

Supporting the implementation of children's rights at regional and national level

Technical Co-operation Strategy 2022-2027



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Supporting the implementation of children's rights at regional and national level

Technical Co-operation Strategy
2022-2027

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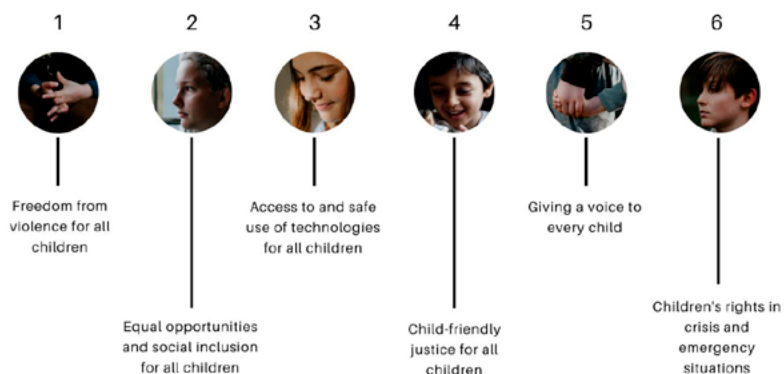
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INTRODUCTION

Protecting and promoting the rights of the child is a Council of Europe priority. Since 2006, its multi-annual strategies mobilise the whole Organisation and its partners to close the gap between the States obligations undertaken under key global and Council of Europe children's rights standards and the reality of the more than 150 Million children in Europe.

The Council of Europe's work in the field of the rights of the child is anchored in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). It contributes to the [UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) of the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), in particular **goal 5** to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and **goal 16** to promote peace, justice and strong institutions, especially with its **target 16.2** to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2022-2027\)](#) defines six priority areas for all 46 member States to guarantee the rights of the child:



Within the Council of Europe, the Children's Rights Division coordinates the Organisation's effort in these areas, including through supporting the work of the [Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child \(CDEF\)](#) and the [Committee of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection of Children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse \(the Lanzarote Convention\)](#). Through its cooperation projects and activities, the Division provides targeted, flexible and responsive support to Council of Europe member States that so request.

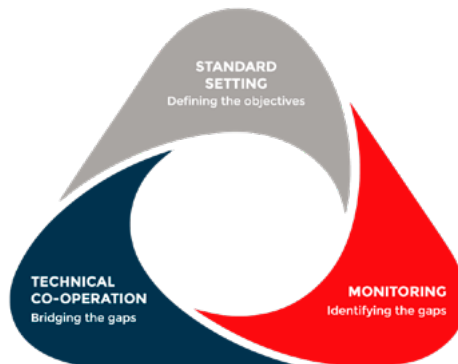
This document presents the **Technical Co-operation Strategy of the Children's Rights Division (2022-2027)**, its working methods and some of the results recently achieved in member States through co-operation activities. Throughout the strategy, cross-cutting issues on gender equality, protection of children in vulnerable situations, and child participation are mainstreamed.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE DYNAMIC TRIANGLE

Respect of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention of Human Rights is at the heart of the design, implementation and evaluation of the Council of Europe projects and activities related to children. Its principles (non-discrimination, survival, participation and the child's best interest) guide all standard setting, monitoring and technical cooperation activities. To make sure that children are treated as human rights holders, the Council of Europe supports States in the review of legislation, policies and practices. It also helps them to build the capacity of professionals working with children, to raise awareness and to address any traditions or social norms that may be in the way of the fulfilment of children's rights.

To achieve its aims, the Council of Europe uses three main intervention techniques which form a "dynamic triangle":

- ▶ **Standard setting:** leading to the adoption of treaties which legally bind States after their ratification or to other international instruments such as recommendations and guidelines;
- ▶ **Monitoring mechanisms:** to assess the implementation of standards and recommend measures to address shortcomings;
- ▶ **Co-operation activities:** to provide tailor-made support to the implementation of measures at national level to address the shortcomings identified.



