

INVITATION  
24 January 2020

## **Rights of children and young people to participate and their promotion in Finland**

**Closing seminar of the pilot project: Council of Europe tool for assessing progress in promoting the rights of children and young people under the age of 18 to participate**

**Time:** 29 January 2020 at 9.00–12.30

**Venue:** Säätytalo (House of the Estates), Room 3, Snellmaninkatu 9–11, Helsinki

*How well does the Finnish legislation guarantee the rights of children to participate in decision-making? What kinds of structures and systems exist in Finland for ensuring the participation of children and young people? Are children themselves aware of their rights and do they think the channels for their participation are working?*

In 2016, the Council of Europe introduced an assessment tool to help member states measure their progress in ensuring the participation of children and young people under the age of 18. The assessment tool was tested in Finland in 2019 in a pilot project, carried out by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of the Interior, Office of the Ombudsman for Children, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations, Central Union for Child Welfare and Mannerheim League for Child Welfare.

The Ministry of Justice will organise a closing seminar for the pilot project. A draft report approved by the project steering group will be presented at the seminar, and further measures to advance the rights of children and young people to participate will be discussed.

### **Inquiries:**

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Read more about the project (in Finnish): <https://oikeusministerio.fi/hanke?tunnus=OM001:00/2019>

***Please note! Seminar participants are requested to arrive well in advance of the program and to allow sufficient time for security check. The security check will verify the participants' identity (photo ID to be provided).***

## **Welcome!**



*With co-funding from  
the Council of Europe*

## PROGRAMME

*The languages of the seminar will be Finnish and English (no interpretation will be available).*

*The seminar will be chaired by Johanna Suurpää, Director General and Head of Department at the Ministry of Justice.*

- 8.30 Registration and coffee**
- 9.30 Opening words**  
*Johanna Suurpää, Director General, Head of Department, Ministry of Justice*
- 9.15 Presentation of the assessment report “Consulted but not Heard” and results of the pilot project**  
*Liisa Männistö, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Justice*
- 9.35 Comments**  
*Mari Väistö, Child Participation Coordinator, Central Union for Child Welfare*  
*Jenni Helenius, Program Manager, Mannerheim League for Child Welfare*  
*Mari Sjöström, Senior Adviser, Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities*  
*Marjo Malja, Senior Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health*
- 10.15 Q&A and discussion**
- 10.35 Break**
- 10.50 Good practices and recommendations from assessment projects in other Council of Europe Member States**  
*Maren Lambrecht-Feigl, Programme Officer, Children’s Rights Division, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe*
- 11.10 National strategy for children and children’s right to participate**  
*Johanna Laisaari, Secretary General, Prime Minister’s Office*
- 11.25 Panel discussion: How to use the results of the assessment project and what happens next**  
*Matias Mäkiranta, Chairperson, Union of Local Youth Councils in Finland Nuva ry*  
*Kirsi Pollari, Expert on the national strategy for children*  
*Terhi Tuukkanen, Senior Researcher, Office of the Ombudsman for Children*  
*Niklas Wilhelmsson, Head of Unit, Ministry of Justice*
- 12.10 Closing words**  
*Maren Lambrecht-Feigl, Programme Officer, Children’s Rights Division, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe*  
*Johanna Suurpää, Director General, Head of Department, Ministry of Justice*
- 12.30 Closing of the seminar**