# **CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR EUROPE**

**PROGRAMME** Cork, 23-25 May 2022

Building a Europe for and with children

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Partnership with:







Presidency of Ireland Council of Europe May - November 2022 Présidence de l'Irlande Conseil de l'Europe Mai - Novembre 2022

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## Where and When?

When:	Monday, 23 May 2022, 14:00 - 18:00 GMT+1 Tuesday 24 May 2022, 08:30 - 17:00 GMT+1 Wednesday, 25 May 2022, 09:30 - 13:30 GMT+1
Venue:	Monday: Aula Maxima, University College Cork Tuesday, Wednesday: The Metropole Hotel Cork, Ireland
<b>Registration</b> :	Monday 23 May 2022 from 13:00 GMT+1
Working languages:	English + interpretation for remote participation in Czech Republic, and Portugal
Organised by:	The Council of Europe/EU Joint Child Participation4Europe project (CP4EUROPE project) implemented by the Children's Rights Division
	The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth of the Government of Ireland
	A Youth Advisory Group: a local youth advisory group will be established in Ireland to inform the programming
Any question to:	ChildParticipation4Europe@coe.int

#### Background

Ireland will hold the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for six months, from 20 May until mid-November 2022. 'Hear Our Voices' - Promoting participatory democracy and youth engagement in the 21st century' is one of three key themes of the Presidency.

The European Commission and Council of Europe Joint Project "<u>CP4Europe - Strengthening</u> <u>National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe</u> (April 2021-March 2023) is implemented by the Council of Europe Children's Rights Division in cooperation with its 5 partner countries - the Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Portugal and Slovenia. Its main objective is to create new and multiple opportunities for children across Europe to participate in individual decision-making processes through strong child participation mechanisms and practice at national and local level.

Promoting children's rights to participation is a priority of the Council of Europe <u>Strategy for</u> <u>the Rights of the Child 2016-2021</u> and it will be maintained as such in the new Strategy covering the period 2022-2027. The implementation of the CP4Europe project feeds into the range of actions taken to satisfy this priority both at European and national level, in accordance with the Council of Europe standards, notably the <u>Council of Europe</u> <u>Recommendation on participation of children and young people under the age of 18.</u>

The project promotes the use of European tools on child participation amongst member states, including the <u>Council of Europe Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT)</u> along with its <u>implementation guide</u>, as well as the <u>Handbook on children's participation for professionals</u> <u>working for and with children</u> launched in January 2021. These tools are used to assess the extent to which child participation is currently implemented and mainstreamed in each of the 5 countries involved, to promote stronger national and local child participation mechanisms, and to bridge the gap between theory and practice by training professionals on child participation methods and activities.

The present conference constitutes the mid-term international event organised in the framework of the CP4Europe project to ensure that child participation in decision making remains at the top of European and national agendas while fostering efficient co-operation between different institutional actors.

The Department of Children, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), Hub na nÓg and the National Participation Office provide advice and support across Government to include the voice of children and young people in decision-making. Ireland was the first country in Europe to have a dedicated <u>Strategy for the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-Making</u>.

<u>Hub na nÓg</u> is a centre of excellence established within government to build capacity across all sectors by providing training, support and advice for practitioners and policy makers. The Hub develops, documents and disseminates innovative international best practice on children and young people's participation in decision-making and partners with third-level and adult education institutions to build capacity among professionals. In collaboration with Professor Laura Lundy, policy makers, educators, police, social workers, healthcare providers and the voluntary sector, Hub na nÓg developed the <u>National Participation Framework</u> which sets out a pathway for policy makers and practitioners to ensure the meaningful participation of children and young people in decision making processes.

Young people from the <u>Young Voices</u> programme will also be supporting and participating in the conference. Young Voices is implemented by the National Youth Council of Ireland in partnership with the DCEDIY and the National Working Group on EU Youth Dialogue. Young Voices is a programme that offers ongoing opportunities for young people from age sixteen to thirty years who have an interest in change making. Within the flow of the 18 month cycle of the EU Presidency Young Voices work on thematic areas that are impacting on young people across the EU. Young people are consulted and given space to explore the issues with the ultimate goal of proposing actions that might have a positive outcome for young people at EU and National level.

