



# EU CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION PLATFORM

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26-27 June 2023, Brussels

# Welcome!



**#EUChildParticipation**



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## Concept Note



**Children have the right to express their views and be taken seriously.**

*UN Convention of the Rights of the Child  
Article 12 and the EU Charter of  
Fundamental Rights Article 24*

### What's the big idea?

Did you know that all children, everywhere, have the right to express their views, thoughts and opinions on matters that concern them and matters they are interested in? Not only that. Children have the right for their opinions and views to be considered and taken seriously by adults in important decisions. This includes you!

**You** have the right to share **your** views and for these views to be taken into account by adults in important decisions.

You will have an opportunity to do just that at the General Assembly. It is the first event of its kind under the EU Children's Participation Platform, gathering adults and children from all around Europe. At the General Assembly, children and adults will discuss important issues, learn more about the European Union (EU for short) and how children can be a part of it and help shape the future and direction of the EU Children's Participation Platform.

The General Assembly is organised by the EU Children's Participation Platform that empowers children to be active citizens and members of democratic societies. We are so happy you are here!

The EU Children's Participation Platform is there for children in Europe to share their advice and participate in fun activities, like the General Assembly.

## So... where and when?

The first EU Children's Participation Platform General Assembly will happen in **Brussels, Belgium in the Albert Borschette Congress Centre on Monday, 26 and Tuesday, 27 June 2023.**

## What will happen?

At the General Assembly you will be able to:

- Meet children from all over Europe and make new friends.
- Discuss with children and adults how to make important decisions in the European Union on issues that you care about.
- Investigate topics that matter to you and improve your skills in democratic participation and debating while having fun!

During the General Assembly, you will be able to share your views, opinions, questions and ideas. We will keep you informed about how your views were considered by adults working in the European Union and the EU Children's Participation Platform. At the General Assembly, you will also learn new things about the European Union and what it means to actively participate in the life of the EU.

In the preparation of the event, we asked the Children's Panel to help us. The Children's Panel is a group of children who advise the work of the Platform and who you will meet in person here at the General Assembly. They helped us design the General Assembly. They also helped us choose main topics we will discuss.

We know you have travelled far so thank you for being with us!  
We are very excited that you are here!

## Your safety is key

Your well-being and safety are very important to us. All adults participating in this event know how to keep you safe, comfortable and happy. So, if you have any questions, you can always ask:

- your accompanying adult – they are here for you.
- adults in orange T-shirts – they are helping to organise the event.
- adults in red T-shirts – they are here to make sure everyone is safe, all the time.

If you are interested, we have some more information about how to keep yourself and your peers safe on pages 9-10



## Who will be there?

The main participants at the event are **children!** But, there are many adults working behind the scenes together with children to make this event happen.

- The **European Commission represented by the Directorate-General of Justice and Consumers team** is organising the event. They are wearing **orange T-shirts**.
- The **EU Children's Participation Platform team** is helping to organise the event. They are also wearing **orange T-shirts**.
- **Safety experts** are there to help you and make sure that you feel safe, comfortable and having fun. They are wearing **red T-shirts**. You can speak to them directly, or you can call or text (WhatsApp) them: +33 611 19 45 82
- **Adults accompanying children** are wearing **white T-shirts**.
- **Adults working in the EU and other children's rights organisations** are coming from all over Europe to listen to and learn from children. They are wearing **blue T-shirts**.
- The **Children's Panel** is a group of children coming from 12 European countries who advise the Platform team and helped co-create the General Assembly. They are wearing **green**. **Same as you!**



European Commission represented by the Directorate-General of Justice and Consumers team

EU Children's Participation Platform team



Safety experts



Adults accompanying children



Adults working in the EU institutions, national governments and children's rights organisations

Children

## How does it work?

The General Assembly will be organised in line with three top priorities decided by the Children's Panel:



### Connect and engage with other children

You will be able to connect with children coming from across Europe and make friends through teambuilding games and icebreakers.




### Gain new skills & knowledge

You will have the opportunity to learn more about children's rights and democratic participation in the EU.



### Making a change

You will be able to share your thoughts and ideas about the EU Children's Participation Platform and especially its activity programme and help guide its future.



We look forward to meeting you very soon!

## Are you interested to know more?

[Read more](#) about the EU Children's Participation Platform.  
[Read more](#) about children's rights.



# Programme

26 June 2023

- Children ●
- Accompanying adults ●
- Member State representatives ●
- Other adult participants ●
- Thematic experts ●

TIMING	SESSION	ROOM	PARTICIPANTS
8.30-9.30	<b>Arrival and registration at Centre Albert Borschette</b>	Entrance	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span> <span style="color: #004A99;">●</span> <span style="color: #FF7F50;">●</span>
	<b>OPENING SESSION</b> <b>Welcome to the EU Children's Participation Platform!</b> This is the big start and welcome. The session is led by the members of the <b>Children's Panel</b> who will introduce you to the event and child participation. They will also want to hear from you what expectations you have participating in the General Assembly. You will listen to a conversation between children and adults, including adults working at the EU institutions:  <i><b>Dubravka Šuica</b> (Vice-President of the European Commission), <b>Milan Brglez</b> (Member of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the Child Rights Intergroup of the European Parliament), and <b>Ana Gallego</b> (Director-General for Justice at the European Commission).</i>	Room 0A, ground floor	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span> <span style="color: #004A99;">●</span> <span style="color: #FF7F50;">●</span>
11.00-11.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor Groundfloor	<span style="color: #00C853;">●</span> <span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #004A99;">●</span> <span style="color: #FF7F50;">●</span>
	<b>Creating connections across Europe</b> Time to get to know each other. In this session you will be divided into smaller groups where you will be doing some ice-breaking and teambuilding activities. Together you will also reflect on the event and find some common rules for working together.	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span>
11.30-12.30	<b>Creating connections between generations</b> In this session, Member States representatives will discuss and learn together about how to safely and meaningfully interact, communicate and work together with children.	Room 0A, ground floor	<span style="color: #004A99;">●</span> <span style="color: #FF7F50;">●</span>
12.30-14.00	<b>Lunch break</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> floor	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span> <span style="color: #004A99;">●</span>
14.00-15.00	<b>EU, me &amp; you</b> In this session, you will explore what the EU means for all of us. This session will be focused on children's rights in the EU. You will also investigate together with representatives of national governments from countries across Europe what and how child participation is in the EU.	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span> <span style="color: #004A99;">●</span>
15.00-15.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	
15.30-18.00	<b>Visit to the European Parliament</b> At the Invitation of the Vice President and European Parliament Coordinator on Children's Rights, we will go together to visit the European Parliament and learn about its function.	Departure from 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span>
15.30-17.00	<b>Lessons learnt</b>	Room 0A, ground floor	<span style="color: #004A99;">●</span>
18.00-21.00	<b>Evening programme</b>	Hotel/Other	<span style="color: #FFFFFF;">●</span> <span style="color: #00C853;">●</span>

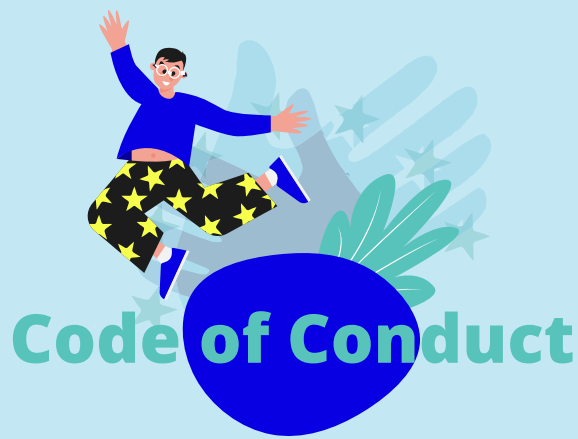
\* For the sessions where you read only the floor, you will find clear signs that show the rooms.

\*\* Breakfast and dinner will mostly take place at the hotel or in other locations. We will let you know about that when you arrive.



TIMING	SESSION	ROOM	PARTICIPANTS
8.30 - 9.00	<b>Arrival at Centre Albert Borschette</b>	Entrance	● ●
9.00 - 10.00	<b>Warm up</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ●
10.00 - 11.00	<b>Introduction to thematic workshops</b> You will hear about the five topics of the next thematic workshops. You will be invited to choose to participate in the workshop you like the most.	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ● ●
11.00 - 11.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ● ●
<b>Thematic workshops:</b>			
	<p><b>1. Children's rights</b> - This theme includes children's wellbeing and mental health, access to care services such as afterschool services, play, leisure and healthy eating. You will hear about creating environments that allow children to learn, grow, achieve and succeed.</p> <p><b>2. Children for a fairer and greener Europe</b> - You will get to know different ways of children's inclusion in decision making processes and green activism. This workshop is about how to make our life greener with adapting healthier, more sustainable attitudes.</p>		
11.30 - 13.00	<p><b>3. Protection from violence</b> - You will learn about the promotion of child rights and the prevention of violence against children. This workshop will focus on raising awareness on child protection measures and giving children with disabilities a voice.</p> <p><b>4. Child poverty</b> - This topic includes child poverty and the EU Child Guarantee as an instrument of change. You will learn about tackling child poverty amongst more vulnerable groups of children and the European Pillar of Social Rights.</p> <p><b>5. Co-creating consultations</b> - In this group, you will learn about what the EU does to keep children safe and what are the Integrated Child Protection Systems, and how they work. You can help us to design ways of hearing children's ideas about how people could better work together to keep children safe.</p>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ● ●
13.00 - 14.00	<b>Lunch break</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> floor	● ● ●
14.00 - 15.00	<b>Continuation of thematic workshops</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ● ●
15.00 - 15.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> floor	● ● ●
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Sharing our learning</b> Following all the discussions you have done in the session before, now it's time to present it to the other children from other working groups.	Room 0D, ground floor	● ● ● ●
16.00 - 17.00	<p><b>CLOSING SESSION</b> We will all come together to hear the ideas that you have decided to present from the previous session, with input from the <b>Children's Panel</b> and adults working at the EU:</p> <p><b>Didier Reynders</b> (European Commissioner for Justice),  <b>Ewa Kopacz</b> (Vice-President and Coordinator on children's rights of the European Parliament) and  <b>Ana Gallego</b> (Director-General for Justice at the European Commission).</p>	Room 0D, ground floor	● ● ● ●





