



Dramatic event reviews.

Preventing risks and improving responses

Observatoire national de
la protection de l'enfance

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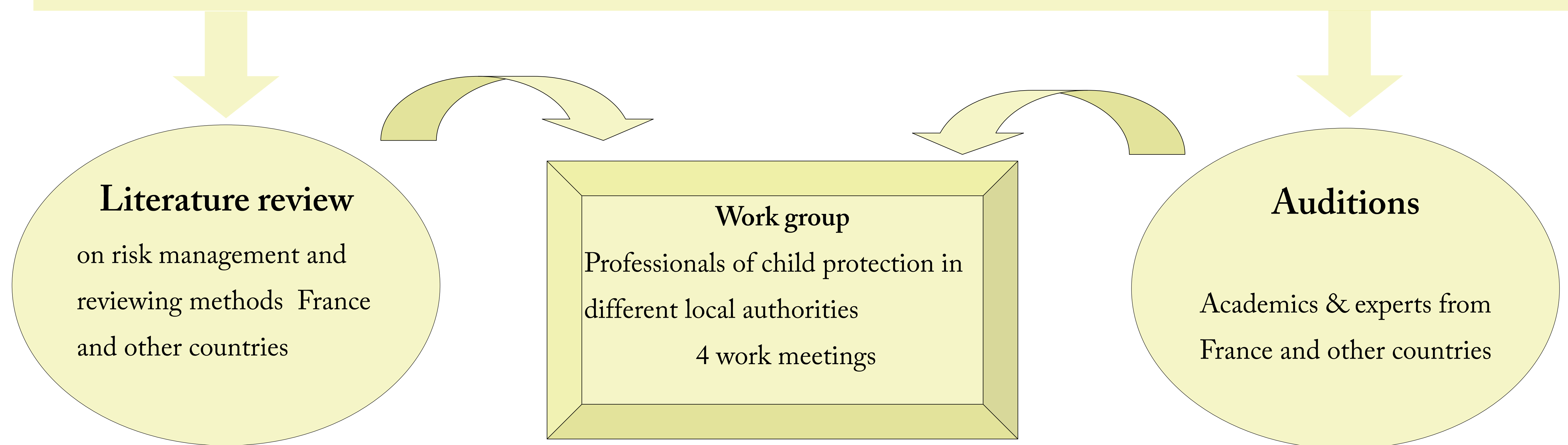
Methodology

ONPE was tasked by the French government to draft a method for dramatic event reviews

Methods used in child protection in other countries: an initiative in Germany involving researchers, Local Safeguarding Children Boards in the UK, Significant Case Reviews in Scotland...

Methods used in other sectors in France: Haute Autorité de Santé method for the health sector, other guides and training tools used by law enforcement and the prison administration...

Local experiments in child protection in France: first reports by Child and Family services in a few *départements*



Definition and scope

What a Dramatic Event Review is

Collective

The review is pluri-disciplinary and pluri-professional. Members of the reviewing board include representatives from all institutions that had a duty to report or care for the child and family before the dramatic event happened.

Retrospective

It focuses on the facts that preceded the dramatic event and their order.

Systemic

It takes into account the interactions of all elements that may have contributed to the event or /and to the care - or lack thereof - that was provided to the child(ren).

All methods have elements in common

All review methods that have been analysed are **collective**, **retrospective** and **systemic**. They try to understand all the shortcomings that may have contributed to the dramatic unfolding of the event in question with the aim to go beyond the occurrence (or “near-accident”) in question and **propose better practices**.

... but there are variations

The events or situations that can be reviewed can be very different in **nature**.

Child death reviews, for instance, only review deaths and not other types of events.

The methods used for the review can differ.

Some methods are based on focus groups and workshops, while others focus on casework and the contents of the child's file, and yet others rely on one-on-one interviews with persons involved in the case. The persons and institutions that initiate the review can be different. The time frame for the review can also be very different.

Ethical considerations

Listening and non-judgement

Co-construction

No search for personal responsibility

No presumption of avoidability



Objectives

Help the persons involved in the event to get over what happened without denying it

Collectively understand the dramatic event in all of its complex dimensions

Understand what can be improved in terms of care practices, organisation of institutions, or cooperation

Allow decision-makers to propose new practices, organisational changes or/and cooperation