

Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

Second implementation report
of the Council of Europe Strategy
for the Rights of the Child
(2024-2025)

www.coe.int/children

**Building a Europe
for and with children**



Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

Second implementation report
of the Council of Europe Strategy
for the Rights of the Child
(2024-2025)

Prepared by:
The Secretariat of the
Steering Committee for
the Rights of the Child
(CDENF)

French edition:
*Deuxième rapport de mise en œuvre
sur la Stratégie du Conseil de l'Europe
pour les droits de l'enfant
(2024-2025)*

The reproduction of extracts (up to 500 words) is authorised, except for commercial purposes as long as the integrity of the text is preserved, the excerpt is not used out of context, does not provide incomplete information or does not otherwise mislead the reader as to the nature, scope or content of the text. The source text must always be acknowledged as follows "© Council of Europe, year of the publication".

All other requests concerning the reproduction/translation of all or part of the document, should be addressed to the Publications and Visual Identity Division, Council of Europe (F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex) or publishing@coe.int

All other requests concerning this publication should be addressed to the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Children's Rights Division children@coe.int

Cover photo: Maria Erla Portway

© Council of Europe, January 2026

Table of Content

List of acronyms	4
Executive summary	5
Introduction	7
A. What is the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)?	7
B. Structure of the implementation report.....	7
C. Methodology of the report.....	8
I. Delivering the Strategy	9
A. Overall implementation of the Strategy by the Council of Europe	9
B. Overall implementation of the Strategy at the national level.....	9
II- Review of progress made on each strategic objective	13
Strategic objective 1 – Freedom from violence for all children.....	13
Strategic objective 2 – Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children	20
Strategic objective 3 – Access to safe use of technologies for all children	25
Strategic objective 4 – Child friendly justice for all children	31
Strategic objective 5 – Giving a voice to every child.....	38
Strategic objective 6 – Children’s rights in crisis and emergency situations.....	45
III - Partnerships	52
IV. Communication.....	54
<i>Appendix 1: List of the European Court of Human Rights’ case law on children’s rights for the period of January 2024 to September 2025</i>	<i>55</i>

List of acronyms

ACFC	Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
ADI-ROM	Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (subordinate body of CDADI)
CAI	Committee on Artificial Intelligence
CDADI	Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion
CDBIO	Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health
CDCJ	European Committee on Legal Co-operation
CDENF	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child
CEPEJ	European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
CGU	Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine
CJ/ENF-ISE	Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (subordinate body to the CDCJ and CDENF)
CoE	Council of Europe
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CSAM	Child sexual abuse material
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
ECHR	European Convention on Human rights (full name: Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)
EPAS	Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
ENF-VAE	Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (subordinate body to the CDENF)
EU	European Union
FCNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
GEC	Gender Equality Commission
GREVIO	Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
GT-ADI-SOGI	Working Group on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (subordinate body of CDADI)
Istanbul Convention	Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence
Lanzarote Committee	Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
Lanzarote Convention	Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
PACE	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Pompidou Group	Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions
SOGIESC	Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

Executive summary

The Council of Europe [Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022–2027\)](#), hereafter “the Strategy”, continues to provide a solid and ambitious framework for protecting and promoting the rights of all children across Europe. Building a Europe for and with children remains at the heart of this collective commitment, through inclusive, child rights-based and participatory approaches. The Strategy is grounded in the Council of Europe’s standards and contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and other international instruments.

Three years after its adoption by the Committee of Ministers in February 2022 and its launch at a [High-Level Conference in Rome](#) (April 2022), the Strategy has entered its second phase of implementation. [The Mid-Term Review Conference](#), held in Strasbourg on 3-4 April 2025, provided a key opportunity for all stakeholders to take stock of progress, share national experiences, and identify remaining challenges and areas for enhanced co-operation. The discussions confirmed the Strategy’s relevance in the current context, marked by geopolitical instability, new emerging challenges, and ongoing changes affecting children. The [Mid-Term Review Conference report](#) highlights both achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Strategy and presents proposals in order to strengthen it in the remaining years. It also confirms its added value as a transversal and integrative tool to guide child rights policies in the Council of Europe member states and within the Council of Europe’s sectors. The 2024-2025 Implementation Report outlines key developments and activities under the six strategic objectives of the Strategy:

1. Freedom from violence for all children,
2. Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children,
3. Access to and safe use of technologies for all children,
4. Child-friendly justice for all children,
5. Giving a voice to every child and
6. Children’s rights in crisis and emergency situations.

This second implementation report gives an overview of the Council of Europe’s activities, developments and achievements under each thematic area, from October 2023 (first implementation report) up to October 2025. Developments in member states were collected up to April 2025.

To what extent have the Council of Europe and its member states effectively implemented the objectives and actions foreseen in the Strategy, and what challenges remain for its coherent application across member states?

Significant progress has been made under each objective, thanks to the sustained engagement of member states, the strategic partnerships with international and regional stakeholders, and the active involvement of civil society and children themselves. Co-ordination efforts led by the [Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child \(CDENF\)](#) have supported the mainstreaming of child rights across Council of Europe bodies, programmes, instruments and new tools.

Despite encouraging steps, the Strategy's effective implementation still faces structural and contextual challenges. The Mid-Term Review Conference identified key areas where further action is needed, including the safeguarding of children in digital environments, notably in the use of AI systems, strengthening child-participation mechanisms at national level, addressing child friendly justice through multidisciplinary and interagency services as well as age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education.

Introduction

A. What is the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)?

On 23 February 2022, the Committee of Ministers adopted the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#) (hereinafter “the Strategy”). The Strategy was formally launched during the [High-Level Conference “Beyond the horizon: a new era for the rights of the child”](#) in Rome, on 7-8 April 2022 and has been reviewed through the [Mid-Term Review Conference](#), on 3-4 April 2025, in Strasbourg.

The Strategy combines both “innovative and implementing objectives”, organised under six main strategic objectives:

1. Freedom from violence for all children,
2. Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children,
3. Access to and safe use of technologies for all children,
4. Child-friendly justice for all children,
5. Giving a voice to every child,
6. Children’s rights in crisis and emergency situations

The Strategy seeks to ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues throughout all actions and policies, notably child participation, gender equality and non-discrimination.

B. Structure of the implementation report

In line with the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)’s previous practice, the implementation of the Strategy is reviewed every two years, both at the Council of Europe and at the national level, to take stock of the progress made and provide guidance for its continued implementation. The [first implementation report of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child](#), covering the period 2022-2023, was published in January 2024.

This second report under the Strategy covers the period of 2024–2025 and is guided by the following question: *To what extent have the Council of Europe and its member states effectively implemented the objectives and actions foreseen in the Strategy, and what challenges remain for its coherent application across member states?*

Following the introduction, Section I analyses, quantitatively, how the Strategy is delivered, giving a general account of the Strategy implementation level by the Council of Europe and by the member states. Section II evaluates the results achieved under each strategic objective, once again both at the level of the Council of Europe and the member state. This section includes tables listing resources, activities and publications developed by the Council of Europe Secretariat and the member states. Only finalised activities are listed, and ongoing projects will be included in future implementation reports. Section III, acknowledges the Council of Europe external partners that have been key in triggering the implementation of the Strategy during this second implementation period, including

children themselves. The implementation report also includes an Appendix with a list of the European Court of Human Rights' case law on children's rights for the period of 2024 and 2025.

C. Methodology of the report

To gather the necessary information for this report, an online questionnaire was distributed to CDENF delegations at the end of 2024. Member states were invited to submit updates on overall progress in implementing the Strategy, as well as on specific legal and policy reforms and activities conducted under each strategic objective.

A total of 31 responses were received to the questionnaire.¹ Furthermore, at the *tour de table* during the 11th CDENF Plenary (1-2 April 2025) five more Council of Europe member states were able to share national promising practices under different objectives of the Strategy.² The quantitative data and the qualitative explanations, which reflect developments in member states up to April 2025, were analysed and compared with the first implementation report by the CDENF Secretariat.

This second implementation report provides an overview of the Council of Europe's activities, developments, and achievements across each thematic area from October 2023 (following the first implementation report) through October 2025. The report has benefited from input by the members of the Council of Europe Inter-Secretariat Task Force on the Rights of the Child. Various Council of Europe bodies have contributed twice, in 2024 and in 2025, to an "Action Plan Table" listing all ongoing and finalised activities under the Strategy.

¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom.

² Austria, Croatia, Germany, Serbia, Slovak Republic.

I. Delivering the Strategy

A. Overall implementation of the Strategy by the Council of Europe

Action taken by the Council of Europe under the Strategy has been developed fully in line with the key values of the Council of Europe – human rights, democracy and the Rule of Law – and the “dynamic triangle” which includes standard setting (international law), monitoring mechanisms, including binding mechanisms (to ensure that standards are reached and maintained) and co-operation activities (to address shortcomings).

The co-ordination and standard-setting activities on the rights of the child have been led by the CDENF, although corresponding to the mainstreaming responsibility assigned to the CDENF via its terms of reference, the rights of the child have also been promoted by other Council of Europe sectors and bodies. Considering the total 52 Steering Committees and monitoring bodies within the Council of Europe, 65% promoted or included the rights of the child in their reports,³ actions and activities in 2024.

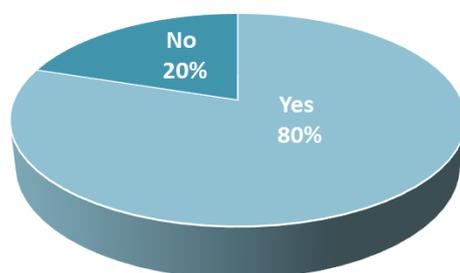
Finally, the Children’s Rights Division and various sectors of the Council of Europe implement co-operation projects aimed at supporting member states in the protection of the rights of the child nationally.

B. Overall implementation of the Strategy at the national level

i. *The state of play of the implementation of the Strategy*

Most respondent member states (80%)⁴ report using the Strategy in their respective countries to inspire, review or update a national or regional strategy or action plan to protect or promote children’s rights showing that the Strategy is having a positive impact on legal, policy and strategic action at national level.

Q10: Has the Strategy been used in your country to inspire, review or update a national or regional strategy or action plan to protect or promote children's rights? (N=30)



³ 34 out of 52 respondents - All percentages presented in the report that include a decimal are rounded to the nearest whole number for data readability purposes.

⁴ 24 out of 30 respondents.

In the questionnaire, 24 member states (out of 30) have indicated using the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) as a reference to inspire, review or update national strategic action plans or strategies. Other documents are referenced and often include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and related Observations or Recommendations, as well as the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and other relevant EU standards, which overall are consistent with the Council of Europe Strategy. The following table provides examples highlighting some of the member States' answers:

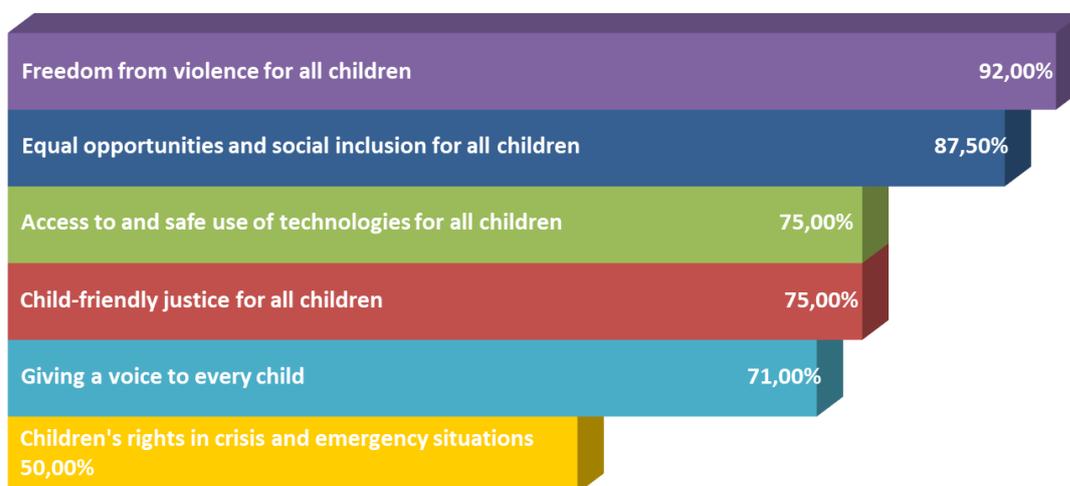
	Member state	National strategy or action plan on children's rights
1	Andorra	✦ Plan National pour l'Enfance et l'Adolescence 2022-2026
2	Bulgaria	✦ Draft National Strategy for the Child (2024-2030)
3	Czechia	✦ National Strategy on children's rights 2021-2027 ✦ New action plan on children's rights 2025+
4	Estonia	✦ Social Welfare Development Plan 2023-2030
5	Hungary	✦ Hungarian Action Plan on the Child Guarantee 2030 ✦ Public Education Strategy 2030
6	Ireland	✦ Young Ireland: The National Policy Framework for Children and Young People 2023-2028
7	Latvia	✦ Plan for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and protection of minors from criminal offenses for 2023-2024 ✦ State Police Prevention Strategy for 2023-2027 ✦ Plan for preventing and combating violence against women and family violence for 2024-2029
8	Malta	✦ Children's Policy Framework 2024-2030
9	Norway	✦ Escalation Plan against violence and abuse toward children and violence in close relationships ✦ New action plan for safe digital childhoods ✦ Amendments to the Parents and Children Act, strengthening children's rights and modernising family law
10	Portugal	✦ Single Strategy for the Rights of Children and Young People (2025-2035) and its Action Plan 2025-2030 ✦ National Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2021-2024) and its biennial plans based on applicable international guidelines
11	Romania	✦ National Strategy within the field of children's rights 2023-2027
12	Slovenia	✦ Programme for Children 2020-2025, based on the previous Strategy. The 2026 Programme for children will be based on the current Strategy
13	Spain	✦ State Strategy on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2023-2030)

14	Sweden	✦ Review of the Strategy to strengthen the Rights of the Child in Sweden (Govt bill 2009/10:232) to be carried out.
15	Türkiye	✦ 2023-2028 Türkiye Child Rights Strategy Document and Action Plan

Member states further report that the Strategy has had the greatest impact in the areas of protection of children from violence, and equal opportunities and social inclusion (strategic objectives 1 and 2, respectively). Concerning the area of access and safe use of technology for all children, child friendly justice for all children and child participation (strategic objectives 3, 4 and 5, respectively), the Strategy has had an important impact as well. 18 out of 24 member states have indicated so. These figures indicate that the Strategy has had a notable impact across most of the key child rights areas.

