COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

The Handbook:

a new and complementary tool in a series

and

a milestone for European action on the rights of the child in the digital environment

Its key aim:
**Mainstreaming the rights of the child as covered by the Guidelines in CM/REC(2018)7
into legislative and policy action taken at the national level and get all relevant stakeholders involved concretely**

BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Handbook:

Complementing other tools for…

- **policy makers,**
- **parents and other caregivers**
- **children**

The 2019 report on children with disabilities in the digital environment "Two clicks forward and one click back", based on a large 2 year participatory project involving children with disabilities (by Laura Lundy)

The new child-friendly version of Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 entitled "Learn about your rights in the digital environment", because children also need child-friendly information on these matters

The booklet "So this is sexual abuse?" aimed at informing and empowering adolescents

SO THIS IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

The new Guide on "Parenting in the digital age", because parents and other caregivers need to know how to guide children through the digital world

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The guidelines – a reminder:

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

CM/Rec (2018)7

adopted by the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe on 4 July 2018

https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/the-digital-environment

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

- **Prepared and approved by the CAHENF (Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child) in 2018**
- **Based on substantive work by its drafting Group of experts (CAHENF-IT) in 2016-2017**
- **Involving an inclusive drafting process by key stakeholders:**
  - **experts from member and observer States,**
  - **parliamentarians,**
  - **international organisations,**
  - **international non-governmental organisations,**
  - **academia,**
  - **the private sector, and**
  - **children.**
- **Currently available in nearly 20 languages**
- **Now being complemented by the Handbook for policy makers – launched today**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Key features of the Guidelines:

- **Promoting children's human rights and fundamental freedoms online, in a context where the digital environment is reshaping children's lives in many ways**

- **Pointing to some of the gaps of previous legislation and policies:**
  - provision rights, such as access and freedom of expression,
  - children's privacy and data protection,
  - child participation,
  - long-term perspectives,
  - coordination between national stakeholders.

- **Addressing both the opportunities and risks of digital technologies for children in a balanced manner**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

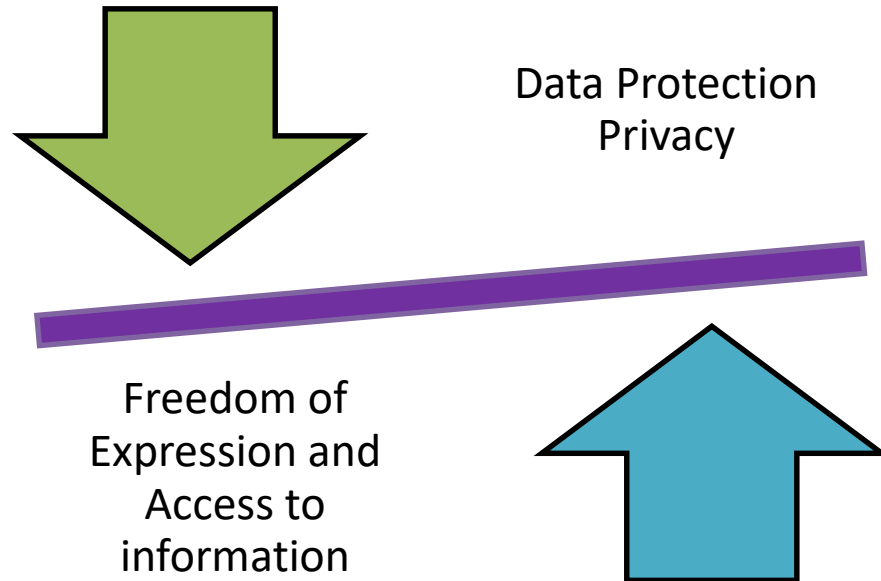CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Balancing out children's rights – an example:

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Data Protection Privacy

Freedom of Expression and Access to information

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Opportunities and benefits for children in the digital environment exist in various settings….

Access

Education

Digital Environment

Leisure

ssembly and association

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment
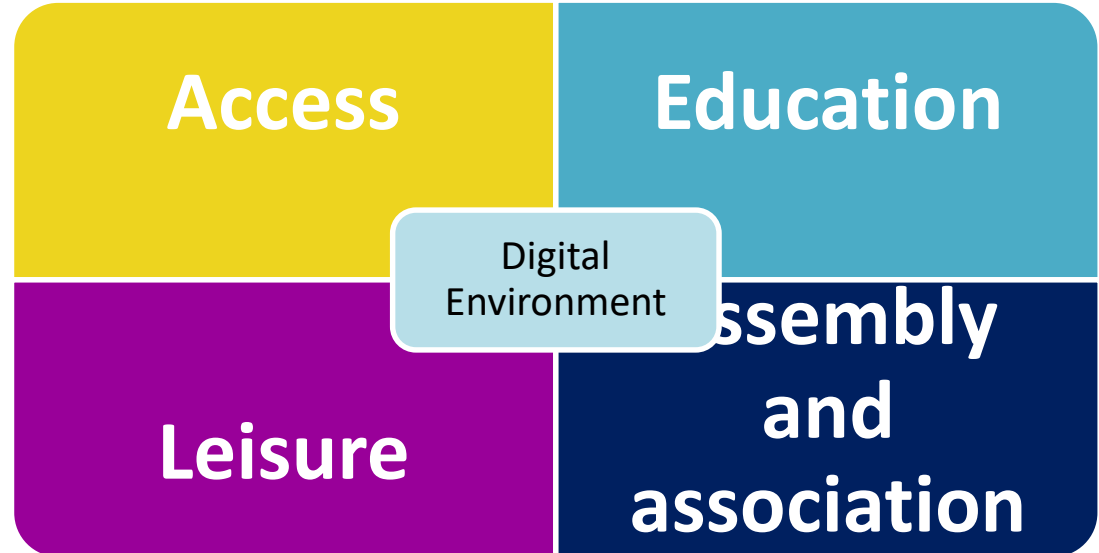
www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

