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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 1 October 2020

CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)OJ2Rev

Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

Working group on responses to violence against children (CDENF-GT-VAE)

Agenda and Order of Business

2nd Meeting by videoconference

5-6 October 2020, respectively from 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

Prepared by the Children's Rights Division

www.coe.int/en/web/children/cdenf-gt-vae

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Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the draft agenda and order of business
3. State of play of CDENF-GT-VAE activities
4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states
 - 4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children
 - 4.2 Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children
5. Other tasks of the working group
 - 5.1 Contributing to the preparation of proposals for elements to be included into a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027);
 - 5.2 Supporting the organisation of thematic exchanges on specific challenges of violence, as a follow-up to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 5.3 Supporting the implementation of CDENF activities in related areas, e.g. the rights of the child in the digital environment and child participation.
6. Dates envisaged for the next meetings of the working group in 2020
3rd meeting: 1-2 December 2020, Strasbourg (virtual)
7. Any other business

Draft Order of Business - Overview

Monday 5 October	10h-13h	1, 2, 3, 4.1
Tuesday 6 October	10h-13h	4.2 and 5, 6, 7

Annotated Agenda

Monday 5 October 2020

1. Opening of the meeting	10 am
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Chair: Matthew Vella (Malta), member of the CDENF Bureau

Welcome by the Secretariat:

- Elda Moreno, Head of the Department of Children's Rights and Sports Values
- Regína Jensdóttir, Head of the Children's Rights Division
- Maren Lambrecht-Feigl, Programme Officer

2. Adoption of the revised draft agenda	10:20 am
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Working documents:

CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)OJ2rev – Revised draft agenda and order of business

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to review and adopt the revised draft agenda and order of business.

3. State of play of CDENF-GT-VAE activities	10:25 am
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Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01rev](#) – CDENF-GT-VAE revised work plan 2020/2021

Information by the Secretariat

Discussion

Required action:

Against the background of its mandate and task list, the CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to take note of the progress made as reflected in the revised workplan 2020/2021 and make any comments or suggestions about further action to be taken.

Reference documents:

- [Task list of the working Group on responses to violence against children \(CDENF-GT-VAE\)](#)
- [List of Members of the CDENF-GT-VAE](#)
- [CDENF terms of reference](#)

Background documents:

Council of Europe:

- [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"](#)
- [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#)
- [Council of Europe Policy Guidelines on Integrated Strategies for the Protection of Children Against Violence](#)

Other sources:

- [INSPIRE: Seven strategies for ending violence against children](#) (WHO and others 2016)
- [What works to prevent sexual violence against children](#) (Oak Foundation and others 2019)
- [The Global status report on preventing violence against children](#) (WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence against Children, and the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children 2020)

4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states	10:30 am
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Introduction by the Secretariat

4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children	10:35 am
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Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)06](#) – Outline for a feasibility study regarding a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children (*working title*)

Presentations by:

- Professor Mariëlle Bruning, Leiden University (NL) to present the outline for a feasibility study on a draft Recommendation to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption in 2021

Discussion

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to:

- consider the outline for a feasibility study and the first content elements proposed herein, to provide further guidance to the expert;

Short break	11:15 – 11:30
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4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children (continued...)	11:30 – 13:00
<u>Working documents:</u> - CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)07 – Draft questionnaire	

Introduction by the Secretariat

Exchange of views aimed at exploring different aspects of the issue of reporting mechanisms with the participation of:

- Robinetta de Roode, Advisor for Health Law, Royal Dutch Medical Association (RDMA/KNMG) on the reporting of violence against children through the Dutch health system
- Colette McLoughlin, Irish Child and Family Agency (Tusla) on the follow-up given by the Irish social services to reports on violence against children
- Berit Kieselbach, WHO technical officer on the prevention of violence, on the WHO guidelines on the health sector response to child maltreatment

Discussion

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to:

- hold an in-depth exchange of views with practitioners dealing with reports on violence against children about key challenges and good practice in the relevant area, in order to specify the issues to be addressed by an upcoming draft Recommendation;
- consider and approve a draft questionnaire on reporting mechanisms, including challenges and good practice met in different countries, to be disseminated amongst CDENF-GT-VAE members;
- decide on further action to be proposed on behalf of the working group, notably with regard to elements to be submitted to the Steering Committee (CDENF) at its meeting in November 2020.