Regarding children’s rights in crisis and emergency situations (strategic objective 6), only half of the respondents indicated that the Strategy has had a positive impact within the member states, suggesting potential gaps in implementation or visibility of the Strategy in the two last years’ particular context.⁵

Q11: in which area(s) did the Strategy have a positive impact and contributed to support the progress made? (N=28)



In addition, the Strategy continuously provided guidance (including for national handbooks, publications, legal opinions, amicus curiae, etc.) in 19 member states and support to capacity-building projects and activities (including trainings, study visits) in 20 member states. It has also facilitated the implementation of Council of Europe monitoring bodies’ decisions or recommendations on children’s rights in 13 member states, as well as awareness raising activities in 19 member states.

⁵ More details will be provided under the analysis of the strategic objective n°6.

Q13: What other actions has the Strategy supported to protect or promote children's rights? (N=28)



ii. The challenges faced in the implementation of the Strategy

The main challenge remaining for the implementation of the Strategy is its dissemination. Currently, the Strategy is available in the national languages of only 37% of respondent member states, i.e. in eleven member states only. However, it seems important to note that 4 of the 31 other member states foresee a translation of the Strategy to further disseminate it.

Furthermore, 6 out of the 31 countries reported that they did not rely on the work of the Council of Europe to guide, review, or revise any national strategic documents concerning the protection or promotion of children's rights, suggesting possible gaps in alignment between national and regional standards.

II- Review of progress made on each strategic objective

Strategic objective 1 – Freedom from violence for all children

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

i. *Children's Rights Division*

The first strategic objective of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) aims at eliminating all forms of violence against children. This is a continuation of the Council of Europe's work in promoting an integrated and strategic approach to addressing violence against children and contributing to the elimination of all forms of violence in all settings. Several activities were carried out during the second implementation period (2024-2025).

The groundwork has largely been laid for the adoption of a non-binding instrument aimed at providing age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education for children to prevent and combat violence against and among children via:

1. A thematic exchange held in May 2024 and followed by the adoption of a guidance note on [safeguarding children from the risks of accessing online pornographic content](#) (May 2025)
2. The [updated study on sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children: Nature, causes, consequences and responses](#) (February 2025) prepared by the Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)
3. In April 2025, the [Mid-Term Review Conference](#) session on the strategic objective 1 was held, designed as a stakeholder consultation aiming to feed the drafting process of the non-binding instrument referred hereabove. The session was entitled: "[Protecting children from violence through age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education](#)"
4. A consultation process on comprehensive sexuality education
5. The [Feasibility study on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for – inter alia – preventing and combating violence, including risky or harmful sexual behaviour by children](#) prepared by the ENF-VAE (December 2024)

The CDENF adopted the [implementation review of the CM/Rec\(2009\)10 of the Committee of Ministers on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence](#) (December 2024). In this context, it also approved an information report on the [progress and delay in achieving universal prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment in Council of Europe member States](#) (December 2024).

The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee) has continued promoting, monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of Children against sexual exploitation and abuse (Lanzarote Convention).

Between May 2023 and October 2025, the Lanzarote Committee took note of the Council of Europe [Guidelines](#) for policy makers on engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in March 2024; adopted an [opinion on Article 33 of the Lanzarote Convention and its explanatory note](#) addressing the requirements of the provision on statute of limitations and recommendations on its implementation in June 2024; adopted a [declaration](#) on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies in November 2024; launched the [HELP course on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) for professionals in March 2025 ; and adopted in July 2025, the implementation report on “[Protection of children against sexual abuse in the circle of trust: legal frameworks](#)” (executive summary and recommendations [translated into multiple non-official languages](#)) and the report on “[Data collection mechanisms on child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#)”.

The 2025 edition of the day for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse ([18 November 2025](#)) focused on strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse through evidence-based policy making.

Through the co-operation projects of the Division for Children's Rights, the Council of Europe has also provided technical assistance and support to member states in the development of integrated responses to violence against children through co-operation projects, notably the project finalised in 2024 called “[Protecting the rights of Ukrainian children during and in post-war context](#)”, including methodological recommendations for monitoring the compliance with children's right to protection from violence and abuse in the conditions of war. In addition, a co-operation project on “[Preventing and protecting children from violence including in the digital environment](#)” carried out in the Republic of Moldova implemented a national campaign for the prevention and reporting of child abuse and violence.

ii. Other Council of Europe Bodies

Various sectors and bodies have pursued work to fight and prevent different forms of violence against children (such as sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, violence against children belonging to minority groups), in various settings (including the online environment, in armed conflicts and in the context of sports). Here are some specific examples:

Council of Europe Entity	Standard setting instrument / Activity
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)	The “ Start to Talk ” project, launched in Cyprus in 2024, aims to reach an effective implementation of child safeguarding policies in sport, by providing technical assistance and tools to public authorities and sport organisations at a national level. Numerous events are organised as part of this project.
	An extended session on child safeguarding in sport took place after the 19 th EPAS Statutory Committee meeting, featuring two panels: one of the awareness-raising benefits of “ Start to talk ” and another on trauma-informed safeguarding practices.
	The third annual meeting of the Council of Europe’s Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport was held in 2024. The EPAS and the Luxembourg

	<p>Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe co-organised a seminar on trauma-informed child safeguarding practices in sport.</p> <p>The EPAS and the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office in Geneva co-organised, as a part of the “Start to talk” project, a side event titled “Safe Sport as Space for Human Rights Education” on the sidelines of the 58th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.</p> <p>The “Guidelines on safer recruitment in sport: a human rights-compliant screening of professionals and volunteers in contact with children” were adopted by the EPAS Governing Board on July 2025.</p>
European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)	<p>In the framework of its country monitoring work, ECRI examines the situation concerning manifestations of racism and intolerance in each of the Council of Europe member states. Since 2022 and every year, the sixth cycle focuses on inclusive education and addresses hate speech and violence.</p>
Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)	<p>The first thematic evaluation report for Austria, “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice”, adopted in September 2024, highlights that easy access to violent online pornography among children and youth contributes to sexual violence against women and girls. Studies show this exposure is linked to a worrying decrease in the age of perpetrators. Research cited in the report warns that violent pornography harms children’s mental health and their ability to form healthy, consensual relationships. It calls for targeted awareness and prevention efforts aimed at both parents and children.</p> <p>The first thematic evaluation report for Portugal “Building trust by delivering support, protection and justice”, adopted in March 2025, highlights the need to protect children’s rights in domestic violence cases by ensuring child-friendly justice, prioritizing their best interests, and safeguarding them from further harm through coordinated and informed support.</p>
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)	<p>The report, entitled “The protection of children against online violence” (rapporteur: Joseph O’Reilly, Ireland, EPP/CD) (2024), has been followed by the Resolution 2547 and the Recommendation 2274. It focuses on how to implement effective age verification on websites, raising awareness among parents, protecting young children from inappropriate content, and enhancing cybersecurity measures to combat child exploitation. It also advocates for educational programmes on digital safety, collaboration with the technology industry, and international co-operation to strengthen protections against online violence. Additionally, it highlights the importance of learning from victims to inform effective policies and urges further examination of the impact of violent pornography on children.</p> <p>The report, entitled “Child abuse in institutions in Europe” (Rapporteur: Pierre-Alain Fridez, Switzerland, SOC) (2024), emphasises the importance of political recognition for victims, highlighting the Swiss good practice of providing substantial compensation and removing statutes of limitation for such crimes. As a follow-up to the report, a Conference on child abuse in institutions has been organised in December 2024.</p> <p>The report, entitled “Protecting human rights in and through sport: obligations and shared responsibilities” (Rapporteur: Kim Valentin, Denmark, ALDE) (2025), has been followed by the Resolution 2607. The resolution urges states to enshrine human rights protections in national sports policy frameworks, ensure the presence of child safeguarding officers, and establish independent safe sport units. It also supports the creation of a global safe sport</p>

	body and an international code, similar to the World Anti-Doping Code, to prevent abuse and ensure accountability.
	The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has adopted on 3 October 2025 a Resolution on sexual violence against men and boys . The resolution underscores the importance of comprehensive sexuality education. The Assembly deplores the lack of data and under-reporting of violence and called for awareness-raising in order to challenge cultural prejudices.
Pompidou Group	The adoption of the Pompidou Group’s Guidance document on aligning drug and addiction policies with human rights marked a crucial step in ensuring that national strategies prioritise health, dignity, and human rights. By offering clear guidelines for integrating human rights into drug policy frameworks, it encourages policymakers and institutions to adopt a comprehensive and rights-based approach. The Drafting Committee on Human Rights in Drug Policies (DH-PDA) is now in charge of drafting the Recommendation on Human Rights in Drug Policies and its first meeting was held in July 2025.
Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics Unit/ GT-ADI-SOGI/CDADI (SOGIESC Unit)	A comprehensive review report on the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity has been adopted in 2025. The key findings of the report and the recommendations refer to SOGIESC issues that impact on children, such as in the field of education and access to health.

b. Action taken by the member states

Over the past two years, the vast majority (93%)⁶ of member states have passed legislation or policies to protect children from violence during the period covered by the implementation report. Focus has been placed on:

- Creating legislation and policies meant to enhance the prevention of violence in general;
- Developing targeted instruments and actions primarily in the areas of child sexual abuse and exploitation, formation of professionals, gender-based violence and violence against children in vulnerable situations.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=22)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=30)	Percentage of states
Fight child sexual exploitation and abuse	22	100%	26	87%
Raise awareness on the need to protect children against child sexual exploitation and abuse	21	95%	22	73%
Strengthen reporting mechanisms for professionals detecting signs of violence against children	18	82%	28	93%

⁶ 27 out of 29 respondents.

Adopt child protection policies in areas where professionals or volunteers work with or for children	16	72%	25	83%
End gender-based violence against girls	16	72%	23	77%
End violence against children in vulnerable situations	17	77%	24	80%
End cyberbullying	18	82%⁷	20	67%
End grooming	18	82%	15	50%
End hate crime or hate speech in relation to children	15	68%	15	50%
End bullying or peer violence between children themselves	17	77%	22	73%
Develop strategies to prevent violence against children more generally	16	73%	27	90%
Promote campaigns to change mentalities about violence against children, including family and institutional contexts (including in care settings)	16	73%	20	67%

There seem to be notable progress in several key areas of child protection against violence, particularly in strengthening reporting mechanisms and adopting policies where professionals and volunteers work with children. These developments suggest a growing commitment to institutional and structural measures to prevent violence. The data suggests that some areas such as raising awareness surrounding child sexual exploitation, and digital risks such as grooming and cyberbullying, show signs of decreased emphasis. Nevertheless, overall efforts to prevent violence more broadly and to address gender-based violence seem to continue to gain traction.

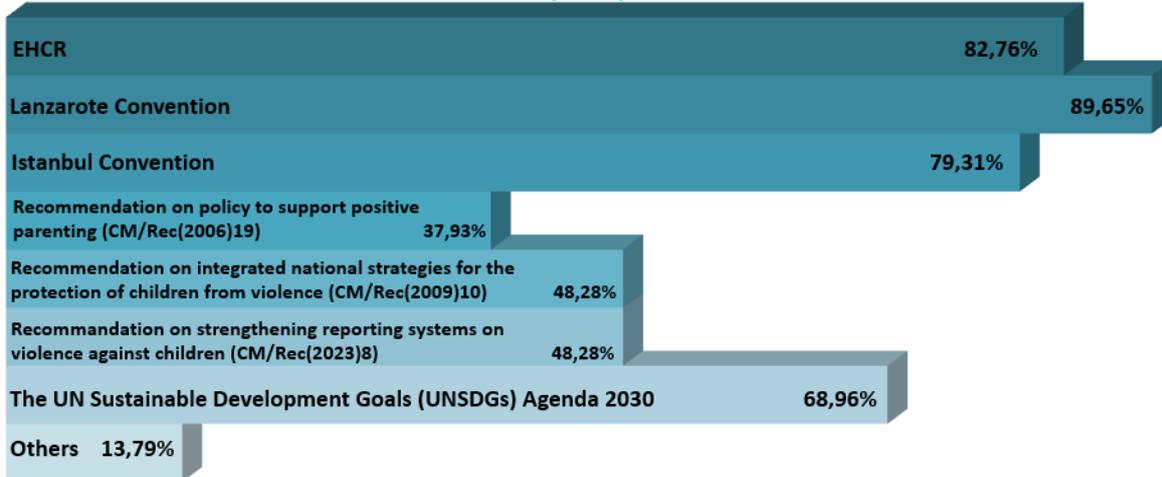
National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Armenia	Armenia adopted a decision defining the procedure for referring a child subjected to violence to the relevant authorities for protection or support. According to this decision, children subjected to violence are offered advisory, legal, medical, socio-psychological, and rehabilitation services.
Austria	Austria set up an interministerial Working group on Preventive measures against sexualised violence towards and by children and young people with the aim of developing measures to teach children the concept of consent in sexual relationships in an age-appropriate manner. It also aims to raise their awareness of the harmful effects of violent pornographic content and the sharing of intimate images of themselves and others.

⁷ In 2023, the two columns were merged. That is why they are indicated in parenthesis in this report.

