



Building a Europe
for and with children

Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

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

Work programme and timetable

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

Work programme and timetable for the preparatory phase

Objective

The current Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) is in its final implementation phase. A new draft Strategy is to be prepared with contribution from the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)¹ to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption by 31 December 2021.

This document sets out the proposed preliminary timetable for this process indicating the different stages and tasks in the development of the future Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), for implementation, follow-up and coordination within the CDENF. The target dates indicated below represent an optimal framework, which might have to be adjusted in cases of unexpected delays or events.

Timetable proposed for the Strategy process – key tasks and targets

- **1 July 2020:** Bureau meeting to examine the work programme, the proposed process and request the Secretariat to prepare a draft questionnaire for the identification of main priorities for the draft Strategy (2022-2027);
- **17 September 2020:** CDENF exchange:
 - Review and adoption of the draft questionnaires for stakeholders;
 - Discussion of possible processes for consultations of children by member states at national level;
- **28 September 2020:** Inter-Secretariat Task Force on the Rights of the Child to be followed by thematic consultations until **December 2020**;
- **6 November 2020:** return date of the questionnaire by stakeholders;
- **16-18 November 2020:** 2nd CDENF plenary meeting: report update on progress towards the preparation of the draft Council of Europe Strategy (2022-2027) - stock-taking of priority areas identified; discussion of possible processes for consultations of children by member states at national level;
- **November-September 2021:** Country level child consultations;
- **January / February 2021:** (online) hearings with external stakeholders: discussion of priority areas identified, generally and in the light of Covid-19 pandemic consequences;
- **March or April 2021:** exchange of views on priority areas of the new Strategy at the Committee of Ministers' level (to be confirmed);
- **May 2021:** 3rd CDENF plenary meeting: examination of the First Draft of the Strategy (2022-2027); discussion of priority actions to be proposed (including a possible exchange of views with the Secretary General to be confirmed); consolidation of stakeholders' contributions;
- **June – September 2021:** online written consultation on the draft Strategy amongst all CDENF delegations and other stakeholders (internal and external);

¹ CDENF Terms of Reference, specific task (ii)

- **October 2021:** 4th CDENF plenary meeting: final discussion and approval of the final implementation report and the new draft Strategy by the CDENF;
- **December 2021/ January 2022:** communication of the final implementation report and the new draft Strategy to the Committee of Ministers for examination and adoption;
- **2022 (date and place to be confirmed):** Strategy Launching Conference.

Working methods:

The elaboration of the Strategy will be based on the principles of **transversality** and **open consultation**, both internal and external in line with the preparation of previous strategies.

The Children's Rights Division (Directorate General for Democracy) is entrusted with the preparation of the meetings of the CDENF, in particular the development of the draft text and centralisation of all in-coming comments. In the preparation of this work, it will take stock of the reference documents prepared by the former ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) and the CDENF (see annex I).

Input would be sought from relevant Council of Europe bodies and intergovernmental committees including, from their Rapporteurs on Children's Rights, when appointed (see annex II – committees having a thematic rapporteur have been highlighted in ***bold italics***). In addition to participating in the meetings of the CDENF, each member state will have the possibility to contribute to the drafting process and express its views on the strategic objectives to be pursued by the organisation in the field of the rights of the child. The Council of Europe's key external partners, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, will also be invited to contribute (see annex III).

Annex I. Reference documents

[Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)

[CDENF terms of reference 2020-2021](#)

[1st report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)

[Mid-term evaluation report on the Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)

[Report on the third priority area of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\): "A life free from violence for all children"](#)

[2nd report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)

Annex II. List of relevant Council of Europe bodies and committees

Council of Europe bodies

- European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Conference of INGOs

Monitoring Bodies

- European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR)
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)
- European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Minority Languages (ECRML)
- Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of Minority Languages (FCNM)
- Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)
- Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee)
- Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)

Partial agreements

- Council of Europe European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ)
- Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)
- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)
- Pompidou Group

Convention based committees

- T-CY: Conventional Committee on Cybercrime (ETS 185)
- T-PD: Consultative Committee of the convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (ETS 108)

