
Co-funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

European Union – Council of Europe joint project
Strengthening child-friendly justice among Barnahus-type services in Spanish regions
(Phase II)

Phase I Accountability Process and Integration of Children and Adolescents views into Phase II

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATION (CEPIA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project is co-funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument, and co-funded and implemented by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission, Reform and Investment Task Force (SG REFORM).



This document was produced with the financial support of the European Union and the Council of Europe. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the author(s). Views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union or the Council of Europe.

Authors:

Mabel Taravilla Herrera, Plataforma de Infancia as Council of Europe independent expert

© Council of Europe, April 2025. All rights reserved. Licensed to the European Union under certain conditions.

The joint project of the European Union and the Council of Europe 'Joint EU - Council of Europe project "Strengthening child-friendly justice among the different Barnahus-type services in the regions of Spain (Phase II)", implemented by the Council of Europe in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Children and the Ministry of the Presidency, Justice and Relations with the Courts during the period 2025-2027, is developed with the aim of ensuring that child victims of sexual violence have access to child-friendly justice and coordinated comprehensive services. This project promotes the implementation of the Barnahus model in Spain, a multidisciplinary approach that brings professionals from different fields under one roof to avoid re-victimisation during the investigation and judicial procedure.

This model will attend to children, and it is valued that as they are the ones who will receive the services and for whom the resource is intended, it is important to have their opinion about the Barnahus, communication materials and implementation and communication process.

According to this target, children are consulted in a participatory exercise. Participation is understood as an educational and social process that takes place in the genuine and everyday spaces of children, and which has the capacity of children to form their own judgement and express their opinion on everything that affects them.

After the phase I of participation, it is essential to be able to hold participating children accountable, so that they can know what have happened with their proposals and why they have been accepted or not. It is important to explain the reasons for both positive and negative decisions, so that the continuity of children's participation rests on pillars of trust and joint construction where they feel they are part of it.

The Consejo Estatal de Participación de la infancia y adolescencia, CEPIA, is a permanent and stable group for consultation, representation and participation of children in Spain attached to the Ministry of Youth and Children, an ally in the development of the Barnahus project.

For this purpose, CEPIA was convened, given that it was the group that made the contributions in Phase I and to whom they were accountable. In addition to the accountability, the idea is to be able to share with children the proposals of phase II in which they could be incorporated.

Eight children attended the meeting, accompanied by two members of the the General Directorate for the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

The debriefing and consultation focused on a 90-minute working session, held on Tuesday 1 April, from 17.00 to 18.30 hours.

The objectives set and worked on in the session were:

- To find out the status of incorporation or not of the proposals drawn up by CEPIA's participants into the Barnahus roadmaps.
- To share and collect the assessment of the children on this accountability.
- To find out the proposals in which to include children in phase II of the process.

- To collect the feedback of the children on the proposals in which they would like to be included.

Regarding the accountability of both the roadmap and the communication guide, the children received positively the incorporations (almost all their proposals were accepted) and understood those that did not fit in. They emphasised that “we are happy with the session and how it has turned out and the explanations given”, “we think it is very important to insist invest in prevention. It’s very important to have the possibility to have sex education plans in educational centres (both schools and institutes)”.

In the presentation of the proposals for action in phase II, which includes the participation of children, the CEPIA’s group was receptive to all the proposals, emphasising that they need to consult with the rest of the CEPIA participants “because this is something so huge for which we need to share and explain to the rest of our colleagues” and “we think it is essential to continue counting on children in the development of this project”. The proposals to participate, together with the professionals, were accepted are:

- Elaborating a practical guide to design child-friendly spaces adapted to children and adolescents in the Barnahus.
- Ensuring the right of children to be informed through the elaboration of documents adapted to different ages to explain the Barnahus model.
- Involve permanent child participation mechanisms at the national level to ensure the involvement of children in the process of implementing the Barnahus model.
- Carry out awareness-raising campaigns on CSAV aimed at professionals, children, and the general population, to raise awareness of the duty to communicate, the reporting process and the Barnahus model of care in cases of CSAV
- The development of a logo or image to link the Barnahus of all the Autonomous Communities (or the resources for care of victims of sexual violence).
- Consultation on how to involve children in the regional communities.