



# COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILDREN

## CONCEPT NOTE

13 APRIL 2021

This concept note provides an overview of the child consultation process to inform the development of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-2027. The concept note aims to harmonise the approach, process and methodology of the consultations carried out by the participating national delegations. It presents general considerations concerning child participation, aims and goals of the consultations, specific activities and timeline, information about the methodology and other relevant matters. This document represents a preliminary framework to be further developed and refined in consultation with the national delegations. It will be presented and discussed at the informal meeting scheduled for 15 April 2021 and will be followed-up through a bilateral exchange with the delegations.

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## BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe is currently developing the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child for the period 2022-2027 and has undertaken to consult children to inform the drafting process. In continuity to the present Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021), the new Strategy will set the organisation's priorities in this area and the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF) will oversee its implementation. The Steering Committee has identified child consultations in a number of member States as a necessary input to the drafting process. The new Strategy shall thereby address the priorities and emerging challenges identified by children. Ten member States will carry out the consultations: Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Spain. Defence for Children International – Italy has been selected to cooperate with the Council of Europe in the planning and coordination of the consultative process carried out by national delegations.

Under the Programme “Building a Europe for and with children”, the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe has established a tradition of involving children in its work in all the relevant areas of its international cooperation: standard-setting on the rights of the child, monitoring member States' progressive implementation of these standards and developing cooperation and capacity-building activities to support implementation. In accordance with priority area 2 of the current Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child, which aims to promote “the participation of all children”, the organisation has consulted with children on several occasions and various topics, such as child-friendly justice, sexual violence, child-friendly health care and migration. It has also invited children to major events and reached out to them in the production of child-friendly material, for example Roma and Traveller children, or children acting in the digital environment.

DCI Italy has a long-standing experience in engaging children in its work, including as a coordinator of multi-country initiatives. For over fifteen years, the organisation has consulted with children in the context of research and policy analysis, programming and advocacy, and involved children and young people as co-trainers in capacity-building initiatives targeting national and local stakeholders. In light of this experience, DCI Italy has elaborated a compendium of methods for consulting boys and girls of different age groups, in different life situations and from different social and national backgrounds. Although consulting with children is each and every time a sensitive and challenging task, DCI Italy has been able to inspire together with children significant processes of change in policymaking, research, service practice and training across many thematic fields, at the national, regional and local levels in Italy, and at the European and international levels.

## Thematic priorities of new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)

In continuity with the previous Strategy and in view of the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027), the Council of Europe and the Steering Committee on the Rights of the Child have identified six thematic priority areas. The selection of these priorities was the result of a consultative process carried out between September 2020 and February 2021, involving national governments and observers represented in the CDENF. The six thematic priority areas are:

1.	Freedom from violence for all children
2.	Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children
3.	Access to and safe use of technologies for all children
4.	Child-friendly justice for all children
5.	Giving a voice to every child
6.	Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations

## Consulting children for the development of the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child

The ten national delegations who are taking the lead in the child consultation process are invited to identify one or more of the priority areas that they wish to focus on. The objective is to ensure that each of the six priority themes is addressed by at least one country. The delegations' choice may be guided by national policy priorities and previous experience of consulting with children. National delegations may collaborate with specialised organisations, institutions or facilitators to organise the consultations and should be committed to allocate the necessary resources for this undertaking. Small grants may be available from the Council of Europe to support the national consultation process, if and as required.

DCI Italy and the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division will collaborate closely to guide the national delegations through the entire consultation process. A common methodology is under development, which will provide the overall reference framework and guide national delegations step-by-step to ensure the consultations are carried out in a professional, meaningful and balanced manner and with due respect of ethical standards. The objective is to involve boys and girls of various backgrounds and from different age groups, including children in vulnerable situations such as children belonging to minority groups or children with disabilities. Throughout the entire process, DCI Italy will act as the contact point for national delegations while being available for bilateral exchanges, to provide technical assistance, advice and support.