Co-operation projects focus on building the capacity of national authorities and other key stakeholders. When doing so, the projects provide vital information on how standards gradually lead to impact and what local or regional factors are important to address the shortcomings identified in monitoring reports. Each new technical co-operation project provides an opportunity to extend research and analysis in key areas which in turn provide detailed information that supports Council of Europe standard setting and monitoring work.

In the area of the rights of the child, the Council of Europe co-operation activities build on the following standards and the work of the relevant monitoring mechanisms and bodies:

LEGAL STANDARDS

Tools that contribute to defining the objectives for cooperation

- ▶ The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) and case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).
- ▶ The Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote Convention)
- ▶ Other Council of Europe Conventions which address rights of the child, in particular:
 - [European Social Charter](#)
 - [Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the Automatic Processing of Personal Data](#)
 - [Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)
 - [Convention on Cybercrime \(Budapest Convention\)](#)
 - [Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#)
 - [Convention on the Prevention of Torture and the Prevention of Inhuman and Degrading Treatment](#)
- ▶ Council of Europe Recommendations, Guidelines and Rules, including:
 - [European Rules for juvenile offenders subject to sanctions or measures CM/Rec\(2008\)](#)
 - [Guidelines on child-friendly health care](#)
 - [Guidelines on child-friendly justice CM/Del/Dec\(2010\)1098](#)
 - [Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment CM/Rec\(2018\)7](#)
 - [Policy Guidelines CM/Rec\(2009\)10 on Integrated National Strategies for the Protection of Children from Violence](#)
 - [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)5 concerning children of imprisoned parents](#)
 - [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2011\)12 on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families](#)

- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) on participation of children and young people under the age of 18
- Committee of Ministers' recommendations on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood [M/Rec\(2019\)4](#) and on effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration [CM/Rec\(2019\)11](#), [guidelines on age assessment for children in migration](#).
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2010\)2](#) on deinstitutionalisation and community living of children with disabilities;
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2009\)10](#) on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence;
- Recommendation [Rec\(98\)8](#) on children's participation in family and social life.

MONITORING BODIES AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

Bodies that identify the gaps and areas in need of further support or change;

Bodies building on and promoting good practices identified by the monitoring bodies

- ▶ Council of Europe monitoring bodies:
 - The Committee of the Parties to the Lanzarote Convention ([Lanzarote Committee](#))
 - The European Committee for Social Rights ([ECSR](#))
 - The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#))
 - The Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ([GREVIO](#))
 - The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ([ECRI](#))
 - The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CPT](#))
 - The Committee of Experts to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities ([FCNM](#))
 - The Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages ([CECL](#))
 - The Group of States against Corruption ([GRECO](#))
- ▶ Other relevant bodies and stakeholders:
 - European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice ([CEPEJ](#))
 - European Commission for Democracy through Law ([Venice Commission](#))
 - Conference of the Parties to the CETS 198 on Terrorism ([COP 198](#))
 - Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights ([CHR](#))
 - Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ([PACE](#))
 - Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities ([CLRA](#))
 - International and national non-governmental organisations (INGOs, NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs)

CO-OPERATION

Bridging the gaps and providing targeted support for beneficiary countries

Distinctive advantages of Council of Europe co-operation activities on the rights of the child:

- ▶ Unique expertise and an added value at local, national, regional, and international levels in the area of children's rights;
- ▶ Issues tackled from many different and complementary angles to achieve sustainable results: intergovernmental co-operation, a parliamentary dimension, local and regional authorities, and guidance provided by the Human Rights' Commissioner;
- ▶ Instrumental partnerships with key international stakeholders, institutions, and civil society;
- ▶ Direct involvement of children in project activities and review of relevant deliverables with an organisation-wide child safeguarding policy, child-friendly tools, and networks at national and international levels in accordance with Council of Europe standards on child participation.

Direct action to address urgent priorities and offer tailor-made solutions to achieve:

- ▶ **Improved knowledge and awareness** on children's rights as well as gaps, challenges and opportunities in their implementation at local, national and regional level by a variety of stakeholders, including children themselves;
- ▶ **Strengthened and harmonised legislative and policy framework** in line with international and European standards;
- ▶ **Enhanced capacity of state institutions and professionals** to prevent and respond to violence against children, promote and protect the rights of the child, including in the online environment, and empower children to claim their rights through training, tools and other support;
- ▶ **Enhanced capacity of all professionals through online training courses on Council of Europe dedicated platforms such as the [HELP training network](#);**
- ▶ Focus on **children in vulnerable situations**, including child victims and witnesses of crimes, children living in alternative care institutions, migrant and refugee children, and children with disabilities;
- ▶ **International co-operation** to share results and lessons learnt and promote replication of promising practices for ensuring multiplier effects beyond individual projects.

PROJECT DESIGN AND FUNDING

The Council of Europe promotes results-based project management which focuses on good financial, human resources and risk management, and emphasizes mid- to long-term outcomes. Driving change means targeting the right professionals, groups, and partners, optimising the delivery of the key messages, and stimulating reactions and responses long after the projects are finished. In the areas where the Council of Europe is active, impact is often unpredictable and visible only after some time.

In line with the Organisation's programme and budget, the **overall objective** in the field of children's rights is that member States as well as non-member States take appropriate measures to change their legislation, policies, and practices to make the rights of the child a reality, putting emphasis on taking due account of the views and opinions of children, in particular children in vulnerable situations.

Project funding

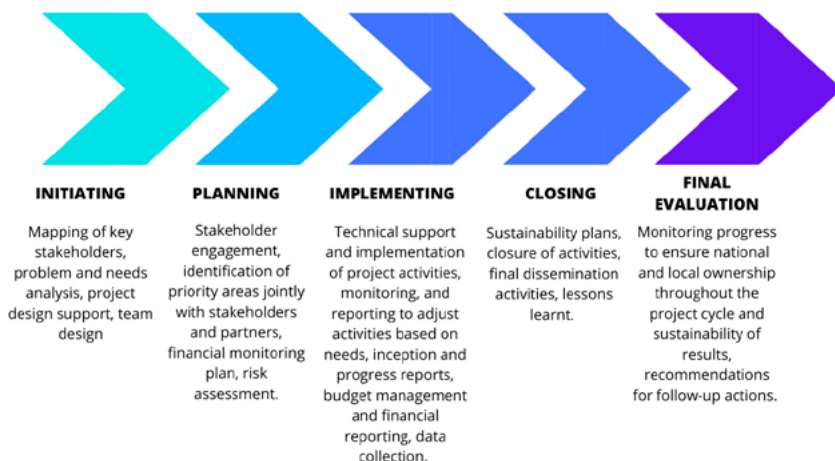
Projects are funded through one of the following mechanisms:

- ▶ **Action Plan funding:** An Action Plan is a strategic programming instrument which aims, through co-operation, to accompany a member State in its efforts to bring legislation, institutions, and practices in line with Council of Europe standards. The Committee of Ministers approves member States' Action Plans for a specific duration of time.
- ▶ **Voluntary contributions:** Member States may make voluntary contributions to support the Council of Europe's programme of work on children's rights.

- ▶ **External funding:** The Children’s Rights Division may seek funding or apply for calls for projects in coordination with the Council of Europe’s Directorate of Programme Coordination, in order to receive funding from external organisations and implement co-operation projects. Joint projects have been implemented in collaboration with the European Commission’s Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) and Directorate General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), as well as other international structures.

