

**GROWING** with children's rights  
**GRANDIR** avec les droits de l'enfant  
**ODRASTANJE** uz prava djece



# **GROWING with children's rights**

A Conference on the implementation  
of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights  
of the Child 2012-2015

## **Conference outline**

Hotel Excelsior, Dubrovnik, Croatia,  
27-28 March 2014



Republic of Croatia  
Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Aim and objectives:**

The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015), “the Monaco Strategy” attaches great importance to the efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability and relevance of the actions carried out to meet its objectives in the following strategic areas:

1. promoting child-friendly services and systems;
2. eliminating all forms of violence against children;
3. guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations;
4. promoting child participation.

This conference marks the mid-way stage of the Strategy and the aim is to assess progress achieved in the first two years of its implementation. Three main objectives will be pursued during the conference.

First, the conference will take stock of progress achieved within the first two years of implementation of the Strategy, with a view to providing visibility to results achieved, assessing persisting needs and identifying obstacles to the implementation of children’s rights standards as well as ways to overcome them.

Second, the conference will propose priority actions for the two remaining years and will further explore synergies amongst stakeholders at national and international level, with a view to strengthening the relevance and impact of the various initiatives.

Third, the conference will help to identify issues that could lie at the heart of Council of Europe action beyond 2015.

**Date and venue:**

27-28 March 2014. The conference will be hosted by the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of the Republic of Croatia and will be held in Hotel Excelsior, Frana Supila 12, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

**Participants:**

The conference will gather around 180 participants including high level representatives from governments, including members of the Council of Europe Network of Focal Points on Children’s Rights, international organisations and human rights mechanisms, NGOs, international experts, professional networks, parliamentarians, local and regional authorities, Ombudspersons as well as children and young people.

Projects and initiatives undertaken in member states which have involved children and young people in their design and implementation will be presented during the conference.

### **Working methods and format of the conference:**

In order for the conference to meet its objectives, participants will be invited to contribute to its preparation and discussions during the event itself. This will include:

- answering a short questionnaire concerning progress achieved, persisting challenges, recommendations and needs;
- proposing short analyses of issues, presenting initiatives and good practices regarding the main themes of the conference;
- volunteering to act as a “living book”, being available for informal interaction with participants at the conference.

Information collected will be available for downloading from the conference website and it will be summarised in a background documents for the event.

[www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/Dubrovnik/DubrovnikConference2014\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/children/Dubrovnik/DubrovnikConference2014_en.asp)

The conference duration is two days, including a high level plenary opening session; plenary discussions, in-depth roundtables and spaces for informal networking and interaction.

The methodology of “The Living Library” will also be applied throughout the conference. This communication methodology aims to create constructive interpersonal dialogue between people who would not normally have the occasion to speak to each other. The Living Library works exactly like a normal library - readers come and borrow a 'book' for a limited period of time. There is only one difference: the books in the Living Library are human beings, and the books and readers enter into a personal dialogue. The books in the Living Library can be children and young people, journalists, judges, medical doctors, social workers, governmental officials, child rights defenders, parliamentarians and any person willing to share a life or professional experience connected to the conference objectives.

### **Working languages of the Conference:**

The working languages of the Conference will be English, French and Croatian with simultaneous interpretation between languages during the plenary sessions.