



**Building a Europe  
for and with children**

**Construire une Europe  
pour et avec les enfants**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

***“Why do children’s views matter? Building solid state responses to embrace child participation”***

## **Evaluation Meeting of the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT)**

**5-6 July 2018, State Agency for Child Protection,  
2 Triaditsa Street (Mramorna room), Sofia, Bulgaria**

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### **Programme**

#### **Background information – reminder:**

The present Evaluation Meeting is part of a pilot project under which the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT) has been or will yet be applied in a series of countries in three rounds of application / work cycles:

- Cycle I (2014-2015): Estonia, Ireland, Romania
- Cycle II (2016-2017): Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia
- Cycle III (2018-2019): Finland, Malta, Slovenia

The Evaluation Meeting of July 2018 thus closes the second work cycle by considering and reviewing the CPAT based on the experience of now six countries where different stakeholders have applied the tool in collaboration with national and European experts.

Countries interested in the upcoming third work cycle are also invited to the meeting so as to get acquainted with the methodology, learn from previous experiences and specify their own expectations and needs. A general exchange of views will be aimed at defining the current obstacles and tools required for embedding child participation in various institutional contexts on a sustainable basis. The presentation of good practice from various countries shall be an additional contribution to the discussion and future activities.

## Wednesday, 4 July 2018

Evening                      Arrival of participants

## Thursday, 5 July 2018

09:00                      **Opening and welcome**

- Welcome by the Bulgarian hosts
- Welcoming address (by video) by the Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection
- Presentation of Council of Europe action in the field of child participation and purpose of this meeting
- Introduction round of national delegations and experts

09:30                      **Review of the latest round of application of the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT)**

Presentations of the self-assessment's findings, action plans and lessons learned from the project in the second-round countries (complementary presentations by national representatives and European experts involved):

- Bulgaria: Ms Teodora Ivanova Deputy Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection, Bulgaria/ Ms Radostina Angelova, researcher/ Ms Anne Crowley, Ms Mieke Schuurman
- Special focus on Bulgaria: Experience from child participation during the project, presented by Yoana Zaharieva, Chairperson of the Children's Council, Iva Ivanova, member and Adriana Raykova, member

*Discussion between national delegations and experts; questions by external guests*

11:00                      Coffee break

11:30                      **"Child participation in theory and practice"**

- "A conceptual framework for measuring outcomes of children's participation", presentation by Gerison Lansdown on a paper recently prepared with UNICEF
- "Children's participation in public decision-making – a review of practice in Europe", presentation by Mieke Schuurman on recent Eurochild activities
- The importance of child participation - perspective of a donor organisation and civil society, presentation by Presiana Manolova, Oak Foundation

*Discussion between national delegations and experts*

12:30	Lunch
14:00	<p><b>Review of the latest round of application of the CPAT (continued...)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italy: Ms Sara Vaggi, UNICEF, Italy / Ms Anne Crowley, Ms Gerison Lansdown</li> <li>- Latvia: Mr Lauris Neikens, Children and Family Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia / Ms Gerison Lansdown, Ms Mieke Schuurman</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion between national delegations and experts</i></p>
15:30	<p><b>Evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the CPAT to strengthen children participation awareness and mechanisms</b></p> <p>Presentation of the results of the survey as a contribution to the discussion</p>
16:00	Coffee break
16:30	<p><b>Experiences made by the countries under the first cycle and follow-up given to the self-assessment</b></p> <p>Presentations on <u>any progress in legislation, policy and practice made</u> since the self-assessment (complementary presentations by national representatives and European experts involved):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Estonia: Ms Elise Nikonov, Department of Children and Families, Ministry of Social Affairs / Ms Gerison Lansdown, Ms Mieke Schuurman</li> <li>- Romania: Ms Adina Codres, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Protection of the Elderly, Romania / Ms Gerison Lansdown, Ms Mieke Schuurman</li> </ul> <p>Revision of the self-assessment tool in 2015: Ms Anne Crowley on lessons learned after the first cycle</p>
17:30	<b>Closing</b>

**Friday, 6 July 2018 (morning only)**

**09:00 Follow-up to the self-assessment process in countries having participated in cycle I and II: identification of next steps and further tools required**

Short presentations by countries having participated in the latest cycle on follow-up action initiated or expected after the self-assessment exercise at national, regional or local level (changes in child participation policies and mechanisms):

- Bulgaria
- Italy
- Latvia

Short contributions also by countries having participated in the first cycle: follow-up action taken after the self-assessment exercise

- Estonia
- Ireland
- Romania

*Discussion between national delegations and experts: Participants are in particular invited to identify loopholes or missing mechanisms and tools, not least to allow the Council of Europe better understand the need to develop new implementation tools to foster child participation.*

**10:45 Coffee break**

**11:15 Preparing for the self-assessment process under work cycle III - exchange of views with key stakeholders from countries having expressed an interest in the next application round:**

- Finland
- Malta
- Slovenia

**12:30 Conclusions and next steps**

Departure of national delegations