



The Council of Europe and Children's Rights

Achievements and challenges ahead



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BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Programme „Building a Europe for and with Children“ First cycle 2006-2009

Warsaw summit of Heads of State and Government in 2005 mandates the Council of Europe to **mainstream children's rights** into all its policies and eradicate all forms of violence against children.

The **first cycle**, launched in Monaco in 2006 focused on:

- Development of new transversal working methods and partnerships
- Investment in visibility to increase the impact of existing legal standards and tools (e.g. Campaign „Raise your hands against smacking“)
- Development of Council of Europe Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence and identification of needs for further new legal standards





BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Programme „Building a Europe for and with Children“ 2nd cycle 2009-2011

- Network of Focal Points (now: **National Coordinators**) on Children's Rights set up
- Recommendations and Guidelines developed on **child-friendly justice, health care, social services** and children with disabilities
- Entry into force of the Convention on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (**Lanzarote Convention**)
- **ONE in FIVE Campaign** to stop sexual violence against children
- Further involvement of children, e.g. in development of legal standards on child-friendly justice and child-friendly health care
- A time where partnerships with international organisations was solidified and strengthened





BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Programme „Building a Europe for and with Children“ 3rd cycle 2012-2015

Overall goal: Bringing the standards closer to children’s realities

Outcomes:

- **Standards:** The **Lanzarote Convention** and all key non-binding standards (justice) within the four thematic areas are being actively promoted, well-functioning and reliable partnerships with member States, other international organisations and NGOs
- **Monitoring:** Children’s rights have been put on the agenda of a range of monitoring bodies, the **Lanzarote Committee**, the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)**, the **European Committee of Social Rights** and the **Venice Commission** and co-operation with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child enhanced
- **Co-operation:** A co-operation project in Ukraine has been launched and more are in preparation including in the neighborhood, determined by countries requests and needs, support to projects by NGOs, awareness raising and support to our National Coordinators, member states and Ombudspersons on children’s rights





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The Programme „Building a Europe for and with Children“ 3rd cycle 2012-2015

Working methods:

- **Council of Europe Network of National Coordinators on the Rights of the Child** provides the link between Secretariat and member State level
- **Co-operation with the European Union**, e.g. with European Commission and FRA on child-friendly justice, children in care, child participation and **UN agencies**, in particular UNICEF **CEE/CIS**, UNSRG on Violence against Children, UNHCR, and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; regional organisations such as the CBSS are also being strengthened
- **Partnerships with NGOs on specific themes**, e.g. with SOS Children's Villages on children in care, DCI Belgium, the OJJI, Global initiative to End Corporal punishment
- **Mainstreaming within the Council of Europe**, e.g. Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Conference of INGOs, various Steering and Monitoring bodies through Inter-Secretariat Task Force
- **Children's Rights Division** (10 staff + seconded official + 2 local staff in Kiev, operational annual budget 2015: ca. 650 000 EUR and voluntary contributions)





BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

The Programme „Building a Europe for and with Children“ 3rd cycle 2012-2015

Objectives of the current Strategy:

1. promoting child-friendly services and systems (in the areas of justice, health and social services)
2. eliminating all forms of violence against children (including sexual violence, trafficking, corporal punishment and violence in schools)
3. guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations (such as those with disabilities, in detention, in alternative care, migrant and Roma children)
4. promoting child participation



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Strategic objective 1: Promoting child-friendly services and systems

The Council of Europe supports the development of child-friendly services and systems that are respectful, responsive, reliable and responsible, with a particular focus on children in vulnerable situations.



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**Guidelines of
the Committee
of Ministers of
the Council of
Europe on
child-friendly
justice**





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Strategic objective 1: Promoting child-friendly services and systems

- Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2011) 12 on children's rights and social services friendly to families and children
- Council of Europe Guidelines on child-friendly health care (adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2011)



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Contribution of the Education Department to the CoE Strategy on Children's Rights

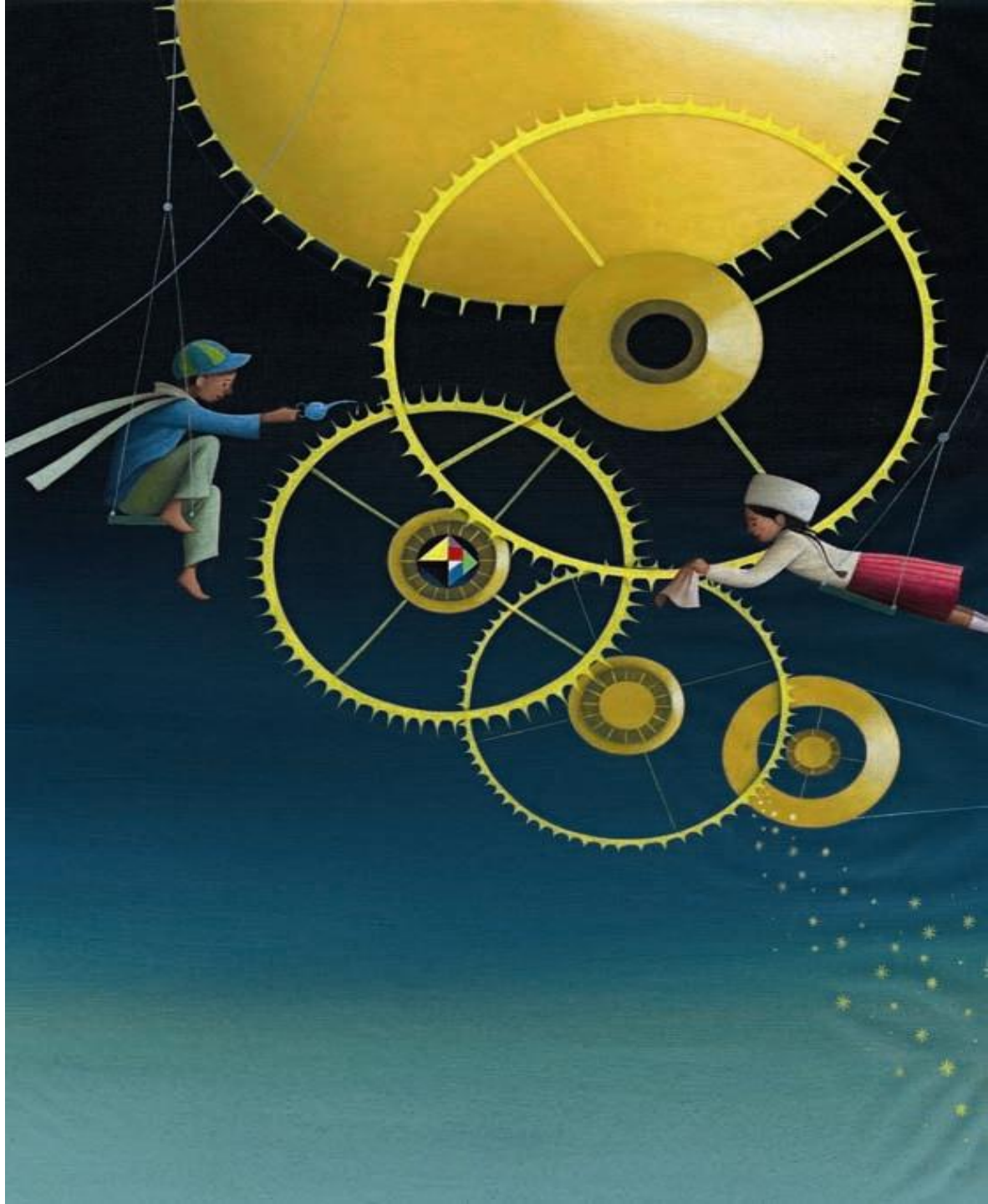
- Child-friendly services: Janusz Korczak Seminar on “Children at the Centre of Education” (Strasbourg, April 2014)
- Eliminating Violence: Video « Beat Bullying » and PACE launching event (January 2014)
- Children in vulnerable situations: Meeting on « Children in vulnerable situations: Making a change through citizenship and human rights education » (Baku, May 2014)
- Child participation: Comic strip competition « Democracy and Human Rights at School
- LONG-TERM: EU/CoE Pilot Projects Scheme « Human Rights and Democracy in Action »; Report on the implementation of the Charter (2016); Education for Democracy Conference 2017
- Further information: www.coe.int/edc

Contribution of the Education Department to the CoE Strategy on Children's Rights

- **CM Recommendation (2012)13 on ensuring quality education –**
- **Basic principle : equal opportunities for all without discrimination on any ground - (3/9 elements)**
 - Gives access to learning to all, particularly to those in vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, adapted to their needs as appropriate
 - Provides a secure and non-violent learning environment in which the rights of all are respected;
 - Promotes democracy, respect for human rights and social justice in a learning environment which recognises everyone's learning and social needs;
- **Projects under 2014-2015 Programme**
 - Regional support for Inclusive Education (South East Europe) EU JP
 - Capacity building for the programme "Children and Youth at Risk" EEA/Norway grants
- **New Projects 2016-2017 Programme**
 - Digital Citizenship Education
 - Education for children at risk

Policy Guidelines on Integrated National Strategies for the Protection of Children from Violence

- Global initiative to end corporal punishment; high level event; in Austria 2016
- International summer school on corporal punishment & positive parenting, 30 June-3 July 2015 in Galway; with Eurochild & UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre
- UNSRSG VAC Cross-Regional meeting on sexual violence, positive parenting, early childhood, 18-19 June 2015 in Strasbourg







THE CONGRESS

A European Assembly of 636 locally and regionally elected representatives

First meeting of the DECS-ENF
13 and 14 November 2014



Adopted texts

- Regional legislation and action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse of children (2012)
- Preventing violence against children (2009)
- The social reintegration of children living and/or working on the streets (2008)
- Child in the city (2008)
- Policies for deprived children/adolescents and families (1999)



PRIORITIES 2013-2016

- Improve the quality of local and region democracy and governance, human rights and the rule of law;
- Help towns and regions face the challenges brought about by the economic and financial crisis



The ONE in FIVE Campaign: the local and regional dimensions

- raise awareness;
- foster new policies and strategies;
- promote multi-stakeholder approach and multi-disciplinary mechanisms;
- develop a child-friendly culture.



The ONE in FIVE Campaign: the local and regional dimensions

www.coe.int/congress-oneinfive

Armenian, Azeri, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian



Contributo do Congresso para a campanha **UMA em CINCO** do Conselho da Europa





New report: Championing children's rights in times of austerity: local and regional authorities' responsibilities

- impact of economic and financial crisis
- increase in child poverty
- consequences of austerity measures
- options open to local and regional authorities



Thank you for your attention

Feel free to look at our website

www.coe.int/congress



BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN

Strategic objective 3: Guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations

- [Children in alternative care](#)
- [Children with disabilities](#)
- Children in detention ([CPT, Council for Penological Co-operation, seminar on children in detention](#))
- [Migrant children](#)
- [Roma children](#)
- [LGBT children](#)



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CoE monthly newsletter on migration
CoE website on migration

HUMAN RIGHTS DIRECTORATE

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MIGRANT MINORS: A child is a child is a child



Best interest of the child principle

Individual assessment

Guardianship

Detention

Age

What prospects at 18?



That One Person



who makes all the difference...

SOGI Unit (www.coe.int/lgbt)

- CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012–2015
 - Guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations
- CM/Rec(2010)5 on combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity
 - Discrimination in education (bullying and violence against LGBT pupils, lack of support and objective information)
 - Risk of homelessness for LGBT youth (falling out with their families)
- Actions taken
 - Organisation of conference on LGBT children's rights (May 2013 in Sion, Switzerland)
 - Expert study on the human rights challenges of transgender and intersex children
 - Participation in conference on homophobic and transphobic school bullying (June 2014 in Athens, Greece)
- Possible future actions
 - Further explore the human rights challenges of trans and intersex children's as well as policies and measures needed (hearing)
 - LGBT children and youth in schools (European campaign against bullying)
 - The best interest of the child (LGBT children and children in rainbow families)

CoE Rec 2013(2) on child & participation

10 principles underpinned by CRC
Article 12 & General Comment

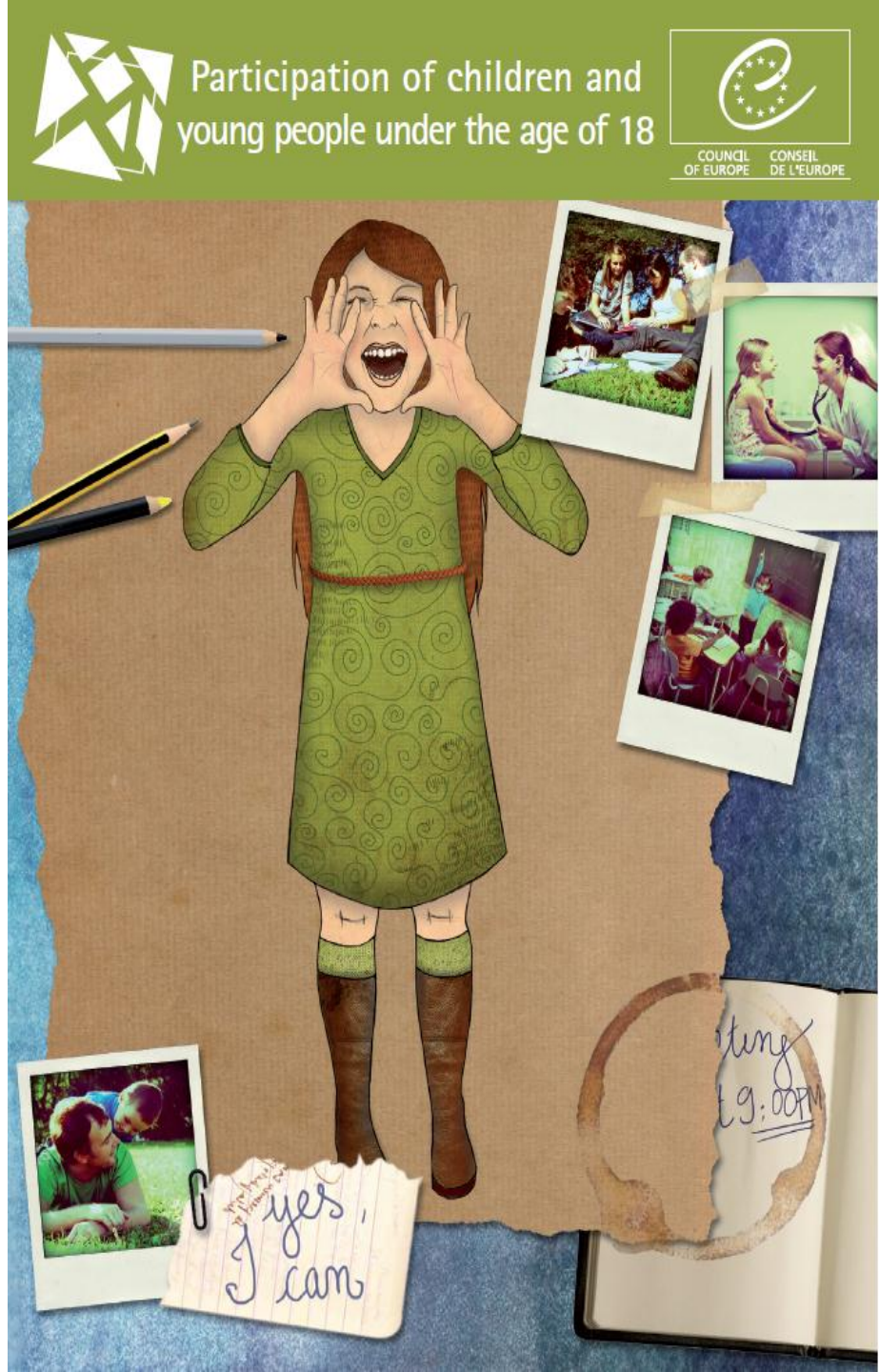
Measures to guide the development
of policy and practices

Child Participation Assessment Tool

*- protecting children and young
people's right to participate*

*- promoting and informing children and
young people about participation*

- creating spaces for child participation



Participation of children and
young people under the age of 18





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The promotion of children's rights by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Ms Sevinj Fataliyeva

Member of the Committee
on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

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Reminder: Functioning and role of the Parliamentary Assembly in this field

- Research into topical issues relating to children's rights and child protection and organisation of European debates (4 times a year)
- Resolutions to member States' governments (calling for national action)
- Recommendations to the Committee of Ministers (calling for European action)
- Close co-operation with the intergovernmental sector and contribution to all activities on behalf of national parliaments
- General Rapporteur on Children since 2012

Recent resolutions on children's rights

2011 – 2013: A broad range of topics covered:

- Combating child abuse images
- Child abuse in institutions
- Protecting children in intercountry adoptions
- Juvenile justice and youth offenders
- Fighting child sex tourism
- Children's rights to physical integrity

See copies of adopted texts on the tables

Resolutions and recommendations on children's rights in 2014

“Combating child poverty in Europe” was the priority through a report by the Social Affairs Committee addressing:

- The impact of the crisis on the well-being of and equal opportunities for children
 - The need for breaking cycles of disadvantage by investing *inter alia* into early childhood education, child-friendly health-care and family support
 - The need for thoroughly assessing budgetary restrictions and austerity measures by their impact on children's rights
- >> Recommendation to CM to take account for the upcoming Strategy

Resolutions and recommendations on children's rights in 2014 (2)

“Alternatives to immigration detention of children“ were recently proposed by the Committee on Migration

>> Recommendation to CM to launch a study to collect qualitative and quantitative data on child immigration detention; yet to be commented by the child's rights expert committee gathered today

Current and upcoming activities

To be debated in 2015 and beyond:

- Care for children with attention problems
- The practice of removal of children from their families
- The inclusion of children's rights into national constitutions
- Children's access to child-friendly health and social services
- The oversexualisation of children by society
- Others...



one in five
un sur cinq

Parliaments united in combating sexual violence against children (since 2010)



one in five
un sur cinq

- Network of contact parliamentarians (51 members)
 - Regular thematic debates involving international experts (more than 20 European debates so far)
 - Numerous activities developed by parliamentarians at the national level (including a pilot project in Cyprus)
 - Various communication tools: newsletters, video spot for adolescents, handbooks, compendium etc.
 - Website and Facebook page
- >> Result by November 2014: 25 new ratifications of the “Lanzarote Convention” by national parliaments

Issues suggested to be addressed by a new CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child

- The impact of austerity policies on children's rights and child-friendly social services
- Equal development opportunities for all children and young people
- Continuous protection of children from sexual violence of all forms (including new phenomena such as the over-sexualisation of children)

Thank you.



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