… but children need support in seeing their fundamental rights in the digital environment fulfilled…

Best interests of the child

Duty to engage other stakeholders

Fundamental principles and rights

Evolving capacities

Right to be heard

Non-discrimination

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children

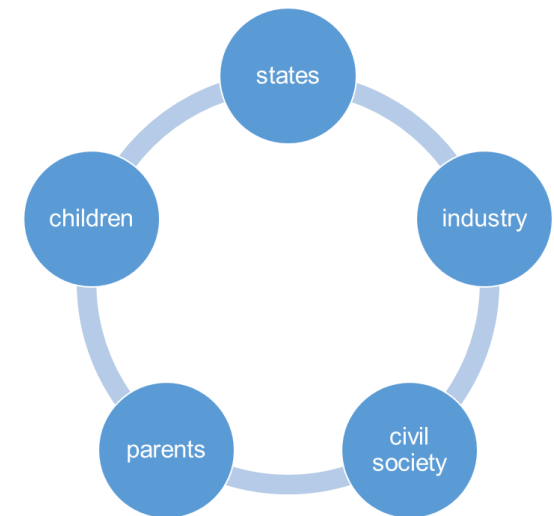Building a Europe for and with children
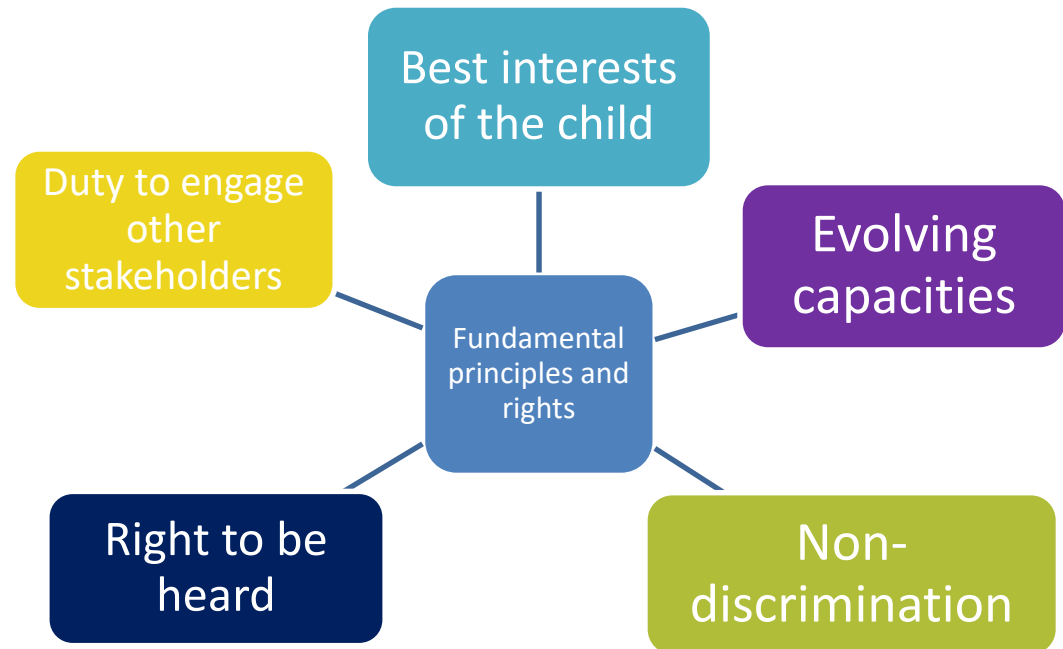
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Amongst the priorities for policy makers…

- "Comprehensive strategic national approaches" with policies and measures that are consistent and mutually reinforcing

- Co-operation and co-ordination at national level

- International co-ordination and co-operation within international organisations and networks

states

industry

children

civil society

parents

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Guidelines – proposing a consistent checklist for policy makers on various "operational principles":

Operational principles and measures to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

Access	Right to freedom of expression and information	Participation, right to engage in play and right to assembly and association
Privacy and data protection	Right to education	The right to protection and safety
Enforcement and remedies		

- have you consulted children?
- have you considered and reviewed the evidence?
- have you engaged all relevant stakeholders?
- have you considered vulnerable groups, **e.g. children with disabilities?**
- have you provided specific remedies for children?

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Guidelines – also addressing business enterprises asking them to:

- **Develop, apply and regularly review and evaluate child-oriented industry policies, standards and codes of conduct**

- **Perform child-rights risk and impact assessments**

- **Actively engage children to participate meaningfully in devising, implementing and evaluating policies, mechanisms, practices, technologies and resources**

- **Provide children with information on their rights, including participation rights and access rights to available remedies, in a way they can understand and that is appropriate to their maturity and circumstances**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Council of Europe programme

Guidelines to respect,
protect and fulfil the
rights of the child in the
digital environment

www.coe.int/children | Building a Europe
for and with children

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

FINAL KEY RECOMMENDATION

Member States

shall examine the implementation

of the recommendation

and guidelines

every 5 years at least

(next time in 2023)

and if appropriate even at more frequent intervals

Thank you ...

... for your attention!

Regina Jensdottir
Head of the Children's Rights Division
Council of Europe