Finland	Finland is currently strengthening its work against bullying in schools, with this work being notably undertaken transversely across the home and school environment. A new informative webpage has been done in Finnish and English with data and analysis of the evolving situation.
France	In France, at the start of the 2025-2026 school year, an “Education to affective and relational life, and to sexuality” Programme (EVARS) has been introduced – It aims at teaching emotional and interpersonal skills in nursery and primary schools and teaching emotional and interpersonal skills and sexuality education in secondary schools.
Italy	Italy’s Law no. 70 of 17 May 2024 introduces a national strategy to prevent and combat bullying and cyberbullying, focusing on protecting both victims and perpetrators through education and training. It requires schools to prevent and combat bullying and cyberbullying by adopting internal rules, appointing a coordinating teacher, and setting up a monitoring group with families, students, and experts.
Malta	The Childwebalert Hotline ensures that cases of child sexual abuse material online are reported on their online reporting platform leading to victim identification so that the child who is a victim of abuse would get the help needed and the perpetrator would be prosecuted.
Monaco	Monaco launched a 24/7 emergency number (+377 98 98 96 96) in January 2024, enabling victims, witnesses, or informants to report harassment and violence against children and adolescents in schools.
Portugal	Portugal adopted Law 39/2025, which prohibits child, early and forced marriages and classifies them as situations of danger requiring protective intervention, while amending the Civil Code, the Civil Registry Code and the Law on the Protection of Children and Young People at Risk.
Serbia	Serbia established a new protocol for the protection of children from violence related to the regulations, governing activities and procedures in the context of prevention and protection of children within care institutions.

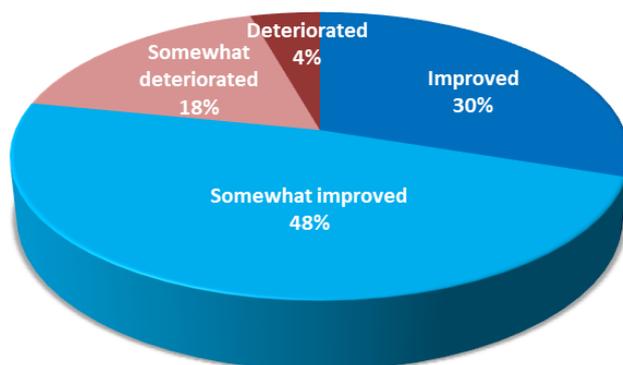
Respondent member states indicate that the Lanzarote Convention, [the European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) are the main standards referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed at preventing or fighting violence against children. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) are referred to by the member states proving their complementarity to the Council of Europe Conventions and other juridical instruments.

Q17: In preparing or implementing any legislation or integrated policies aimed at preventing or fighting violence against children, did you refer to or take into account the following Council of Europe or international standards and guidance documents? (N=29)



Most respondent member states (78%) consider that the overall situation of children regarding the prevalence of violence in different forms and settings has (somewhat) improved, suggesting that recent prevention policies may be having a positive impact. Only 22% of respondents consider that the prevalence of violence in different forms and settings has (somewhat) deteriorated, indicating that challenges remain, particularly in specific contexts such as prevention against bullying and more targeted campaigns to prevent children from violence.

Q19: Based on any evidence available, over the past two years, has the overall situation of children in your country regarding the prevalence of violence in different forms and settings...? (N=29)



Strategic objective 2 – Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

i. Children’s Rights Division

During the reporting period (2024-2025), the CDENF has carried on work related to the provision of equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children, notably:

1. [Mapping study on children’s access to quality mental health care](#) adopted in 2024,
2. Session of the [Mid-Term Review Conference](#) dedicated to “[Combating child poverty and promoting social inclusion of all children](#)” in April 2025.

Regarding co-operation and capacity building activities on the matter, in 2024, the Children’s Rights Division led a project to set up the [Andorran National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents](#) and provided support for related [awareness-raising activities](#).

ii. Other Council of Europe Bodies

Council of Europe Entity	Standard setting instrument / Activity
Commissioner for Human rights	Work is currently ongoing on tackling child poverty through social security systems, with a special emphasis on vulnerable children.
European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)	In 2025, the monitoring report on Spain for the year 2024 has been published. It notably discusses the treatment of children and young persons held in an educational institution. One of the key recommendations of the CPT is to render the environment in the residential living units less carceral and more child friendly.
European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)	A country monitoring work is being done every year by ECRI. Since 2022, the sixth cycle focuses on integration and inclusion in all areas of life, including education (with a focus on Roma and migrant children)
	A country monitoring work is being done every year by ECRI. Since 2025, the seventh cycle focuses on equal treatment and inclusion in education.
Education Department	The Romani Plurilingual Policy for Education (RPPE) is currently under finalisation. It aims at promoting the inclusion of Romani language in countries such as Greece and Slovenia.
	A policy recommendation (including a self-assessment tool for member states) which aims at categorizing existing educational resources is currently being developed.
European Social Charter (ESC)	In April 2025, a session of the Mid-Term Review Conference dedicated to “ Combating child poverty and promoting social inclusion of all children ” has been co organised with the European Social Charter, PACE and the CDENF.
Division of National Minorities and Minority Languages	In 2024, the Thematic Commentary No. 1 on Education under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (2024-2027) has been published.
PACE	A report entitled “Children in the world of work: eradicating harmful child labour” has been published in 2024 (Rapporteur: Eka Sepashvili, Georgia, EC/DA) It aims at member states drawing up national action plans to end child labour, involving government agencies, employers, trade unions,

	schools, the media, parliaments, local authorities and faith-based organisations.
Pompidou Group	A Practical guide , integrating gender and children’s rights in services for families affected by drug use has been published in 2024.
Roma and Travellers Division	The CM/Rec(2024)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls has been adopted in 2024.
SOGIESC Unit	Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on equal rights for intersex people was adopted on October 7, 2025, and a review report on CM/Rec(2010)5 has been prepared. Both documents highlighting children's rights in education and health.
	An Inclusive Education tool for policymakers under an EU/Council of Europe joint project has been developed, with a focus on hate speech, anti-gender narratives, and teacher training. An Online kick-off meeting was held for the development of inclusive education tool. This project runs from 2023 to 2026.
	Since 2024, six national CSOs initiatives promoting human rights and equality for LGBTI persons have been implemented thanks to an international project.
Youth Sector	A youth version of the CM/Rec(2023)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on Roma youth participation is currently being prepared.
	An educational programme is being developed for professionals working with youth.

b. Action taken by member states

Over the past two years, the vast majority (89%)⁸ of respondent member states have passed legislation or taken policy initiatives at national, regional, or local level to improve equal opportunities or strengthen the social inclusion of children during the period covered by the implementation report.

Primary focus has been placed on:

- Promoting inclusive education,
- Strengthening the participation and involvement of children in vulnerable situations,
- Protecting children without parental care or in alternative care,
- Protecting children with disabilities and ensure their participation.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=22)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=30)	Percentage of states
Guarantee children’s social rights	15	68%	19	65%

⁸ 24 out of 27 respondents.

Fight discrimination against children	18	81%	20	69%
Ensure access to justice for children in vulnerable situations	16	72%	18	62%
Promote inclusive education	17	77%	23	79%
Boost education programmes on citizenship and human rights education	15	68%	12	41%
Strengthen the participation and involvement of children in vulnerable situations	19	86%	23	79%
Protect children without parental care or in alternative care	17	77%	22	76%
Support the transition of children in vulnerable situations into adulthood	15	68%	12	41%
Protect children on the move, including migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children	19	86%	19	65%
Protect children with disabilities and ensure their participation	18	81%	21	72%
Reduce child poverty	17	77%	20	69%
Make institutions and services more attentive to situations of poverty and social exclusion	17	77%	16	55%
Improve gender disaggregated data collection with relation to children	16	72%	14	48%
Analyse and address new challenges for children emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic	18	81%	9	31%
Tackle the exclusion of Roma and Traveller children	17	77%	13	45%
Combat trafficking of children	17	77%	19	65%
Protect LGBTI children and families	13	59%	9	31%

Foster children’s access to mental health care	20	91%	16	55%
--	----	-----	----	-----

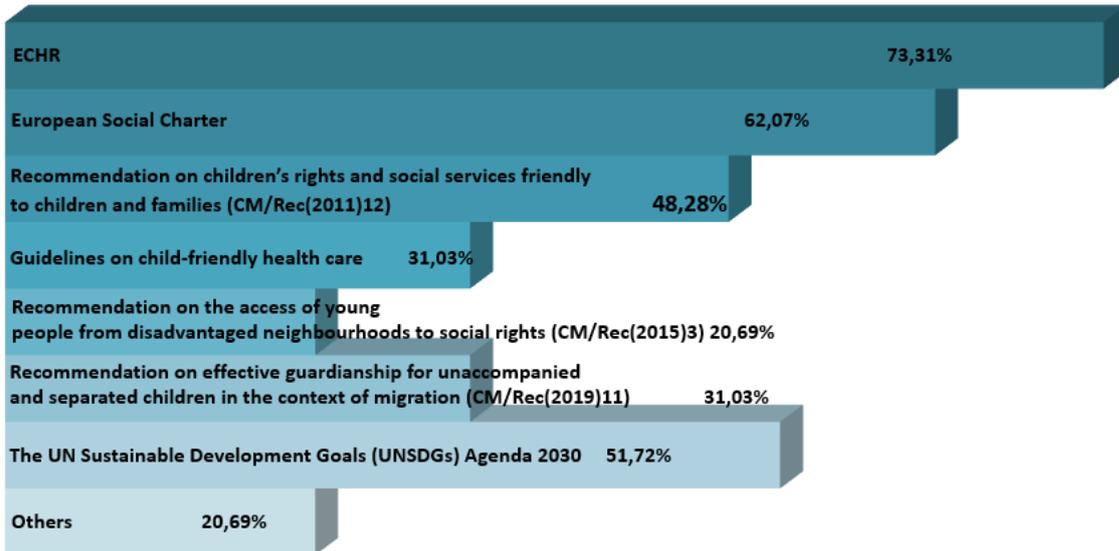
Although the number of respondents increased from 2023 to 2024, it seems that most priorities show a relative decrease when adjusted to the larger sample. It seems that inclusive education remains a growing concern, and a few general areas continue to attract consistent attention (guarantee children’s social rights or reduce child poverty for instance). It appears from the data collected, that other areas lose ground proportionally. The focus on Roma and Traveller children seems to decline sharply, as well as issues such as the protection of LGBTI children, access to mental healthcare and, more understandably, post-Covid challenges.

National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Albania	The 2024 Albanian Strategy for social protection to build a fair and inclusive future seeks to build a society that strengthens social cohesion and develops humanity. It was drafted in consultation with children, to encourage their engagement with the issues that matter to them.
Belgium	Belgium’s new educational app “DRAW FOR CHANGE!” uses virtual reality and interactive activities to engage students and teachers on gender equality and related issues. It promotes dialogue, raises awareness, and develops citizenship, cultural, and digital skills.
Croatia	In September 2024, Croatia launched a plan to reduce poverty and social exclusion by developing a modern, evidence-based policy framework. The plan prioritizes solidarity and focuses on the needs of children, young people, children with disabilities, and those most at risk.
Denmark	Since 2024, Denmark’s Children’s Act has replaced parts of the Social Service Act, consolidating rules on support for vulnerable children and those with disabilities. It strengthens children’s rights, gives more weight to their voices, ensures earlier and better support, improves stability in placements, enhances case planning quality, and increases legal certainty.
Estonia	The Estonian National Opera recently staged “Tajuleebe tansulugu” (Sensory Sensitive Dance Story), a production tailored for children with special needs. With flexible seating, sensory aids, and involvement of autism specialists, it enabled families—many for the first time—to enjoy theatre in an inclusive environment, inspired by similar shows in Sweden and Denmark.

Respondent member states indicate that the European Convention on Human Rights, the [CM/Rec\(2011\)12](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on children’s rights and social services friendly to children and families, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) Agenda 2030 (notably targets 1.1 and 1.2 on reducing absolute and relative poverty and 2.1 and 2.2 on ending hunger and malnutrition), as well as the [Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly healthcare](#) are

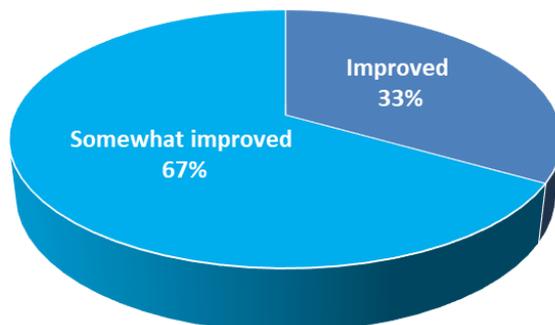
the main standards referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed at improving equal opportunities or strengthening the social inclusion of children.

Q26: In preparing or implementing any legislation or integrated policies aimed at improving equal opportunities or strengthen the social inclusion of children, did you refer to or take into account the following Council of Europe or international standard standard and guidance documents? (N=29)



All respondent member states (100%) considered that the overall situation of children regarding equal opportunities and social inclusion has (somewhat) improved. This could probably reflect the positive impact of targeted policies or increased investment in inclusion efforts, despite persistent challenges in identifiable areas.

Q28: Based on any evidence available, over the past two years, has the overall situation of children in your country regarding equal opportunities and social inclusion...? (N = 27)



Strategic objective 3 – Access to safe use of technologies for all children

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

This strategic objective is highly relevant in today's digital world in which children are growing up. During the reporting period, the Council of Europe has paid specific attention to the human rights issues raised by artificial intelligence (AI) systems, both in terms of benefits and risks. The Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) has opened for signature the [Framework Convention](#) on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. It is the first-ever international legally binding treaty on Artificial Intelligence. Together with the Framework Convention, the CAI is currently developing a risk and impact assessment of AI systems from the point of view of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (“[the HUDERIA](#)”), providing a structured approach to risk and impact assessment for AI systems specifically tailored to the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In parallel to this process, specific activities were carried out by other Council of Europe bodies.

i. *Children’s Rights Division*

The CDENF:

1. approved a [mapping study](#) on the rights of the child and artificial intelligence: “Legal Frameworks that Address AI in the Context of Children’s Rights” in 2024;
2. carried on working towards the adoption of a Child-rights impact assessment tool on artificial intelligence ([CRIA+](#)) aiming at complementing the HUDERIA tool;
3. in April 2025, in the context of the [Mid-Term Review Conference](#), dedicated a session to “[Children’s rights in the era of digital technologies and artificial intelligence](#)”. Children participated in this session and provided valuable insights on how AI is transforming many aspects of their lives and how crucial it is to actively involve them in the drafting and design of legal frameworks.

