



Council of Europe

”Building a Europe for and with children”

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Building a Europe for and with children programme
6th NGO Forum for national child rights coalitions
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Presentation

- 1) Key facts about the Council of Europe
- 2) Programme "Building a Europe for and with children"
- 3) The Council of Europe campaign to stop sexual violence against children
- 4) Ideas and suggestions for co-operation



Council of Europe

- Established 1949
- 60th Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Three pillars:
 - 1) Human rights
 - 2) Democracy
 - 3) Rule of law
- 47 member states
- Including 150 million children



Council of Europe

- Parliamentary Assembly
- Committee of Ministers
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Secretariat:
Secretary General Mr Thorbjorn Jagland
Deputy Secretary General
Mrs Maud Boer Buquicchio
- European Court of Human Rights
- Council of Europe observer status: United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico, The Holy See



Council of Europe

- The European Social Charter
 - Economic and social rights
 - Some provisions relating to children's rights:
Right to protection from economic and social vulnerability
- Specific treaties on children's rights
 - European Convention on the Legal Status of Children born out of Wedlock
 - European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of the Custody of Children
 - Etc.



The CoE Mechanisms to hold the governments to account on children's rights

- The European Court of Human Rights takes up cases dealing with children's rights
- The European Social Charter is monitored by the European Committee of Social Rights
 - States parties are obliged to report
 - Every four years: thematic provision of children, families and migrants is reported
 - Committee recommendations
 - Collective complaint cases: Committee's written comment, hearing



- **Commissioner for Human Rights**
- One of the influential defenders of children's rights
- Independent office since 1999
- Submits written comments
- Participates in hearings
- Undertakes country visits, thematic recommendations, raises awareness
- Promotes the development of national human rights institutions



Building a Europe for and with children 2006 - 2008

- Third Summit Mandate was to
 - mainstream children's rights in all CoE policies
 - coordinate all children-related activities in CoE
 - eradicate all forms of violence against children
- Building a Europe for and with children, 3-year-programme launched in Monaco 2006



Building a Europe for and with children 2006 - 2008

- Establishment of a Co-ordination unit
- Establishment of an Inter-secretariat task force
- Three-year-action programme
Children and violence
- Nomination of a Thematic Coordinator on children on the Committee of Ministers level