Intergovernmental committees for 2020-2021 and areas of responsibilities²

Pillar/Programme	Intergovernmental structure - subordinate body	Responsibilities
HUMAN RIGHTS	Protecting the Human Rights of Europe's 830 million citizens	
Effective ECHR implementation	Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the human rights field, including bioethics.
	Committee of Experts on the System of the ECHR (DH-SYSC)	Tasks relating to enhancing the Convention system, in the light of decisions of the Committee of Ministers.
	Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO)	Tasks related to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine and to conduct intergovernmental work on the protection of human rights in the field of biomedicine.
	Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of freedom of expression, media, information society and data protection.
	Committee of Experts on Freedom of Expression and Digital Technologies (MSI-DIG)	To prepare draft standard-setting instruments/guidelines on the impact of digital technologies on freedom of expression, and mechanisms for the resolution or moderation of illegal or harmful content.
	Committee of Experts on Media Environment and Reform (MSI-REF)	To prepare draft standard-setting instruments/guidelines on the manipulation of public opinion, media coverage of electoral campaigns and the prioritisation of public interest content.
	Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHA)	To examine the feasibility and potential elements of a legal framework in the field of artificial intelligence.
Equality and human dignity	Gender Equality Commission (GEC)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of gender equality and support implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy.
	Drafting Committee on Migrant Women (GEC-MIG)	To draft a Recommendation on migrant and refugee women, on the basis of Recommendation Rec(79)10 concerning women migrants.
	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of the rights of the child, including supporting implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child.
Anti-discrimination, diversity and inclusion	Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of anti-discrimination to promote equality for all and build more inclusive societies free from discrimination and hate and where diversity is respected.
	Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM)	Thematic peer review visits and other tasks related to intergovernmental work in the field of Roma and Travellers, including supporting implementation of the Council of Europe Roma Action Plan.
	Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS)	To prepare a draft recommendation on a comprehensive approach to addressing hate speech within a human rights framework.
Social rights	European Social Cohesion Platform (PECS)	To ensure the mainstreaming of social cohesion across all Council of Europe activities and foster the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches in the field of social cohesion.

² The 2020-2021 intergovernmental structure and terms of reference of the Council of Europe were adopted together with the Programme and Budget 2020-2021 on 21 November 2019. They can be found in documents [CM\(2019\)131-final](#) (presentation of the structure) and [CM\(2019\)131-addfinal](#) (terms of reference).

Pillar/Programme	Intergovernmental structure - subordinate body	Responsibilities
RULE OF LAW	Strengthening the rule of law-based system	
Rule of Law based institutions	Consultative Council of European Prosecutors (CCPE)	Consultative body on the specific situation of prosecutors.
	Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE)	Consultative body concerning independence, impartiality and competence of judges.
	Committee of Legal Advisors on Public International Law (CAHDI)	To examine questions related to public international law and conduct exchanges and co-ordinate views of member States.
	European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of public and private law.
	Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)	To develop policy guidelines on protecting the best interests of the child in situations of (1) parental separation and (2) child-care proceedings.
Action against crime, security and protection of citizens	European Committee on Crime Problems (CDCP)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of criminal law and procedure, criminology and penology.
	Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP)	To conduct intergovernmental work in the field of prisons and probation, including with regard to radicalisation and violent extremism.
	Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC)	To monitor and evaluate the operation of the conventions on international co-operation in criminal matters with a view to facilitating their practical implementation and improve the efficiency of international co-operation in criminal matters.
	Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of terrorism.
	Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-doping Agency (CAHAMA)	To co-ordinate the positions of all the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention on issues relating to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
DEMOCRACY	Safeguarding and realising genuine democracy	
Democratic governance	European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of democracy.
Democratic participation	Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of education.
	European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) / Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) / Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)	Co-management structures to establish the priorities of the youth sector and to oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of youth.
	Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ)	To establish the biennial programme of activities of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation, in accordance with decisions of the Joint Council on priorities and expected results.
	Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)	To oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of culture, heritage and landscape.

Annex III. External partners (non-exhaustive list)

International organisations

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Secretary General’s Special Representative on Violence against Children (UN SRSG VAC)
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- International Organisation for Migration (IMO)
- European Union, notably the European Commission (EC), European Parliament (EP), European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF)

International non-governmental organisations

- ChildONEurope
- Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
- Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)
- Defence for Children International (DCI)
- ECPAT International
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT international)
- European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online (ENACSO)
- European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)
- Eurochild
- European Youth Forum
- Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe (ILGA EUROPE)
- Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children
- Inter-Agency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) International Agency for Crime Prevention, Criminal Law and Jurisdiction
- International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates
- International Association of Internet Hotlines
- International Juvenile Justice Observatory
- International Social Service (ISS)
- Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile justice (IPJJ)
- International NGO Advisory Council for Follow-up to the UNSG Study on Violence against Children
- Missing Children Europe
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Oak Foundation
- Plan International
- Save the Children
- SOS Children’s Villages
- Terre des Hommes International
- World Vision International

Academia and European Professional Networks