# A WORD ON CHILD PARTICIPATION

The recent Council of Europe Handbook on children's participation "Listen-Act-Change" (2021) has informed the development of the methodology for the consultations with children.<sup>1</sup> Whereas national delegations are invited to consult the Handbook and to share it with the facilitators and other relevant adults involved in the consultations, this concept note aims to highlight some key issues and provide orientation for the consultations with children.

The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, considers participation to be about

*Individuals and groups of individuals having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and, where necessary, the support to freely express their views, to be heard and to contribute to decision making on matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity.<sup>2</sup>*

The concept of rights, means, spaces, opportunities and support, as referred to in the Recommendation and reiterated by Handbook and other documents of the Council of Europe, are directly related to the capacity of adults, and the adult world, to create appropriate contexts, conditions and dynamics for consulting with children. They require relevant stakeholders and facilitators to be generally willing and ready to keep the process of consultation open to unexpected contributions from the children.

The involvement of children in the development of the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child can be understood as *consultative participation*, meaning that the Council of Europe, through national delegations, will be seeking children's views, perspectives and suggestions and will work with the results in a way that is transparent for the children and all actors involved. A consultative participation initiative allows children more influence in contributing to a process than a single event of child participation would.

DCI Italy would invite the Council of Europe and national delegations to approach the consultations with children as a consultative participation exercise that is dynamic and complex and stimulates a process of change. Change refers not only to the thematic priorities as such, and the way they will be reflected in the new Strategy, but also in relation to the capacity of listening and engaging in an open-minded dialogue with the children. Whereas the thematic priorities are proposed as a field where conversations with children take place, the children's contributions and statements may reach beyond this pre-determined field. The common methodology will embrace this understanding. It will guide national delegations in leading this dynamic process through an active listening approach and be open to discover new perspectives for children, facilitators, national delegations and the Council of Europe.

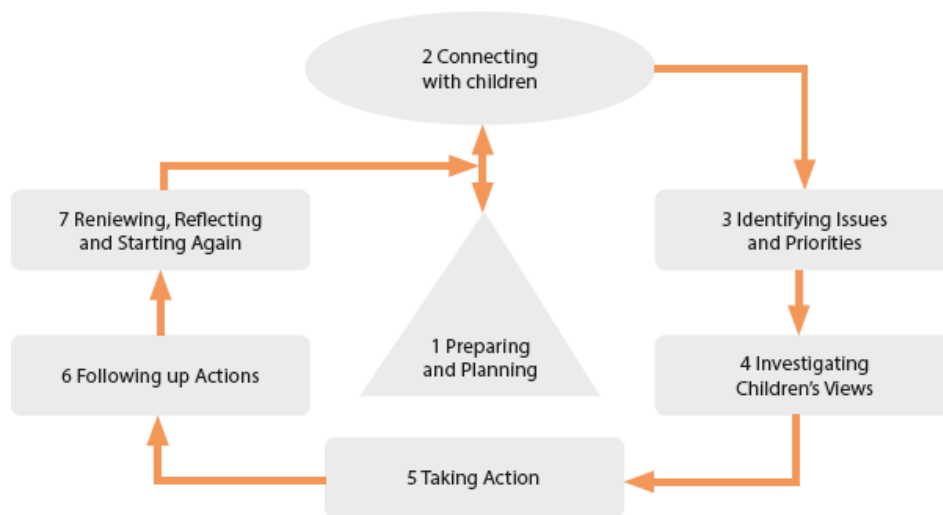
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<sup>1</sup> Council of Europe, *Listen – Act – Change*, Council of Europe Handbook on children's participation, For professionals working for and with children, Building a Europe for and with Children, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, 28 March 2012, Section 1.

