



CP4 EUROPE

'Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe'

kick-off event in Finland



Building a Europe
for and with children
Construire une Europe
pour et avec les enfants

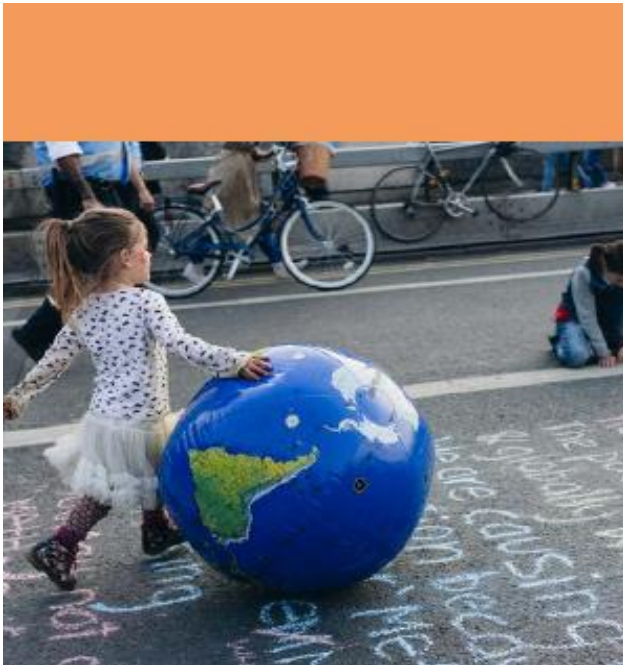
Marine Braun
Senior Project Officer
Council of Europe

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NEW! ACTION TO STRENGTHEN CHILD PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVELS!



CP4 EUROPE

‘Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe’

Implementation

- **24-months** from the **1st April 2021** until **31st March 2023**
- Funded by the **European Commission (DG JUST –Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme**
- **Council of Europe** act as **project coordinator**
- **5 project partners** from the Czech Republic, Iceland, Portugal (Action group 1), Slovenia and Finland (Action group 2)

Aim

Strengthen national child participation frameworks and action in the partner countries and in Europe

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Expected achievements

Implementation of the Child Participation Assessment Tool (CPAT) in more countries to know where they stand (Action group 1)

→ *national training and induction seminars and analysis of child participation mechanisms and practice*

Innovative child participation activities and tools for 2 countries who already used the CPAT and can work on its findings (Action group 2)

→ *national training and workshops, develop training material and national strategies and action plans*

A range of European resources for further dissemination of good practice

→ *model national strategies, handbooks, checklists and training material*

A European “child participation leadership network”

→ *further dissemination of child participation mechanisms and good practices in Europe - new webpage to facilitate the sharing of resources and experiences.*

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WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?



General challenges

- Involving all stakeholders according to their capacities
- Raising the political willingness needed
- Spreading the key messages widely: across sectorial ministries and administrative levels
- Developing child safeguarding policies that are comprehensive and that work

Specific challenges

In these times of COVID-19:

- Reaching out to children in confinement
- Getting children involved in your activities: children will not only surprise you but they will inspire you
- Getting different stakeholder to interact while working at a distance
- Assigning resources to such activities which are not always considered as most urgent

“We should be allowed to voice our opinions on when schools should reopen. It is our future so it should be out choice”

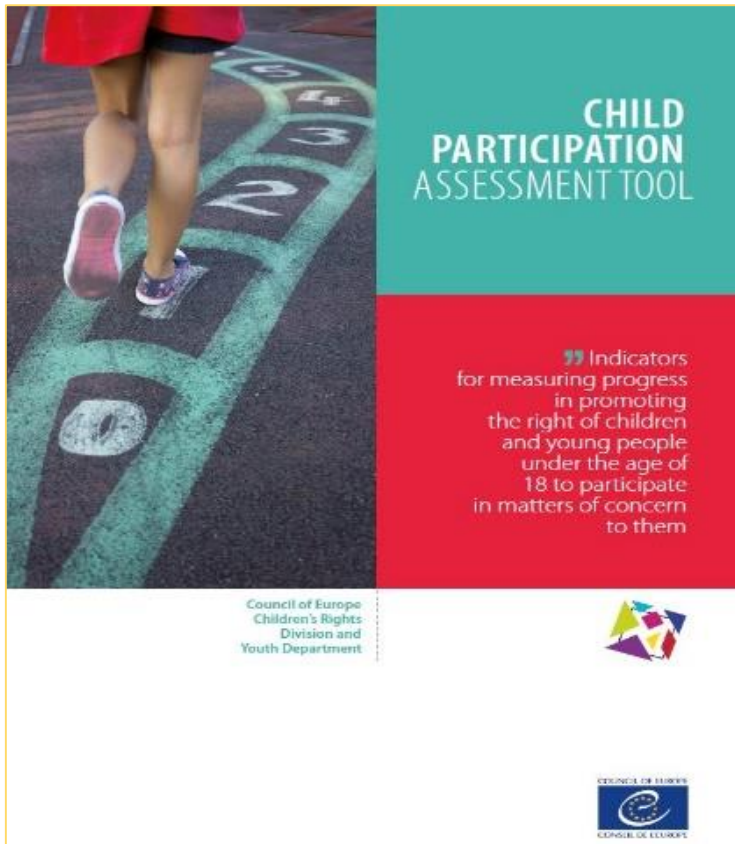
(Girl, 15, South Africa) [#COVIDUnder19](#)