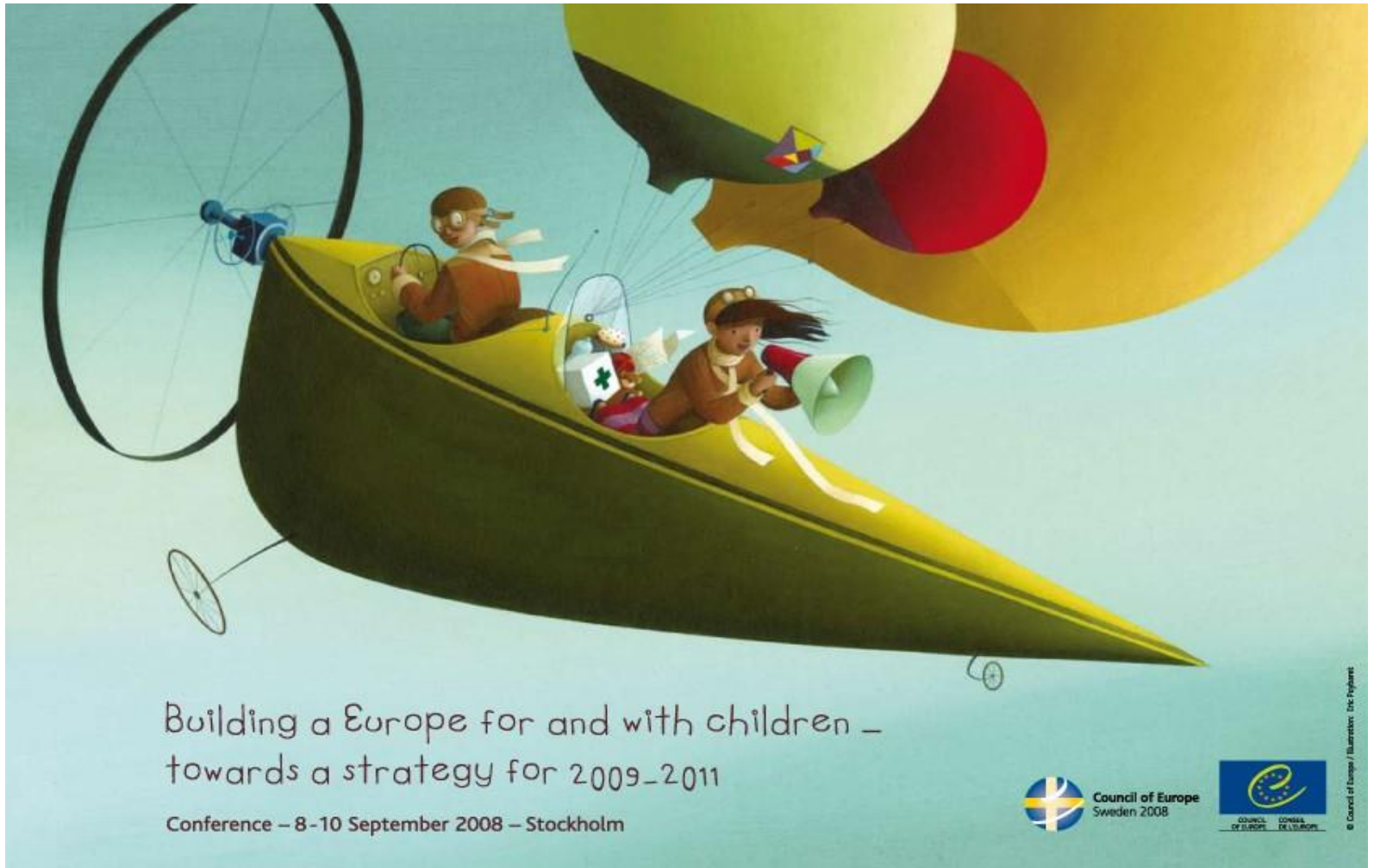
Building a Europe for and with children 2006 – 2008 - outcomes

- A pilot scheme in selected countries to review their national policies for protecting children against violence -> guidelines
- Special focus on violence
 - in schools
 - on Internet
 - sexual abuse
 - corporal punishment of children

BUILDING A EUROPE FOR AND WITH CHILDREN



The Council of Europe programme





Stockholm strategy 2009 - 2011

Provision

Protection

Participation

for children in Europe

Working methods:

Mainstreaming

Co-ordination

Co-operation



Stockholm strategy 2009 - 2011

Thematic pillars

Child participation

Child-friendly justice

**Violence against
children**

with the focus on

**most marginalized and
vulnerable children**



- Strategy recognizes the importance of the international co-operation by providing tools such as
 - Standard setting
 - Monitoring
 - Policy development
 - Technical assistance
 - Awareness raising
- For that purpose the partnerships with NGOs and NGO coalitions are essential





- Policy development
- Steering committee of government representatives + observers from NGOs and intergovernmental organisations
- Examples: rights of children in institutions, integration of migrant children, rights of children with disabilities, access to education by Roma children, tools for decision makers for human rights education, methods and tools for child participation



Recent commitments: Child-friendly justice

- European **guidelines**
- Improving children's **access** to international justice
- A child-friendly version available
- More voice to children in judicial system
- Good practices and practical solutions to remedy the legal gaps
- In parallel it is important to assure alternative means such as mediation



