Webinar series on COVID-19 and Children’s Rights

1st Edition: “Overcoming Education Challenges”

22 March 2021
Building a Europe for and with children
www.coe.int/children
Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)

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: CDENF Secretariat
Any question to: children@coe.int

CDENF Webinar Series on COVID-19 and children’s rights

At its plenary session in November 2020, the CDENF approved a concept paper on the organisation of three practical webinars for CDENF 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 CDENF’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 CDENF 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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| 14:30 | Welcome by the Secretariat  
   Regina Jensdóttir, Coordinator on the Rights of the Child  
   Head of the Children’s Rights Division, Council of Europe |
| 14:35 | Opening  
   Maria Andriani Kostopoulou, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) – *moderator of the event* |
| 14:40 | Statement  
   Maria Fassari, Chairperson of the Steering Committee for Education Policy and Practice (CDPPE) |
| 14:45 | Where do we stand and what action is needed?  
   **Thematic introduction by UNICEF - Sarah Fuller,** Education Consultant for ECARO, and **Phenny Kakama,** Child Protection Specialist  
   - Overview on data, challenges and good practices across Europe  
   - How could Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) be used as a policy tool?  
   - How can services and child protection systems be better prepared in the future?  
   *Discussion* |
| 15:05 | How do children perceive the situation and what are their most urgent needs?  
   **Statement by two children** from different member states:  
   **Gonçalo Felipe da Cruz** (12), **National Council of Children and Young People,** Portugal  
   **June Jedele** (13), **Association Thémis,** Strasbourg, France  
   *Discussion* |
| 15:20 | Thematic session 1: Between face-to-face and digital schooling: inclusion challenges  
   **Presentation by Hungary** – Mariann Takács-Tóth Korcsmáros, State Secretariat for Public Education of the Ministry of Human Capacities  
   - Consulting children about educational tools and strategies during COVID-19  
   - Services assisting vulnerable children in education  
   **Presentation by Bulgaria** – Veselina Ganeva, Director of the International Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Education and Science  
   - Including vulnerable and marginalised children in education during the pandemic  
   *Discussion* |
<p>| 15:45 | <strong>Short break</strong> |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:50</td>
<td><strong>Thematic session 2: Tackling students’ wellbeing in times of COVID-19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentation by Luxemburg – Claire Russon</strong>, Psychologist / Quality development of psycho-socio-educational practices</td>
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<td>• The role of schools for the wellbeing of students</td>
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<td>• Preventing school failure and dropouts</td>
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<td>• Pedagogical and psychological support for students</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>16:05</td>
<td><strong>Thematic session 3: Specific challenges</strong></td>
<td><strong>Presentation by Portugal – Rosario Farmhouse</strong>, CDENF Vice Chair, President of the National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People</td>
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<td>• Assisting children in situations of increased risks due to lockdowns – support provided through schools</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation by Malta – Remenda Grech</strong>, Director for Alternative Care, Foundation for Social Welfare Services</td>
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<td>• Social exclusion and schooling for children in alternative care</td>
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<td><strong>Presentation by Norway – Bjørn Richard Lesher-Nuland</strong>, Strategy Director of the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs</td>
<td>• National inter-agency coordination to address educational challenges during COVID-19</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>16:30</td>
<td><strong>Contribution by WHO</strong></td>
<td><strong>WHO action concerning Education and COVID-19 – Martin Willi Weber</strong>, Programme Manager Child and Adolescent Health</td>
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<td>16:35</td>
<td><strong>Final session: The way forward</strong></td>
<td><strong>Contributions from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – Andreas Schleicher</strong>, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the SG, and Olivier Thevenon, Head of the Child Well-being Unit</td>
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<td>• Indicators and conditions for reopening schools</td>
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<td>• Key challenges for recovery strategies – findings from the Centre on Well-being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>16:55</td>
<td><strong>Closing remarks by the Children’s Rights Division and the moderator</strong></td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td><strong>The end</strong></td>
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**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)