



CP4EUROPE

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CHILD PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORKS AND ACTION IN EUROPE

Building a Europe
for and with children

www.coe.int/children



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What is the project?

The EU-COE Joint Project “**CP4 EUROPE – Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe**” aims to contribute to the promotion of children’s rights to participation at national and pan-European levels in accordance with Council of Europe standards and tools in this area. These include in particular the Council of Europe [Child Participation Assessment Tool](#) (CPAT) which has already been used in 10 countries and [the Handbook on children’s participation for professionals working for and with children](#). The main expected impact of the project is that children across Europe find multiple and innovative opportunities to participate in decision-making processes through stronger child participation mechanisms.

It is implemented over 24 months (01 April 2021-31 March 2023) in 5 partner countries: the Czech Republic, Iceland, Portugal, Slovenia and Finland and at the European level. Deliverables at the national level will include assessments of national mechanisms, the development of model national strategies, handbooks, checklists and training materials aimed at building capacities on collective and individual child participation. All partners of the project will support the establishment of a “Child participation leadership network”, to benefit from mutual peer support to address the challenges of child participation.

What do we expect to achieve?

The Project is expected to achieve key results in supporting the authorities and institutions in several directions including:

- ▶ Assessing child participation at national and European levels
- ▶ Developing innovative child participation tools at national and European levels
- ▶ Creating a European child participation leadership network
- ▶ Preparing Child Safeguarding Policies

How will the project work?

The project will be coordinated by the Children’s Rights Division of the Council of Europe (CP4 EUROPE team) in partnership with the 5 partners. The project will support national assessments of child participation mechanisms and practice in the Czech Republic, Portugal and Iceland using the CPAT (Action Group 1). The project also supports Finland and Slovenia which have already successfully concluded a CPAT assessment. Their role will be to better illustrate the purpose of the concrete follow-up to CPAT assessments, with concrete activities and tools to improve child participation mechanisms and interventions (Action Group 2).

Assistance provided through the project will be delivered tailored to the specific needs of beneficiaries and building on the results achieved in the assessment of the CPAT by Action Group 2 partners. More concretely the project will focus on supporting the authorities and institutions in several directions including:

- ▶ Strengthening of legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- ▶ Strategies;
- ▶ Institutional capacity-building;
- ▶ Enhanced inter-agency and multidisciplinary cooperation;
- ▶ Creation of tools and training packages.

Who do we work with?

The partners of the CP4 EUROPE project are:

- ▶ The National Commission for the Promotion of the Rights and Protection of Children and Young People of Portugal
- ▶ The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- ▶ The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia
- ▶ The Ministry of Justice of Finland
- ▶ The Ministry of Education and Children of Iceland
- ▶ The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Who benefits from the project?

The project targets national and local authorities, civil organisations as well as professionals who are in direct contact with children and/or deal with decisions that can affect children.

Ultimately, the project aims to benefit all children, so that they are sufficiently equipped and protected to be heard and to participate effectively in decision-making mechanisms and processes at national and local levels. Particular attention will be paid to children from vulnerable groups that may need special support, such as children with disabilities, from ethnic minorities or migrant children. They should be provided with appropriate and adapted information and support to enable them to participate on an equal basis with other children.

How much will it cost?

- ▶ The total budget of the Project is 950,374.00 EUR

How do we get more information?

- ▶ **Children's rights Division of the Council of Europe website:** www.coe.int/children and its webpage dedicated to Child Participation.
- ▶ **CP4 Europe webpage:** www.coe.int/CP4EUROPE
- ▶ **Stéphanie Burel:** CP4 Europe Senior Project Officers at the Children's Rights Division, stephanie.burel@coe.int
- ▶ **Magali Moreau,** CP4 Europe Project Assistant, magali.moreau@coe.int
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Child Participation has long been a priority for the Council of Europe. This issue was taken seriously more than 10 years ago and the Council of Europe is a pioneer in this area with its Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18, which was developed following extensive reviews of the reality of children's participation in a number of member states and with the direct involvement of children in the drafting committee. Since then, child participation has been promoted and used in the strategies, standards and activities of the Children's Rights Division of the Council of Europe. The CP4Europe project is part of this dynamic and will be implemented until March 2023 in Portugal, Iceland, the Czech Republic, Finland and Slovenia with the aim of extending child participation processes beyond the project.

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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The Member States of the European Union have decided to link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

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