



Strasbourg, 21 June 2016

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**Consultancy to develop a background document for policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment**

Children's right to participation, protection and provision in the digital environment is one of the five priority areas of the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#). In this framework, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has mandated the [Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child](#) (CAHENF) to develop guidelines for member States to empower, protect and support children in the digital environment. The Council of Europe plans to commission the development of a background document to provide the Committee with an overview of the issues at stake and of existing legal instruments, policies and good practices.

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<b>Document title:</b>	Policy guidance on empowering, protecting and supporting children in the digital environment: Background document
<b>Organisation:</b>	Council of Europe Directorate General of Democracy Children's Rights Division
<b>Call issued:</b>	21 June 2016
<b>Deadline:</b>	11 July 2016
<b>Selection of candidates:</b>	15 July 2016
<b>Duration of contract:</b>	up to 14 days
<b>Submission of final document:</b>	8 August 2016

**Website:** [www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)

**Contact:** [children@coe.int](mailto:children@coe.int)

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

New Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) impact on children's enjoyment of a significant number of human rights guaranteed by international and European conventions, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, as well as the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. There are also a number of relevant Council of Europe recommendations, such as on a Guide to human rights for Internet users (2014), on the protection of human rights with regard to social networking services (2012) and on measures to protect children against harmful content and behaviour and to promote their active participation in the new information and communications environment (2009).

According to recommendations issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child following the Day of General Discussion on digital media and children's rights, all children should be able to safely access digital media, and be empowered to fully participate, express themselves, seek information and enjoy all the rights enshrined in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols without discrimination of any kind.

The Council of Europe has developed a wide range of legal standards, policy guidance documents, awareness raising materials and case law on children's rights in the digital environment. An overview is available on the website of the Council of Europe's Children's Rights Division ([www.coe.int/en/web/children/the-internet](http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/the-internet)).

In order to support its member States in tackling the opportunities and concerns created by the digital environment, the Council of Europe will develop guidance to governments on ensuring children's participation, protection and provision rights. This work takes place within the framework of the [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) and the [Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy \(2016-2019\)](#). It will be carried out by the [Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child \(CAHENF\)](#), which meets for the first time on 28-29 September 2016 in Strasbourg, in co-operation with other relevant Council of Europe committees and bodies.

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## **OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT**

The focus of the policy guidance to be developed by the CAHENF will be on how to take an integrated and child rights based approach to the opportunities and challenges created by the digital environment.

The objective of the document is therefore to provide the CAHENF with

- a concise overview of the different aspects of children's rights in the digital environment;
- a minimum of three case studies from different Council of Europe member States highlighting national strategies and policies on child rights and ICTs proven to be effective in addressing comprehensively children's rights in the digital environment at national level;
- an analysis of gaps and suggestions for key elements for a future guidance document for governments;
- an inventory (with hyperlinks) of relevant international, Council of Europe and European Union legal standards, case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the most relevant and recent (since 2013) policy documents on the issue in general and its different aspects, and publications reflecting children's own views on the subject.

Maximum length of the study: 10 000 words (without inventory)

Language of the study: English or French

The study can also be completed by a team of selected experts working together.

The (lead) consultant needs to be available to attend the first meeting of the CAHENF on 28-29 September 2016 in Strasbourg.

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## **QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED**

- Advanced university degree in politics, law, social sciences and/or extensive professional experience at international/national level in the relevant area;
- knowledge of the situation in the field of children's rights at European level;
- knowledge of international children's rights standards, including of the Council of Europe's standards;
- knowledge of international and international frameworks, policies and programmes in relation to children's rights and ICTs and child online protection issues;
- confirmed drafting skills (samples to be submitted if short-listed) in English or French.

The evaluation of candidates is undertaken in accordance with Council of Europe's procedures.

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## **FEES AND STATUS**

The selected candidate(s) will be offered a Council of Europe consultancy contract. The expert / team of experts shall be remunerated at a fixed price of 350 EUR per day of work, for a maximum of 14 days.

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## **APPLICATIONS**

Interested candidates are invited to submit an expression of interest along with:

- 1) a proposal of maximum 3 pages outlining the draft structure and methodology for the background study.
- 2) a proposed work plan/timeline for research and report writing.
- 3) a CV
- 4) A list of publications.

Applications shall be submitted in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French) to [children@coe.int](mailto:children@coe.int) by **11 July 2016**.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.