In light of these considerations, the Council of Europe and national delegations are encouraged to reflect how the consultations with children could influence processes of change even beyond the specific goal of the present process. They are invited to reflect on the possibility to enable a stronger continuity in hearing and taking into account the views of children for decision-making processes, for the duration of the five-year Strategy, if not beyond this specific term. The consultations could be considered as the foundation for a continuous and relevant exchange with children to orient civil, cultural, political, social and economic decision-making processes, as an important opportunity for all the national and European stakeholders involved. Figure 1 below, a citation from the Handbook Listen – Act – Change, is illustrating this process.

**Figure 1: Participation as a rolling process that produces change<sup>3</sup>**



### Child wellbeing and safeguarding standards

The Council of Europe Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 affords as one of its principles that

*Children and young people who exercise their right to freely express their views must be protected from harm including intimidation, reprisals, victimisation and violation of their right to privacy.<sup>4</sup>*

In accordance with this principle, the Council of Europe Handbook on children's participation includes a safeguarding checklist, which provides the basis for the preparation, facilitation and follow-up of the consultations with children to inform the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

<sup>3</sup> Council of Europe, [Listen – Act – Change](#), *Council of Europe Handbook on children's participation, For professionals working for and with children*, Building a Europe for and with Children, 2021, p. 16.

<sup>4</sup> Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2012\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, 28 March 2012, Section II – Principles, p. 7.

Child consultations ought to be well designed, safe and meaningful throughout the entire process. Consultations should have clear objectives and a transparent methodology, which should be shared with the participating children and their parents or guardians. The right to data protection and privacy and the right to opt-out from the consultation at any given moment should be explained to children in a language they understand prior to obtaining their informed consent for the participation. Consultations should be inclusive, providing opportunities for children from different backgrounds to be actively involved and to share their thoughts on issues that concern them.

The common methodology will guide the national delegations in paying particular attention to the wellbeing and safety of the participating children, before, during and after the consultations. The national delegations and facilitators should be aware and prepared that children might express critical views and speak about negative feelings or aspects they feel not particularly happy about regarding a specific thematic issue, aspects of their lives or their countries. It will be important to consider how to seriously value the more concerned, doubtful or negative notes by children and to give them due weight, whilst protecting the children against any possible reprisals. The facilitators should be able to create a safe space where children can speak openly and feel confident that they can criticise or challenge specific aspects without incurring in any negative consequences.

A detailed ethical guide will be developed as part of the common methodology to ensure a shared understanding and action with regard to child wellbeing and safeguarding standards throughout the process.

# GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The **overall goal** of the consultation process with children is to ensure that the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child considers and addresses the main challenges faced by children and responds to children's priorities as perceived and expressed by the participants in the consultations.

**Specific objectives** of the process include:

- Ensuring continuity of the work promoted by the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division concerning children's participation and, in particular priority area 2 of the current Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) on "the participation of all children";
- Creating a space for children in member States and facilitate a process for children to become involved in the development and implementation of the new Strategy from the onset;
- Advising the CDENF on how to further include children's voices in its work, in particular in the implementation and monitoring of the new Strategy.

# PROCESS

Member States participating in this process will be supported in planning and carrying out the consultations with children through a common approach and methodology that is adaptable to the diversity of the national contexts. A number of activities have been identified to guarantee timely and effective consultations with different groups of children on the six thematic priorities. *Annex 1* describes the set of activities and timeline foreseen for the implementation of the process.

DCI Italy is carrying out a desk review to gather information from other recent consultations and participation initiatives involving children, which can be of interest to this process and embed it into a broader context. The participating national delegations have been invited to share relevant reports and documentation produced in their countries, to inform the desk review. This review process could represent an opportunity to create a dynamic database of relevant literature and experience from consultations with children, which can be updated periodically and made available to all Council of Europe member States.

The results of the consultations in the participating member States will be documented in accordance with a common reporting template (*see Annex 2*). The overall results will be presented at a final event to be held in September 2021 (*date and venue/format to be confirmed*). The aim of this event is to provide feedback to the children involved in the consultations and to



gather and share their inputs on the process and results. If possible, the event will take place face-to-face with the participation of the children involved along the process.

