



Building a Europe
for and with children
Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants



Strasbourg, 17 July 2019

Child participation in the Mid-term evaluation conference on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)

- Call for proposals: Concept note -

Activity	Organisation, coordination and implementation of the participation of children in the Mid-term evaluation conference on the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)
Awarding entity	Children's Rights Division / Directorate General of Democracy (DGII) / Council of Europe
Estimated start date	August 2019
Duration	Implementation to be completed by 14 November 2019 Follow-up requirements to be completed by 31 December 2019
Deadline for applications	25 July 2019
Response to	children@coe.int by indicating " Child participation - proposal " in the subject line of your message
Website	www.coe.int/children

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division

Directorate of Anti-Discrimination

CHILD PARTICIPATION UNDER THE STRATEGY

The [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) was adopted by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers in early 2016 and launched at a High-level conference in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April 2016 as the so-called "Sofia Strategy". Currently, the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division is organising a Mid-term evaluation conference on this Strategy **to be held on 13-14 November 2019 in Strasbourg, France.**

Child participation is a key priority area under the Sofia Strategy and a right to be upheld by the 47 member States of the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe has been actively involving children in its standard-setting, monitoring and operational work for well over 10 years; it hereby strives to set the example and inspire States to implement children's right to participate in their activities at national, regional and local level.

Child participation has been instrumental to the development and implementation of the Strategy: [consultations with children informed the development of the Strategy](#) and a group of children participated actively in the Strategy launching conference in Sofia in 2016. Since then, child consultations have been carried out to inform major Council of Europe outputs under the framework of the Strategy, including:

- the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment](#) and the preparation of a child-friendly version of the Guidelines;
- research on children with disabilities in the digital environment;
- the second monitoring round of the Lanzarote Committee on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- [child-friendly information for children in migration](#);
- [a draft Recommendation on age-assessment of migrant children](#).

The Mid-term evaluation process is involving children in the evaluation through child consultations in four member States on each of the Strategy's priority areas. These consultations should be taken into account when discussing priorities for the next years of the implementation of the Strategy (2020-2021 and beyond).

In developing the involvement of children in the upcoming conference, the Council of Europe wishes to draw and build on some of these previous experiences and child consultations. The Council of Europe therefore seeks support by an NGOs and/or consultant(s) in the conceptualisation, preparation, organisation and following up a child participation process for this conference, by associating, amongst others, children who have already participated in some of the above activities.

THE MID-TERM EVALUATION CONFERENCE

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Mid-term evaluation of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021), this conference is organised under the French Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Solidarity and Health. The conference will serve to stimulate the dialogue on current and upcoming challenges for the rights of the child between State

representatives, ombudspersons for the rights of the child, civil society organisations and other international players and experts (around 200 participants), including children themselves (up to the age of 18).

Under the title “#RedefiningPower: The rights of the child: the key to a future-proof Europe” the participants will in particular be invited to discuss recent political, social, technological and other developments that have an impact on children and their rights and engage in dialogue that drives the child rights agenda forward. Different thematic areas and challenges shall be addressed in so-called “Power Talks”, including for example:

- The power of children: shaping or shaking political agendas for a new generation of activists
- The power of taking action: addressing blind spots of violence
- The power of inclusion: guaranteeing equal opportunities for all children from an early age
- The power of families: respecting the best interest of the child in divorce and separation
- The power of political courage: supporting adolescents with harmful sexual behaviour.

CHILD PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE

For the Mid-term evaluation conference, the aim would be to invite up to 10 children/adolescents under the age of 18 (and their accompanying persons) who have an interest in advocacy work and/or who have some expertise in this field, in particular with regard to the some of the above “Power Talk” sessions.

Children to participate in the conference could be identified jointly with the NGO/consultants selected as a service provider through the present call. Some of them could be selected from the groups of children who were previously involved any of the Council of Europe activities mentioned above, others could be identified through activities of different partners of the Children’s Rights Division in the above event (French government, NGOs, other Council of Europe divisions etc.).

Subject to further development with the service provider, the selected children may be invited to participate in one or several of the following ways:

- **Speaking as experts within “Power Talks”** (drawing on their lived experiences and/or advocacy work as appropriate);
- **Participation in “Power Talk” discussions and other forms of interaction** (interaction with national and international actors; social media reporting throughout the Conference, etc.);
- **Acting as observers during Power Talks, in teams with adult rapporteurs** (e.g. to report back to the plenary at the end of the conference).

The precise format of child participation at the Conference is to be developed further with the service provider.