Reference documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)02](#) – Study on Strengthening Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse in Europe (Prof. Mathews)
- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)03](#) – Discussion paper on mandatory reporting of violence against children (Prof. Bruning)

Background documents:

- [WHO Guidelines for the health sector response to child maltreatment](#), WHO (2019)
- [Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused: WHO clinical guidelines](#) (2017)
- [Safe and Child-sensitive counselling, complaint and reporting mechanisms to address violence against children](#), UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children (2016)

4.2 Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children	10:00 am
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Introductory presentations of the Council of Europe framework:

- Gioia Scappucci, Executive Secretary of the Lanzarote Committee on the relevant opinion prepared by the Lanzarote Committee in 2019
- Françoise Kempf, Adviser, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights on the recent Human Rights Comment by the Commissioner on comprehensive sexuality education

Exchange of views aimed at exploring different aspects of the issue of harmful sexual behaviour with the participation of:

- Anna Newton, Treatment provider for children with harmful sexual behaviour, Icelandic Government Agency for Child Protection on challenges and possible responses to harmful sexual behaviour demonstrated by children
- Stephen Barry, Clinical Team Manager / Lead Clinician at “Be Safe”, multi-agency partnership service working with children and young people with problematic/harmful sexual behaviour in Bristol, UK

Discussion

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to:

- take note of the Council of Europe’s legal framework and activities relating to harmful sexual behaviour of children;
- hold an exchange of views with invited experts about key challenges and possible responses;
- agree on follow-up action to be taken on the issue.

Reference documents – reminder of documents presented previously:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)04](#) – Study on Sexual violence and harmful sexual behaviour displayed by children (Prof. Hackett)
- [Link to the online presentation \(summary of the study\)](#)

Short break	11:30– 11:45
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5. Other tasks of the working group	11:45 am
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Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01rev](#) – CDENF-GT-VAE revised work plan 2020/2021

Introduction by the Secretariat

5.1 Contributing to the preparation of proposals for elements to be included into a draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)	11:50 am
<u>Working documents:</u> - CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)08 – Discussion paper on Priority area 3 “A life free from violence for all children” of the current Strategy: Revision of priority issues covered	

Presentation by the Secretariat on the upcoming process towards a new Strategy for the Rights of the Child and a possible revision of the priority area on violence against children

Discussion

Required action:

Based on priority area 3 “A life free from violence for all children” of the current Strategy, the CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to propose key challenges and issues that could be included into a new Strategy in the area of violence against children, with a view to guiding the Secretariat in revising the current chapter on violence as an input into the Strategy process.

5.2 Supporting the organisation of thematic exchanges on specific challenges of violence, as a follow-up to the COVID-19 pandemic	12:30 pm
<u>Working documents:</u> - CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)05rev – Revised discussion paper on COVID-19 and children’s rights: Proposals for action to be supported by the VAE working group	

Introduction by the Secretariat on possible action to be considered

Discussion

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to consider and propose possible action to be taken as a follow-up to the current public health crisis, including possible webinars to be organised by the Steering Committee (CDENF).

5.3 Supporting the implementation of CDENF activities in related areas, e.g. the rights of the child in the digital environment and child participation	12:45 pm
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Presentation by the Secretariat on upcoming publications:

- the Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment
- the Handbook on children’s participation for professionals

Discussion

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to propose possible activities aimed at promoting these new tools at the European and national levels.

6. Dates envisaged for the next meetings of the working group in 2020	12:55 pm
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Information by the Secretariat

All meetings organised by the Council of Europe before the end of 2020 will be held virtually. The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to take note of the dates of its third online meeting to be held on 1-2 December 2020.

7. Any other business	12:50 pm
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