The information gathered from the national consultations and the final event with children will be analysed and summarised in a final report, which will be presented to the CDENF at its plenary meeting on 13-15 October 2021.

## ROLE OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS

National delegations are requested to choose partner organisations or experts supporting them in the consultations, to reach out to children, to identify children who are available and willing to take part in the consultations, and to implement the child consultations. It is the responsibility of each national delegation to identify adequately trained, experienced and trusted facilitators who – based on the overall methodological proposal – will conduct the activities while adapting them to the national context.

National delegations, together with the facilitators, will document the results of the national consultations and report to the Council of Europe and DCI Italy in accordance with the template provided in Annex 2.

National delegations are also responsible for organising and facilitating the participation of children in the final event to be held in September 2021.

At all times during the implementation of the consultations, national delegations are in charge of ensuring a safe and child-friendly process and managing the relation and contact with the children involved in a respectful and ethical manner. National delegations should also facilitate the communication of information and feedback to the children throughout the process, in appropriate and child-friendly formats.

# PRELIMINARY METHODOLOGICAL ORIENTATIONS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILDREN IN MEMBER STATES

## Allocation of thematic priorities

Thus far, several national delegations have indicated their preferences with regard to the six thematic priorities of the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child (see Table 1). Other delegations will follow suit to confirm their preferences.

**Table 1: Priority areas selected by national delegations (as of 9 April 2021)**

1.	Freedom from violence for all children	Spain
2.	Equal opportunities and social inclusion for all children	Montenegro, Portugal
3.	Access to and safe use of technologies for all children	Belgium, Italy
4.	Child-friendly justice for all children	Greece
5.	Giving a voice to every child	Finland
6.	Children's rights in crisis and emergency situations	

## Discussing the thematic priorities with groups of children

The methodology for the consultations with children is based on the assumption that the children should be able to participate in a way that reflects their personal views, thoughts and experiences. In practice, this requires from the organisers and facilitators the capacity to create a space and opportunities where children are able to discuss the thematic priorities openly and constructively in accordance with their own characteristics (as individuals and as children) and, to the extent possible, free from adult constructed perceptions or predetermined expectations.

The methodology is organised as a progressive and structured interaction between the facilitator and the children for sharing information, thoughts and enabling discussion. This structure enables children to familiarise themselves with the theme and understand the current situation concerning

the specific thematic priority. This understanding is a necessary precondition for the children to be in a better position to form their own opinions and to discuss possible thoughts, considerations and actions to improve the situation. Through this progressive interaction, the children are enabled to inform the new Strategy in a meaningful way.

The sessions will be structured according to five main steps aimed at clarifying the purpose of the consultation, establishing a “field” of reference related to the specific theme, allowing children to engage in an informed conversation on the theme that could eventually lead to possible ideas, suggestions, recommendations and even questions to be addressed by the new Strategy and its subsequent implementation.

The five steps are embedded into a circular consultation setting. Each step will be defined and described in more detail in the common methodological document that will guide the consultations.

**Figure 2: Five-step methodology for the structured interaction in consulting with children**



## **1. Setting the scene: “Why are we here? What is the Council of Europe? What is the Strategy for the Rights of the Child? What are we expected to do?”**

The participating children will be informed, in a clear and concise manner and in a language they understand, why they were invited to participate in the consultation, what the Council of Europe is, the background to the development of the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child and its meaning. This informative briefing aims to consolidate the information children will have already received prior to the consultation and foster an understanding of the purpose and scope of the consultation and what they are expected to do.

## **2. Children’s understanding of the thematic priority and key definitions**

The facilitator will inform the group of children of the thematic priority that they will be discussing. The aim is to create a space where children are able and feel at ease to express what they understand as violence, equal opportunities, participation and key terms related to the other thematic priorities. This part might also help the children to explore their own direct or indirect experiences with the issue that is being discussed.

