2 (see Annex II) includes the details of the workplan under each of the main areas of responsibility vested in the CDENF, with reference to the specific tasks, means and specific deliverables planned in this context, with the intention of informing the CDENF Plenary's discussion and determination of work priorities and working methods.

**Areas of responsibilities vested in the CDENF**

	<i>Area of Work</i>
A.	STRATEGIC ACTION – Oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the rights of the child (2016-2021)
B.	POLICY WORK
C.	REVIEW OF COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDATIONS
D.	OTHER AREAS

4. The workplan will be updated by the Secretariat in a revised version of this document to take into account any new items of work/ and deliverables to support the implementation of its main and specific tasks, as set out in its current Terms of reference and adopted by the CDENF, taking into account any additional instructions from the Committee and requests by the Committee of Ministers.

## Annex I. CDENF's main tasks and priority actions, type of activities and implementation methods

Main tasks of CDENF	Type of activities and implementation methods	Implementing period
(i) Ensure that the rights of the child are mainstreaming into all relevant Council of Europe committees and bodies, and support member states in mainstreaming children's rights	Joint actions with other committees and bodies Participation through written and oral contributions to meetings and events organised by other sectors to bring a child rights expertise Exchanges with child rights rapporteurs nominated by other committees	2020-2021
(ii) Facilitate regular exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experience among member states in the areas covered by the Council of Europe strategy	Events, thematic visits and/or exchanges, thematic factsheets, policy briefs, handbooks, Clearing house on violence	2020-2021
(iii) Provide expertise to member States on the development of legislation, policies, practice, training schemes and awareness-raising material to support implementation of international standards including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Council of Europe standards related to the rights of the child	Development of non-binding instruments and tools Events, thematic visits and/or exchanges, thematic factsheets, policy briefs, handbooks	2020-2021
(iv) Advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on appropriate action to be taken and provide advice as requested	Adopted opinion'(s) at Committee of Ministers' request Advise on priority areas on children's rights and actions to be taken	Upon request
(v) Advise on the priority areas for the development of cooperation activities in the area of the rights of the child	Survey of member states and input through outcomes of regional and bilateral cooperation activities in the area of the rights of the child	Ongoing
(vi) Oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)	Update the action plan Prepare a final report on the implementation of the Strategy Contribute to a draft Council of Europe strategy on the Rights of the Child to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2021	Ongoing 2021 2020-2021
(vii) Follow the activities of relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms, in particular the Lanzarote Committee	CDENF representative(s) to take part in relevant meetings and report back on issues of interest as a standing agenda item of CDENF  Exchange with Chairs of relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms during plenaries on priority topics identified	2020-2021
(viii) Follow the implementation of the non-binding instruments that it has prepared and where appropriate review the implementation of relevant COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS recommendations	Review CM(2007)9 on life projects for unaccompanied minors (COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS decision) Issue guidance on the implementation of CM(2019)	2021

(ix) Ensure cooperation and synergies with relevant UN bodies, notably the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as with the EU and other relevant international organisations and civil society	Joint actions, events, exchanges of views, consultations and involvement in CDENF activities	2020-2021
(x) promote the visibility of the Council of Europe standards at international level	Participation and contribution of CDENF members to international events	2020-2021
(ix) Hold an exchange of views annually to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued	Yearly CDENF exchange of views	2020 and 2021
(xii) Take due account of a gender perspective, building cohesive societies and promoting and protecting the rights of children with disabilities in the performance of its tasks	Actions by thematic rapporteurs Review of documents and standards developed to ensure that they take due account of the relevant perspectives	2020-2021
(xiii) Carry out at regular intervals within the limits of available resources and bearing in mind its priorities an examination of some or all the conventions for which it has been given responsibility	Examination if considered necessary	To be determined
(xiv) Contribute to the achievement of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development <sup>1</sup>	Hold one exchange of views with international partners for discussion on the contribution of the CDENF and the Council of Europe to the 2030 Agenda and its possible involvement in the review of progress and participation of CDENF representatives at global events, as appropriate and subject to available resource Update the 2017 Information note on <i>Ending all forms of violence against children by 2030: The Council of Europe's contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> ; Create a dedicated webpage from the CDENF's webpage which provides tailored information on the Council of Europe Child Rights Agenda priority setting and results achievement in response to the 2030 Agenda	2020-2021