### Monday, 23 May 2022, 14:00 - 17:00 (GMT+1) Venue: University College Cork, Aula Maxima

Moderator: Professor Ursula Kilkelly	
13:30-14:00	Registration
	Arrival of participants, registration and reception with live music!
14:00-14:15	Opening
	Welcome from Children Participants of CP4 Europe Project.
14:15-14:45	Keynote speakers
	<ul> <li>Minister Roderic O'Gorman TD, Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Ireland</li> <li>Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner on Human Rights – message read by Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion, Advisor to the Commissioner</li> </ul>
14:45-17:00	Panel session – How can Governments and Parliamentarians across Europe ensure that children and young people are included in decision-making processes in times of crisis including the pandemic, the climate crisis, war and the migrant crisis?
	<ul> <li>Panellists:</li> <li>Minister Roderic O'Gorman</li> <li>Baroness Massey, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (remote participation)</li> <li>Akshita Gupta, National Executive Member of Comhairle na nÓg</li> <li>Mair Kelly, Young Voices EU Youth Dialogue Member</li> <li>Alannah Wrynn, National Youth Assembly of Ireland</li> <li>Charlotte Altenhoener-Dion, Advisor to Council of Europe Commissioner on Human Rights</li> <li>Professor Conor O'Mahony, UCC, Irish Government Special Rapporteur on Child Protection</li> </ul>
17:00	Welcome from Professor John O'Halloran, President of UCC. Reception and finger food

#### Tuesday, 24 May 2022 09:00 - 17:00 (GMT+1) Venue: Metropole Hotel Cork

#### Moderators:

Stéphanie Burel, CP4 Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe & Council of Europe independent experts

	Registration
08:30	Arrival of participants, registration, and welcome coffee MCs: - David Giles, Young Voices EU Youth Dialogue Member - Holly Cotter Willows, Cork Comhairle na nÓg, (U18) - Treasa Cadogan, United Nations Youth Delegate Ireland
	Opening speech: The importance of child participation for our democracies/societies
09:00-09:25	<ul> <li>Ms Ruth Doggett, Principal Officer, representative of Ireland at the CDENF, Child Rights Policy Unit, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs</li> <li>Regina Jensdóttir, Coordinator for the Rights of the Child, Head of the Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe</li> <li>Marie -Cécile Rouillon, Coordinator on the Rights of the Child, European Commission</li> </ul>
	Come and Meet our Child Participation leaders from the Council of Europe CP4Europe Project!
09:25-09:30	<ul> <li>Stéphanie Burel, CP4 Europe, Senior Project Officer, Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe + CP4 Partners from Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Portugal &amp; Republic of Slovenia</li> </ul>
09:30-10:30	Session I -The Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT) and the importance of evaluating national child participation mechanisms and actions Moderators: Gerison Lansdown, and Cath Larkins, CP4 international experts

	<b>Improving child participation with the CPAT</b> Interactive session led by Gerison Lansdown and Cath Larkins, CP4 international experts with adults and children from the CP4 Partner Countries	
	Introduction (Cath Larkins, 10 mins)	
	- What is child participation?	
	- Why is it important to evaluate if and where children are involved in decisions that concern them?	
	- Q&A through the interactive platform AHA Slides!	
	<b>Brief presentation of the CPAT and its use at national level</b> (Gerison Lansdown, 15 mins) – Listen carefully so we can play together later on! Hackaton coming up!	
	- How does it work?	
	- Q&A through the interactive platform AHA Slides	
	In dialogue with CP4Europe Action Group I (Czech Republic, Portugal and Iceland) – What came out of the CPAT process?	
	<ul> <li>National delegations to prepare a slide which would represent a key finding of the CPAT process!</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Intergenerational dialogue with national delegations led by a child and moderated by the expert</li> </ul>	
	- Children who participated in the focus groups to explain what they liked, what they did not like and how they think their lives will be improved	
10:30-10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50-11:25	In dialogue with CP4Europe Action Group II (Finland and Slovenia) and Ireland – What changed after the CPAT process and what is being done now?	
	<ul> <li>National delegations to prepare a slide which would represent a key finding of the CPAT process!</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Intergenerational dialogue with national delegations moderated by the expert</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Children to explain to what extent and in what ways has the CPAT process was meaningful to them</li> </ul>	