The Lanzarote Committee started its compliance procedure (2024–2026) of the [second monitoring round](#), which focuses on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs), with particular attention to the challenges arising from child self-generated sexual images and/or videos, as identified during the 2017–2022 period to prevent and address breaches. Furthermore, in 2024, the Lanzarote Committee adopted a [declaration](#) on protecting children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by emerging technologies. It aims to ensure children are protected from sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by technology, by reinforcing laws, accountability, and support systems. Finally, in 2024, the [awareness raising Day](#) for the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and Sexual abuse (18 November) focused on how emerging technologies present both threats and opportunities for the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Three relevant co-operation projects ran during the implementation period. The [project](#) Preventing and protecting children from violence, including in the digital environment in the Republic of Moldova was finalised in 2024. Furthermore, the “End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse@Europe Plus” ([EndOCSEA@Europe+](#)) project is ongoing in Georgia, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova until the end of 2025, which led to the development of training materials and delivery of 9 trainings

and Training of Trainers for legal and frontline professionals. Finally, a new [project](#) was launched in 2025, in Azerbaijan, on the protection of children from violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, including in the digital environment.

ii. *Other Council of Europe Bodies*

CoE Entity in alphabetical order	Standard setting instrument / Activity
Education Department	<p>The Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) had a major focus on the development of age-appropriate learning outcomes, and tools to help teachers implement digital citizenship in classrooms.</p> <p>A roadmap has been created, and it tackles the topic of digital parenting (framework of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education).</p> <p>A draft Recommendation (2025 or 2026) on AI literacy with specific child-focused provisions and assessment of AI's impact on education systems is currently being drafted.</p>
Gender Equality Commission (GEC) / Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)	A draft Recommendation on Equality and AI is currently being drafted and represents a key initiative to address the opportunities and risks AI poses to equality and non-discrimination and recognises specific needs and vulnerabilities of children.
GEC / European Committee on Crime Problems	A draft Recommendation , to be adopted by both Committees in the late 2025, on combating technology-facilitated violence against women and girls underscores the urgent need for accountability and robust legal and institutional measures, while promoting a child-friendly approach that recognises both girls as victims and, at times, perpetrators. It highlights the importance of effective justice systems, digital literacy, and tailored support services to protect children in the digital age.
Youth Sector	A roadmap has been created for AI-related actions targeting young people, alongside continuing training courses.

b. Action taken by member states

Over the past two years, the vast majority (92%)⁹ of respondent member states have passed legislation or taken policy initiatives at national, regional, or local levels to improve the access and safe use of technologies for children during the period covered by the implementation report. Primary focus has been placed on:

- Protecting children online;
- Supporting families, teachers and other professionals, volunteers as well as children, to prevent cases of cyberbullying and online hate speech;
- Providing digital citizenship education for children;

⁹ 23 out of 25 respondents.

- Ensuring that cases of online child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are reported, investigated and prosecuted promptly, efficiently and appropriately.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=22)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=29)	Percentage of states
Protect children online, e.g. from violence, grooming, sexual and peer violence and cybersexism, exposure to pornographic or other harmful content, cyberbullying, online hate speech or interference with children's right to privacy and personal data protection	21	95%	23	79%
Raise awareness about sexist misuse of social media and online threats for children (including sexual exploitation and abuse)	20	91%	19	65%
Ensure that cases of online child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse are reported, investigated and prosecuted promptly, efficiently and appropriately	20	91%	20	69%
Support families, teachers and other professionals, volunteers as well as children, to prevent cases of cyberbullying and online hate speech	21	95%	22	76%
Provide digital citizenship education for children	16	72%	21	72%
Provide positive digital parenting support	16	72%	15	52%
Fight digital exclusion and ensure equal access to the digital environment, including for children with disabilities, children in the context of migration and children belonging to national minorities, in particular Roma and Traveller children	13	59%	12	41%
Make sure that businesses and industry fulfil their	11	50%	7	24%

responsibilities towards children, including by undertaking child impact assessments, ensuring the participation of children in the assessment stages, as well as involving them in the design of digital services and products				
Tackle the use of internet and social media for spreading disinformation, hate speech and violent radical ideas including for the purpose of terrorism among children	19	86%	16	55%
Build capacities for professionals and volunteers working with children on the rights of the child and technologies, including the provision of digital citizenship education	16	72%	17	58%
Engage children in the development and delivery of capacity-building and digital education for teachers and other professionals or volunteers	11	50%	10	34%
Enhance child participation through technologies and in decisions related to the digital environment	12	54%	13	45%
Address the risks posed by and possibilities to benefit from the use of artificial intelligence in relation to children	12	54%	12	41%
Promote safe and enabling spaces for children to freely search for information and express their views online	14	64%	11	38%
Explore new issues impacting children's well-being, i.e. online gaming, online marketing and online influencing	20	91%	11	38%
Ensure the rights of children to online play, leisure and association	14	64%	12	41%

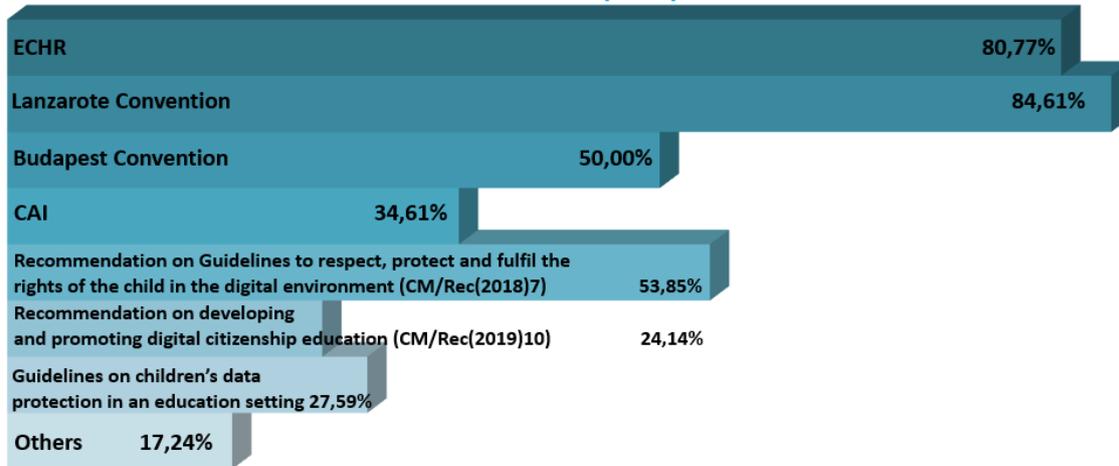
While most digital-related child protection priorities show a relative decrease, this shift may indicate a move toward a more focused and integrated approach rather than a decline in overall concern. Core issues like online protection from violence and exploitation, digital education, and support for professionals remain strongly represented, indicating that the basics are still being addressed. Interestingly, emerging topics such as children's rights in relation to artificial intelligence (AI) maintain

a steady level of attention, showing recognition of both the risks and opportunities AI presents for children. Although themes like digital exclusion and new issues related to children’s well-being online appear less prioritised proportionally.

National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Andorra	Recently, one of the biggest mobile phone operators in Andorra, TELECOM, has launched a SIM card that blocks access to adult content . This initiative aims to prevent harmful behaviour against children.
Greece	Greece launched the Safe.YOUth App in 2024 to enhance children’s digital safety. It connects users to emergency services and police, offers guidance on cyberbullying prevention, allows anonymous reporting of online threats, and links to government platforms. The app contributes significantly to improving children's ability to safely navigate the digital world, particularly in vulnerable groups like refugees and marginalised communities.
Luxembourg	In Luxembourg, the Campaign Exit Mobbing aims to combat harassment and cyberbullying. As part of this campaign, sessions and documents to inform and raise awareness among parents are being reinforced. At the initiative of the Luxembourg Government, the Bee Secure association aims to promote safer and more responsible use of digital technologies, with a particular focus on empowering children, young people, and those around them
Portugal	In Portugal, several digital citizenship actions were promoted with a view to protecting children and young people in digital environments within the scope of the project Surf the net safely – Safe Internet’ and the Choices Programme (9th Edition, from October 2023 to September 2026), both run by Institute for Sports and Youth.
Slovakia	Digital parents is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) supported by the public authorities in Slovakia, who created a conversation game to encourage families to debate and bring up topics on digital technologies and their place in everyday lives of the children and often not discussed at home.
Switzerland	In Switzerland, a law enforced in January 2025 provides better protection for children and young people in the film and video game sectors against inappropriate content – violent or sexually explicit – in a uniform manner throughout Switzerland.

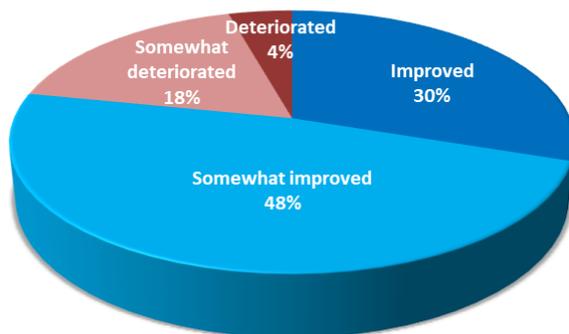
Respondent member states indicated that the Lanzarote Convention, the European Convention on Human Rights and the [Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment](#), are the main standards referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed at promoting the access and safe use of technologies for children.

Q35: In preparing or implementing any legislation or integrated policies aimed at ensuring access to and safe use of technologies for all children, did you refer to or take into account the following Council of Europe standards and guidance documents? (N=26)



Most of the respondent member states (88%) consider that the overall situation of children regarding access to and safe use of technologies has (somewhat) improved. This likely reflects the impact of increased digital literacy efforts and enhanced safety measures. However, the fact that 12% observed a deterioration serves as a reminder that digital inequalities and online risks persist, especially for children in vulnerable situations. While the overall trend is encouraging, the highlighted concerns call for more inclusive, protective and targeted digital policies, ensuring that all children can benefit safely from technological advancements.

Q19: Based on any evidence available, over the past two years, has the overall situation of children in your country regarding the prevalence of violence in different forms and settings...? (N=29)



Strategic objective 4 – Child friendly justice for all children

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

i. *Children's Rights Division*

Since the adoption of the [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child friendly justice \(2010\)](#), the Council of Europe has been assisting member states in adapting their justice systems to better meet the needs of child victims, witnesses, and offenders, and in guaranteeing children's access to justice, appropriate treatment, and participation in civil, administrative, and criminal proceedings. Under this strategic objective, many activities have been undertaken during the current reporting period.

First, the Committee of Ministers adopted in 2025 prepared two recommendations:

1. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2025\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in parental separation proceedings and its Explanatory Memorandum; and
2. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2025\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in care proceedings and its Explanatory Memorandum.

Prepared by the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE), these recommendations were jointly approved by the CDENF and the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ) in 2024. Two related implementation tools on the protection of the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings were developed in parallel and are targeted to the field professionals.

Furthermore, a session of the Mid-Term Review Conference was dedicated to "[Advocating for the rights of children in contact with the Law](#)". Two young people formerly in contact with the law took part in the discussions to emphasise the right for children to meaningfully participate in the judicial proceedings and receive age-appropriate and understandable information.

In addition, the thematic review of the [Guidelines on child-friendly justice](#) started in 2024, and the stakeholder consultation on the draft review took place in the summer of 2025. This consultation involves relevant CoE committees, academics, various child-friendly justice experts, and other pertinent international organisations.

The momentum highlighted in the first implementation report of the Strategy, regarding the Council of Europe's support for member states in their implementation of the Barnahus (Children's House) model, a multidisciplinary and interagency child-friendly justice approach to addressing violence, continues to grow.

In May 2025, the expert group in charge of developing the draft Recommendation on multidisciplinary and interagency services for child-friendly justice, including operational guidelines ([ENF-JUS](#)) held its first meeting. The draft Recommendation is expected in late 2026.

A number of joint EU-Council of Europe co-operation projects have been implemented to support member states in establishing or improving their Barnahus:

- From 2021 to 2024, a project aimed at ensuring child-friendly justice in [Finland](#) through the effective operation of Barnahus units.
- From 2022 to 2024, Phase I of the project focused on strengthening child-friendly justice in [Spain](#) through improved co-operation and co-ordination among Barnahus-type services across regions. It has been followed by [Phase II](#) (2024–2027), which aims to provide tailored assistance to the Spanish regions to adapt the legal and policy framework and to strengthen the collaboration of justice operators.
- Between 2023 and 2026, the project “Implementing the Barnahus model in [Croatia](#)” aims to strengthen child-friendly justice mechanisms for child victims and witnesses of violence.
- The first phase of the project to support the implementation of the Barnahus model in [Ireland](#) has been finalised in 2025, aimed at promoting a co-ordinated and child-friendly response to cases of sexual violence against children. A second phase has started in September 2025.

Finally, a [Conference](#) in Montenegro has been co-organised in 2024 with UNICEF, focusing on “Elevating Excellence: Uniting for Effective Child Protection with the Barnahus Model”.

Other co-operation projects on child-friendly justice have been successfully completed, while three other projects are currently ongoing to further strengthen justice systems for children.

- From 2023 to 2024, the project aimed at [protecting the rights of Ukrainian children](#) during the war and in the post-war context has been actively implemented.
- The Joint European Union-Council of Europe project aimed at ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings is currently being implemented in [Slovenia](#) from 2023 to 2026.
- The [Joint EU–Council of Europe Child-friendly Justice Project](#) is currently being implemented (2024 to 2026). This project, among others, led to the publication of the [Child-friendly Justice Assessment Tool](#), designed to support member states in evaluating and strengthening their justice systems to ensure they are truly child-friendly.

ii. Other Council of Europe Bodies

Council of Europe Entity in alphabetical order	Standard setting instrument / Activity
European Committee on Legal Co-operation	The Committee of Experts on Access to Origins (CJ-OR) has been launched in 2025. Its work aims to ensure that donor-conceived individuals have access to their origins, while respecting the rights of donors, parents, and society. A focal point on children’s rights has been designated by the CDENF to contribute to this work.
Roma and Traveller Division	The Division ensures monitoring activity on the enforcement of court judgments, particularly those addressing school segregation.