<sup>1</sup> See also for additional activities planned, CDENF(2020)07 at: <https://rm.coe.int/cdenf-2020-07-contribution-unsdgs/16809a41d9>

## Annex II. General workplan 2020-2021

Last update: 27 May 2020

A STRATEGIC ACTION – OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND CONTRIBUTE TO A DRAFT STRATEGY TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS FOR ADOPTION BY 31 DECEMBER 2021				
	Specific Task/ activity	Date	Responsibility Working methods	Role of CDENF
1	Update the action plan (specific task (i))	November 2020	Secretariat & Council of Europe sectors	Plenary review of the action plan yearly
2	Prepare a final report on the implementation of the Council of Europe strategy for the Rights of the child for submission to the Committee of Ministers (specific task (i))	November 2021	Secretariat & Council of Europe sectors	Plenary review of the final report in 2021
3	Ensure follow up to the mid-term evaluation including by contributing to a draft Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021-2027) to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2021 (specific task (ii))	Each plenary meeting 2020-2021	Secretariat Consultant(s) CDENF Bureau Online consultations	Agree on process for contributions for the priority areas Discuss priority areas and provide feedback and input
4	Ensure member states' engagement with children through participatory processes and consultations on the priorities of the new strategy for the mid-term review (specific task (vi))	2021	CDENF	Interested member states & stakeholders to make use of the tools and provide input
B POLICY MAKING				
B.1. Standard setting / guidance				
5	Draft Recommendation CM/REC(2019)xx of the Committee of Ministers to member states on Human Rights Principles and Guidelines on age assessment for children in migration (working title) (CM specific task – CAHENF follow up)	2020-2021	CDENF 1 Consultant	Provide comments & Approve a final text for communication to the Committee of Ministers no later than 2021
6	Explanatory guide for the implementation of the Recommendation CM/REC(2019)11 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on guiding principles and guidelines for an effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in migration (specific task (v))	2021	CDENF	Provide comments and examples of good practices Approve a final text in 2021
7	Non-binding instruments on systems to report violence against children, and on measures and interventions aimed at peer violence and sexual abusive behaviour by children (specific task (iii))	2020-2021	CDENF <a href="#">Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)</a>	Provide comments and orientations to the CDENF-GT-VAE Approve final texts

8	Non-binding instruments or tools containing relevant guidance for member states, to be approved by the CDENF on measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and sexual abusive behaviour by children; <b>(specific task (iii))</b>	2020-2021	CDENF <a href="#">Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)</a>	Provide comments and orientations to the CDENF-GT-VAE Approve final texts
9	Non binding instruments on the protection of the best interests of the child in situations of a) parental separation b) child care proceedings (in cooperation with CDCJ) <b>(specific task (iv1))</b>	2020-2021	CDENF & CDCJ Through CJ/ENF-ISE	CDENF to provide orientations, input during consultation and comments at final drafting stage
10	Tools to guide the implementation of the <a href="#">Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment</a> (specific task (v)), including providing expertise into the work of the Data protection consultative committee and possibly a joint declaration on data protection and children (transversal work- T-PD)	2020-2021	Secretariat	CDENF members to promote tools developed and disseminate
11	Contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2018-2022): paper addressing welfare and child protection challenges relating to child returnees <b>(specific task (iv4))</b> (transversal work- CDCT)	2020	Secretariat Informal working group	CDENF interested members to support the process and provide input

**B.2. Regular exchange of knowledge, good practices and experience among member states in the areas covered by the Strategy, including through thematic factsheets, events, thematic visits and exchanges**

12	Thematic debates on topics prioritised (violence, migration, digital environment, equal opportunities) <b>(specific task (v))</b>  At its first plenary meeting in February 2020, the following topics were proposed: a) child participation, b) artificial intelligence, blockchain, c) early intervention and family support for families with a range of issues, with a focus on interagency cooperation, avoidance of removal, peer violence situations, d) inclusion of vulnerable children, in particular children with disabilities.	2020-2021	Plenary Thematic experts CDENF Bureau	CDENF experts
13	Participation and contribution to CM chairmanship events and other thematic events organised by other sectors upon invitation <b>(specific task (ii, vii))</b>	2020-2021		

