



Building a Europe  
for and with children

Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 17 November 2022  
CDEF(2022)AR03

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## Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF)

Abridged report of the 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting  
(Strasbourg, 15-17 November 2022)

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### Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

The Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF) held its 6<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 15-17 November 2022, with Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal) in the Chair.

The agenda as adopted at the beginning of the meeting appears in the Appendix. The full meeting report including the list of participants will be made available on the CDEF webpage once adopted by the CDEF.<sup>1</sup>

At its plenary meeting the CDEF took the following decisions and actions:

### Approval of the meeting report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting (4 – 6 July 2022)

#### The CDEF:

- **approved** the draft meeting report of its 5<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting which took place on 4 to 6 July 2022 online.

### Statement of the Chair and Secretariat

#### The CDEF:

- **took note** of the information provided by the Chair and the Secretariat, including by the Director of Anti-Discrimination, Jeroen Schokkenbroek, on recent developments within the Council of Europe and the upcoming Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe to be held in Iceland on 16-17 May 2023;
- **took note** of the opportunity for states to second a national child rights expert to the Children's Rights Division, notably to support activities on child-friendly justice and children and technologies, as published on the Council of Europe's website.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.coe.int/cdef](http://www.coe.int/cdef)

## **Review of progress (updated CDENF workplan)**

### **The CDENF:**

**Reviewed** the progress achieved in its work and **approved** the revised workplan, subject to any adjustments to be made in view of the joint guidance to be issued by the CDENF and the European Committee for Legal Cooperation (CDCJ) on the way forward with regard to the work of the Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE).

## **Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027)**

### **The CDENF:**

- **took note of** and welcomed the promotional video relating to the Strategy and heard a presentation of the child-friendly version of the Strategy, by the Secretariat, the consultant having prepared the first draft and the Young Delegates consulted on the publication;
- **took note of** the updates and information provided by the Secretariat with regard to the recent developments contributing to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027);
- **exchanged** on recent national activities presented by delegations.

## **Presentation of implementation tools facilitating the follow-up of reporting back on the Strategy (“operational documents”)**

### **The CDENF:**

- **took note of and exchanged** on the information provided on the implementation tools prepared by the Secretariat;
- **instructed** its Bureau to reflect on the frequency of questionnaires circulated within the CDENF to inform substantive activities towards the implementation of the Strategy.

## **Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children**

### **Draft Recommendation containing Guidelines on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children and the related draft Explanatory Memorandum prepared by the Working Group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)**

### **The CDENF:**

- **examined and revised** the draft Recommendation in the light of comments received before and raised during the meeting;
- **agreed** that the draft Recommendation as revised during the meeting was mature enough to be sent for approval in a written proceeding and **instructed** the Secretariat to circulate the revised draft with a deadline on 12 December 2022;
- **agreed** to send any last comments and additions to the Explanatory Memorandum by 12 December 2022 and **instructed** the Secretariat to finalise the text on this basis for submission to the CDENF Bureau prior to circulation to the CDENF for adoption through a written proceeding, to allow for the submission to the Committee of Ministers of the draft Recommendation for adoption and the Explanatory Memorandum for information in 2023.

## **Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)**

### **The CDENF:**

- **instructed** the Secretariat to launch a call for experts with the competences described in the Terms of Reference of ENF/VAE among Delegations;
- **entrusted** its Bureau to pre-select eight experts, according to criteria of expertise/professional experience, geographical balance and different legal systems, for approval of the list of members of the ENF-VAE by the CDENF at its 7<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting.

## **Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children**

### **Initiating the CDENF activity on mental health**

#### **The CDENF:**

- **took note** of the presentation by the consultant on children's access to quality mental health care; and exchanged with the consultant on the scope of the upcoming mapping study;
- **agreed** on the new provisional time-line proposed for this activity.

## **Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children**

### **Initiating the CDENF activity on artificial intelligence**

#### **The CDENF:**

- **heard** a presentation by the consultant about artificial intelligence and children's rights and exchanged with the consultant on the scope of the upcoming study;
- **agreed** on the new provisional time-line proposed for this activity.