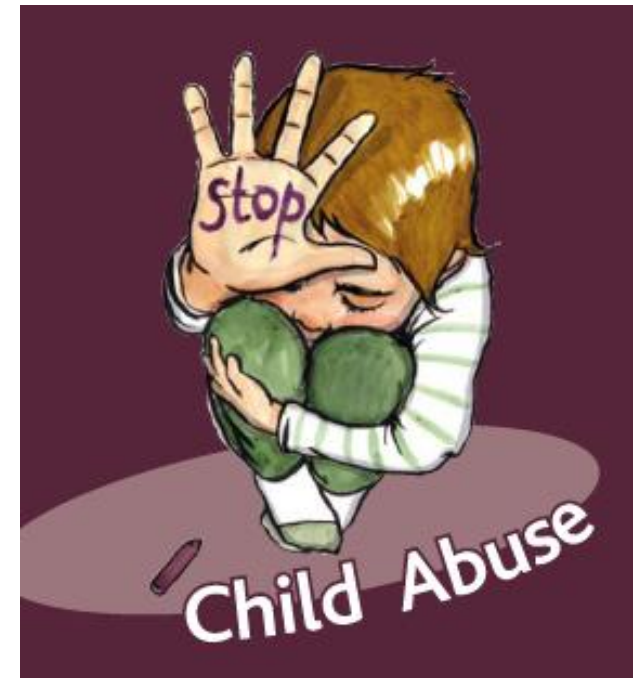
Eradication of all forms of violence against children

- Role of the **regional coordinator** of national and regional initiatives to combat violence against children/follow-up of the UN SG Study on violence against children
- **National Focal points ->A platform for Children's Rights**
- **Policy guidelines** for integrated strategies
- Actions against **sexual exploitation** and sexual abuse of children, trafficking of children



Council of Europe Campaign to Stop Sexual Violence against Children

**Launch 29th of November
in Rome**





Goals of the campaign

1. To support the signature, ratification and implementation of relevant CoE standards

*The Council of Europe Convention
on the Protection of Children
against Sexual Exploitation and
Sexual Abuse
(Lanzarote Convention)*

CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in
Human Beings
CoE Convention on Cybercrime



Goals of the campaign

2. To raise European societies' awareness of the full extent of sexual violence and to provide children, parents and professionals with knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to sexual violence.



Campaign to stop sexual violence against children

- Collecting and analysing data on sexual violence against children
- Raising awareness amongst children, families, carers and professionals working for and with children
- Facilitating communication in and among member states, including NGOs and NGO coalitions
- National focal points to facilitate in setting up multistakeholder campaign teams and national campaign action plans



Communication products

- Graphic identity
- Information pack
- Media pack
- Campaign website

National campaign teams and partners are welcome to develop additional products to complement CoE materials to reinforce the campaign's key messages!



The Council of Europe programme

Child participation 2009 - 2011

- **Mainstreaming** child participation in CoE
- European guidelines for child and youth participation
- Analyses for national policies in 3 pilot member states
- First pilot in Finland: workshop in the end of 2010 to review the results
- Consultations of children to develop our work: for drafting the guidelines on child-friendly justice 3700 children in 25 European countries were consulted



Recommendations to the EU strategy on Children's Rights

- Intergrated approach is necessary
- Reinforcement of the co-ordination function within the Commission
- Impact assessment process prior to adopting a policy
- Information consultations prior to major decisions likely to affect children's rights
- Accession to the key CoE human rights instruments
- Recognition of the findings, decisions and recommendations of the Coe monitoring bodies
- Co-ordinated collaboration with NGO sector



How can NGOs participate in our work?

- Conference of INGOs
- NGOs can be involved:
 - Consultants in studies
 - Oral and written statements
 - Meetings and workshops
 - Preparatory work of CoE Conventions
 - Provide information to the European Court of Human Rights
 - Collective complaints with the European Committee of Social Rights



- Your recommendations:
- A need to enhance communication and information sharing of the work of CoE
- CRIN as our platform
- Being strategic together:
- 2011: Monaco + 5: NGOs and NGO coalitions are invited to play a stronger role in drafting the next CoE strategy for "Building a Europe for and with children"



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**Thank you for
your valuable input
to the work of
the Council of Europe!**