The children should come from Council of Europe member States and should ideally be able to communicate either in English or French which shall be the main working languages of the event. At least one or two children should be from France.

TASKS SUGGESTED FOR THE SERVICE PROVIDER

All tasks are to be performed in close collaboration and with the support of the Secretariat of the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe. Tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Conceptualising the child participation process;
- Identifying and reaching out to participating children (possibly via other partners);
- Engaging and recruiting a facilitating team (e.g. local volunteers, French NGOs, etc.);
- Drafting of relevant documents adapted to the children;
- Preparing the children (and possibly accompanying persons/caretakers, if applicable) for the conference via email, Skype conferences etc.;

- Organising a preparatory workshop on the day before the Conference (12 November 2019);
- Accompanying the children during the conference together with the team of facilitators;
- Organising a wrapping-up and feedback session/workshop straight after the conference (in the afternoon of 14 November 2019);
- *Possibly (according to the service provider's legal status/resources): making travel and accommodation arrangements for children and accompanying persons to/in Strasbourg (a hotel in Strasbourg has been pre-reserved);*
- Organising (in co-operation with local authorities or a local NGO, if applicable) of the stay in Strasbourg (meals, leisure programme, airport pick-up, etc.);
- Preparation of a report on child participation at the Conference and submission to the Children's Rights Division by 31 December 2019;
- Supporting the provision of feedback to children on the results of the conference and its follow-up;
- Ensuring child safeguarding mechanisms are in place for all activities.

WORK MEETINGS AND EXCHANGES

The execution of the above tasks will involve the presence at the following meetings and exchanges:

- A preparatory meeting with the Council of Europe Secretariat in August / September 2019 (date to be defined);
- Regular exchanges (via telephone, Skype etc.) with the Secretariat and with children from different European countries and their representatives;
- A preparatory workshop with children on Tuesday 12 November in Strasbourg;
- The Mid-term evaluation conference on 13-14 November 2019 in Strasbourg;
- A wrap-up meeting with the children involved in the afternoon of 14 November 2019.

TIME FRAME

The following time frame is suggested for implementation of tasks:

Phase of the child participation process	Partners	Target date
Preparatory phase		
Conceptualising, identification of children and possible further facilitators (via national NGOs/partners), communication with the children, drafting of relevant documents, organisation of the stay in Strasbourg Preparing the children for the conference	Service provider National NGOs/experts Secretariat (of the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division)	1 August-beginning November 2019
Airport-pickup etc., Preparation workshop with children and accompanying persons	Service provider National NGOs Secretariat	11-12 November 2019
<i>Travel and accommodation arrangements for all children and accompanying persons (to be confirmed)</i>	<i>Service provider Secretariat (accommodation pre-reserved in Strasbourg)</i>	1 August-beginning November 2019

Phase of the child participation process	Partners	Target date
Implementation phase		
Accompanying the children during the conference Implementation of leisure programme etc.	Service provider Local authorities/NGOs (where applicable) Secretariat	13-14 November 2019
Wrap-up and feedback session/workshop Airport drop-off etc	Service provider National NGOs Secretariat	14/15 November 2019
Follow-up phase		
Preparing a report on child participation at the Conference Reporting back on the overall process to the Council of Europe and the Ad hoc Committee on the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) Support in the provision of feedback to children on the results of the conference and its follow-up	Service provider National NGOs Secretariat	31 December 2019

BUDGET

A specific budget is available for this Council of Europe activity to cover the following in particular:

- preparatory tasks/coordination/implementation/follow-up of all activities (fees of the service provider);
- *travel and accommodation expenses for the service provider, children, their accompanying persons (possibly to be managed by the service provider);*
- material expenses (catering, stationary, leisure programme etc.).

APPLICATIONS

- Candidates (NGOs/consultants) are invited to submit a proposal of max. 2 pages outlining a draft concept for the project and a work plan;
- Please submit your proposal to children@coe.int by 17 July 2019 by indicating “**Child participation – proposal**” in the subject line of your message;
- The evaluation of candidates is provided in accordance with Council of Europe procurement procedures.

CONTACT PERSONS

Ms Maren Lambrecht-Feigl Programme Officer Children’s Rights Division	Ms Valerie Giret-Lerch Assistant Children’s Rights Division
--	--

Council of Europe
Email: maren.lambrecht@coe.int
Tel: +33 3 90 21 47 78

Council of Europe
Email: valerie.giret@coe.int
Tel: +33 3 88 41 21 32