Venice Commission	In 2024, a workshop has been organised in Morocco in co-operation with the European Ombudsman, focusing on the best interests of the child (BIC), child-friendly justice, particularly for children with disabilities, and the Barnahus model for child victims.
-------------------	--

b. Action taken by member states

Over the past two years, most (85%)¹⁰ of respondent member states have passed legislation or taken policy initiatives at national, regional, or local levels to guarantee and promote child-friendly justice for all children during the period covered by the implementation report. Primary focus has been placed on:

- Ensuring the meaningful participation of children before, during and after judicial and non-judicial proceedings concerning them, through the use of child-friendly language and information materials;
- Further developing the Barnahus model.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=20)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=26)	Percentage of states
<u>Prevention and child participation</u>				
Promote and develop training programmes or national versions of HELP courses for legal professionals working for and with children	10	50%	13	50%
Ensure the meaningful participation of children before, during and after judicial and non-judicial proceedings concerning them, through the use of child-friendly language and information materials	16	80%	18	69%
Promote child-friendly approaches in migration procedures, including by strengthening access to legal representation and guardianship, information and participation, as well as effective remedies	13	65%	13	50%
Develop codes of conduct or equivalent tools to guarantee respect of the rights before, during and after judicial and non-judicial proceedings	10	50%	8	31%

¹⁰ 23 out of 27 respondents.

Capture and analyse data on the relation of children with the justice system	12	60%	14	54%
Measuring the impact of emergency measures on children's access to justice, including for children in migration	4	20%	3	11%
Uphold the rights and the best interests of donor-conceived children	5	25%	2	8%
Raise awareness of children in contact with the law and their guardians on the rights of children before, during and after judicial proceedings.	/		14	54%
<u>Before judicial proceedings</u>				
Improve access to justice for children in vulnerable situations (such as street children, children belonging to national minorities, including Roma and Traveller children, children in migration, children with disabilities or children in crisis or conflict situations as identified in the Strategy)	16	80%	11	42%
Develop diversion measures and alternatives to pre-trial detention for children in conflict with the law	16	80%	13	50%
Review or develop standards in the area of family law, on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and care proceedings and/or on relocation of children	15	75%	14	54%
Raise the age of criminal responsibility	1	5%	2	8%
Ensure children's access to child-friendly complaints mechanisms	12	60%	11	42%
Ensure children's access to justice in relation to environmental harm	7	35%	4	15%
<u>During judicial proceedings</u>				
Further develop the Barnahus model	12	60%	16	61%
Improve access to legal aid and representation for children, including by offering legal aid through legal clinics and strategic litigation	10	50%	14	54%
Ensure that children have access to a fair and child-friendly trial and judgement/decision	10	50%	10	38%
Address the needs and challenges of child victims and witnesses of violent crimes within the justice system	15	75%	14	54%

Clarify the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in disputes involving children	9	45%	5	19%
After judicial proceedings				
Develop alternatives to post-trial detention	/		8	31%
Monitor places where children are deprived of liberty	14	70%	11	42%
End immigration detention of children	7	35%	6	23%
Prevent juvenile justice proceedings	11	55%	7	27%
Develop restorative justice for children, including for children who display harmful or risky sexual behaviour	7	35%	8	31%
Take measures towards the re-integration and rehabilitation of children affected by terrorism	5	25%	3	11%

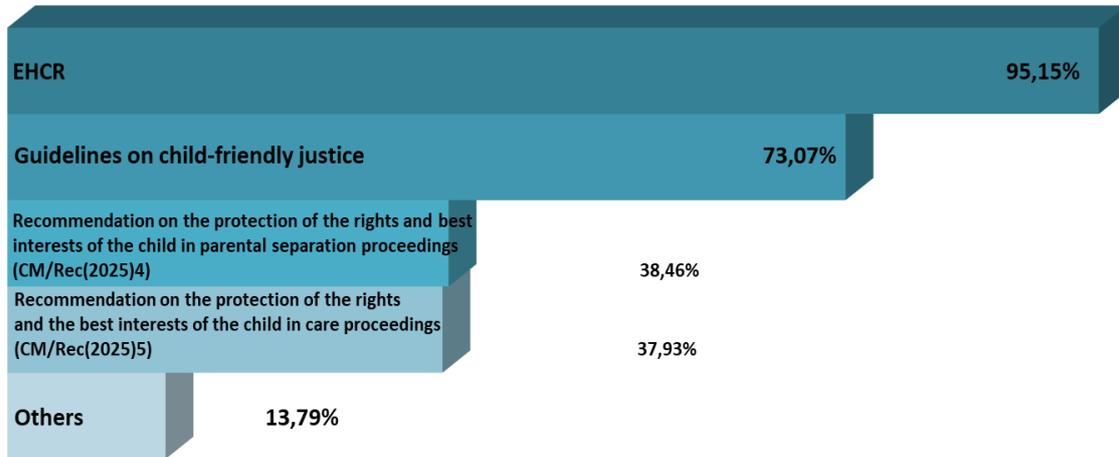
While absolute numbers remain relatively stable, comparing the available data could suggest a relative decline in prioritisation across most child justice related areas. In particular, there have been far fewer new measures to improve access to justice for children in vulnerable situations. However, some forward-looking initiatives seem to remain steady or have gained traction, including efforts to expand the Barnahus model and improve legal aid for children. Notably, the promotion of training programmes for legal professionals has remained stable, thus contributing to building child-sensitive judicial capacity. Additionally, topics like restorative justice and the age of criminal responsibility show modest but encouraging increases. Overall, there are still clear signs of commitment to advancing a more child-friendly justice system, especially through institutional training and inclusive legal models.

National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Bosnia and Herzegovina	In Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the main recent advancements in child-friendly justice has been the increased child participation in proceedings, for example in the form of interviews of children by judges and other professionals during divorce proceedings.
Bulgaria	In 2024, Bulgaria opened a “Children’s Police Department” at a Special School for Hearing-Impaired Children in Sofia, where, with the help of a sign language specialist, children undergo training in, among others, child protection, ethics and law.
Georgia	In Georgia, the Legal Aid Service has a new child-friendly website , with information tailored to children of all ages.
Germany	In 2024, Germany made a commitment not to take children into detention pending deportation, though this measure did not amend the law permitting immigration detention of children as a last resort.

Ireland	The Barnahus project in Ireland has been successful in addressing the challenges encountered during the pilot phase. Two additional centres have opened: Barnahus South in Cork and Barnahus East in Dublin. Additionally, the Barnahus Ireland website , developed with and for children, has been finalised.
Norway	Norway has embraced the Barnahus model since 2007, with 14 centers as of 2024. A new Barnahus opened in Finnmark in 2024, serving Sámi children nationwide with culturally adapted services. Children’s participation is a key priority, and Barnahus information is available in several languages, including Sami, Arabic, and Urdu.
Portugal	The recently approved Law 37/2025, of 31 March 2025, enables family members and people applying for adoption to become foster families and strengthens the rights of children and young people in foster care, amending Law no. 147/99, of 1 September and Decree-Law no. 139/2019 of 16 September.
Slovenia	In 2025, Slovenia adopted a five-year civil justice reform strategy to strengthen children’s rights, starting with training professionals in civil courts and introducing new protocols to assess the child’s best interests. (Project: Ensuring the best interests of the child in civil court proceedings in Slovenia)
Spain	The phase II of Barnahus in Spain (November 2024 – April 2027), aims to expand the Barnahus model nationally, help regions adapt legal and policy frameworks, and enhance co-operation among justice and support services for child victims of sexual violence.
United Kingdom	In the United Kingdom, the average number of children in custody dropped from 2,418 children in 2009/10 to 430 in 2024 . This decline is the result of broader justice system reforms, including a prevention on bringing children into formal proceedings, new diversionary measures, and alternatives to detention.

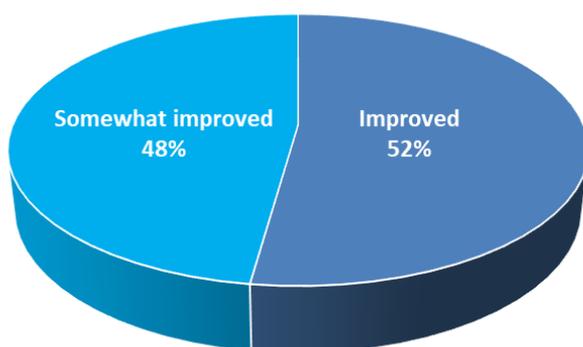
Respondent member states indicate that the European Convention on Human Rights, the [Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly justice](#) and the two Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection of the rights and best interests of the child in [parental separation proceedings](#) and [care proceedings](#) are the main standards referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed at promoting and ensuring child-friendly justice for all children.

*Q45: In preparing or implementing any legislation or integrated policies aimed at guaranteeing and promoting child-friendly justice, did you refer to or take into account the following Council of Europe standards and guidance documents?
(N = 26)*



All respondent member states (100%) consider that the overall situation of children regarding the child friendliness of the justice system has improved or somewhat improved. It seems to reflect a strong and unanimous perception of progress, likely driven by reforms aimed at making legal procedures more accessible, protective, and respectful of children’s rights and needs.

Q48: Overall, over the past two years, would you say the child-friendliness of the justice system in your country has...? (N = 23)



Strategic objective 5 – Giving a voice to every child

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

i. *Children's Rights Division*

During the current implementation period, progress in the inclusion of children in the Children's Rights Division's activities continues to be made. This strategic objective is the most cross-cutting and holds fundamental importance within the overall Strategy and its implementation.

The actions taken by the CDENF to enhance participation of children during the current reporting period are notably:

1. a report on "[Children as defenders of human rights: a study on Council of Europe member states](#)" has been published in 2024.
2. two consultations of children to feed standard-setting processes have been carried out by the Children's Rights Division within the current reporting period, on comprehensive sexuality education and on guardianship of unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration.
3. jointly with the Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO), the [Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health](#) has been published in 2024 and a [child-friendly version of the guide](#) has been prepared and launched in April 2025.
4. a session of the Mid-Term Review Conference was dedicated to the "[promotion of children's participation in decisions about their health](#)". This session's aim was to launch the child-friendly version of the guide. Children consulted to set up the child-friendly version of the guide presented it to the experts and the audience.
5. as mentioned above under the strategic objectives 1, 3, and 4, and below under strategic objective 6, four sessions of the Mid-Term Review Conference were designed for and with children (respectively following the consultation on comprehensive sexuality education to enhance the consultation process, on digital technologies and AI, on child-friendly justice and on children of Ukraine's access to education in Council of Europe member states). Children and young people worked on the topics and co-designed the sessions together with the organisers of the Conference.
6. in late 2025, an implementation review of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 and the drafting process of Guidelines for developing a national children's participation strategy will be launched.

Furthermore, the Lanzarote Committee is planning to incorporate children's views into the [3rd monitoring round](#) via a child consultation process.

Child consultations and participation of children in Council of Europe activities were further mainstreamed across all co-operation projects. Notable examples include:

- consultations with children aged 4–6 in Ireland on the design and launch of the Barnahus website, including the development of the national Barnahus logo and [website](#);

- [consultations](#) with children engaged in the Spanish Barnahus project on the model itself and related strategic documents, as well as the [adaptation](#) of the storybook “[Anem a la Barnahus](#)” into Spanish for adolescents;
- focus group discussions with children within the framework of a nation-wide [survey](#) on child sexual abuse in Croatia to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Barnahus model and on child sexual exploitation and abuse, and ways to respond if they or their peers encounter such situations.

In addition, the Council of Europe organised a roundtable in Strasbourg in November 2024 with 40 participants, including 4 children in contact with the law, to discuss self-assessments of the child-friendliness of the justice systems in Belgium, Poland and Slovenia, challenges faced, lessons learnt, good practices and adjustments needed, as well as the recommendations to adapt their legal and policy framework.

ii. Other Council of Europe Bodies

A Council of Europe-wide child safeguarding policy is currently being drafted to ensure the safety and effective participation of children involved in all the activities. The draft is based on the existing policy of the Children’s Rights Division and draws inspiration from other relevant safeguarding frameworks. The policy will be firmly rooted in the Council of Europe’s legal framework to ensure consistent application across all sectors of the Organisation.

Council of Europe Entity	Standard setting instrument / Activity
CDBIO	Jointly with the CDENF, a Guide to children's participation in decisions about their health has been published (2024) and a child friendly version of the guide has been prepared with and for children in 2025. The session of the Mid-Term Review Conference on child participation referred to above has been co-organised together with the CDENF.
ECRI	ECRI leads monitoring work against racism and intolerance in and through education by interviewing, where appropriate, children belonging to groups of concerns. In 2024, during ECRI’s 96 th plenary meeting, an exchange of views was held with Professor Cath Larkins, Co-director of the Centre for Children and Young People’s Participation, University of Central Lancashire (UK) and Children’s Rights Division Secretariat.
EPAS	The report on child consultation on safeguarding in sport in Bulgaria has been published in 2024. EPAS also held a child consultation session in the framework of the “ Start to Talk ” project in Sofia. The session was organised by the Child Council of the Bulgarian State Agency for Child Protection. The event brought together young people to gather their ideas on how to implement more efficient child safeguarding policies in sport.
Reykjavik Process – Environment Department	The Council of Europe’s first Environment Strategy has been adopted in May 2025. During the drafting process, a children’s hearing was organised in co-operation with the Children’s rights Division and The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) . Its Action plan integrates education, child-friendly tools, and supports child human rights defenders.

