



Building a Europe
for and with children

Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CGU(2023)ZeroMeeting/Summary report

Strasbourg, 18 October 2023

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

Summary report of the Zero meeting (online), 4 October, 2023

Prepared by the Secretariat

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www.coe.int/cgu (*website under construction*)

1. The opening of the **zero meeting** by the Secretariat included welcoming words and outlined the rationale, working methods and objectives of the **Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)**;
2. The Secretariat recalled that the CGU is being set up in response to the call made by the Heads of State and Government in Appendix II to the Reykjavik Declaration on the Situation of the Children of Ukraine to “*facilitate co-operation between States, the European Union, and relevant international organisations, through an appropriate mechanism.*”¹ They underscored that the initiative was launched at the request of Ukraine. The CGU’s core focus is the situation of children from Ukraine residing in Council of Europe member States and to follow, accompany and support the reform of the Ukrainian child protection system. It was recalled that the aim of the Zero meeting was to have a preliminary exchange, in an informal and open manner, on the key themes to be addressed through the Group;
3. The opening was followed by a **tour de table** of all CGU members and participants. Representatives from 31 member States, 7 international organisations, and 6 civil society organisations participated. During the *tour de table*, members and participants described some of the major legal and policy problems faced by their countries and organisations;
4. Results of the survey were presented, defining three main umbrella priority themes to be addressed in the future meetings of the CGU. The three topics are the following:
 - 1) Registration, reception and care of unaccompanied children from Ukraine (including separated children and children from Ukrainian institutionalized care facilities);
 - 2) Information exchange on legal and policy frameworks regarding the situation, status and needs of children from Ukraine residing in Council of Europe member States;
 - 3) Understanding the needs and standards applicable to specific groups of children and protection from risks.
5. The closing remarks reiterated that the presentations by members and participants reflected the universality of legal and policy issues;
6. The next steps will be to prepare a Roadmap for the future work of the CGU with more concrete actions (deliverables) and timeframe. The next meeting will be on 30 November and 1 December (in hybrid fashion);
7. The meeting was held under the **Chatham House Rule** and, as a result, only a **Summary report** will be available following the meeting.

¹ Appendix II, para. 3.