## **Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children**

### **Committee of Experts on the rights and the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)**

#### **The CDENF:**

- **took note** of the outcome of:
  - the International conference "Hear our voices – Rights and determination of the best interests of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings", organised in the framework of the Irish Presidency of the Committee of Ministers (Dublin, Ireland, 3 October 2022);
  - the hearing of selected stakeholders organised on 4 October 2022;
  - the targeted child consultations carried out in 2022 in three member states (Hungary, Italy and Portugal);
  - the 6th meeting of CJ/ENF-ISE (document CJ/ENF-ISE(2022)PV2) held on 4-5 October 2022;
- **examined** the draft Recommendation on the protection of the child in parental separation and in care proceedings in light of the information provided by the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the CJ/ENF-ISE;
- **agreed** that the drafting process under the CJ/ENF-ISE mandate should proceed on the basis of two separate Draft Recommendations, one relating to parental separation and one to care proceedings;
- **instructed** the Secretariat, subject to the decision to be taken by the CDCJ at its upcoming plenary meeting:
  - **to revise** the work-plan of CJ/ENF-ISE (and of the CDENF) in view of the joint guidance issued by both Committees, thereby ensuring that one draft legal instrument would be finalised by the CJ/ENF-ISE for approval by the Steering Committees by the end of 2023 and the second recommendation by the end of 2024;
  - **to inform** the Committee of Ministers of the need to extend the mandate of CJ/ENF-ISE until the end of 2024 (to finalise the other deliverables);
- or (in case of divergent decisions by CDENF and CDCJ):
  - **to prepare** a joint meeting of the Bureaus of CDENF and CDCJ to issue joint guidance on a way forward, as requested by CJ-ENF-ISE.

## **Mapping study on the implementation and development of Barnahus structures in Europe**

### **The CDENF:**

- **heard a presentation** by the Secretariat and the consultant on the upcoming Mapping study on the implementation and development of Barnahus structures in Europe and the promotional video.

### **Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child**

#### **Guide on the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (BIO-ENF-CP)**

### **The CDENF:**

- **took note** of the information presented by the Co-Chair of the drafting group on a Guide on the participation of children in decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP), by the consultant and by the Secretary of CD-BIO on the progress of the work, including the consultation process currently being carried out among children and selected stakeholder, and appreciated the progress achieved by the Drafting Group.

### **Initiating the CDENF activity on children as defenders of human rights**

### **The CDENF:**

- **heard a presentation** on the upcoming CDENF report on children as defenders of human rights and exchanged with the consultant on the scope of the upcoming study;
- **agreed** on the new provisional time-line proposed for this activity.

### **Strategic Objective 6: Children's Rights in Crisis and Emergency Situations**

### **The CDENF:**

- **instructed** the Secretariat to collect, via the next questionnaire on the implementation of the Strategy for the rights of the Child, information from member States on the situation of children in relation to the energy and economic crises in Europe and on the measures taken by governments to counteract the negative effects of the crises.

#### **Initiating the Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/REC(2019)11 of the Committee of Ministers on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration**

### **The CDENF:**

- **took note** of the information presented by the Secretariat and **agreed** on the general working methods proposed for the implementation review of Committee of Ministers Recommendations;
- **instructed** the Secretariat to proceed with preparing the review of the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration on this basis, including by associating relevant partners, and provided further guidance.

## Transversal Issues

### The CDENF:

- **was reminded** that the three transversal dimensions related to the Strategy (gender equality, anti-discrimination, child participation), would be given the necessary attention throughout the implementation of activities.

## Co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies and other organisations

### The CDENF:

- **heard presentations** by the representatives of the following bodies and organisations:
  - Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE);
  - Secretariat of the Committee of the Parties on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Committee);
  - European Steering Committee on Youth;
  - EUROCHILD;
  - Child Rights international Network (CRIN).

## Co-operation projects

### The CDENF:

- **heard** a presentation on and **welcomed** the Andorran National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents by Jordi Olivé Cadena, CDENF Delegate for Andorra, and held an exchange of views;
- **heard** presentations by the Secretariat on ongoing projects on child participation, child-friendly justice and fighting violence against children in specific national contexts.

## Evaluation of Completed Activities

### The CDENF:

- **welcomed** the adoption, by the Committee of Ministers, on 23 February 2022, of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) and its launch at the High-Level Conference in Rome on 7-8 April 2022; the approval of the draft Recommendation on Human Rights Principles and Guidelines on age assessment for children in the context of migration by the CDENF and the adoption of the Explanatory Memorandum of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration at the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting;
- **emphasised** that the future priorities of the Council of Europe should be guided by the Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027).

## Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers

No requests for opinions by the Committee of Ministers had reached the CDENF in advance of this meeting.

## CDENF Working Methods

### The CDENF:

- **instructed** the Secretariat to provide an overview and provisional timeline of upcoming questionnaires to be completed by national delegations in the course of 2023, and to try to well coordinate upcoming surveys, so as to avoid an overburden of requests for national delegations.

## **Appointments of Rapporteurs and Representatives**

### **The CDENF:**

- **appointed** Stefania Chiru (France) and Panagiota Margaroni (Greece) as Gender Equality Rapporteurs;
- **postponed** the appointment of a Rapporteur for New technologies, including artificial intelligence, to later appointment possibly in written proceedings;
- **designated** Teodora Ivanova (Bulgaria) to represent the CDENF at an event organised by the Council of Europe's Roma and travellers' team under the ROMACT program on 12 December 2022 in Sofia.

### **Any other Business**

Participants did not raise any additional issues

### **Date and place of next meetings**

**The CDENF took note** of the following dates of the upcoming meetings:

- **10 February 2023** (Paris, tbc.): 8th CDENF Bureau meeting;
- **28-30 March 2023** (in person): 7<sup>th</sup> CDENF plenary meeting, followed by an international Conference on integrated Child protection systems organised by the Icelandic Presidency to the Committee of Ministers in Reykjavík, (venue tbc).

### **Approval of the abridged meeting report**

#### **The CDENF:**

- **agreed** to adopt the abridged report by written procedure after the meeting.

## Appendix

### Agenda

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1. Opening of the meeting

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  2. Adoption of the agenda and order of business

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  3. Approval of the meeting report of the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting (4 – 6 July 2022)

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  4. Statement of the Chair and Secretariat


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  5. Review of progress (updated CDENF workplan)

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  6. **Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022–2027)**
    - 6.1 Presentation of the Promotional video and of the child-friendly version of the Strategy

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    - 6.2 Update on recent developments in member States  
 *Agenda item for information only, without oral exchange*

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    - 6.3 **Presentation of implementation tools facilitating the follow-up of and reporting back on the Strategy** (referred to as “operational documents” in the Strategy)

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    - 6.4 **Strategic Objective 1: Freedom from violence for all children**
      - 6.4.1 Draft Recommendation and draft Explanatory Memorandum on strengthening reporting systems on violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)

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      - 6.4.2 Committee of Experts on the prevention of violence (ENF-VAE)

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    - 6.5 **Strategic Objective 2: Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children**
      - 6.5.1 Initiating the CDENF activity on mental health

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    - 6.6 **Strategic Objective 3: Access to and safe use of technologies for all children**
      - 6.6.1 Initiating the CDENF activity on artificial intelligence

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    - 6.7 **Strategic Objective 4: Child-friendly justice for all children**
      - 6.7.1 Draft Recommendation on the protection of the best interests of the child and his/her rights in parental separation and/or care proceedings (CJ/ENF-ISE)

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      - 6.7.2 Mapping study on the implementation and development of Barnahus structures in Europe

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    - 6.8 **Strategic Objective 5: Giving a voice to every child**
      - 6.8.1 Guide on the participation of children in the decision-making processes on matters regarding their health (BIO/ENF-CP)
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<b>6.8.2</b>	<b>Initiating the CDENF activity on children as defenders of human rights</b>
<b>6.9</b>	<b>Strategic Objective 6: Children’s Rights in Crisis and Emergency Situations</b>
<b>6.9.1</b>	<b>Initiating the Implementation review report of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Transversal issues</b> Transversal approaches as promoted by the Strategy (gender-sensitivity, anti-discrimination, child participation)
<b>8.</b>	<b>Co-operation with relevant Council of Europe bodies and other organisations</b> a. Council of Europe bodies and sectors b. International organisations c. INGOs
<b>9.</b>	<b>Co-operation projects</b>
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Presentation of the Andorran National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents</b>
<b>9.2.</b>	<b>Update on co-operation projects within the Children’s Rights Division</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Evaluation of completed activities</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Opinions requested by the Committee of Ministers</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>CDENF Working methods</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Appointments of Rapporteurs and Representatives</b>
<b>13.1</b>	<b>Appointment of up to four Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives</b>
<b>13.2</b>	<b>Appointment of representatives to external events</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Date and place of next meeting</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Approval of the abridged meeting report</b>

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