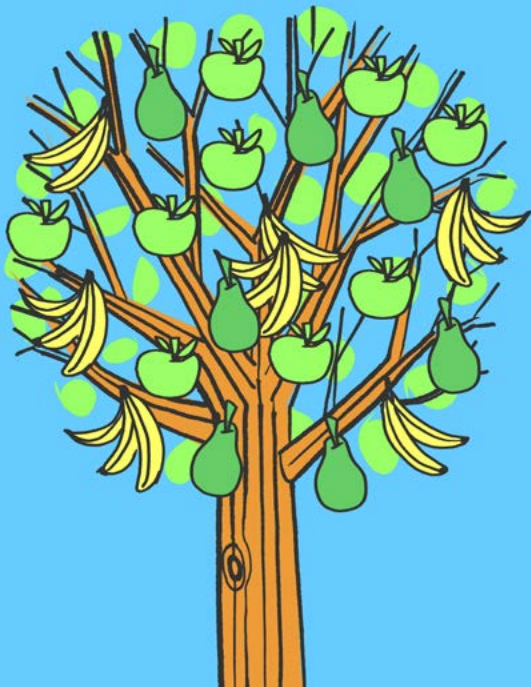


NextGen Europe: Unleashing Youth Voices

Feedback from the CP4 Europe Conference



This feedback document tells you about:

- The 8 conference recommendations on how to improve children's participation in Europe.
- Council of Europe's activities that connect to your ideas, because these support your recommendations.
- Ideas about further action.

CP4Europe was a 2-year project. Five countries worked with the Council of Europe to improve child participation. See www.coe.int/cp4europe

Child Participation means children take part in decisions and they help make change. Children are listened to and taken seriously.

The 2012 Recommendation is guidance from the Council of Europe about how member states should make sure children are included in decisions.

This document was co-created with young people in connection with the Council of Europe – European Union Joint Project “CP4Europe – Strengthening Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe”. Design by Cath Larkins. Illustrations by mistermunro.co.uk. Produced with the financial assistance of 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 Council of Europe or the European Union.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The CP4Europe conference recommended that the Council of Europe and member states should:

1. Global Warming

Include children when deciding what to do about global warming.

Children's ideas should be listened to because the state of the planet will have a direct impact on their future.



In 2020, 6 young people asked the **European Court of Human Rights** to take action against 33 member states who are not doing enough on climate change.

2. Welcoming Refugees

Create a safer atmosphere.

Include children from all over the world in consultations about what support they need.



The Council of Europe has a plan that tries to safeguard children's rights and strengthen all children's involvement in consultations. It is called the **Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027)** or **SRC for short**.

3. Stronger Participation

Create more ways to make sure children are included in decisions.

Use the things made during the CP4Europe conference to help. Create national networks involving adults and children who support child participation. Evaluate what is achieved.



In the 2012 Recommendation, the Council of Europe encourages member states to do better children's participation. Children should be able to share their ideas about how they should be heard.

The CP4Europe conference recommended that the Council of Europe and member states should:

4. Inclusion

Make sure all children with disabilities have free access to all services and supportive professionals.

Officially recognise all inclusive languages, for example Sign Language.



The 2012 Recommendation on children's participation gives guidance to member states. It tells them to make sure participation is inclusive, for all children.

5. Safety

Make sure children are protected from violence. They should have places where they are respected by adults and can speak freely.

Check up on the adults working with children. Keep an eye on what is going on to make sure they are safe.



The Council of Europe encourages member states to protect children from all forms of violence.

The SRC recommends safe spaces for children to speak out. It also encourages all organisations working with children to develop child safeguarding policies.

6. Digital Education

Make sure that education systems are adapted to technology.

This means that the education system is oriented towards children's future.



The Council of Europe encourages digital citizenship education.

In the SRC, member states should make sure that all children have access to technology.

The CP4Europe conference recommended that the Council of Europe and member states should:

7. Training for adults about children's participation

Provide guidance and training to national governments.

Help them create national action plans for child participation, adapted to national contexts.



The CP4Europe project created things that will help train adults – the campaign, the Moodle and handbooks. Look at www.CP4Europe.org.

The 2012 Recommendation on children's participation gives member states guidance. It tells them to make sure participation is inclusive.

8. Feedback and Monitoring

Tell us how the ideas developed in CP4Europe will be taken forward.

Try out the CPAT indicators created in CP4Europe.



This is a feedback document from the CP4Europe project. Look at the green box to see other actions. The CPAT is promoted on www.CP4Europe.org.

What action will happen now?

The CP4Europe project has finished. But, the Council of Europe will:

- Share the conference recommendations with member states of the Council of Europe through the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child.
- Use the conference recommendations to help decide what to do next.
- Encourage other member states to use the CPAT and CPAT indicators.

You can also think about taking action:

Can you tell your government about these recommendations? Or share them with a campaign or participation group that you are part of?