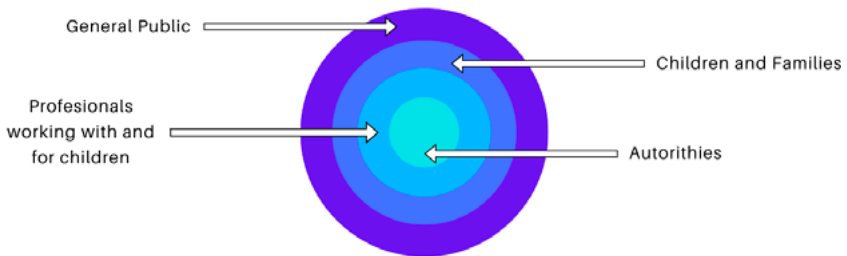
Project phases

For this purpose, the project team applies the [Council of Europe project management methodology](#). It consists of a theory-of-change approach to designing, planning, implementing, and monitoring project activities, which are defined into five cycle phases:



Target groups

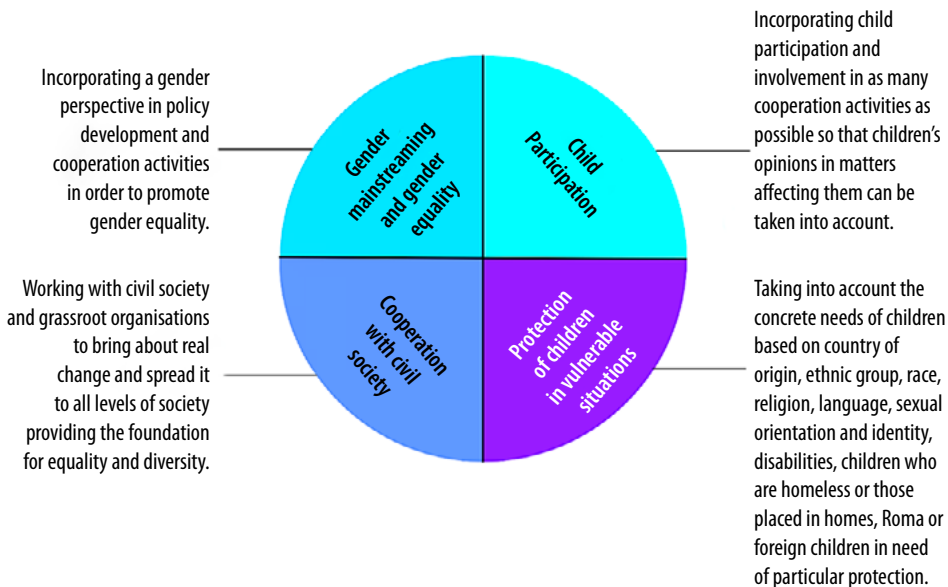
Projects implemented by the Children's Rights Division focus on and benefit different target groups. Each project must determine in the initiating and planning phase which are the concrete target groups that will benefit from the project's implementation. The direct beneficiaries of the projects are national authorities and professionals working with and for children. Through the actions that focus on the development of capacities of these target groups, other target groups are also affected through a ripple effect, namely children themselves and their families, as well as the general public and the whole of society.



Following the principles of the Council of Europe's project design, projects should be inclusive and involve the target groups and beneficiaries of the project in all phases.

Cross-cutting issues

Co-operation projects take a human rights approach which incorporates cross-cutting issues, such as **gender mainstreaming, protection of children in vulnerable situations, child participation, and co-operation with civil society.**



Cross-cutting issues should feature in the initiating and planning stage, be included in the governance arrangements and project descriptions. Equally, during the implementation, cross-cutting issues must be addressed by project steering committees and should go through regular review, monitoring and data collection. Finally, in the closing and evaluation phase, cross-cutting issues should be reviewed, results measured, and lessons learnt should be developed, in order to contribute to the improvement of co-operation activities in the future.

KEY AREAS OF INTERVENTION

In the past decade, the Council of Europe has been successful in developing tools, training materials, carrying out research, reviews and training, providing legal and policy advice, and implementing projects, wider programmes and other interventions at regional and country level in a number of key areas.

Violence against children

- ▶ Raised the awareness of all stakeholders including children on existing risks of violence against children;
- ▶ Supported legislative and policy reforms strengthening integrated child protection systems through strategies to protect children from violence;
- ▶ Supported state Parties to implement the **Lanzarote Convention** and to address relevant recommendations adopted by the Lanzarote Committee;
- ▶ Supported actions to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation, including online;
- ▶ Assisted in the establishment of the **Barnahus model**, strengthening, reinforcing and developing interagency co-operation and infrastructures to protect child victims and witnesses of sexual violence;
- ▶ Improved the capacities of professionals, including law enforcement and the judiciary in tackling crimes against children appropriately and effectively, including through the implementation of the Barnahus model.

Rights of the child in the digital environment

- ▶ Supported parents in their digital parenting skills and other adults such as carers, educators and teachers in understanding the rights of children in the digital environment and providing them with practical tools to ensure their safety online and strengthen internet literacy skills;
- ▶ Worked with children and young people on their knowledge of risks and opportunities to improve their use of ICTs;
- ▶ Worked with the private sector in increasing their responsibilities and accountability towards children that are users;
- ▶ Promoted children's right to privacy and data protection.

Child participation

- ▶ Assessed the level of child participation in member States with **the Child Participation Assessment tool (CPAT)** and strengthened their systems;
- ▶ Instigated innovative participation tools in different sectors (justice, healthcare, education);
- ▶ Supported the inclusion of child participation in national legislation and policies;
- ▶ Established a European leadership platform/network and other international mechanism

Child-friendly justice

- ▶ Improved juvenile justice at national level with comprehensive legislation in line with European standards;
- ▶ Supported the implementation of policies that will prevent recidivism and offer alternative measures to detention;
- ▶ Set up and promoted the Barnahus model to improve cross-sectorial and interagency co-operation between relevant healthcare institutions, social services, judicial bodies, law enforcement and the prison administration
- ▶ Strengthened training of professionals on child-friendly justice

PROJECTS TAILORED TO NEEDS

Implementation modalities

The co-operation interventions implemented by the Council of Europe are based on requests and joint initiatives of the beneficiary states which are in line with Council of Europe priorities. Interventions vary in terms of timeline and scope based on needs and identified priorities as well as resources available for implementation.

- ▶ **Regional projects and programmes:** Regional projects and programmes aim at identifying and sharing best practices, fostering peer exchanges across countries, harmonising implementation and developing supporting tools and mechanisms of the Council of Europe standards in various regions or a group of countries.
- ▶ **Country-specific projects:** Country-specific projects address priorities within a given country and focus on specific target groups at national and local levels. The Children's Rights Division has implemented several country-level projects to **combat violence against children**, including most recently in Ukraine, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova. The Division also has projects to support national authorities in the **setting up or improvement of the Barnahus model**, such as those implemented in Slovenia, Finland, Ireland, and Spain.
- ▶ **Targeted interventions:** In comparison to projects and programmes, targeted interventions are generally shorter in duration and more limited in their scope and budget. They are aimed to provide support and advice to specific processes, such as the elaboration of National Action Plans or sector-specific guidance. They can also address specific gaps or tasks, from targeted awareness raising campaigns, promotion of Council of Europe standards and conventions on specific days, to fostering peer exchange through events/visits.

- ▶ **Added values and synergies:** All co-operation interventions are implemented in the framework of the Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”. They build on the results and dialogue of the Council of Europe intergovernmental and monitoring bodies relevant for the rights of the child, notably the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF) is tasked to oversee the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child. They equally provide additional input for the work of these bodies in order to promote replication of best practices and to ensure multiplier effects.

Modules

The Children’s Rights Division implements several modules for co-operation activities, which can be implemented as stand-alone actions or combined, depending on needs of the beneficiary countries and resources available. A total of 8 modules have been designed in light of the different workstreams which were implemented in past and current projects. New modules may be proposed and developed according to evolving priorities and potential new needs of countries.

DIAGNOSTIC MODULE

This module is generally the first step in most projects. It may constitute an integral part of a first phase of an entire project, be a stand-alone project, or form part of a targeted intervention. The diagnostic module generally establishes a baseline and identifies steps and areas for priority action. Follow-up projects may use the diagnostic module again to evaluate the progress made since the first diagnostic and seek new solutions.

