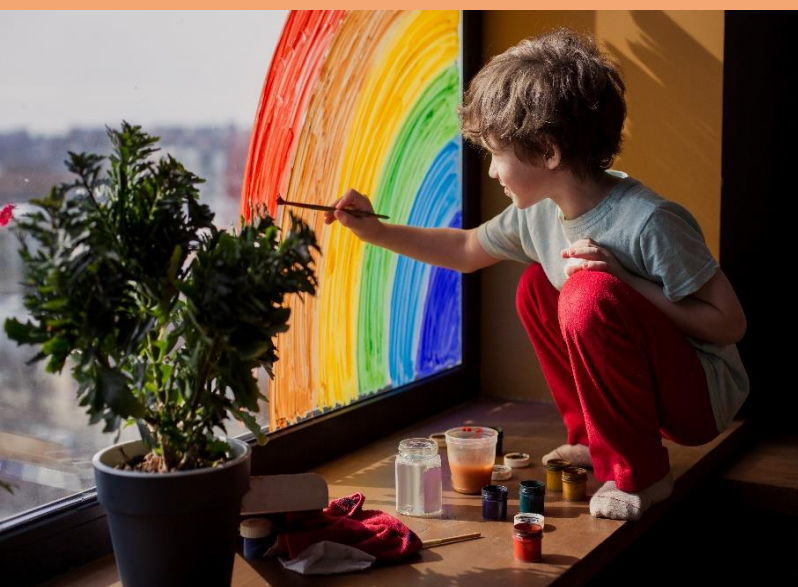


Webinar series on COVID-19 and Children's Rights

1st Edition: "Overcoming Education Challenges"



22 March 2021

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF)

Webinar series on COVID-19 and Children's Rights

1st Edition: "Overcoming Education Challenges"

When and where?

When:	Monday, 22 March 2021 - 14:30-17:00 hrs (CET)
KUDO online platform:	https://vmeeting.coe.int/k8/241114457320/join (Please copy this link over to Google Chrome)
Working languages:	English and French
Organised by:	CDEF Secretariat
Any question to:	children@coe.int

CDEF Webinar Series on COVID-19 and children's rights

At its plenary session in November 2020, the CDEF approved a concept paper on the organisation of three practical webinars for CDEF members in 2021. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this series of webinars aims to provide a platform for exchanges on the most urgent issues related to children's rights and to facilitate a focused exchange on national good practices in terms of responses to specific challenges. The focus areas selected for these exchanges are: 1) **access to education**, 2) **protection from intra-family violence with a focus on children at risk**, and 3) **addressing children's mental health and their need for specialised support services**. Under the current [CDEF's terms of reference](#), the webinars correspond to main task (ii) *"to facilitate regular exchanges of knowledge, good practices and experiences among member States in the areas covered by the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child"*.

What is the webinar about?

The first webinar, proposed to take place online on 22 March 2021, will gather CDEF members, participants, observers and further experts for an in-depth exchange of views on **"overcoming education challenges"** during the pandemic. The objectives will be to jointly reflect and elaborate guidance on:

- i) implementing children's right to education during the pandemic, while considering possible action taken to improve the adaptability of education systems to similar crises in the future;
- ii) reconciling public health policies and life in the classroom, considering children's fundamental social and protection needs as well as the mental health of school students during lockdowns; and
- iii) crisis-recovery strategies and long-term improvements to be pursued, including social inclusion, the assessment of policies, pedagogical approaches, technological equipment, financing gaps or parental involvement in the school system.

Draft Programme – Monday, 22 March 2021 – 14:30-17:00 (CET)

14:30	<p>Welcome by the Secretariat</p> <p>Regína Jensdóttir, Coordinator on the Rights of the Child Head of the Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe</p>
14:35	<p>Opening</p> <p>Maria Andriani Kostopoulou, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) – <i>moderator of the event</i></p>
14:40	<p>Statement</p> <p>Maria Fassari, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE)</p>
14:45	<p>Where do we stand and what action is needed?</p> <p>Thematic introduction by UNICEF - Sarah Fuller, Education Consultant for ECARO, and Phenny Kakama, Child Protection Specialist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview on data, challenges and good practices across Europe • How could Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIIA) be used as a policy tool? • How can services and child protection systems be better prepared in the future? <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:05	<p>How do children perceive the situation and what are their most urgent needs?</p> <p>Statement by two children from different member states:</p> <p>Gonçalo Felipe da Cruz (12), <i>National Council of Children and Young People, Portugal</i></p> <p>June Jedele (13), <i>Association Thémis, Strasbourg, France</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:20	<p>Thematic session 1: Between face-to-face and digital schooling: inclusion challenges</p> <p>Presentation by Hungary – Mariann Takács-Tóth Korcsmáros, State Secretariat for Public Education of the Ministry of Human Capacities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulting children about educational tools and strategies during COVID-19 • Services assisting vulnerable children in education <p>Presentation by Bulgaria – Veselina Ganeva, Director of the International Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including vulnerable and marginalised children in education during the pandemic <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:45	<p>Short break</p>

15:50	<p>Thematic session 2: Tackling students' wellbeing in times of COVID-19</p> <p>Presentation by Luxemburg – Claire Russon, Psychologist / Quality development of psycho-socio-educational practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of schools for the wellbeing of students • Preventing school failure and dropouts • Pedagogical and psychological support for students <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16:05	<p>Thematic session 3: Specific challenges</p> <p>Presentation by Portugal – Rosario Farmhouse, CDENF Vice Chair, President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting children in situations of increased risks due to lockdowns – support provided through schools <p>Presentation by Malta – Remenda Grech, Director for Alternative Care, Foundation for Social Welfare Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social exclusion and schooling for children in alternative care <p>Presentation by Norway – Bjørn Richard Leshner-Nuland, Strategy Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National inter-agency coordination to address educational challenges during COVID-19 <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16:30	<p>Contribution by WHO</p> <p>WHO action concerning Education and COVID-19 – Martin Willi Weber, Programme Manager Child and Adolescent Health</p>
16:35	<p>Final session: The way forward</p> <p>Contributions from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the SG, and Olivier Thevenon, Head of the Child Well-being Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators and conditions for reopening schools • Key challenges for recovery strategies – findings from the Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE) <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
16:55	<p>Closing remarks by the Children's Rights Division and the moderator</p>
17:00	<p>The end</p>

Selected resources

- [CDENF: COVID-19 pandemic responses – Lessons learnt from management and adaptation to ensure that children are treated as rights holders during the pandemic](#)
- [CDENF: Factsheet "the COVID-19 pandemic and children: Challenges, responses and policy implication"](#)
- [Roadmap for Action on the Council of Europe education response to COVID-19](#)
- [Council of Europe political declaration on the education response to COVID-19](#)
- [UNICEF data hub on Covid-19 and children](#)
- [OECD Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity \(WISE\)](#)
- [OECD: The impact of COVID-19 on Education – Insights from Education at a glance 2020](#)