# Code of Conduct

To make sure everyone enjoys and feels safe at the General Assembly, all children and adults must follow these rules:

**Treat others as you would like to be treated.**

Make sure that what you say is respectful and kind.

**Make sure that you listen and allow space for everyone to participate equally.**

Everyone should feel welcome and respected regardless of their views, opinions and background.

**Speak slowly and clearly so that everyone understands.**

Remember that General Assembly participants come from different countries and speak different languages. It is OK to repeat important information.

**Dress appropriately and in a way that makes you feel comfortable.**

**Make sure that your guardian always knows where you are.**

Your guardian is responsible for you and your safety.

**Protect the environment and keep our surroundings clean.**

Please pick up your trash and treat the event venue, your hotel and other places you might visit with respect.

**Think about what you post on social media.**

Once posted, it stays there forever. Please remember not to take photos or record others without their permission.

**No alcohol and other illegal substances are allowed.**

**When you want to ask a question, ask it.**

**Be yourself! Have fun! Make friends!**

**What can I do to help make sure that these rules are followed?**

If you notice that someone needs our help, please notify an adult in an orange or red T-Shirt.

**How do I know that I am acting in line with these rules?**

If you are ever in doubt about the right action or behaviour, you can first ask yourself if your or someone else's behaviour is respectful towards others? If you are still not sure, you can speak to your guardian or an adult in an orange or red T-shirt. Adults in red T-shirts are safety experts and they are there to help you and make sure that you feel safe, comfortable and having fun! You can speak to them directly, or you can call or text them:

**(WhatsApp) +33 611 19 45 82**



## A safe General Assembly for everyone!

To make sure that you enjoy the General Assembly and that you always feel and are safe, comfortable and happy, please read this information.

The General Assembly is organised by the EU Children's Participation Platform that empowers children to be active citizens and members of democratic societies.

We are so happy you are here!

Everyone at the General Assembly understands that all children have a right to a say and will put it into practice.

The Children's Panel, a group of children who advise the work of the Platform, helped us design the activities of the General Assembly and will help us deliver different sessions, discussions and workshops that everyone will participate in. This is to make sure that children are leading the event, and not adults. We are here to help and support you and hear your opinions!

Remember, **you have a right to be heard**. This means that during the General Assembly you can share your thoughts, ideas and questions freely. Remember, there are no bad ideas and no wrong questions!

Remember, **you always have a choice**. This means that during the General Assembly, you can choose:

- which sessions you want to participate in
- when you speak and when you don't
- who you speak to
- what you say

Remember, **your opinions matter**. This means that we will take what you say at the General Assembly seriously. The Platform team will use what you say to develop and improve the EU Children's Participation Platform. We will use what you say to make a plan of activities that the Platform will organise for children across Europe, including you.

After the General Assembly, we will also ask you what went well, what you would change and your suggestions to make it even better the next time.

All adults present at the General Assembly who are helping to organise the event are wearing orange or red T-shirts. Adults in red T-shirts are safety experts and they are there to help you and make sure that you feel safe, comfortable and having fun!

**Your safety is very important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, you can speak to your guardian or an adult in an orange or red T-shirt. You can also call or text (WhatsApp) the General Assembly safety expert: [+33 611 19 45 82](tel:+33611194582)**

All adults will make sure that your participation and participation of all present children is:

- **Meaningful** – we will listen to what you and all children have to say and we will take it seriously.
- **Inclusive** – we will make sure that you and all children feel included in all discussions.
- **Safe** – we will make sure that you and all children have a safe space, in each session, in which you can speak freely.