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THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE OFFERS PIONEERING CHILD PARTICIPATION TOOLS



✓ A Council of Europe Recommendation on the participation of children and young people : the kick off of our work

✓ The Child Participation Assessment Tool and its implementation guide

- The CPAT tool was tested and used in 9 countries under 3 work cycles: Estonia, Ireland, Romania / Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia / Slovenia, Finland and Malta (plus Armenia at its own initiative)
- The tool contributes to reinforcing participation at national and European level
- The child-friendly version of the tool is in progress. It will further improve processes involving children

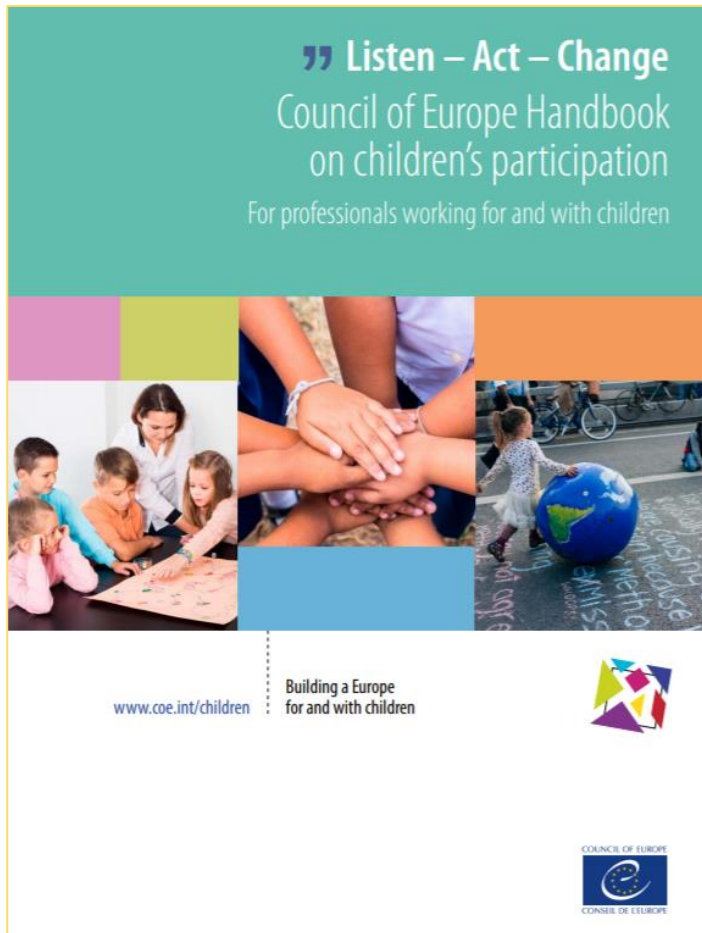
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NEW!



✓ Listen, Act, Change: The CoE Handbook on children's participation for professionals

- Published in January 2021 and accessible online
- It is meant to be a hands-on tool **for people who work with children in a professional capacity**, for example in schools, hospitals, alternative care settings, child protection services, and other social services.
- To improve professionals' capacities and skills to **“listen” to children**, to **“act” upon the lessons learned** and to **“change” any decision making** involving or concerning children.

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AND NOW ACTION WITH AND FOR THE CHILDREN !



Next steps

- Talk to children and involve them, they are the experts
- Include children in the process of developing, designing and implementing your State's specific strategies at national or local level
- Be creative, initiate change and think outside the box
- Use the tools that are at your disposal
- Count on the Council of Europe to support you

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Thank you for your attention

www.coe.int/CP4EUROPE



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