## **3. What should be in place: human rights and child rights principles**

This step aims to present some key human rights and child rights principles, related to the thematic priority, in a child-friendly language and an accessible manner for the participating children. The idea is for the children to learn about their own rights and to be prepared to form and share their opinions on “what should be in place for all children”.

## **4. Reality check: evidence from national delegations and international organisations**

After discussing what should be in place, the facilitator will present evidence of the current situation concerning the thematic priority, in a child-friendly language and in an accessible way. This presentation conveys evidence and specific findings that have emerged from the evaluation of the current Strategy, information compiled by national delegations, and information from other national or international sources.

## **5. Proposals and recommendations for improving the situation: the next Strategy**

In the final phase of the consultation, children will formulate and discuss their own proposals, expectations and requests, as well as questions, with regard to the improvement of the situation, to be integrated in the new Strategy. This discussion can be led at different levels:

- What are children’s expectations of their governments, public institutions, associations, schools, parents or other entities, to advance the situation of children in relation to the thematic priority;
- Which issues should be addressed urgently;
- What concrete activities would the children propose, that could inform the new Strategy; and

- How can children be meaningfully involved in future activities?

## Group composition

The aim is to compose a group of 10 to 20 children for each consultation, taking into account different dimensions, such as age, gender, children's status, national and social origin, specific vulnerabilities or other specific characteristics. National delegations should aim at ensuring diversity within each group. For the composition of the consultation groups, national delegations and facilitators should take into account the knowledge and experience of previous consultations and similar processes in engaging with the specific groups of children that each national delegation chooses to involve. It is suggested that member states establish groups of children aged between 13 and 17 years old, unless there is a demonstrated and consolidated experience in consulting younger children, for whom a specific adaptation of the methodology would be developed.

While diversity matters, it should be achieved naturally without forcing it to the point of creating discomfort for children or creating artificial dynamics that could prevent meaningful, genuine and free participation of all members in the group.

It is clear that the children participating in the consultation process will not constitute a representative group from a methodological point of view. The views and recommendations they share will therefore be considered as individual and yet valuable and authoritative. The international desk review and the review of previous experiences of the national delegations aims to embed the consultations with children into a broader perspective of child participation initiatives carried out in Council of Europe member States. The common methodology will address this aspect in more detail from an ethical and a methodological perspective.

## Format of consultations

The format of consultations will depend on the epidemiological situation in the respective countries and the possibilities to carry out face-to-face consultations with children, including travel where required. The national delegations are requested to assess their situations and to plan accordingly for face-to-face or online consultations. The common methodology will include considerations for the adaptation of the consultations to an analogue or digital environment.

Each step of the consultation (from 1 to 5) will be supported by a graphic representation that helps understanding the structure of the consultation and guides the discussion. The graphic representation can be adapted and translated by each national delegation. It will be made available to national delegations in a file and print version so that it could be shared on a screen during an online consultation or printed as handouts for face-to-face consultations.

Where consultations take place online, the common methodology will guide national delegations in the use of a virtual white board, an application for a tablet device with pen, which the facilitators

can use on their screens and share with the participants. This application helps to facilitate and visualise key elements of the discussion in real time.

For documentation purposes, each phase of the consultation will be video-recorded, with the prior informed consent of the participants and their parents or guardians. The common methodology will include all relevant materials for seeking and obtaining the informed consent for this activity.

For the steps 2-4, the common methodology will provide a set of PowerPoint slides with relevant information and solicitations that facilitators can use. The colour schemes and layout of the slides will enable an easy navigation through the different steps of the consultation, in accordance with the graphical representation.

The methodology will further provide detailed recommendations for the organisation of the consultations, including consideration for appropriate timing, duration and breaks, as well as the use of appropriate socialising activities.

