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Europe gets ready to strengthen national child participation frameworks and action: Launch of the new European Union - Council of Europe joint Project **CP4EUROPE** on 1 April 2021

Strasbourg, 01.04.2021 – In the framework of the European Commission’s Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) the Children’s Rights Division of the **Council of Europe** and its Partners from the **Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Portugal and Slovenia**, are launching the new EU-Council of Europe joint Project “**CP4EUROPE - Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe**” which they will implement at European and national levels until 31 March 2023.

The main objective of CP4EUROPE is to increase the means, the spaces and the opportunities for child participation in EU and Council of Europe member states, and to support national activities through pan-European action and visibility. The project will promote, in particular, the use of the Council of Europe [Child Participation Tool \(CPAT\)](#) and the new Handbook on Children’s Participation “[Listen – Act – Change](#)”, as specific tools in this area, and support the development of new (model) tools through national action.

Concrete and tailor-made action will be taken at national level via the Partners of the project in two Action Groups: *Action Group I*: Czech Republic, Iceland and Portugal who will assess their child participation mechanisms and practice via the CPAT during the project, and develop subsequent national action plans; and *Action Group II*: Finland and Slovenia who have successfully concluded the CPAT assessments previously and will now take additional steps with the improvement of national frameworks and initiatives in specific areas. This will, respectively, include ensuring that child participation is mainstreamed into national strategies on children’s rights and strengthening child participation activities in collaboration with different groups of professionals.

One of the key expected results of the overall project also includes the creation a “Child participation leadership network” among participating countries, and a new webpage which should become a resource center, to facilitate the sharing of resources and experiences. The Council of Europe Children’s Right Division will coordinate the project and develop European resources and activities that will benefit all partner countries, and all EU and Council of Europe member states in the long-term.

For more information, see the dedicated page under www.coe.int/children

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DURATION

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2023

CP4EUROPE

**“Strengthening National
Child Participation
Frameworks and Action
in Europe”**

Summary

The project is supporting the assessment and development of national legislative and policy frameworks for child participation at national and pan-European levels.

The project promotes the use of the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT), which has already been used in 10 countries, and the new Handbook on Children's Participation for Professionals, as well as the development of further European tools for facilitating and promoting child participation amongst EU member states.



Action Group I
Czech Republic, Iceland and Portugal will conduct assessments of child participation mechanisms and practice according to the Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT)

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5 selected EU member states or associated countries: Czech Republic, Iceland, Portugal (Action Group I) and Finland and Slovenia (Action Group II)

Action Group II
Finland and Slovenia
undertook and successfully concluded a CPAT assessment in 2019. Under the project, they are pilot countries developing further child participation activities, with the aim of designing very concrete tools that can be “re-injected” into the European exchange of good practice.

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Activities & Key Challenges

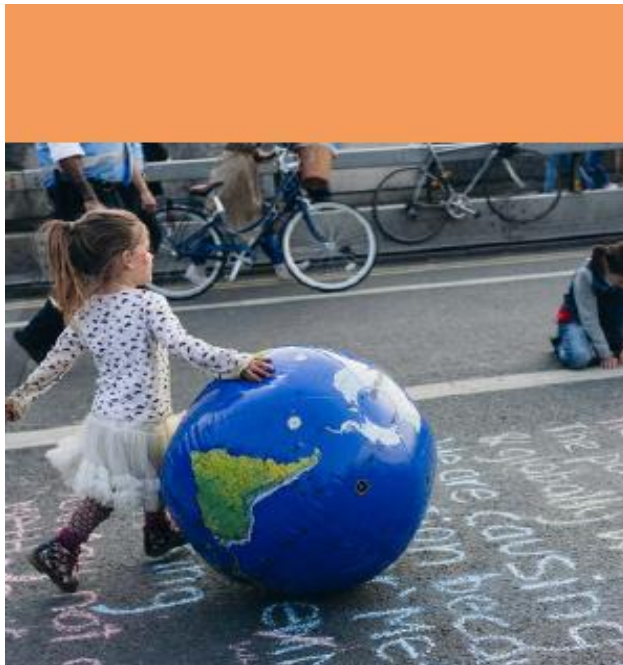
General Challenges:

- Involving all stakeholders
- Raising the political willingness needed
- Spreading the key messages widely: across sectorial ministries and administrative levels
- Developing child safeguarding policies



Specific challenges in times of Covid-19:

- Reaching out to children in confinement
- Getting children involved in activities
- Getting different stakeholders to interact while working at a distance
- Assigning resources to such activities which are not always considered as most urgent



Project
management
and
coordination

Development of
a range of
European
resources

Set-up of a
European "Child
participation
leadership

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Expected Outcomes

The possibility for children to participate in individual decision-making processes

Increased awareness and political willingness of decision makers

Training for professionals to implement child participation

Recommendations for legislative and policy changes

A European platform and network for future exchanges



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