



# *‘The role of schools in explaining difficult situations to children’*

CP4Europe Webinar on

“Child-friendly communication in crisis situations”



Building a Europe  
for and with children  
Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

**Barbara Németh**  
CoE independent expert

Co-funded  
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe



# « It's all happening »



Co-funded  
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe



## Typical concerns



- Politics in school: Allowed? How?
- Parents' reactions
- Limited time
- Respect differences
- Dealing with emotions
- Awareness, factual knowledge
- Competencies
- Misconceptions

Co-funded  
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe



## Role of schools



- It is about children
- Quality education is not just teaching the curriculum
- Risks of creating taboos and spread of fake news
- Teachers' opinion matters
- School models the wider community
- Best chance to address children
- Varies based on age groups: from providing emotional safety to sharing information
- Teaching solidarity and representing values

Co-funded  
by the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Remember

- Difficult is OK.
- Turns into an opportunity.
- Worst scenario: do nothing.
- You teach with your personality.

## Bear in mind

Why is it difficult for you?

What would you need to be more comfortable and confident?

How can it affect children?

Why did they behave like this?

What do I want to teach them at this moment?

How can I teach it best?





## Opportunities and approaches to engage



- Ask and listen
- Inform
- Think about nonverbal techniques (music, play, art, body, etc.)
- Promote volunteering and child participation
- Promote peer support
- Talk about how it affects the school directly
- Stop bullying
- Discuss prejudices
- Discuss mental health
- Support media literacy and help recognizing fake news
- Role of religion and other supportive communities or tools
- Rituals
- Every member of the school community is competent, not just teachers



**Thank you for your attention**

**[www.coe.int/CP4EUROPE](http://www.coe.int/CP4EUROPE)**



Building a Europe  
for and with children  
Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants

Co-funded  
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented  
by the Council of Europe