In case of online sessions, it is suggested to convene two sessions of 2.5 hours each with a 15 minutes break in the middle (first session: phases 1-2-3, second session: phases 4-5). The national delegations could decide to adapt the timing and the length of the sessions to the specific group they are consulting, and to replicate the session for different groups.

### Face-to-face consultations

In countries where the consultations take place face-to-face, it will be important to consider the venue, questions related to accessibility, for instance meeting the needs of children with physical disabilities, such as ramps, accessible toilets, as well as transportation and travel for the children and their accompanying parent(s) or chaperone(s). The venue should be as child-friendly and comfortable as possible, enabling the participants to feel at ease.

During the consultations, many child-safeguarding concerns may arise. These concerns may depend on the context, modalities and participants. In order to ensure the informed, safe and effective participation of each child, all the potential elements that could represent a risk to a child before, during or after the consultation have to be assessed and taken into consideration. The common methodology will provide guidance for national delegations to take appropriate measures for prevention, protection and response to all potential risks.

### Online consultations

The Council of Europe is a leader in promoting the rights and safety of the child in the digital environment, as demonstrated by the Committee of Ministers Recommendation and the related child-friendly material and handbook for professionals.<sup>5</sup> These documents constitute a central point of reference for the development of the common methodology. They have also informed the

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<sup>5</sup> Council of Europe, *The digital environment*, 2021.

development of the recently issued General Comment No. 25 (2021) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's rights in relation to the digital environment. The General Comment emphasises the necessity to protect and promote the rights of the child in the digital environment and encourages States parties to

*utilise the digital environment to consult with children on relevant legislative, administrative and other measures and to ensure that their views are considered seriously and that children's participation does not result in undue monitoring or data collection that violates their right to privacy, freedom of thought and opinion. They should ensure that consultative processes are inclusive of children who lack access to technology or the skills to use it.<sup>6</sup>*

It is important to bear in mind that the participation in an online consultation may be tiring and that each child has different needs in this regard. Online consultations may require even more concentration and some children may feel pressured to continue, experiencing a "fear of missing out". Children should feel comfortable asking for a break and not feel pressured to perform.

Active listening is a key element in recognising and respecting the child and encouraging their participation. This plays a crucial role in child consultations online, as well as offline. Children have different ways of expressing themselves and some of the essential non-verbal communication might be lost during online consultations. Active and empathic listening can help in minimising misunderstandings, while promoting children's sense of empowerment and ownership of their views and words.

### Reviewing, reflecting and starting again

As mentioned in the earlier sections of this concept note, the Council of Europe Handbook on children's participation envisages a rolling participation process that produces change. As per section 4.7. of the Handbook, national delegations are invited to review and reflect on their experience with these consultations and take into account how they can advance some of the issues highlighted by the children, possibly even beyond the purpose of informing the next Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

The following questions could inspire these reflections:

- What did we want to achieve?
- What have we achieved thus far?
- What were the main challenges?
- What have we learned about things that work well?
- What else could we do?

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<sup>6</sup> Committee on the Rights of the Child, [General comment No. 25 \(2021\)](#) on children's rights in relation to the digital environment, CRC/C/GC/25, 2021, par. 12.

- What are we proud of?
- What could be improved next time?
- What capacities and knowledge should be reinforced based on this experience?
- Are we ready to communicate, to listen and to engage in an open and sincere conversation with children?

At the end of the consultation, participating children and adults will be asked to compile a questionnaire to express their feedback to the process. The results of the questionnaire will be analysed in the consolidated final report.

### Final notes

Prior to the consultations with children, national delegations will receive the common methodology to guide the implementation of the consultations. This will include the following set of documents:

- Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing Protocol for Child Consultations;
- Statement of Commitment to the Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing Protocol;
- Child-friendly Informed Consent Forms and Informed Consent Forms for parents/guardians;
- Proposed outline and resources for the sessions;
- General methodological guidance for implementation and adaptation.



# ANNEX 1.

## Activities, Objectives and Timeframe

Activities	Objectives and deliverables	Timeline
<b>Preparatory Phase and development of a concept note and methodology (DCI Italy, CDEF Secretariat)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the different experiences, expectations and needs in participating delegations</li> <li>• Proposal of a concept note to be shared with delegations, including process and timeframe</li> <li>• Proposal of a methodology to be shared with delegations</li> <li>• Delegations identify the platform for carrying out consultations with children</li> </ul>	1 – 31 March
<b>Agreement on concept note and methodology (DCI Italy, CDEF Secretariat, country delegations)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar to present and discuss methodology with delegations</li> <li>• Agreement of a concept note with delegations, including process and timeframe</li> <li>• Agreement of the methodology with delegations</li> <li>• Final concept note and methodology</li> </ul>	15 April
<b>Identifying groups of children and planning for online or face-to-face consultations (DCI Italy, country delegations)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify questions to be put to children in collaboration with the Secretariat and formulate them in a child-friendly manner</li> <li>• Translate materials into local languages</li> <li>• Identify facilitators</li> </ul>	April-May
<b>Desktop review (DCI Italy)</b>	Carry out a review of other, recent participatory processes reflecting what children expect from policy makers in Europe, including in the light of the recent COVID-19 situation and its impact on children. National reports and studies to be reviewed and reflected in desk review, as appropriate.	By 30 April
<b>Guidance and orientation on methodology for facilitators (DCI Italy)</b>	Joint webinar with all facilitators to present and discuss methodology and safeguarding issues	Mid-May
<b>Implementation phase (Country delegations)</b>	Consultations in Member States and with diverse groups of children	Mid-May – 15 July
<b>Preliminary reporting to CDEF (DCI Italy)</b>	Preliminary reporting to Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDEF) meeting on 18-20 May 2021 on desk review and process of consultations	18 -20 May
<b>Reporting by Member States (Country delegations)</b>	Reporting of results of country consultations: Collect feedback from children via national delegations and identify proposals to be included in the Strategy	1 June – 15 July
<b>Event with children (DCI Italy, CDEF Secretariat)</b>	Presentation of results and providing feedback to the children involved at the final event in September ( <i>setting and date yet to be confirmed</i> )	September
<b>Reporting and follow-up phase (DCI Italy)</b>	Prepare a report on the results of child consultations/ Present the final results of the child consultation process to the CDEF at its plenary meeting on 13-15 October 2021	1 October – 31 December 2021

# ANNEX 2.

## Template for reporting results of country consultations

### Part 1. General information

Facts and figures regarding the consultation	
<b>Country</b>	
<b>Facilitator(s)</b>	<i>Please provide information on who was in charge of the organisation and who contributed to the organisation of the event, and information on the facilitator(s)</i>
<b>Session</b>	<i>Please provide information on dates and location of the sessions, duration / time of the sessions,...</i>
<b>Thematic priority addressed</b>	
<b>Format used</b>	<i>Face-to-face or online</i>
<b>Children</b>	<i>Please provide information regarding number of children consulted, age, gender, national or social origin, specific vulnerabilities or other specific characteristics, where the children come from (city/region), how they travelled there in case of face-to-face consultations,...</i>
<b>Number of sessions held</b>	
<b>Other relevant information about the setting</b>	<i>Any other information, for instance information about the dynamics and interaction between the children and between the children and the facilitator</i>

## Part 2. Summary of results

What children suggest	
Children's thoughts and considerations on the thematic priority	
Children's expectations of their governments (national/local), public institutions, schools, parents, communities, relevant associations or other entities, to advance the situation of children in relation to the thematic priority	
Children's expectations of the Council of Europe and the new Strategy for the Rights of the Child	
Issues to be addressed urgently	
Concrete action / activities proposed	
How can children be involved in future activities	
Other relevant notes, e.g. questions raised by children (including questions that have remained unresolved)	



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