



BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN



The Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-15

Role of civil society in implementing the strategy

Building a Europe for and with Children

...together with NGOs

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From standard setting to implementation

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 2005 | Warsaw Summit |
| 2006-2009 | New working methods, visibility, stock taking of standards, identified missing links, feasibility studies |
| 2009-2011 | New standards developed, child friendly versions of texts, cooperation with internal and external partners |
| 2012-2015 | Implementation, cooperation, best practices, consolidating partnerships |



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From Stockholm to Monaco

How did we do it?

- Progress achieved during the two previous policy cycles
- The needs expressed by governments
- The challenges identified by the international community
- The strategy is therefore the result of extensive consultations with governments, parliamentarians, key international organisations and civil society representatives.
- It is also based on an analysis of surveys and consultations with children.





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How do we work today?

Follow the implementation of the strategy in a transversal way

- Work transversally : COE internal Task Force (preparation and implementation)
- Reinforce capacity in COE bilateral level with operational sectors, HR Commissioner, Court, steering committee's and monitoring bodies
- Create links and contacts inside and outside through the COE Platform on children's rights :...UNICEF, EU, FRA and NGOs
- Work with member states : Focal Points and through steering committee's
- Reinforce our cooperation with the NGOs
- Market our standards, child friendly versions of standards, create visibility to our work and prepare publications
- Generate ideas and partnerships, brainstorm, internal COE trainings on new topics
- Provide children's rights input into the work of other sectors through studies, expertise
- Organise conferences, seminars, trainings through OB and VC





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The Monaco Strategy 2012-2015

- **Promoting a holistic approach**

⇒ *Internally: advise, re-direct, support*

⇒ *Externally: promote UN CRC, consolidate partnerships with UN*

- **Information, awareness-raising and capacity-building**

We need to:

⇒ *translate the standards into as many languages as possible, through VCs and cooperation at state level: seek national partners : key role for NGOs*

⇒ *reach professional networks: help us identify them !*

⇒ *support law reforms: identify key parliamentarians, support the process !*

⇒ *assess impact, share good practices, exchange: feed info into work*





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The Monaco Strategy 2012-2015

- **Mainstreaming and monitoring**
 - ⇒ *Sustain and develop a child-rights perspective in all Council of Europe activities*
 - ⇒ *Develop and maintain spaces for exchanging information and good practices and debating on current and emerging issues.*





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Partnerships

- **International organisations**
 - EU and FRA
 - UNICEF
 - UN CRC
 - OHCHR
- **Non governmental organisations**
 - Key NGOs
 - INGO Conference
- **The Private sector**
 - Limited experience
 - Huge potential



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The Monaco Strategy 2012-2015

- Adopted on 15 February 2012 by the CM
- Bridging the gap...effective **implementation** of children's rights standards by providing **guidance, advice and support** to member states on how to best implement these standards
 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**





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1. Promoting child-friendly services and systems

Committee of Ministers Guidelines on Child-Friendly Justice (2010)

Translation and dissemination of existing standards & identification of relevant professional networks and events for promotion and possible training

- ⇒ Child friendly version of the Guidelines
- ⇒ Common priority for the European Commission (EU Agenda Rights of the Child)
- ⇒ Developing capacity building measures:
 - ❖ Training packs
 - ❖ HELP network : develop on-line training materials
 - ❖ Promote CFJG through other judicial networks - CEPEJ, EJM etc.
- ⇒ Continue to provide support and guidance to our implementation partners
 - ❖ UN Guidelines on violence in the juvenile justice systems
 - ❖ EU (study to collect data on children's involvement in judicial proceedings)
 - ❖ FRA (qualitative research project on child participation in justice proceedings)
- ⇒ Awareness raising in the CoE member states through cooperation projects and Action Plans (*Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan etc.*)



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1. Promoting child-friendly services and systems

- Guidelines on child-friendly health care (2011)
 - ⇒ *Promotion at events and through professional networks, leaflet planned*
- Recommendation on children's rights and social services friendly to children and families (2011)
 - ⇒ *May 2012: Moscow and Jekaterinburg seminars on child friendly social services*
- Recommendation on policy to support positive parenting (2006)
 - ⇒ *Conference „Think parents“, 10-12 October 2012, The Hague*
 - ⇒ *Eurochild peer review of family and parenting support, 30 May – 1 June 2012, Belfast*
- Education
 - ⇒ *Co-operation with Education for Democratic Citizenship, Pestalozzi Programme*



2. Eliminating all forms of violence against children:

- Integrated strategies to tackle violence against children
 - ⇒ Regional VAC conference 26-28 September in Ankara, with UNICEF and Turkish authorities;
 - ⇒ Thematic session on tackling gender based violence and domestic violence;
 - ⇒ European assessment report on the UNVAC global progress study
- Sexual violence
 - ⇒ European Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (Lanzarote convention)
 - ⇒ ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children
- Trafficking in children
 - ⇒ Cooperation with Convention on Action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA)
- Corporal punishment, gender-based violence and domestic violence
 - ⇒ Cooperation with the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul convention)
 - ⇒ Campaign and awareness raising material on corporal punishment
- Violence in schools and pre-schools
 - ⇒ Follow up on the recommendations of the High-level Expert Meeting in Oslo, 2011
 - ⇒ Cooperation projects with member states, e.g. Georgia, Armenia



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2. Eliminating all forms of violence against children:

•The Lanzarote Convention

- ⇒ It is a CoE open multidisciplinary treaty based on the best interest of the child
- ⇒ It is a ground breaking treaty in the field of the protection of children against sexual abuse and sexual exploitation as it fills in previous gaps in the definition of the crimes and in the investigation and the prosecution of the offences
- ⇒ It has been ratified by 19 State Parties but hopefully many other will join (see slide on ONE in FIVE)

• The Lanzarote Committee

- ⇒ adopted its Rules of Procedure during its first meetings (Strasbourg, 20-21 Sept 2011 and 30-31 March 2012)
- ⇒ will hold an in-depth discussion on the first themes selected to monitor the implementation of the Convention and should adopt questionnaires for the first monitoring rounds at its next meeting (15-17 October 2012)
- ⇒ 1st capacity building activity: *Barnahus* study visit in (Reykjavik, 31 May-1 June 2012)
- ⇒ 2nd capacity building activity: sharing of good practices on the role of international cooperation in combating sexual exploitation of children (Rome, 29-30 November 2012)
- ⇒ 2013: kick off of the first monitoring round and further capacity building activities



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2. Eliminating all forms of violence against children:

ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children

- ⇒ **17 states actively campaigning** for signature, ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote convention
- ⇒ 8 campaigns to be launched soon
- ⇒ Campaign agreement with UNICEF & support from UN SRSG VAC, EU (EC, DG Justice & EESC) and other European NGO's (ELSA)
- ⇒ **ONE in FIVE** web page, the **Underwear Rule** web page in 8 languages, **Kiko material** in 28 languages, **TV Spot** in 14 languages;
- ⇒ **Next plans:** joint actions on common themes; development of self-assessment, monitoring and evaluation tools for campaigning
- ⇒ Campaign capacity building activity, 4-5 September, Strasbourg



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3. Guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations:

- Rights of children in alternative care
 - ⇒ *Promotion of Rec(2005)5 on rights of children in residential institutions and UN Guidelines on Alternative Care for Children*
 - ⇒ *Emerging theme: How to prevent family separation in the economic crisis?*
- Children in detention
 - ⇒ *New report on "Children's Rights and the CPT"*
 - ⇒ *Internal COE training on unaccompanied and migrant children in detention 20 June*
 - ⇒ *Roundtable with international experts in September 2012 to feed into the work of the future group of specialists on unaccompanied children (CDDH) with the COE task force on migration*
- Children with disabilities
 - ⇒ *New Committee of Experts (CS-RPD)*
- Migrant children, refugee children, national minorities, Roma
 - ⇒ *Co-operation with UNHCR, mainstreaming of CoE monitoring mechanisms*



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4. Promoting child participation

- Children's right to be heard and taken seriously
 - ⇒ *Recommendation 2012 (2) on participation of children and young people under the age of 18*
 - ⇒ *2012-13: Development of indicators on child participation in co-ordination with UNICEF, UN C'ttee, EC and FRA, looking for candidates for pilot studies.*
- Democratic citizenship and human rights education
 - ⇒ *Child friendly version of the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education*
- Informing children, parents and professionals on children's rights
 - ⇒ *Moving from printed material to interactive online tools*
- Children in the new media environment (Lanzarote Convention, Wild Web Woods)



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Cooperation and Monitoring

Cooperation with member States and countries in the neighbouring regions

- Uniquely upon request by MS to provide legal advice, information sharing and expertise
- Implementation packs
- Generating expertise, consolidating expertise, identifying emerging issues
- CoE Neighbourhood Policy priority: Mediterranean region, the Middle East and Central Asia
- Action plans (negotiated or in negotiation)

⇒ Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Tunisia, Morocco, Kazakhstan



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Monaco Focal Points back-to-back meeting: Objectives

- discuss the participation of NGOs in the COE work at international level
 - Participation in the platform
 - Feasibility of creating a new or using existing mechanisms of participation or NGO groupings
 - Exploring NGOs as multipliers in implementation
- Examine NGOs expectations
- Exchange good practices, approaches, methodology and tools of NGOs to support the implementation of the strategy
- 4 themes examined :
 - NGO experiences in UNCRC
 - Role of NGOs and professional networks in implementation of COE strategy
 - Good practices of INGO alliances
 - Structuring strategic cooperation NGOs and COE children





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Monaco Focal Points back-to-back meeting: potential mapped

- NGO experiences in UNCRC
 - Information not used as it should
 - Translation of conclusions and recommendations
 - Feed actively into other mechanisms
 - Share how to report
 - Lack of knowledge of how the Coe can be used better : create links
- Role of NGOs and professional networks in implementation of COE strategy
 - Assistance in identifying professionals networks
 - Promote standards
 - Support to seek funding for implementation



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Monaco Focal Points back-to-back meeting: potential mapped

- Good practices of INGO alliances
 - Children's rights action group linked to the forum
 - Thematic groupings (sexual violence, child friendly justice...)
 - Involvement in monitoring (child participation)
 - Exchange regular information
- Structuring strategic cooperation NGOs and COE children
 - Children's rights action group
 - Training for NGOs on the COE strategy and standards
 - Action plan for implementation
- Next steps: a concept paper by the INGOs in cooperation with the Children's Rights Division





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Thank you!