**B.3. Advice upon request by the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on appropriate action to be taken**

14	CDENF Opinions (upon request) <b>(main task (iv))</b>  <a href="#">Opinion by the CDENF on PACE Recommendation 2167(2019) on the Role of education in the digital era: from "digital natives" to "digital citizens"</a>	2020-2021	Secretariat Bureau	CDENF plenary adoption or in between plenaries by online consultation procedure
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**B.4. Needs assessment/advice/expertise on the development of standards, legislation, policies, practice, training schemes and awareness raising in the area of the rights of the child**

15	Clearing house to provide access to existing national strategies promoting an integrated approach to protection from violence <b>(specific task (iii))</b>	2020-2021	Secretariat 1 consultant <a href="#">Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)</a>	CDENF members to provide input and resources
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16	European Day for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ( <b>specific task (iii)</b> )	18 Nov 2020 18 Nov 2021	CDENF members and observers are invited to actively participate in the celebration of the Day by organising events	Information during plenary on initiatives at national, regional and local
17	Specific contributions to other areas of work of the Council of Europe (Prisons, administrative detention, terrorism, bioethics, alternatives to detention, trafficking, media, etc) & international events (UN, EU, etc) through active participation ( <b>specific task (iv)</b> ) - Compilation on good practices (children's participation in the decision-making process in the biomedical field (with DH-BIO) and decision on next actions	2020-2021	Appointment of CDENF representative(s)/or expert(s) to provide substantive input	Information during plenary on outcomes and any possible follow-up
18	Proposals for priority areas for the development of cooperation activities in the area of the rights of the child ( <b>main task (v)</b> )	2020-2021	Secretariat	CDENF at yearly reviews of priority areas
<b>C REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RECOMMENDATIONS</b>				
19	Report on the review of the implementation of CM/Rec(2007)9 on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors ( <b>specific task (v)</b> )	2020-2021	Secretariat Consultant <b>1 Migration Rapporteur</b>	CDENF to approve final report and conclusions for next steps
<b>D. OTHER AREAS OF ACTION</b>				
<b>D.1. Take due account of a gender perspective, to building cohesive societies, and to promoting and protecting rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-2023</b>				
20	Streamlining of the gender equality rapporteur (GER) role within CDENF  and  deliver on agreed tasks <sup>2</sup> , notably also by preparing a thematic factsheet covering gender equality in education, including sexuality education	February 2020 (completed)  2020-2021	Secretariat <b>Gender equality rapporteur</b> & Gender Equality division	CDENF to discuss a guidance note on the role of GER and possible tasks CDENF to examine GER's proposals and related documents

<sup>2</sup> The CDENF has approved the tasks of its GER Rapporteur for 2020-2021 at its first meeting (4-6 February 2020). The GER's role is :

- to ensure that a gender perspective is properly integrated during the programming process of the CDENF and the implementation of CDENF's tasks, by raising the gender dimension and by providing, where relevant, a gender impact assessment and analysis of policies texts developed under its specific tasks as set out in its mandate.
- to provide support and take part in any activities aimed at mainstreaming the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) in relation to gender equality issues, including by contributing to the preparation by the CDENF of a thematic factsheet covering gender equality in education, including sexuality education.
- Identify opportunities for ensuring synergies in the implementation of the two Council of Europe strategies relevant for his tasks, namely the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) and the Strategy for Gender Equality (2018-2023), including joint activities;
- Draw the CDENF's attention and advise on recent developments in relation to children and gender equality aspects, including by following up on the work at international and European level (UNCRC, Council of Europe relevant bodies, etc).
- Maintain close links with other Council of Europe Committees' GERs and with the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe to ensure transversality on gender mainstreaming and on issues of relevance to children.

21	Integrate the promotion and protection of the rights of children with disabilities	2020-2021	Secretariat Thematic rapporteur	CDENF to take due account and reflect on possible solutions, for any documents and deliverables
<b>D.2. Institutional cooperation and synergies with other actors</b>				
22	Follow the activities of the relevant monitoring and other bodies or convention mechanisms, in particular the Lanzarote committee	2020-2021	Secretariat Appointed CDENF representative	Information during plenary on outcomes & synergies
23	Meetings of chairs of intergovernmental committees	2020-2021	Chair & secretariat	Information during plenary on outcomes and follow-up