

EVALUATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SUB-PROGRAMME ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Management response and Action plan



DIO-EVA(2026)02

Management response

Name of Evaluation Report:	Evaluation of the Council of Europe Sub-programme on Children's Rights		
Date of Evaluation Report:	21/01/2026	Date of Action Plan:	20 March 2026

Overall management response to the evaluation:

The evaluation provides a valuable in-depth analysis of the Sub-programme on Children's Rights, covering its standard-setting, monitoring, and technical assistance activities, as well as its mainstreaming function across the Organisation. By tracing the Council of Europe's influence on legislative and policy change, the evaluation recognises the Organisation's leadership role as convener, standard-setter and multiplier in the area of children's rights.

The evaluation comes at a timely moment within the 2022-2027 cycle of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child. The recognition of the Strategy's relevance and the recommendations for further improvement will guide the reflection process leading up to a new Strategy cycle starting in 2028.

Note is taken of the six relevant lessons learned, including the adaptive and agile management structures and cross-mechanism co-ordination, allowing quick responses to crises such as the war in Ukraine, the effective multi-stakeholder approach, the promotion of best practice such as the Barnahus model, and the value of child participation.

The seven recommendations are relevant and triggered a thorough reflection process on a possible management response. For Recommendations 2 on mainstreaming efforts, the level of ambition in its implementation will depend on the availability of resources. For some recommendations, implementation is already ongoing (e.g. Recommendation 6 on dissemination of outputs) or has recently started (Recommendation 7 on Lanzarote Convention).

Action plan

[illegible]

¹ The management decision is in relation to the Recommendation (Accepted, Partially accepted, Rejected).

² Initial suggestion – to be defined/updated by management.

³ For implementing accepted recommendations.

⁴ For recommendations that are partially accepted or rejected.

⁵ Recommendations have been classified as either “high” or “medium” in terms of the assessment of their importance following the evaluation.

Management decision ¹	Entity in charge ²	Planned actions ³ (determined by entity)	Justification for non-acceptance ⁴	Target date for action	Person responsible for action
Recommendation 2: Focus children's rights mainstreaming efforts across the Council of Europe by prioritising specific action areas - enhancing clarity around milestones and targets and leveraging existing strategies, mechanisms, and reporting cycles. This could be formulated to some extent in the next iteration of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child, including defining accountability of the CRD and other Council of Europe bodies. Responsible actor: CRD and relevant Council of Europe bodies. (High)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	For the next Strategy cycle: 1. The Task Force will be asked to select specific action areas for mainstreaming efforts across the Organisation. 2. Mainstreaming targets and indicators to measure progress will be developed in collaboration with the Taskforce. To the extent possible given the constraints of respective Council of Europe bodies, efforts to define accountability will be made. 3. To allow for adaptation to changing circumstances during the envisaged 6-year period, the existing mechanisms to revisit targets will be maintained. The level of ambition in implementing this recommendation will depend on the availability of resources dedicated to mainstreaming within the CRD. Should additional resources be deployed to support the mainstreaming function, the quantity and quality of transversal collaboration with other entities can be increased.		31/12/2027	Children's Rights Division

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Recommendation 3: Enhance communication between the CRD and key Council of Europe entities where overlaps exist to jointly address relevant issues in the most appropriate format. This could be through joint sub-committees, regular bi-annual exchanges or other formats considered suitable by the CRD to facilitate discussion and collaboration in the most fruitful way. (Medium)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	1. A scanning exercise will be conducted to ensure CRD awareness of all child-rights related deliverables in 2026-27 committee ToR of intergovernmental bodies and the overall Programme and Budget. 2. In preparation of the next Strategy cycle, an exchange with the Task Force will be held to review advantages and disadvantages of different collaboration formats, with a view to defining the most appropriate formats depending on the circumstances.		Action 1: 30/06/2026 Action 2: 30/06/2027	Children's Rights Division
Recommendation 4: Mainstream the needs of children in situations of vulnerability to a greater extent across interventions of the Sub-programme, by making explicit, where relevant, how existing activities consider the specific needs of different groups and where targeted action is justified. Explicit reference to specific needs could be included where appropriate to facilitate these are taken into account by those involved. (Medium)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	1. To make more explicit the relevance of outputs for different groups of children in vulnerable situations, the relevant presentation on the website www.coe.int/children will be revisited. 2. The next strategy will propose a focused and explicit approach to equality and situations of vulnerability. The level of implementation of this recommendation will depend on the availability of resources. Within given resources, the focus will be on making strategic		Action 1: 31/12/2026 Action 2: 31/12/2027	Children's Rights Division

Management decision ¹	Entity in charge ²	Planned actions ³ (determined by entity)	Justification for non-acceptance ⁴	Target date for action	Person responsible for action
		choices on selected areas of vulnerability and communicating these. With additional resources, a more comprehensive approach to mainstreaming the needs of children in situations of vulnerability would be possible.			
Recommendation 5: Further integrate the human rights approach into results-based reporting of co-operation projects within the Sub-programme. This could include building in outcome specific indicators into existing log frames and monitoring frameworks to a greater extent across projects to facilitate the collection of data on outcomes achieved disaggregated by groups of children in situations of vulnerability. (Medium)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	Outcome indicators will be strengthened across co-operation projects to better capture human-rights approach. Indicator/s allowing to collect data disaggregated where feasible by age, gender, disability, migration status, etc., in order to track impact on children in vulnerable situations, will be included in the logframes of new projects already at the design stage, and the logframes of the existing projects will be updated accordingly.		31/12/2026	Children's Rights Division
Recommendation 6: Continue strengthening actions to disseminate Sub-programme outputs, including recommendations, studies, and reports, at member state level. This could include, for example, routing translations through ongoing projects (using emerging technology to enhance efficiency) and using national authorities', civil society organisations' and partners' established communication networks, thereby leveraging existing channels of communication. (Medium)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	1. Targeted activities serving the promotion of existing standards and recommendations will be more strongly integrated into the regular activities of the Lanzarote Committee and the CDENF. 2. Members of the CDENF and the Lanzarote Committee will continue to be systematically encouraged during committee meetings to translate and disseminate outputs. Translations will continue to be routed through ongoing projects.		Action 1: 31/12/2027 Action 2: 31/12/2026	Children's Rights Division

Management decision ¹	Entity in charge ²	Planned actions ³ (determined by entity)	Justification for non-acceptance ⁴	Target date for action	Person responsible for action
Recommendation 7: Commission an independent in-depth study on the scope of the Lanzarote Convention in light of evolving trends in child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Such a study could include comparative research into selected international norms, such as the proposal for a recast EU Directive on child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA), the UN Cybercrime Convention and the EU proposal for a regulation to prevent and combat child sexual abuse, the Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention second additional protocol, the Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance third additional protocol. Such a study would also require analysing potential implications for the Lanzarote Convention's monitoring body, namely the Lanzarote Committee. (High)					
☒ Accepted ☐ Partially accepted ☐ Rejected	DGII	An independent gap analysis on the scope of the Lanzarote Convention in light of evolving trends in child sexual exploitation and sexual abuse has been prepared. Based on this study, a reflection process within the Lanzarote Committee will be facilitated, including with a view to potential implications for the monitoring mechanism.		31/12/2026	Children's Rights Division

Abbreviations	
CDENF	Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child
CRD	Children's Rights Division
DGII	Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity