
Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015)

Action Plan proposed for the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2012-2015)

This document seeks to provide an overview of all the planned activities of the Council of Europe pertaining to the protection of the rights of the child and thus contributing to the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child throughout the period 2012-15.

The activities proposed and/or envisaged have been secured in the Council of Europe ordinary budget or will be financed through voluntary contributions for 2012-2013.

The Action Plan demonstrates that the protection of children's rights has become a truly transversal issue within the Council of Europe and a wide range of entities, steering committees, monitoring bodies and other structures of the organisation that are committed to contribute to the implementation of this Strategy.

The role of the Coordination Unit of the Programme "Building a Europe for and with Children", the Children's Rights Division, will be on the one hand to implement its own activities under the four main objectives of the Strategy, and on the other hand to co-ordinate the activities of other parts of the Council of Europe and provide support, advice and expertise in their planning, implementation and evaluation.

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
Strategic objective 1: Promoting child-friendly services and systems	
Child-friendly justice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the European Guidelines on child-friendly justice by awareness-raising, translation, research and training of professionals. 	DG I – Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance to member states to bring domestic legislation and policies in line with the Guidelines by legal expertise, capacity building and exchange of good practices. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a training guide on child friendly justice for professionals. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of a child-friendly version of the Guidelines. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of THESEUS data base on the ECHR case law concerning children. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights, European Court of Human Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of ECSR conclusions on Article 17 of the European Social Charter (ESC). 	DG I - Social Charter
Child-friendly health care	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all relevant Council of Europe bodies and activities take into account the child-friendly healthcare approach, including the 2nd Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Social Cohesion (Istanbul, 11-12 October 2012). 	DG II - Social Cohesion and Integration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create, print and disseminate a leaflet on the Recommendation on child-friendly health care. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and promotion of educational tools to foster debates and support education of children on bioethical issues. 	DG I - Bioethics
Child-friendly social services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up to the Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)12 on children’s rights and social services friendly to children and families. 	DG II - Social Cohesion and Integration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create, print and disseminate a leaflet on the Recommendation on child-friendly social services. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination and translation of the child-friendly version of the European Social Charter. 	DG I - Social Charter
Family law and policies	DG I - Legal Co-operation

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the signature, ratification, implementation and monitoring of all Council of Europe relevant family law standards¹ 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drawing up of instruments on standards on dispute resolution in the exercise of parental responsibilities, in particular as concerns decisions on the relocation of children (factors to be taken into account and procedures to be followed). 	DG I - Legal Co-operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide guidance to the member States in developing and improving policies and practices of positive parenting and contribute to the first European Conference of Parenting Support (2012). 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote democracy and human rights values in education through the development of training programmes for education professionals, with particular focus on children's rights, tackling violence against children in schools, democratic culture, equality, intercultural dialogue, and a child- and learner-centred pedagogy. 	DG II - Pestalozzi Programme DG II – Human Rights Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up of ECSR conclusions on Article 17 by Governmental Committee of the ESC. 	DG I - Social Charter
<p>Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote ethical bases of sport and children's rights in sport. 	DG II – Sport / Good governance in sport
<p>Youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International reviews of national youth policies, in connection with child policies. 	DG II – Youth Department
<p>National children's rights institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster exchange of good practices as regards local, regional and national procedures and institutions dealing with children's rights. 	DG I – Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<p>Strategic objective 2: Eliminating all forms of violence against children</p>	
<p>Sexual violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of the implementation of Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence (CETS No. 201). 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children by promotion of the signature, ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention and awareness raising of children, parents and professionals working for and with children by producing reprints and adaptations of the awareness raising material, capacity building, advancing private and public partnerships, facilitating participation of children and young people, producing thematic expert reports and offering political and technical support to member states. 	DG I – Coordination Unit, Children's Rights, Intersecretariat ONE in FIVE Campaign Working Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate the CoE ONE in FIVE Campaign with campaign activities of the parliamentary dimension (undertaken by PACE campaign unit). 	DG I – Coordination Unit, Children's Rights

¹ Including the Convention on Contact Concerning Children (CETS No. 192), the European Convention on the Adoption of Children (revised) (CETS No. 202) and the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and Restoration of Custody of Children (CETS No. 105).

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide upon a European Day on the Fight against Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children by 2014 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursue the ONE in FIVE Campaign by implementing a Strategic Action Plan on the local and regional dimensions of the Campaign (awareness-raising at local and regional level, promoting the use of Council of Europe tools by local and regional authorities, fostering a multi-disciplinary approach in building child-friendly services). 	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of a report on the use of the Lanzarote Convention in the legislation of regions with legislative powers. 	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist member states in adopting integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence in line with the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children through co-operation activities and exchange of good practices. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create, print and disseminate a "best practices manual on integrated strategies against violence" on successful cases in the Council of Europe member States. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime with a focus on countering child abuse images. 	DG I - Data Protection and Cybercrime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of ECSR conclusions on Article 7§10 of the ESC. 	DG I - Social Charter
<p>Trafficking in children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide and assist member states in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human beings (CETS No. 197) to reduce children's vulnerability to trafficking by means of country evaluations which pay particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures taken to prevent trafficking in children and raise awareness; Steps taken to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account during identification procedures, when granting residence permits and considering the children's return; The provision of assistance and protection to child victims of trafficking. 	DG I - Trafficking in Human Beings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up of ECSR conclusions on Article 7§10 of the ESC. 	DG I - Social Charter
<p>Corporal punishment, gender-based violence and domestic violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the abolishment of corporal punishment of children (dissemination of information and media packs, support to national law reform and awareness raising initiatives). 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up to the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No. 210) – Istanbul Convention (promotion of the Convention through awareness raising, publications and training). 	DG I - Violence against Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up of ECSR conclusions on Article 7§10 of the ESC. 	DG I - Social Charter

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
<p>Violence in school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support member states' policies, teaching programmes and activities aimed at preventing and reducing violence in schools through promoting (and revising) a training package to train school professionals in "whole school approach" to violence reduction in schools and by promoting the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. 	<p>DG II - Pestalozzi programme DG II - Human Rights Education DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights</p>
<p>Strategic objective 3: Guaranteeing the rights of all children</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform children in alternative care about their rights by the translation and dissemination of a child-friendly comic booklet and the development of a training manual. 	<p>DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights</p>
<p>Children with disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Provide expertise, policy guidelines, and - upon request by member states - capacity-building events, with a view to protecting and promoting the rights of children with disabilities; Promote the rights of girls with disabilities and combat multiple discrimination on the ground of gender and disability; Promote inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education; Promote Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)9 on the education and social inclusion of children and young people with autism spectrum disorder; Promote Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)2 on de-institutionalisation and community living of children with disabilities. 	<p>DG II - Social Cohesion and Integration, Social Cohesion and Diversity Department, Directorate of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECSR to monitor implementation of Article 15 of the ESC. 	<p>DG I - Social Charter</p>
<p>Children in detention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and evaluate the implementation by the member states of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)11 on the European Rules for juvenile offenders subject to sanctions and measures; Follow-up to the Istanbul Resolution. 	<p>DG I - Criminal law</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a stocktaking exercise/seminar on children in detention and explore possibilities to work on violence against children in detention, the rights of children with parents in prison, alternatives to detention and/or detention of unaccompanied minors. 	<p>DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights</p>

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
<p>Migrant children and children “on the move”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up to Recommendations CM/Rec(2008)4 on strengthening the integration of children of migrants and of immigrant background, CM/Rec(2009)13 on the nationality of children, CM/Rec(2007)9 on life projects for unaccompanied migrant minors, and the Guidelines on child-friendly justice: assistance to the member States to the elaboration and implementation of national policies, dissemination of the above standards, training of professionals and awareness-raising with particular focus on children’s participatory rights in proceedings affecting their nationality and on migrant children (language, access to free legal aid, information about the procedures); • Monitoring compliance of national asylum policies and practices with the rights of the child and, upon request of member states, assistance in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and of the other monitoring mechanisms’ recommendations. 	DGII – Migration coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up of collective complaints under ESC; in particular No. 47/2008, Defence for Children International v. The Netherlands. 	DG I - Social Charter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the protection of children’s rights and the participation of children under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages by using existing monitoring procedures and reports. 	DG II - European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the protection of children’s rights and the participation of children under the Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities. 	DG II - Framework Conventions for the Protection of National Minorities
<p>Roma children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support member states to develop and implement methods guaranteeing access to education to Roma children, including educating and informing teachers on Roma culture and anti-discrimination work and parental education of Roma parents aiming at reinforcing the need and necessity of education of their children. Particular attention will be paid to the rights of Roma girls and the need to combat early marriages. 	DG II - Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues
<p>Non-discrimination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the protection of children’s from racism and intolerance by existing monitoring procedures and reports. 	DG II - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote access to citizenship and human rights education for children in vulnerable situations. 	DG II - Human Rights Education
Strategic objective 4: Promoting child participation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving children’s access to information about their rights by development, translation and dissemination of child-friendly printed material (A passport to you rights, comic booklet for children in care, Kiko and the hand etc.) and Internet content. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children’s Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and translation of <i>Compasito</i>, a manual on human rights education for and with children into non-official languages. 	DG II - Youth Department

Envisaged Activity	Entity / entities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation, promotion and evaluation of the implementation of the CM Recommendation on participation of children and young people under 18. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights, DG II - Youth Department
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development and translation into additional languages of the internet safety game for children "Through the Wild Web Woods" and the accompanying Teacher's Guide. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of the Award "City for Children" on various aspects of building a child-friendly environment at local level, including on increasing child participation. 	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to the processing of personal data (CETS No. 108) to ensure better protection of children's privacy resulting from the use of information and communication technologies. 	DG I - Data protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the conduct of a youth consultation on the protection of privacy in the new media environment with Schoolnet (tbc). 	DG I - Data Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote children's right to privacy and empower them in the new media environment, in particular by (1) developing new tools for children to better manage their privacy and personal data and identity, (2), promote the removing, deleting or otherwise reducing accessibility to content produced by children, including its traces within a reasonably short period of time, and (3) developing human rights based data protection guidelines for states, the private sector and civil society on upcoming trends and challenges posed by the Internet. 	DG I - Data Protection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of Internet service providers, social networks and the media in their practical understanding of and compliance with the rights of the child. 	DG I - Media, Information Society / Internet Governance Task Force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop human rights indicators for the rating and labelling of Internet content and share best practice on secure and age-appropriate spaces for children on the Internet ("walled gardens"). 	DG I - Media, Information Society / Internet Governance Task Force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support children's participation in the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. 	DG II - Human Rights Education
Working methods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinate and mainstream all Council of Europe activities on children's rights. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specify and reinforce the Network of National Focal Points on Children's Rights. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the setting-up of a children's rights commission. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce co-operation with NGOs. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise and regularly update the website www.coe.int/children 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level conference in 2015, to review progress and decide on the Programme's orientations beyond 2015. 	DG I - Coordination Unit, Children's Rights