PACE	PACE organised hearings on environment, AI and a consultation on comprehensive sexuality education in 2024.
PACE	A PACE child safeguarding policy has been published. The briefing notes of parliamentarians are also available.
PACE	The mandate of General Rapporteur on child participation has been created. The current General Rapporteur is Elena Bonetti (Italy, ALDE)
Roma and Traveller Division	Work is done to promote the creation of spaces for active participation of Roma and Traveller children in decision-making.

b. Action taken by member states

Most respondent member states (82%)¹¹ have passed legislation or taken policy initiatives at national, regional, or local level to promote and implement child participation through a multi-scalar approach during the period covered by the implementation report. Primary focus has been placed on:

- Promote child participation in and through schools;
- Involve children and give due weight to their views in the development, implementation and evaluation of national standards, policies and activities;
- Ensure that participatory processes include children in vulnerable situations;
- Provide feedback to children on how their opinions are taken into account in the development, implementation and evaluation of national standards, policies and activities.
- Strengthen accountability for the right of the child to be heard in law and policy making as well as on service provision and decision making in administrative and judicial proceedings.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=22)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=25)	Percentage of states
Involve children and give due weight to their views in the development, implementation and evaluation of national standards, policies and activities	22	100%	19	76%
Provide feedback to children on how their opinions are taken into account in the development, implementation and evaluation of national standards, policies and activities	16	72%	16	64%
Promote safe and ethical child participation, by implementing child safeguarding policies, data protection	19	86%	15	60%

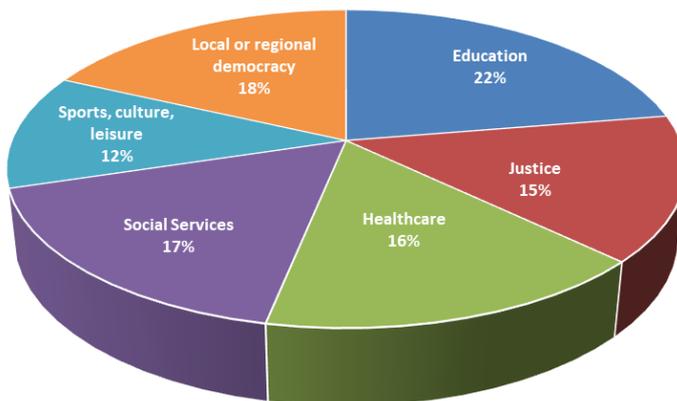
¹¹ 22 out of 27 respondents

and ethical data collection principles, and guaranteeing children's access to information in child participation processes				
Promote child participation in and through schools	20	91%	20	80%
Promote child participation in non-formal learning	19	86%	14	56%
Promote child participation in decisions concerning their health	14	64%	15	60%
Promote child participation in the evaluation of service provision for children and families	13	59%	9	36%
Undertake assessments of child participation mechanisms and practice through the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT)	5	23%	3	12%
Promote children's democratic engagement and ensure their participation in political life in accordance with their age and maturity	16	72%	14	56%
Lowering the voting age	4	18%	0	0%
Empower children to access information and to participate in decisions related to the environment	15	68%	13	52%
Promote practice-oriented working methods and tools for professionals and volunteers working with and for children on how to hear children, communicate with them and provide child-friendly information	16	72%	12	48%
Develop training modules and provide training on child participation	11	50%	14	56%
Establish sustainable channels for communicating directly with children, including by collaborating with existing child-led initiatives and networks	16	72%	13	52%
Protect and empower children acting as defenders of human rights and of the environment	11	50%	8	32%
Enhance the possibilities and capacities for reaching out to children through digital technologies	15	68%	9	36%
Ensure that participatory processes include children in vulnerable situations	20	91%	17	68%
Strengthen accountability for the right of the child to be heard in law and policy making as well as on service provision	12	54%	15	60%

and decision making in administrative and judicial proceedings

There is a noticeable overall decrease in emphasis on child participation initiatives across many areas. Key activities such as involving children in policy development, promoting participation in schools and non-formal learning settings, and ensuring ethical child participation have all seen notable drops in prioritisation, sometimes exceeding 20 percentage points of decrease. This suggests a relative deprioritisation or possible challenges in sustaining engagement efforts. However, some positive signs emerge: training on child participation has increased modestly, indicating continued investment in building capacities among professionals, and accountability for children’s rights to be heard in law and policymaking (as highlighted above under Strategic Objective 4) has also seen a slight rise. Despite the general downward trend, these gains highlight ongoing efforts to strengthen meaningful child participation.

Have policymakers and/or other stakeholders taken steps to embed child participation in the following sectors in your country over the past two years?



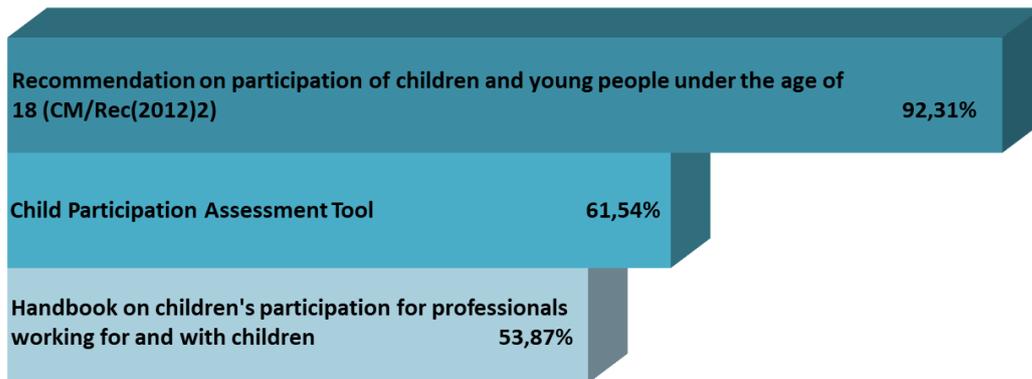
Respondent member states indicate that, over the past year, policymakers and/or other stakeholders have taken steps to embed child participation primarily in the sectors of education, local or regional democracy, social services and healthcare and to a lesser but significant extent in the field of justice. As stated under the analysis of strategic objective 4, the participation of children in judicial proceedings in the most appropriate and child-friendly manner is a cornerstone in the shifting of policies related to child-friendly justice.

National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Hungary	Hungary's Integrated Legal Protection Service safeguards child patients' rights in healthcare, social care, and protection systems. It engages children in creating educational materials and developing child-friendly tools such as storybooks , hospital patients activity books , and a rights-based poster (part of the "Let's Understand Each Other Well" campaign launched in 2025) to help them understand their rights, recognize abuse, and seek help.
Ireland	In April 2024, the Irish Department of Children published the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-making Action Plan , which aims to develop participation structures that are inclusive, accessible and safe for all children and young people including those who need additional supports in order to engage and participate.
Latvia	The Latvian Ministry of Education and Science's Youth State program has organised a 'Youth Policy' initiative for school children (" Contact "). This initiative aims to strengthen the involvement of children in decision-making, self-governing, and youth policy building in Latvian educational institutions, promoting active civic participation, leadership and co-operation among young people, as well as a respectful and supportive school environment. Support is provided for 100 initiatives.
Malta	The Empowering Children's Participation in Malta (2023-2024) project, includes a toolkit which aims to promote and support the fundamental right of children to meaningful participation, by having their opinions actively sought and taken into consideration in institutions and systems at various levels and spheres of society, something which could be replicated in other countries.
Portugal	The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and the Protection of Children and Young People has a permanent National Council of Children and Young People that consults regularly on issues that concern them. This Council is currently in its 2 nd edition and includes children and young people of the several regions of Portugal.
Netherlands	In the Netherlands, a national youth Strategy (2024–2025) is being developed to guide policies for 12–29-year-olds, ensuring meaningful participation, especially for vulnerable youth. Additionally, the JongerenMilieuraad created an app allowing children to access environmental information and contribute their opinions to the National Environmental Programme.
Romania	Two draft laws were adopted by the Romanian National Parliament, the first law qualifies the year 2025 as the "year of the child" and aims at developing awareness campaigns and raising money for different programmes concerning children's rights. The second law focuses on child participation to enable children to take part in a broader democratic participation process in Romania.

Respondent member states indicate that the Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on participation of children and young people under the age of 18 is the main standard referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed

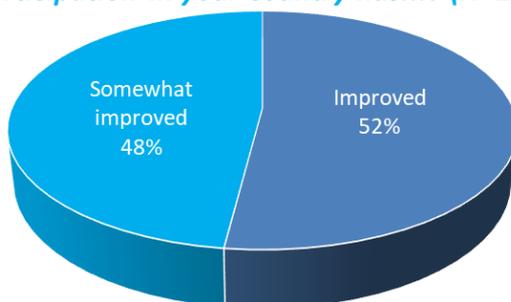
at promoting and ensuring child-friendly justice for all children. The implementation review of this recommendation is foreseen in the CDENF [Terms of Reference](#) in 2026 to assess member states' implementation of its standards and principles.

Q57: Over the past two years, has your country passed new legislation or taken any policy initiative to implement children's right to participation using the tools issued by the Council of Europe, notably the following ones? (N=13)



All respondent member states (100%) consider that the overall situation of children regarding children's right to participation has (somewhat) improved. This consensus suggests that recent efforts to enhance child participation are having a tangible impact across countries, highlighting a positive trend towards more inclusive and child-centred policies.

Q59: Over the past two years, would you say the guarantee of children's right to participation in your country has...? (N=23)



Strategic objective 6 – Children’s rights in crisis and emergency situations

a. Action taken by the Council of Europe

i. *Children’s Rights Division*

Under this strategic objective actions taken by the Council of Europe to respond to the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine have intensified, notably through the work of the Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU).

The CGU works as a multilateral platform supporting professionals working with and for children of Ukraine affected by Russia’s war of aggression. Bringing together member states, international organisations, civil society, and independent experts, the CGU has functioned as both a peer-review platform and a rapid response mechanism addressing urgent children’s rights issues, whether concerning children inside Ukraine or in host Council of Europe member states. In 2024–2025, the CGU convened six plenary meetings, each of which included dedicated special hearings on key themes such as [access to education](#), [risks of human trafficking](#), preconditions of children’s safe and rights-based return, and the [impact of war on children with disabilities](#). Furthermore, in April 2025, a co-organised session of the Mid-Term Review Conference was dedicated to “[Children of Ukraine’s access to education](#)” and allowed a Ukrainian high-school student to share her perspectives on her access to education when she arrived in France. In addition, a [high-level stock-taking conference](#) on the situation of children of Ukraine: Council of Europe actions, marked the conclusion of the first mandate.

Fifteen thematic dialogue group meetings enabled in-depth exchange on guardianship, transnational co-operation, psychological support and trauma-informed care. Publications include:

- A [Compendium](#) on transnational procedures and co-operation;
- A [Contextual overview](#) and an [Information note](#) on adoption during the war in Ukraine;
- A [Report](#) on “Understanding the risks of human trafficking, including for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation of children of Ukraine”;
- A [Mapping study](#) on children of Ukraine’s access to education in Council of Europe member states; and
- A [Manual](#) for professionals entitled “Mental health and psycho-social support for children in crisis and emergency situations”.

The CGU’s work will continue under its renewed mandate through December 2026, with additional practical tools and publications underway. To further raise awareness and promote co-ordinated action, the Secretary General appointed Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir as his Special Envoy on the Situation of Children of Ukraine in February 2025.

Beyond the measures taken specifically for Ukrainian children, the CDENF adopted, in 2024, an [implementation review](#) report of Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)11](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration. Unaccompanied or separated children from Portugal and Cyprus were consulted during the drafting process and their views have been incorporated in the implementation review report (see [child-consultation report](#)).

Moreover, different co-operation projects related to this strategic objective ran during the current reporting period.

- the [project](#) Protecting the rights of Ukrainian children during and in post-war context was finalised in 2024. Another [project](#) called “Protecting the rights of Ukrainian children and ensuring child-friendly justice” has been launched in 2025 and will run until the end of 2026.
- in 2024 and as a part of the framework of the [project](#) “Preventing and protecting children from violence, including in the digital environment in the Republic of Moldova”, a roundtable was held on the implementation of the [CM/Rec\(2019\)11](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on effective guardianship.
- Finally, the [project](#) “Protecting the rights of Armenian children in a post-conflict context” has been launched in 2024 and is running until the end of 2025.

ii. *Other Council of Europe bodies*

Council of Europe Entity	Standard setting instrument / Activity
Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)	<p>The third report on Ukraine warns about the shortage of bomb shelters not only for protection against bombings but also for children who are victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.</p> <p>On the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the GRETA joins the Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group against Trafficking in Human Beings (ICAT) and calls for concerted measures to reduce the vulnerability of children to trafficking, provide specialised assistance to child victims, and end the impunity of traffickers.</p>
Commissioner for Human Rights	Current work is focusing on the impact of the Russian Federation’s war of aggression against Ukraine on children.
The Office of the SRSG on Migration and Refugees	A seminar called “Supporting Confidence at 18” has been organised in Hungary in 2024 aimed at reassessing the needs and situations faced by young refugees and migrants in transition to adulthood and supporting advocacy and practice to implement the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood.
Former Office of the SRSG on Migration and Refugees / now Division on Migration and Refugees	<p>A round table on the protection of unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children in Bulgaria has been held in 2024 and identified a lack of a guardianship system of children in Bulgaria, which is one of the European countries hosting the largest number of unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children.</p> <p>The preparation of a thematic paper on vulnerability is ongoing.</p> <p>The preparation of the new Council of Europe Action Plan on Migration and Refugees (2026-2029) is ongoing and several activities will focus on children as a vulnerable group.</p>
Education Department	A toolkit has been created on inclusive education, providing language support for refugee and migrant children, with new versions available in French and Turkish, and requests for Italian, Greek, and Portuguese versions.
	The preparation of a Compendium of Good Practice regarding respect of legal aid and representation, access to information, and to justice for children in procedures relating to the determination of nationality or statelessness is ongoing (2025). The

European Committee on Legal Co-operation	compendium will take stock of examples of good practice existing across Europe to improve procedures linked to the determination of nationality or statelessness, as the result of these procedures is often a necessary step to enjoy a number of fundamental rights.
	Work continues on child statelessness (Revision of the CM/Rec(2009)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the nationality of children). The work of the CDCJ-MIG on revising Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)13 represents a significant step toward ensuring children's access to nationality, particularly for those in stateless situations. The development of a checklist for policymakers by 2026, based on a feasibility study, aims to provide a concrete and practical framework to strengthen the rights of these children across Europe.
HELP Programme	A Help course on Deportation of Children During Armed Conflicts was published in 2024 and is available on the HELP platform in self-learning format. It was launched once in a tutored format for 44 judges and lawyers (through a launch event, followed by the implementation of the course with the support of a tutor).
PACE	<p>A report (2024) on “Safeguarding human rights for future generations” (rapporteur Pedro Cegonho, Portugal, SOC) led to the establishment of Resolution 2565, which aims to underline the importance of safeguarding human rights for future generations by ensuring a sustainable world that meets both present and future needs.</p> <p>A report (2024) on “situation of the children of Ukraine” has been published (Rapporteur: Olena Khomenko, Ukraine, ECPA) and led to Resolution 2529 and Recommendation 2265 which both aim to address the dire situation of Ukrainian children affected by the ongoing war.</p> <p>This report was followed by the setup of a Parliamentary Network on the situation of the children of Ukraine and its work is still ongoing.</p> <p>A report (2025) on “the absolute and urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis for women, children and the hostages in Gaza” (rapporteur: Saskia Kluit, the Netherlands, SOC) has been published. This was followed by Resolution 2609. The report calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages. Both Israeli and Palestinian Parliaments have observer status within the Assembly.</p>
Reykjavik Process – Environment Department	The Council of Europe Strategy on the Environment has been adopted in 2025. It aims at empowering children and young people in aligning human rights, democracy, and the rule of law with environmental protection.
Youth Sector	<p>A project targeted at addressing the needs of young refugees transitioning to adulthood, including updates to a youth-friendly guide, is ongoing.</p> <p>An ongoing project aims at bringing support to youth democracy in Ukraine through trauma-informed youth work.</p>

b. Action taken by member states

Slightly more than half of respondent member states (65%) have passed legislation or taken policy initiatives at national, regional, or local levels to ensure children’s rights and child protection in crisis and emergency situations during the period covered by the implementation report. Primary focus has been placed on:

- Protecting the rights of children on the move, including internally displaced children;
- Building stronger child protection systems able to adjust to a crisis;
- Reintegrating and rehabilitating children returning from conflict zones.

Topic	Member states indicating that initiatives had been taken			
	1 st implementation report (2023)		2 nd implementation report (2025)	
	Number of states (N=21)	Percentage of states	Number of states (N=19)	Percentage of states
Protect the rights of children on the move, including internally displaced children	16	76%	13	68%
Uphold the right to an education with respect for nature and which raises awareness of natural hazards and environmental risks	15	71%	10	52%
Build stronger child protection systems able to adjust to a crisis	15	71%	11	58%
Provide guidance to protect children in a public health crisis, including by supporting children's resilience, and ensuring that the right to education and to participation are not overlooked	15	71%	10	52%
Map the existence of possible new vulnerable situations arising from crisis or emergency situations and develop innovative measures targeting their protection	9	43%	6	32%
Protect children in armed conflicts	12	57%	10	52%
Reintegrate and rehabilitate children returning from conflict zones	13	62%	11	58%
Recognise the human rights obligations as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	11	52%	4	21%
Facilitate children's access to justice against environmental harm	7	33%	2	11%

The previous implementation period reflected a high prioritisation of this strategic objective given the emergency contexts triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic and the urgent reception of Ukrainian children. While states continue to engage substantially with these issues, the data received shows a noticeable decline in the number of new actions reported during the current period. This decrease may be attributable to the fact that many measures and strategies to support children affected by the conflict were adopted in the previous period and remain in the process of implementation.

Other measures such as providing guidance during public health crises, environment related policies or mapping new vulnerabilities seem to have received reduced emphasis. While actions related to the protection of children on the move also declined, they remained among the top priorities for member states, suggesting that the initial mobilisation to support displaced Ukrainian children is evolving into more integrated and systemic approaches. These decreases might more generally signal a transition from reactive to structural policy planning.

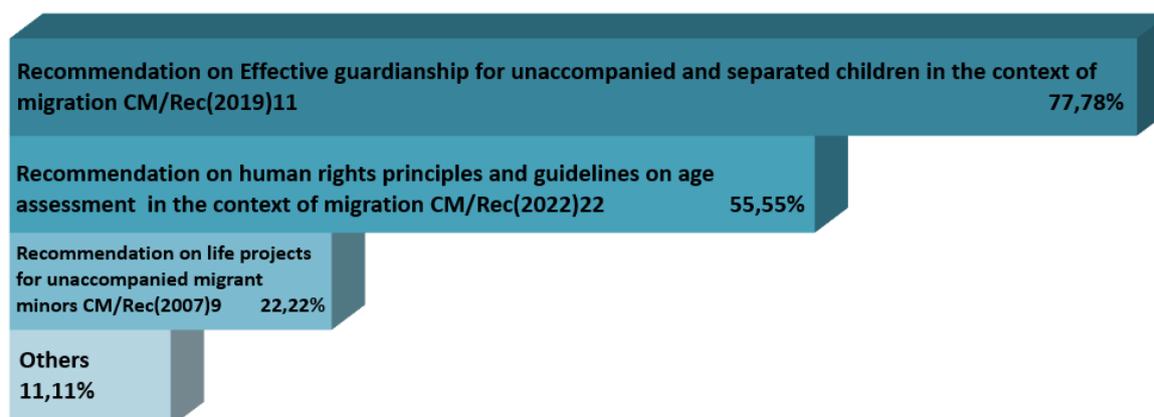
National promising practice	
Member state	Promising practice
Armenia	In Armenia, the Police have introduced hotlines for all victims, including specific numbers for trafficking and illegal migration, and provide an online portal for submitting and tracking applications, requests, or complaints. On April 18, 2025, the National Assembly adopted the Law on Disaster Risk Management and Population Protection, which places special emphasis on vulnerable groups, including children, during disaster risk reduction, emergency response, early recovery, and post-disaster rehabilitation.
Czechia	The Czech Government provides comprehensive support for Ukrainian children affected by conflict, including financial aid, education, and psychosocial services. The Action Plan 2024+ promotes integration through Czech lessons, adapted exams, teacher training, and school enrolment for over 89,000 children. A Ukrainian Youth Committee will engage young people in policymaking from 2025.
Poland	Poland has strengthened support for refugee children, especially from Ukraine, with 180,959 registered in schools as of February 2024. The country introduced new institutions and standards to prevent and detect child abuse early and ensure the safety of those responsible for their care.
Sweden	Sweden conducted an inquiry, submitted in May 2024, to modernise school system rules for extraordinary events in peacetime or war. The review concluded on the importance of ensuring continued education, providing support for guardians in essential roles, and clarifying the responsibilities of school principals, including those in independent schools, during times of crisis.
Türkiye	Türkiye is improving its child protection system through the IPA-funded “Improving Foster Care System” project, increasing temporary and professional foster care placements, including in crises like earthquakes. The Ministry of National Education incorporates child rights in emergencies via its Education and Child Rights in Emergencies Program, enhancing

schools' and staff's disaster response. Resources for psychosocial support, protection, and crisis intervention are provided through the General Directorate of Special Education and Guidance Services.

Additionally, within the scope of efforts to expand the centres, the IPA II project "Improving the Lives of Children through Enhancing Responsive Child Protection Services and Support in Emergencies" has been developed. Under the project, four Child Life Centres will be established in co-operation with the Ministry of Family and Social Services and UNICEF in the earthquake-affected provinces of Malatya, Adiyaman, Kahramanmaraş, and Hatay. These Child Life Centres aim to deliver preventive and protective services to children in a timely and accessible manner, addressing the medium- and long-term psychosocial impacts of the disaster. The centres will strengthen children's access to safe spaces and ensure their timely engagement with the child protection system. The project, officially launched on 28 November 2024, will run for three years. In addition to the construction works planned in four provinces, an investment analysis report for the centres, documents related to the programmes to be implemented, in-service training materials for staff, and relevant legislation will also be developed within the scope of the project.

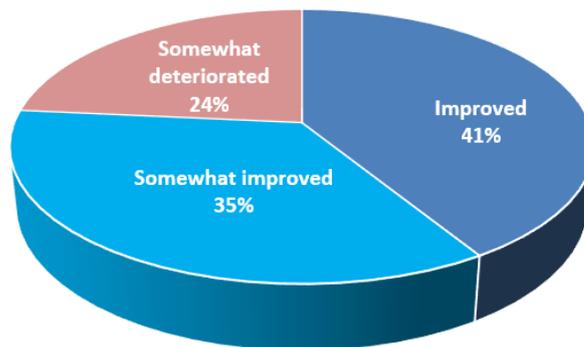
Respondent member states indicate that Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)11](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration, and Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)22](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights principles and guidelines on age assessment in the context of migration, are the main standards referred to or considered when preparing or implementing legislation or policies aimed at ensuring children's rights and child protection in crisis and emergency situations.

Q66: In preparing or implementing any legislation or policies aimed at ensuring children's rights and child protection in crisis and emergency situations, did you refer to or take into account any Council of Europe standards or tools, notably the following? (N=39)



Most of the respondent member states (77%)¹² consider that the overall situation of children regarding their rights in crisis and emergency situations has improved or somewhat improved. Only 24% of respondents consider that the overall situation of children regarding their rights in crisis and emergency situations has somewhat deteriorated. This indicates that challenges remain, particularly in specific contexts such as developing innovative measures focusing on children’s protection from crisis, and targeted policies for children to enjoy a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Q70: Based on any evidence available, over the past two years, has the overall situation of children in your country with regard to crisis and emergency situations (public health crisis, war/armed conflict, migration, climate change/environmental degradation, or other)...? (N=17)



¹² 13 out of 20 respondents

III - Partnerships

a. Resources

Many of the activities promoting children's rights could not have been realised without the commitment and support of member states providing voluntary contributions to the Council of Europe. The additional resources provided greatly strengthened the Council of Europe's work on children's rights. The Children's Rights Division and the CDENF Secretariat wish to acknowledge the contributions of the Governments of Andorra, Cyprus, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Slovenia in 2024, and of Andorra and Luxembourg in 2025, for their support to the implementation of the Strategy under the project "Promoting children's rights, including through the Children's Rights Strategy 2022–2027". The Council of Europe's work in this area also benefited from a secondment provided by the Government of Poland. These contributions enabled meaningful child consultations, supported the organisation of the Mid-term Review Conference (April 2025), and accelerated progress in standard-setting activities.

The Children's Rights Division continues to rely highly on voluntary contributions to advance its work, in particular to enable children's participation through child consultations and the edition of child-friendly versions.

The Lanzarote Committee Secretariat has also benefitted from voluntary contributions, in the context of the project "The Lanzarote Convention as a tool to ensure a global coordinated protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse" during the period 2024-2027 and would like to thank the Governments of Cyprus, France, Liechtenstein and Malta.

b. Other regional and international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders including children

As part of the Strategy's commitment to a rights-based approach, child rights mainstreaming has been a guiding principle in this second period of implementation, within the Council of Europe and beyond its realms. This holistic approach entails the systematic integration of children's rights into all policies, legislation, and activities across sectors and levels of governance. By embedding a child rights perspective beyond child-focused domains, the Strategy ensures that children's needs, best interests, and voices are considered. This cross-sectoral approach strengthens the coherence and impact of measures undertaken by member states and relevant external stakeholders under the Strategy.

The CDENF, as the main co-ordination body for the Strategy, engages a wide range of partners in both its standard-setting and implementation efforts. Through formal meetings such as the Committee Plenaries where international organisations and NGOs can freely share their activities and contribute to the work falling into their area of expertise and joint activities, these partnerships enhance the overall impact on the promotion and protection of children's rights. The Mid-Term Review Conference was a remarkable example of the excellent co-operation with the Council of Europe's partners. The Lanzarote Committee remains committed to engaging in fruitful dialogue with partners, such as survivor-led organisations which are official observers to the Committee, providing them space to

contribute to the shaping of European policies through the sharing of their insights on child sexual abuse and exploitation.

In addition, European and international organisations are also contributing to the implementation of the Strategy. The EU Commission and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) are key partners providing crucial inputs to the Children's Rights Division's work. There are numerous synergies between the EU and Council of Europe's respective Strategies on the Rights of the Child, and the Council of Europe often relies on EU funding provided for co-operation projects led by the Children's Rights Division. The United Nations (UN) and all the relevant agencies are also crucial actors for the implementation of the Strategy. For instance, in April 2025, the CDENF held an exchange of views with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children). They introduced the Pathfinding Global Alliance, as a tool for international collaboration and knowledge sharing to end all forms of violence against children.

In the CDENF [Terms of reference](#), more than ten NGOs have observer status and participate actively in Committee and Sub-Committee Plenary settings. Some partners have further contributed by conducting child consultations and participatory activities with children from all around Europe.

Most importantly, children have played a crucial role as key partners during the second implementation phase of the Strategy, contributing through consultations whereby they share their insights in relation to the development and assessment of Council of Europe standards, policies, and initiatives concerning their rights and well-being. A detailed account of activities entailing child participation is censused under strategic objective 5.

IV. Communication

The implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child along with its deliverables and publications have been communicated on CoE Children X and Facebook and on Children's rights at the Council of Europe, the newly opened LinkedIn account. The LinkedIn account, launched on 27 March 2025, one week before the Strategy's Mid-Term Review Conference, was actively used to communicate about the event. It quickly gained visibility, reaching over 3,600 followers by October 2025. The nine LinkedIn posts about the Mid-Term Review Conference alone generated 22,079 impressions (817 likes, 7 comments and 151 reshares), 47,924 clicks and the engagement rate of 20.09 %. Another successful LinkedIn post was the one launching the [Manual for professionals: Mental health and psycho-social support for children in crisis and emergency situations](#) which reached 10,798 impressions and 53 reshares. Following its publication, eight requests for translation into non-official languages were received.

The Strategy and its deliverables have also been referenced in various media outlets contributing to their overall visibility. A noteworthy example is the [Mapping study on children of Ukraine's access to education in Council of Europe members](#) states which was extensively covered by various media across member states, resulting in 35 articles.

Efforts have also been made to promote accessibility and inclusivity by ensuring that publications, including child-friendly versions, are available in multiple languages, facilitating broader dissemination and understanding within diverse linguistic communities.

Photos, roll-ups, backdrops and different other visibility materials (notebooks, tote bags, pens, water bottles, etc.) specifically designed to promote the Strategy, have been systematically used for various events.

Finally, the Children's Rights website, through regular updates and the publication of news items, continued to serve as a platform to raise awareness and disseminate information about activities, developments, and tools related to children's rights.

