



**Building a Europe  
for and with children**

**Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants**

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# **Council of Europe Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)**

**Children's Rights Division  
Council of Europe**

*December 2024*



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## CGU : context



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- **Basis** : CoE's 4<sup>th</sup> Summit in Reykjavik in May 2023, Declaration on the situation of the children of Ukraine (Annex II);
- **Follow-up**: the Council of Europe set up a **Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)** in November 2023.
- **Modalities**:
  - **Mandate** : 24 months (1 August 2023 – 31 July 2025) ; *extension recommended for 24 months*;
  - **Sui-generis nature** : **Multilateral Consultation Platform** (but not a formal CoE inter-governmental committee, reports to CM under the Reykjavik follow-up) ; Conceived of as an international cooperation project (funded under Ukraine Action Plan).



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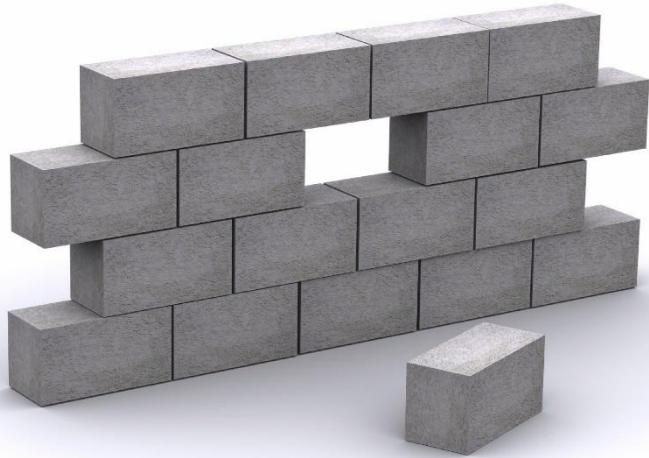
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## Objectives cont'd



- The aim of the Group is *not* to create new standards, but rather to build and draw on existing ones, and to fill gaps and to seek to harmonise their implementation across member States;
- Council of Europe standards and the work of CoE monitoring and steering committees will provide a strong blueprint for the work of the Group;
- Rather than dealing with individual cases, the CGU's focus will be on **developing a common understanding** of the issues, practical and concrete solutions, applicable legal standards, and if necessary, procedural guidelines.



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# Composition



- **43 CoE member States** have nominated experts, **many relevant international organisations**, including the EU and UN, and many CSOs, international/European/local);
- Active participation by CoE Steering Committees and monitoring bodies, including the CDENF, CDCJ, GRETA, Violence against Women Division, European Social Charter, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration and Refugees, etc.
- PACE, Congress, etc.



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## Half-way mark

The CGU has advanced well with its three thematic Dialogue Groups (Transnational procedures, Guardianship & trauma-informed care), producing a number of practical deliverables;

Revolving thematic topics : human trafficking, access to education: recent publications; upcoming hearing on “preconditions for safe return of children of Ukraine from CoE member states” on 23 January;

CGU has also revealed itself as an important peer-review platform, where member states connect to troubleshoot difficulties; discuss challenges, and best practices, both in the group or bilaterally.





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## CGU schedule



- **21-22 January:** 3<sup>rd</sup> CGU plenary (Strasbourg, in-person only);
- **23 January:** special hearing (hybrid) on the safe pre-conditions for a safe return of children of Ukraine from CoE member States (tbd);
- **2023-2025 : 6 CGU plenary meetings** (at 3-4-month intervals)
- **Thematic Dialogue Group meetings** (4<sup>th</sup> round of DG meetings concludes mid-December 2024).



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**Thank you for your  
attention!!!!**

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WEBSITES

[www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)

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