Deliverables: detailed needs assessment reports and feasibility studies, training needs assessments, mapping reports, baseline studies, targeted research, peer reviews, fact-finding missions.

Examples of diagnostic module activities:

- ▶ *A feasibility assessment for establishing Barnahus (Children's House) in the Republic of Slovenia (2017-2018) and Ukraine (2017 and 2020). The feasibility assessments were part of wider project frameworks in Ukraine, whereas in Slovenia it was a stand-alone project leading towards the development of National Guidelines and a Roadmap.*
- ▶ *Baseline Mapping of member States Responses to Prevent and Combat Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse carried out (EndOCSEA@Europe)*
- ▶ *Training reviews on existing training materials on OCSEA in Ukraine, Armenia, and Azerbaijan to justify the need for a pilot training module on OCSEA (EndOCSEA@Europe) and the Republic of Moldova (Moldova, phase I)*
- ▶ *Baseline mapping study on implementation of the Lanzarote Convention in the Republic of Moldova*

LANZAROTE CONVENTION PROMOTION MODULE

This module targets **countries that are not yet Parties** to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and that can be supported in the path to accession for states outside the Council of Europe member States. It aims at raising awareness of the standards of the Convention among key stakeholders, including governmental officials, members of Parliament, civil society, the private sector and the media. This module seeks to improve capacities and understanding of the Convention which stands as pre-requisite to tackling such crimes efficiently. The focus is on enhancing national commitment to support accession to the Convention.

Deliverables: Awareness raising activities and tools aimed at promoting new requests for accession to the Convention or at minimum, an expression of national commitment to do so.

(Similar activities can be proposed for State parties to the Convention under other modules related to legislation, national strategies, awareness raising and capacity building as presented below.)

Examples of promotional module activities for non-Parties to the Convention:

- ▶ Global, international, cross-regional, and national conferences;
- ▶ Peer-to-peer meetings and roundtables for relevant authorities, MPs, professionals, and CSOs, on the measures needed to implement the Convention;
- ▶ Translation of the Convention and its child-friendly versions into a national language;
- ▶ **Gap analysis/legal reviews of the national legislation in light of the Convention with recommendations** (gap analysis for Azerbaijan and Armenia in EndOCSEA@Europe) contributed to their ratification of the Convention;
- ▶ Preparing, translating and presenting guidelines on the required steps for accession.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK MODULE

This module includes provision of targeted legal advice and assistance in harmonising national legislations in line with the Council of Europe and international standards and the ECtHR jurisprudence on the rights of the child. It promotes efficient and child-friendly judicial procedures and practices through fostering peer exchanges within the Council of Europe member States and ensuring a transparent and participatory approach towards legal drafting, including through child participation.

Deliverables: Legal reviews of existing laws and regulations, support for drafting legal initiatives, mapping of regulatory framework, analysis of judicial practice.

Examples of legislation and regulatory framework module activities:

- ▶ **Draft law on Barnahus in Slovenia** and assistance to ensure its public consultation process, including through peer reviews and child participation (2020).
- ▶ **Review of the amendment to the Ukrainian law on CSAM, solicitation and grooming** (2020)
- ▶ **Legal review of the Child Rights Law in Georgia** (2019) to harmonise its provisions in line with the Lanzarote Convention, Council of Europe recommendations and guidelines, including to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment, on child-friendly justice, and integrated national strategies for combating violence against children.

NATIONAL STRATEGY AND COORDINATION MODULE

- ▶ This module provides specialist advice for the development, implementation and monitoring of child protection and child rights strategies and frameworks, technical support towards structural changes at country, regional and/or local levels, co-ordination and policy dialogues among relevant agencies and organisations, and for harmonising policies in line with Council of Europe and international standards on the rights of the child. The module emphasises and promotes evidence-based policy and strategy-making and aims to contribute towards enhanced capacities of state institutions as well as CSOs and other relevant actors. The added value of the Council of Europe is its ability to provide a neutral platform for bringing together stakeholders from a variety of institutions, political backgrounds and positions, and across sectors.

Deliverables: Recommendations and guidance for drafting sector-specific and/or coordinated national plans of action, national guidelines, roadmaps, policy reviews and briefs, white papers, guidance and support for policy dialogue and stakeholder and child consultations.

Examples of national strategy and coordination module activities:

- ▶ Strengthening Lanzarote Convention coordination mechanisms at national level in the Republic of Moldova through baseline mapping and policy dialogue (2019-2021).
- ▶ **National Guidelines for Barnahus in Slovenia and Roadmap towards establishing, operating and evaluating Barnahus in Slovenia** (2018). Provision of peer review and support by hands-on professionals working in Barnahus in Nordic countries as an integral part of the successful adaptation of the Barnahus model and incorporation of best practices into the Slovenian context.
- ▶ **Study visits to Barnahus to understand better how such structures operate.**
- ▶ **Future of an integrated child protection system in Albania** (2016), technical support for the preparation of a white paper with recommendations for priority action at policy and institutional reform.
- ▶ Expert advice provided for the prioritisation of the key themes and structures of the **Andorran National Plan for Children and Adolescents** as well as guidance for the stakeholder consultations, including consultations carried out with the entire child population of Andorra (2020-2021).
- ▶ Expert support in drafting the **National Action Plan for the protection of childhoods and the rights of the child on the internet in Morocco** (2017).

STRUCTURE AND TOOLS MODULE

This module provides development of comprehensive training materials and implementation of training courses for professionals working with and for children to uphold Council of Europe standards and implement efficient and child-friendly practices. Its overall objective is to strengthen institutional capacity and to enhance the skills of both legal and non-legal professionals on areas such as child-friendly justice, family law, child participation principles, how to better detect, respond and report child sexual exploitation and abuse, interagency collaboration and information sharing in management of cases on violence against children, etc.

Deliverables: training needs assessment reports, training materials, courses and programmes, handbooks, protocols, child safeguarding policy, guidance and other tools targeting specific groups of professionals and/or to improve interagency co-operation

Examples of structure and tools module activities:

- ▶ OCSEA training modules for law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors
- ▶ Kiko and the Hand Training for Trainers manual for kindergarten teachers to help them detect and report child sexual abuse cases
- ▶ Integration and implementation of the Council of Europe child participation assessment tool (CPAT) into/as part of national strategies
- ▶ Adaptation of the Council of Europe HELP training courses on child-friendly justice and family law
- ▶ Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment
- ▶ Handbook on children's participation for professionals working for and with children
- ▶ Handbook for frontline professionals on age assessment
- ▶ Child safeguarding policy
- ▶ Child-friendly protocols for judicial conduct
- ▶ Methodological guidelines for monitoring the implementation of Council of Europe and international standards
- ▶ Development and piloting of new training modules, materials, handbooks, and other guidance based on needs.

CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE MODULE

This module supports the development of standards and guidelines on how to make justice systems accessible and adapted to children's needs based on Council of Europe standards, the most important being the Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on child-friendly justice. Adapting justice systems to children means that they are accessible, age appropriate, speedy, diligent, adapted to the needs, and respond to the criteria of the best interests of the child. The judicial proceedings/justice system also respect the child's right to due process, the right to participate in and to understand proceedings, the right to private and family life, and the right to integrity and dignity.

Deliverables: support to the establishment and functioning of Barnahus, guidelines and standards on child-friendly justice, legal analyses, reviews, protocols, booklets, factsheets, videos, and other resources and tools to support quality of child-friendly justice, training of professionals, training of trainers, child-friendly materials and tools, and child safeguarding policies.

Examples of child-friendly justice module:

- ▶ **Establishment of a Barnahus in Slovenia** through inter-agency co-operation and with the best interests of the child at the centre of their activities to avoid re-victimisation and re-traumatisation of child victims or witnesses of violence and sexual abuse.
- ▶ Child safeguarding policy
- ▶ Child-friendly protocols for judicial conduct
- ▶ HELP trainings
- ▶ Development and piloting of new training modules, materials, handbooks, and other guidance based on needs.

CHILD PARTICIPATION MODULE

This module is based on the [Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool \(CPAT\)](#) which provides specific and measurable indicators to measure progress in implementing the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18. Building on the experience of countries which have used and tested the CPAT, the objective is to offer support to government ministries, local authority administrations, the courts and judicial systems, relevant professionals working for and with children, academic and civil society partners, and organisations of children and young people in using the CPAT. Specifically, to be able to develop, pilot and implement further supporting tools and activities to ensure that children and young people can exercise their right to be heard, to be taken seriously, and to participate in decision making in all matters affecting them. The module will also focus on promoting the understanding and use of the Handbook on Children's Participation for professionals working for and with children.

Deliverables: recommendations following assessments of child participation mechanisms and practice, research on adults' perceptions, awareness-raising campaigns, child participation actions, specific resources and tools to foster quality child participation activities (national strategies, handbooks, checklists, training materials), training of professionals, child-friendly materials and tools, technical assistance to ensure meaningful child participation, child safeguarding policies.

Example of child participation module activities:

- ▶ Preparatory phase to the CPAT assessment: training and induction seminars, consultation meetings with different stakeholders and focus group meetings with children and young people, and building the capacities of professionals in different fields;
- ▶ Preparation and analysis of a survey on the perception of adults of child participation to start changing mentalities with an awareness raising strategy;
- ▶ Promotion and dissemination of child-friendly materials
- ▶ Working groups established for consultations with children regarding new legislation and policies affecting them with the adoption of a meaningful participation process;
- ▶ Workshops and seminars to share good practices leading to success stories;
- ▶ Expert support to the preparation of child safeguarding policies for institutions;
- ▶ Expert support to ensure local institutionalisation of CPAT's indicators to regularly assess child participation.

EMPOWERMENT AND PREVENTION MODULE

This module is essential to raise awareness and to promote the rights of the child, as well as empower children to claim their rights. Within this module the objective is to speak up and fight against child sexual exploitation and abuse, including online (OCSEA), break taboos and myths to reveal the real picture about children's rights in the beneficiary country(ies), and to advocate for full implementation of Council of Europe standards. This module also provides for a coordinated action to empower children to express themselves and their opinions in matters concerning their lives and rights.

Deliverables: awareness raising campaigns, social media campaigns, research on perceptions, grants and other support to local, national and regional CSOs for targeted action, and flash mobs.

Examples of empowerment and preventive module activities:

- ▶ **Regional One in Five campaign** to stop sexual violence against children with the aim to promote widely the ratification of the Lanzarote Convention to the Council of Europe member States;
- ▶ **Online social media campaign** to mark the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse in 2020 (18 November);
- ▶ **National awareness raising campaigns** in Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova to advocate for combatting against sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including in the digital environment;
- ▶ **Grants to CSOs** to educate parents, doctors and the wider public on the phenomenon of CSEA and OCSEA and ways to fight against it.

Communication and visibility

Current and past projects have a dedicated webpage on the Children's Rights Division webpage: [Co-operation projects](#). Communication about project activities, events, milestones and deliverables are shared on the individual project's pages, in the [news section](#) of the Division as well as on the [main page](#) of the Division. Social media channels, including [Facebook](#) and [Twitter \(@coe_children\)](#), are also used to ensure the visibility of co-operation activities. Further social media may be developed in line with the communication strategy of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027).

CONCLUSION

The Technical Co-operation Strategy of the Children's Rights Division lays out the approach to co-operation projects and activities. It supports the implementation of the Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) and assists governments in bringing their practices in line with Council of Europe standards and recommendations relating to the protection of children's rights. The co-operation team of the Children's Rights Division is committed to promoting children's rights and protecting children from all types of violence through the following of this Technical Co-operation Strategy.

www.coe.int/children

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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