11:25-12:15	Join the CP4 challenge: proving why and how child participation is working!
	- What is an outcome indicator?
	<ul> <li>Ice-breaking and interactive activities both online and offline to make people understand what is to be measured when talking about change in child participation frameworks (e.g. make people think about a time they were heard by adults when they were children)</li> </ul>
	- How do we know if child participation frameworks have improved?
	- What could these outcome indicators be?
	<ul> <li>Dialogue with the children and</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Chat bomb!</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Q&amp;A from the audience online and offline through the interactive platform AHA Slides</li> </ul>
12:15-13:30	Lunch break
	Session II – Looking for some ingredients to innovate with child participation
13:30- 15:00	Moderator: Luis Manuel Pinto, CP4 International expert
	<ul> <li>What was the most innovative experience of child participation you had during the project? Can you find greatness in 'simple' stories? Why were they innovative? What was the impact?</li> </ul>
	- Featured stories:
	$\circ$ Creating space for deaf children's views (Portugal)
	$_{\odot}$ Consulting children through a safe digital platform (Finland)
	$_{\odot}$ Involving all children in a national Children's Conference (Iceland)
	$\circ$ Children help establish a house for abuse victims (Slovenia)
	$\circ$ Children's council informs the programming of a museum (Ireland)
	• Children with mixed abilities become self-advocates (Czech Republic)

15:00-15:30	Session III -Child Participation European Tools Lab 1: Child Participation Leadership Network Moderators: Pippo and Caterina from Defence for Children Italy
	This session aims at sharing the state of the art in developing the structure of the "CP4Europe Child Participation Leadership Network" web platform, aimed at supporting the further development of child participation mechanisms and good practices across Europe, while actively consulting child and adult participants.
	<ul> <li>Where are we at? State of the art in the development of this project component</li> <li>Where are we going? Exploring a common reasoning around selected key questions through AHA slides</li> <li>Let's go together! What are the next steps?</li> </ul>
15:30-15:45	Break
15:45-17:00	Session IV – Child Participation European Tools Lab 2: Child Participation Campaign Package Moderators: International Institute on Children's Rights and Development with the Child Advisory Group
	This session will be used to co-design an awareness campaign that promotes child participation in our communities. The intergenerational group will work on storyboards, pitch ideas and record their own personal experiences with meaningful child participation. This is an active and hands-on creative space - we ask that everyone present is ready to participate!
17:00-17:15	Closing of the day's programme
17:15	Evening Programme
	<ul> <li>Tour of Cork, Dinner and Bowling for Young People</li> <li>Optional Dinner for Adult Delegates</li> </ul>

## Wednesday, 25 May 2022 09:30 - 13:30 (GMT+1)

9:00	Registration
	Start of the day
09:30	Professor Laura Lundy Presentation of the Lundy model (10 minutes) and Bairbre Meaney Head of Participation Unit Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth on the Irish Government's alignment with the Lundy Model
	Moderators - Council of Europe Young People
10:00-11:30	<ul> <li>Beyond Article 12: Bringing children and young people into adult spaces and youth led participation</li> <li>Chair: Adam Lambe, Deputy President ISSU and Young Voices EU Youth Dialogue Member</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Panellists:</li> <li>Carl Dwyer Murray- Outgoing Member of Comhairle na nÓg National</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Executive</li> <li>Stephen Murnane - National Youth Assembly of Ireland</li> <li>Emer Neville, President Irish Secondary Students Union</li> <li>Louis Ryan - First Fridays Ireland</li> <li>Diandra Ní Bhuachalla - United Nations Youth Delegate Ireland</li> <li>Spyros Papadatos, Council of Europe - Chair Advisory Council on Youth</li> </ul>
	Including Babies, Toddlers and Children under the age of 5 in Decision-Making
	<ul> <li>(video)</li> <li>Chair: Dr Anne-Marie Brooks, Assistant Secretary General, DCEDIY</li> </ul>
	• Panellists:
11:30-12:45	<ul> <li>Marion Kearney, Barnardos Knocknaheeny</li> <li>Janet Dennehy, Cork County Childcare Committee</li> <li>Dr Shirley Martin, UCC</li> <li>Dr Jane O'Sullivan, MTU</li> <li>Professor Emer Ring, MIC</li> </ul>
	Closing of the Conference
12:45	Questions from the audience and of the chat
13:00	Lara Hynes, Assistant Secretary General Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth
13:30	End of the conference