

Council of Europe's Action Plan on protecting vulnerable persons in the context of migration

Anne Kayser

Office of the Special
Representative of the
Council of Europe on
migration and refugees

www.coe.int



HUMAN RIGHTS,
DEMOCRACY
AND THE RULE OF LAW

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Special Representative on Migration and Refugees

Since 2016

THE MANDATE

FACT FINDING MISSIONS

- seek, collect and analyse information

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

- strengthen CoE's assistance and advice to member States

COORDINATION

Network of Focal Points on Migration

- **Externally:** liaise and exchange information with international organisations and member states
- **Internally :** strengthen the transversal response of the CoE

ACTION PLANS

1. Action Plan on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe (2017-2019)



Examples of achievements

- Compilation of child-friendly approaches in the area of migration
- Handbook on child friendly information
- Recommendation on effective guardianship
- Handbook on Family reunification for refugee and migrant children
- Recommendation on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood
- Practical Guidance on alternatives to immigration detention
- Development and launch of the HELP courses on alternatives to detention, asylum and the ECHR and refugee and migrant children

2. Action Plan on Protecting vulnerable persons in the context of migration (2021-2025)

① Why a new Action Plan?



② New and expanded focus

Vulnerable persons

“Persons found to have special needs after individual evaluation of their situation”

- Solid and dynamic references to CoE standards
- States' competence to identify and provide protection and assistance

③ Structure: 28 actions in 4 pillars

Three core values of the Council of Europe mandate

1. Human rights

- Ensuring protection and promoting safeguards

2. Rule of law

- Ensuring access to law and justice

3. Democracy

- Fostering democratic participation and enhancing inclusion

Cooperation

4. Transversal support

Transversal co-operation and peer to peer dialogue between member States (Network of Focal Points)

④ Content

❖ *Protecting vulnerable persons in migration*

- Promote effective **vulnerability screening**
- **Address** vulnerabilities throughout the migration procedures and enhance **procedural safeguards**
- Address **specific vulnerabilities** (statelessness, smuggling of migrants, addiction and drug prevention...)
- Promote alternative to detention, data protection, positive narratives, integration...



❖ *Protecting refugee and migrant children*

- Guidelines on **age assessment**
- **Effective guardianship** for unaccompanied and separated children
- Prevention of **sexual abuse** on children- focus on missing children
- Guidance on **family-based care**
- Toolkit to support **inclusion of refugee children** in schools and society
- Promote **child-friendly approaches**, procedures and information in migration
- Implementation of Recommendation on **transition to adulthood**



❖ *Protecting Refugee and migrant women*

- Draft a recommendation on **migrant and refugee women**
- Promote the use of practical tools to ensure **women's safety in transit and reception centres**

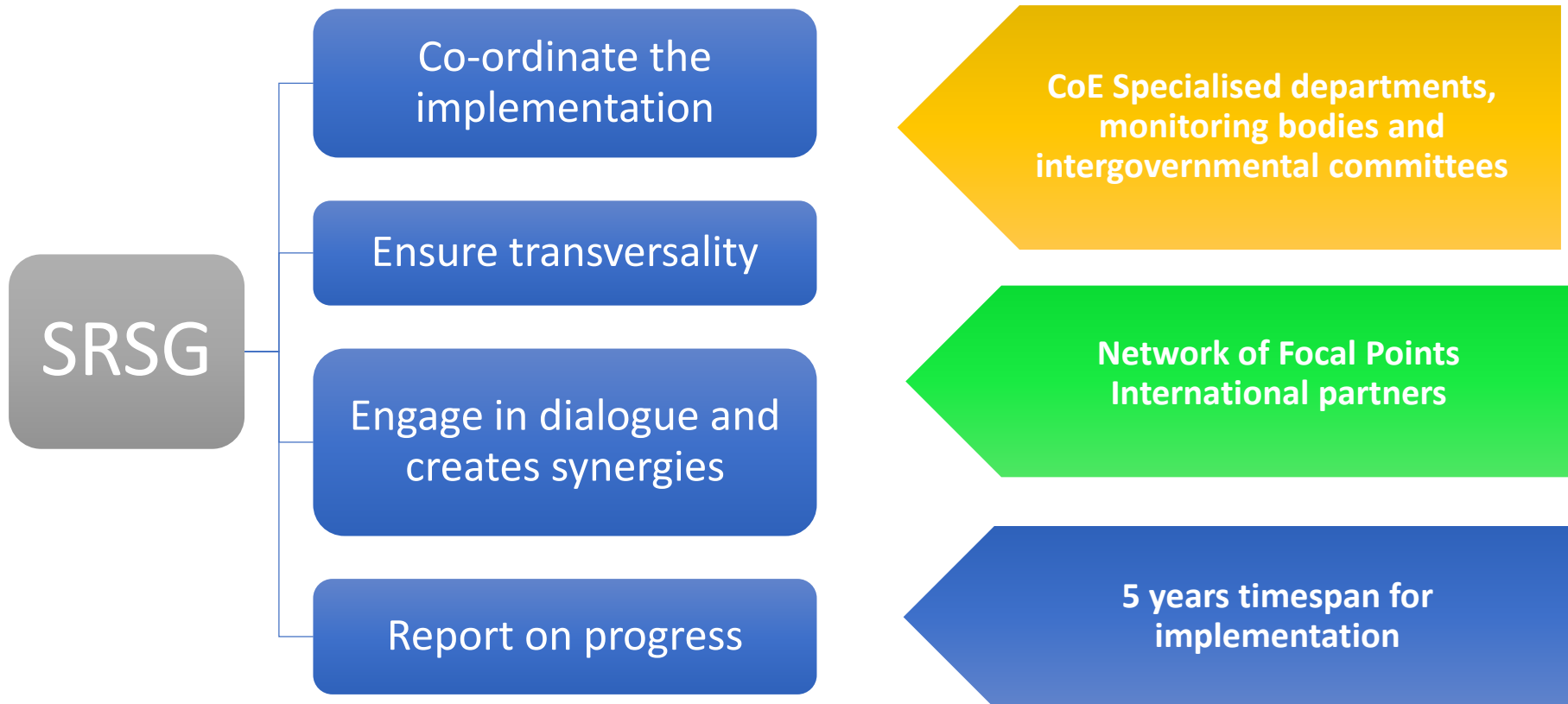


❖ Health issues and challenges raised by the covid-19 pandemic

- Health-related vulnerabilities: **identification** and referral of vulnerable persons
- Promoting **equitable access to healthcare**
- Guide to **health literacy** for persons in vulnerable situations
- **Practical guidance** for social workers and health professionals



IMPLEMENTATION



Thank you for your attention!

Websites

SRSG

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/special-representative-secretary-general-migration-refugees/home>

Action Plan

www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/migration-and-asylum-council-of-europe-to-increase-protection-of-vulnerable-persons

Email: Anne.kayser@coe.int



<https://www.facebook.com/CoEMigrationRefugees/>



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