

Terms of reference of the

Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (ENF-VAE)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Subordinate body

Duration: 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2027

Programme: Acting for equality, diversity and respect

Sub-programme: Children's rights

Deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), the ENF-VAE is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. Feasibility study on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter alia preventing and combatting violence against children, including sexual violence and harmful or risky behaviour	1	31/12/2024
2. Implementation review report on Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)10 on Council of Europe policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence	1	31/12/2024
3. Subject to the results of deliverable 1, draft non-binding instrument on age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education to strengthen responses for inter alia preventing and combatting violence against children	1	31/12/2026
4. Guidance on the prevention of sexual violence and harmful or risky behaviour by children	2	31/12/2027

Composition

• Members

The Committee of Experts shall be composed of eight representatives of member States of the highest possible rank and/or independent experts with established expertise, including at international level, in law, policy and practice relating to combatting violence against children, prevention programmes, including through integrated approaches, and sex and relationship education as a possible response to prevent and combat abusive or harmful sexual behaviour.

The Committee shall be composed in accordance with Article 6 of Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these eight members. Other member States may send a representative to the meetings of the Committee of Experts without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee of Experts shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

• Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- Other international organisations including: United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (UN SRSG VAC), United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

- **Observers**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

Plenary meetings ▼			
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2024	8	2	2
2025	8	2	2
2026	8	2	2
2027	8	2	2

The ENF-VAE will appoint from amongst its members a Gender Equality Rapporteur.

Budgetary information*

	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members reimbursed	Plenary in €K	Bureau in €K	Working groups in €K	Secretariat (A, B)
2024	2	2	8	25.2	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2025	2	2	8	25.2	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2026	2	2	8	30.3	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B
2027	2	2	8	30.3	-	-	0.5 A; 0.5 B

* The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.