Appendix 1: List of the European Court of Human Rights' case law on children's rights for the period of January 2024 to September 2025

[ISMAYILZADE v. AZERBAIJAN, no. 17780/18, 18/01/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal of the Registration Department to register the forename chosen by the applicant for her son)

[DABO v. SWEDEN, n. 12510/18, 18/01/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal of the Swedish authorities to grant residence permit to the ex-wife and children of the applicant, who had already obtained a residence permit)

[O.R. c. GRÈCE, n. 24650/19, 23/01/2024](#) (on violation of Article 3 concerning the poor living, reception, and detention conditions in 2018-2020 of the unaccompanied minors who were asylum seekers)¹³

[J.A. AND A.A. v. TÜRKİYE, n. 80206/17, 06/02/2024](#) (on violation of Articles 2 and 3 should the applicants and their four children be expelled to Iraq)

[JANOČKOVÁ AND KVOCERA v. SLOVAKIA, no. 39980/22, 08/02/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 and of Article 13 in conjunction with article 13 concerning the lack of enforcement of a contact order regulating the applicant's father-child contact)

[M.G. v. LITHUANIA, no. 6406/21, 20/02/2024](#) (on violation of Article 3 concerning excessively lengthy criminal proceedings concerning an attempted sexual assault against the applicant, a minor, and the absence of adequate and convincing reasons to justify the suspension of the perpetrator's sentence)

[M.H. AND S.B. v. HUNGARY, nos. 10940/17 and 15977/17, 22/02/2024](#) (on violation of Article 5 concerning the domestic authorities' failure to act expeditiously and with due regard to the children's best interests in the asylum-seeking applicants' case following their claims of being minors, leading to their prolonged detention)

[VAGDALT v. HUNGARY, no. 9525/19, 07/03/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the authorities' failure to secure to the applicant respect for his family life on account of his inability to have his paternity recognised in respect of his minor daughter)

[MOLDOVAN v. UKRAINE, no. 626020/14, 14/03/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning an unjustified refusal by the domestic courts in to have regard to the DNA evidence for recognition of paternity)

[VERHOEVEN c. FRANCE, no. 19664/20, 23/03/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the decision of the French courts to order the return of the applicant's son to Japan) (*)

¹³ Not available in English as an official version. Other case law available in French only will be marked with an asterisk (*).

[V.I. v. THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, no. 38963/18, 26/03/2024](#) (on violation of Article 3 and of Article 13 in conjunction with articles 3 and 14 concerning the involuntary placement in a psychiatric hospital and psychiatric treatment without proven medical necessity of an orphan of 15 years of age with a mild intellectual disability and his further transfer to the adults' section and subjection to chemical restraint without proven medical necessity, as well as ineffective investigation into the applicant's complaint into these facts and into his allegations of violence and sexual abuse at the hands of other patients)

[TAMAZOUNT ET AUTRES c. FRANCE, no. 17131/19, 04/04/2024](#) (on the violation of Articles 3 and 8 and Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 concerning the inadequate compensation or the infringement of the human dignity of four claimants, brothers and sisters, resulting from their precarious living conditions in the Bias harki camp and restrictions on their personal freedoms) (*)

[E.L. v. LITHUANIA, no. 12471/20, 09/04/2024](#) (on the violation of Article 3 concerning the failure to effectively investigate alleged acts of sexual violence against the minor applicant while in foster home)

[TZIOUMAKA v. GREECE, no. 31022/20, 09/04/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning non-enforcement of domestic judicial decisions whereby the applicant was granted custody of her two minor children and required their father to return them to her)

[BIBA v. ALBANIA, no. 24228/18, 07/05/2024](#) (on violation of Articles 8 and 6 § 1 concerning the failure to provide adequate protection against attack on the applicant's son's physical integrity by another pupil, an insufficient examination of the incident by the courts and disregard for the protection of the rights of the child, as well as the deprivation of the applicant's right of access to a court)

[MITREVSKA v. NORTH MACEDONIA, no. 20949/21, 14/05/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the inability of the applicant, who was adopted as a child, to obtain information concerning her biological origins and her biological parents' medical history in domestic proceedings)

[A.P. v. ARMENIA, no. 58737/14, 18/09/2024](#) (on violation of Articles 3, 8 and 13 concerning sexual abuse in 2011 of a fourteen-year-old girl with an intellectual disability by a teacher in her State school, and the publication of the applicant's full name and address together with complete texts of judicial decisions dismissing her civil damages claim for sexual abuse on the publicly accessible online official judicial database)

[SPIŠÁK v. THE CZECH REPUBLIC, no. 13968/22, 20/06/2024](#) (on violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 5 concerning the discriminatory treatment of a juvenile applicant, prosecuted for serious offences, whose detention on remand was subject to an automatic judicial review every six months and not every three months as adult persons prosecuted for the same category of offences)

[UKRAINE v. RUSSIA \(RE CRIMEA\), nos. 20958/14 and 38334/18, 25/06/2024](#) (on, among others, violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 concerning the denial of the right to education by suppression of the Ukrainian language in schools and persecution of Ukrainian-speaking children)

[SAVINOVSKIKH AND OTHERS v. RUSSIA, no. 16206/19, 09/07/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the applicant's right to respect for private and family life on account of the termination of his custody and foster care agreement of two minors in 2018, based on his diagnosis of "transsexualism »)

[DJERI AND OTHERS v. LATVIA, nos. 50942/20 and 2022/21, 18/07/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8, Article 8 in conjunction with Article 14, and of Article 14 taken together with Article 2 of Protocol 1 concerning limitations on the use of the applicants' mother tongue in pre-schools)

[D.H. AND OTHERS v. SWEDEN, no. 34210/19, 25/07/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal to grant the applicant family reunification with her two children and her mother)

[OKUBAMICHAEL DEBRU v. SWEDEN, no. 49755/18, 25/07/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal to grant the applicant family reunification with his wife and two children)

[NAMIK YÜKSEL v. TÜRKİYE, no. 28791/10, 27/08/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal of the national authorities to allow the applicant to spend more than one hour a week with his four-year-old son staying with his wife in the same prison)

[TRAPITSYNA AND ISAEVA v. HUNGARY](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the decision to expel the first applicant from Hungary on national security grounds, with no inquiry into the best interests of the second applicant (the first applicant's minor daughter) as the revocation of the first applicant's settlement permit was under domestic law a direct and automatic consequence of the first applicant's expulsion).

[ZAVRIDOU v. CYPRUS, no. 14680/22, 08/10/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the authorities' failure to swiftly and diligently enforce the Family Court's orders awarding the applicant custody and care of her children, or to make all necessary efforts to reunite her with her children)

[T.V. v. SPAIN, no. 22512/21, 10/10/2024](#) (on violation of Article 4 concerning the domestic authorities' failure to duly investigate the applicant's criminal complaint that she had been a victim of human trafficking from Nigeria to Spain and sexual exploitation when she had been a minor)

[J.B. AND OTHERS v. MALTA, no. 1766/23, 22/10/2024](#) (on violation of Articles, 3, 5 § 1, 5 § 4, and 13 taken in conjunction with article 3 concerning inadequate conditions of detention in the context of immigration given the applicants' vulnerability due to presumed minority and health situation)

[S. c. RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE, n. 37614/22, 07/11/2024](#) (on non-violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 concerning the alleged failure to provide reasonable accommodations for the applicant, who has autism spectrum disorder, during his first year of primary school and during the legal proceedings brought in that regard) (*)

[GIANNAKOPOULOS v. GREECE, no. 20503/20, 03/12/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the rejection of the applicant's application for custody of his children)

[SVRTAN v. CROATIA, no. 57507/19, 03/12/2024](#) (on violation of Article 2 concerning the accidental shooting and killing of the applicant's twelve-year-old son by an individual with an alleged history of alcohol abuse, violent behaviour and unlawful possession of firearms)

[X AND OTHERS v. SLOVENIA, nos. 27746/22 and 28291/22, 19/12/2024](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the removal of the first applicant's children from the first applicant (their mother) and the discontinuation of contact between them)

[F.D. AND H.C. v. PORTUGAL, no. 18737/18, 07/01/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the return of the first applicant's son to his mother following the enforcement of a seek and find order against the second applicant without risk and best-interests of the child assessments)

[PETROVIĆ AND OTHERS v. CROATIA, nos. 32514/22, 33284/22 and 15910/23, 14/01/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the abduction and unlawful adoption of the applicants' children in State-run hospital)

[A.C. c. FRANCE, no. 15457/20, 16/01/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 and non-violation of Article 13 in conjunction with Article 8 concerning the dispute of the applicant's status as an unaccompanied minor by the domestic authorities and the consequent impossibility to benefit from appropriate care) (*)

[KLIMOVA AND OTHERS v. RUSSIA, nos. 33421/16, 8156/20, 32416/20, 39855/20, 10497/21, 33277/21, 46226/21, 04/02/2025](#) (on violation of articles 8 and 10 concerning the applicants' convictions for an administrative offence and/or the blocking of their websites or webpages on social networking sites for "promoting homosexuality among minors")

[CALDARAR AND OTHERS v. POLAND, no. 6142/16, 06/02/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the demolition of an unlawfully built encampment occupied by persons of Roma origin (including seven children), without their being able to participate in the related administrative proceedings)

[L.D. v. POLAND, no. 12119/14, 13/02/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the State's positive obligations under Article 8 of the Convention regarding the applicant's custody of and contact with her child)

[SALAY v. SLOVAKIA, no. 29359/22, 27/02/2025](#) (on violation of Article 14 taken in conjunction with Article 2 of Protocol No. 1 concerning the discriminatory enrolment and schooling of the applicant, who of Roma origin, first in a preparatory class of a primary school for children who were not expected to be able to complete the mainstream curriculum, and then in special classes at that school which were for children with an intellectual disability)

[K.M. v. NORTH MACEDONIA](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the respondent State's alleged failure to protect the applicant, a fourteen-year-old girl, from sexual abuse)

[F.B. c. BELGIQUE, no. 47836/21, 06/03/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the decision to terminate the applicant's care as an unaccompanied minor foreign national following the age assessment procedure) (*)

[HASANI v. SWEDEN, no. 35950/20, 06/03/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 2 concerning the failure by the member state to take measures to prevent the applicant's brother, who had visual impairment and mental health problems, from committing suicide after their asylum requests as unaccompanied minors had been refused.)

[T.A. v. SWITZERLAND, no. 13437/22, 06/03/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal of the Swiss authorities to authorise the adoption of a child whom the applicant had found in Ethiopia and brought to Switzerland)

[CALVEZ c. FRANCE, no. 27313/21, 13/03/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the placement of the applicant's minor daughter in child welfare, as well as the ensuing litigation) (*)

[ALMUKHLAS ET AL-MALIKI c. GRÈCE, no. 22776/18, 25/03/2025](#) (on violation of Article 2 concerning the death of the applicants' minor son following a shot fired by a coast guard during an operation to intercept a boat illegally transporting persons to Greece) (*)

[N.S. v. THE UNITED KINGDOM, no. 38134/20, 25/03/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the making of an adoption order in respect of the applicant's child against her wishes)

[VAN SLOOTEN v. THE NETHERLANDS, no. 45644/18, 15/04/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning a complaint in relation to the decision to terminate the applicant's parental authority over her child)

[L. ET AUTRES c. FRANCE, nos. 46949/21, 24989/22, 39759/22, 24/05/2025](#) (on violation of Articles 3 and 8 and Article 14 in conjunction with Articles 3 and 8 concerning the State's compliance with its positive obligations to adopt criminal law provisions that effectively punish rape reported by underage girls and to apply these provisions in practice through effective investigation and prosecution, which must also be free from secondary victimization of the applicant) (*)

[Á.F.L. v. ICELAND, no. 35789/22, 10/06/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 concerning the alleged failure of the Icelandic authorities to provide the applicant with reasonable accommodation in the form of support measures to assist him in taking care of his daughter, which resulted in his being deprived of custody)

[B.T. AND B.K.CS. v. HUNGARY, no. 4581/16, 10/06/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the placement of the second applicant, a child of Roma origin, in temporary State care immediately following his birth)

[A AND B v. MALTA, no. 4986/24, 24/06/2025](#) (on non-violation of Articles 6 § 1 and 8 concerning the impartiality of a judge in childcare proceedings and the procedure relating to the withdrawal of a judge)

[H.Q. AND OTHERS v. HUNGARY, nos. 46084/21, 40185/22 and 53952/22, 24/06/2025](#) (on violation of Article 4 of Protocol No. 4 and Article 13 taken in conjunction with Article 4 of Protocol No. 4, and of Article 3 concerning the removal of the three applicants, including one minor, from Hungary to Serbia and their alleged lack of effective access to the international protection procedure)

[D.G. AND S.G. v. SERBIA, no. 61347/21, 24/06/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the immediate temporary placement of the applicants' son in foster care and the lack of regular contact thereafter, as well as the length of the proceedings to divest the applicants of their parental rights)

[M.L. v. NORTH MACEDONIA, no. 30206/23, 24/06/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning a barring order prohibiting the applicant from approaching his daughter within 100 metres and from visiting her home and school and the alleged failure of the domestic court to reassess the need for that order every two months)

[A AND B v. MALTA, nos. 4986/24, 24/06/2025](#) (on non-violation Articles 6 and 8 concerning allegations of judicial bias and inadequate custody arrangements for the child)

[M.K. v. LATVIA, nos. 26035/23, 03/07/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning domestic courts' failure to examine the issue of the applicant's interim contact with the child of her former partner pending the outcome of the main child contact proceedings)

[UKRAINE AND THE NETHERLANDS v. RUSSIA, nos. 8019/16 43800/14 28525/20 11055/22, 09/07/2025](#) (on violation of Articles 3, 5 and 8 among others concerning evidenced-based forced removal and deportation of Ukrainian nationals, including children, to Russia, as well as the separation of children from their families and their placement in institutions or for adoption in Russia. The Court emphasised the vulnerability of children in such situations and the additional harm caused by these actions)

[SILES CABRERA v. SPAIN, no. 5212/23, 17/07/2025](#) (on non-violation of Article 8 concerning the refusal to grant a disabled child's father a residence permit for exceptional circumstances (social integration) for failing to satisfy the "sufficient means of subsistence" criterion without recourse to welfare benefits)

[M.P. AND OTHERS v. GREECE, no. 2068/24, 09/09/2025](#) (on violation of Article 8 concerning the domestic courts' failure to use all the means at their disposal to rule out any "grave risk" within the meaning of Article 13(b) of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The decision-making process under domestic law had therefore not met the procedural requirements inherent in Article 8 and the forcible return of the two children to the United States could not be regarded as necessary in a democratic society). (* reference to CM/Rec(2025)4 -BIC in parental separation proceedings)

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE