



Building a Europe  
for and with children

Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 30 November 2020

CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)OJ3Rev ANN

## **Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)**

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

### **Annotated Agenda (revised) and Order of Business**

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting by videoconference

1-2 December 2020, respectively from 10:00 – 13:00 hrs

*Prepared by the Children's Rights Division*

[www.coe.int/en/web/children/cdenf-gt-vae](http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/cdenf-gt-vae)

[children@coe.int](mailto:children@coe.int)

## 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 Supporting the review of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), and notably SDG Target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children: proposals for a possible CDENF methodology
    - 5.2 Supporting the implementation of CDENF activities on the rights of the child in the digital environment: organisation of a webinar to launch the Handbook for policy makers
    - 5.3 Supporting the ongoing development of the “Clearinghouse on responses to violence against children”: update on the state of play
    - 5.4 Contributing to the preparation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027): update on the current process
    - 5.5 Supporting the organisation of thematic exchanges on specific challenges of violence, as a follow-up to the COVID-19 pandemic: consideration of the CDENF concept paper
  6. Dates proposed for the next meetings of the working group
    - 4<sup>th</sup> meeting:* 22-23 April 2021, Strasbourg (or virtual)
    - 5<sup>th</sup> meeting:* 23-24 September 2021, Strasbourg (or virtual)
  7. Other business
- 

### Order of Business - Overview

<b>Tuesday 1 December</b>	10h-13h	1, 2, 3, 4.1
<b>Wednesday 2 December</b>	10h-13h	4.2 and 5, 6, 7

## Annotated Agenda (revised)

**Tuesday 1 December 2020**

<b>1. Opening of the meeting</b>	<b>10 am</b>
----------------------------------	--------------

*Chair:* Rosário Farmhouse (Portugal), Vice-Chair of the CDENF

*Welcome by the Secretariat*

<b>2. Adoption of the draft agenda</b>	<b>10:15</b>
--	--------------

Working documents:

CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)OJ3 – Draft annotated agenda (revised) and order of business

Required action:

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

<b>3. State of play of CDENF-GT-VAE activities</b>	<b>10:20</b>
--	--------------

Working documents:

[CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)01rev2](#) – VAE deliverables and revised work plan 2020/2021

*Information by the Secretariat, followed by 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 \(CDENF-GT-VAE\)](#)
- [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 et al. 2016)
- [What works to prevent sexual violence against children](#) (Oak Foundation et al. 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)

<b>4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states</b>	<b>10:30</b>
---	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat*

<b>4.1 Towards a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children</b>	<b>10:35</b> <b>to be continued until 13:00</b> <i>(after a break at 11:15-11:30)</i>
--	---

Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)06rev](#) – Revised outline for a feasibility study regarding a draft Recommendation on the Development of effective mechanisms for professionals to report violence against children (*working title*)
- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)07rev](#) – Revised questionnaire

Presentation by Professor Mariëlle Bruning, Leiden University (NL) on the revised outline for a feasibility study on a draft Recommendation

*Information by the Secretariat on next steps proposed for this activity*

*Discussion*

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to:

- consider the revised outline for a feasibility study and discuss its contents according to the specific questions proposed, make proposals for further issues to be covered by the draft Recommendation and the focus of the latter, and provide relevant guidance to the expert and the Secretariat;
- consider next steps to be taken in follow-up of the survey, including any further action to be proposed on behalf of the working group to the Steering Committee (CDENF) at its meeting in May 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)

**Wednesday, 2 December 2020**

*Possibly (if necessary):*

*Continuation of exchanges on **item 4.1.** (“VAC reporting mechanisms”)*

<b>4. Contribution to the development of non-binding instruments or tools containing guidance for member states</b> <i>(continued)</i>	<b>10:00</b>
--	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat*

<b>4.2 Measures and interventions aimed at preventing peer violence and harmful sexual behaviour by children</b>	<b>10:05</b>
--	--------------

Working documents:

- [CDENF-GT-VAE\(2020\)09](#) – Harmful sexual behaviour by children: overview of first responses identified and proposals for further action

*Information by the Secretariat*

*Discussion*

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to:

- take note of the overview of first responses identified to harmful sexual behaviour by children;
- hold an exchange of views on the next steps ahead and activity to be developed in 2021;
- agree on follow-up action to be proposed, including under the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027).

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 \(summary of the study\)](#)

<b>5. Other tasks of the working group</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<u>Working documents:</u> <a href="#">CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)01rev2</a> – VAE deliverables and revised work plan 2020/2021	

*Information by the Secretariat*

<b>5.1 Supporting the review of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), and notably SDG Target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children: proposals for a possible CDENF methodology</b>	<b>10:35</b>
<u>Working documents:</u> - <a href="#">CDENF-GT-VAE(2020)10</a> – Concept note on action proposed to review progress made towards the UNSDGs	

*Information by the Secretariat*

*Introduction by Elda Moreno, Head of Department of Children’s Rights and Sports Values*

Required action:

Based on the concept note prepared by the Secretariat, the CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to discuss a possible approach for the follow-up of the SDG process, to be suggested to the CDENF.

<b>5.2 Supporting the implementation of CDENF activities on the rights of the child in the digital environment: organisation of a webinar to launch the Handbook for policy makers</b>	<b>11:00</b>
--	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat*

*Discussion*

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the upcoming plans and programme of the webinar aimed at launching the Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment, and to make any proposals with regard to speakers to be invited and action to be taken for the dissemination of this new instrument.

<b>5.3 Supporting the ongoing development of the “VAC Clearinghouse” - online platform on responses to violence against children: state of play</b>	<b>11:15</b>
---	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat*

*Discussion*

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat on the state of play of the “VAC Clearinghouse”, and to make any proposals with regard to the future development and promotion of this tool.

<b>Short break</b>	<b>11:30– 11:45</b>
--------------------	---------------------

<b>5.4 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): update on the current process</b>	<b>11:45</b>
--	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat*

*Discussion*

Required action:

Based on inputs into the Strategy process received from CDENF members and observers, internal Council of Europe consultations with the Secretariat of other bodies and first suggestions made by members of the working group, the CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to comment and make further proposals for challenges that should receive increased attention under the new Strategy and possible activities to be developed in response.

<b>5.5 Supporting the organisation of thematic exchanges on specific challenges of violence, as a follow-up to the COVID-19 pandemic: consideration of the CDENF concept paper</b>	<b>12:15</b>
--	--------------

Working documents:

- [CDENF\(2020\)29](#) – CDENF concept note on the Proposal of webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on Children’s Rights (*for information*)

*Information by the Secretariat*

*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) as outlined in the relevant CDENF document.

<b>6. Dates proposed for the next meetings of the working group in 2020</b>	<b>12:30</b>
---	--------------

*Information by the Secretariat on the dates proposed:*

*4<sup>th</sup> meeting:* 22-23 April 2021, Strasbourg (or virtual)

*5<sup>th</sup> meeting:* 23-24 September 2021, Strasbourg (or virtual)

*Discussion*

Required action:

The CDENF-GT-VAE is invited to take note of the meeting dates proposed for 2021 and to raise any possible concerns about conflicting events which could lead to re-considering these dates.

<b>7. Other business</b>	<b>12:40</b>
--------------------------	--------------