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Newsletter - March 2024



NEW ONLINE SURVEY FOR CHILDREN



We Want to Hear from Children About Democracy

We are asking children and teenagers across Europe what they think about different ways of participating in democracy, voting and where they get information from.

Help spread the message. Invite children in your network to take the survey.

If you are a member of the Platform, please encourage children in your organisation to tell us directly how they engage in democracy, by participating in an interview or a group discussion with other children. You can express interest here: cpp@icf.com

[Get the survey in the EU language of your choice](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Website Co-creation Underway!

As part of Work Plan Topic 3, we tested websites with children during the General Assembly, Advisory Board meetings and in a Brussels school. We have a dedicated Website Co-creation Team with teens from Bulgaria and Italy too.

In total, we have consulted, run user tests or quizzed nearly 100 children. They have given us some very interesting and useful input that is being used to develop the next version of our website.

First results of the consultations

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Call for proposals reminder:

- [EU Action grants for child rights and participation](#): Focus areas include children's mental health, promoting children's engagement, and improving understanding of democratic rights.

Deadline for submission: 26 March 2024.

- [Call for proposals to prevent violence against children](#): The EU is seeking innovative projects that address violence against children. Priority is given to projects that help improve integrated child protection systems.

Deadline for submission: 24 April 2024.

INITIATIVES AND RESOURCES

With the upcoming European elections in June, democracy, voting and engaging with children and youth are important topics right now! Here's what's happening outside the Platform:

- **Event:** Get ready for the [2024 European Youth Week](#) from 12–19 April, focused on democratic participation and elections. Celebrate youth engagement and active citizenship with activities across Europe.
- **Event:** The [LevelUP! 2024 conference](#) will take place on 12–13 April 2024, organised by the European Youth Forum. Participants will explore how to boost participation in democracy together with experts and organisations. Registration is closed but you can get updates on the activities [here](#).
- **Resource:** The EU Learning Corner has published a [leaflet and other materials for first-time EU-election voters](#) in all EU languages. It encourages participation in the 2024 European elections (6–9 June), explains voting rights, the role of MEPs, and encourages youth engagement in debates and events.
- **Resource:** The Commission produced animated [online guidelines on EU Citizenship](#) in all EU languages. It explains what it means to be or become a European Citizen, and the rights and opportunities.
- **Tool:** The revamped [Have Your Say portal](#) is a hub for citizens, businesses, and stakeholders to engage in EU policymaking. It provides opportunities for both organisations and individual children to contribute with the help of adults. Initiatives include:
 - [European Citizens' Panels](#) which bring together 150 randomly selected citizens from all EU Member States to discuss

important topics, and provide suggestions to the European Commission and European Parliament. The first panels address energy efficiency and combatting hate-speech.

- The [Citizens' Engagement Platform](#) for citizens to contribute online to EU-level discussions on important upcoming EU proposals that affect us all.
- **Report:** Discover the [latest analysis](#) from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) on child protection systems across the EU. Despite progress, children's rights are not fully safeguarded, and there are differences across countries.
- **Event:** 16–26-year-olds who are passionate about sustainability, can join the [Youth Climate LAB's peer-learning world café](#). Six sessions between February and October 2024 will explore the role of Artificial Intelligence in climate education, culminating in the Education for Climate Day 2024 on 5 June.

WE WERE THERE



A group of [scouts from Italy](#) visited the Commission in February. We spoke about what the EU means for young people, what are the advantages of the EU citizenship and why child participation is so important for decision making processes and democracy.



We also met with a group of young French ambassadors of the [Strasbourg Youth Council](#). The Council is a consultation space for children aged 11-15 to give recommendations to the municipality. We talked about EU citizenship, democracy, and of course, the Platform.

OUR COMMUNITY

Building the EU Child Participation Community

A very warm welcome to our recent new [Platform Members](#):

- Save the Children Denmark
- Jugendparlament Luxembourg
- SOS Villages d'Enfants France
- Estonian Union for Child Welfare (MTÜ Lastekaitse Liit)
- Tice Cooperativa Sociale Italy
- The Slovenia Foundation for UNICEF
- UNICEF Austria
- World Vision Brussels & EU Representation

We are happy to welcome new EU member organisations at any time.

[More on membership](#)

WHAT'S NEXT

Coming Up From the Platform

- **March 2024:** In parallel with the democracy consultations, child members will join two online workshops focusing on what democracy means for children, media literacy and fact-checking. Want to learn more? We will publish a child-friendly document based on the ideas collected in these workshops.
- **April 2024:** Our Advisory Board will meet for the fourth time. Child and adult Board members will discuss how to further shape the Platform, the website and how to engage more children. They will also meet with Commission representatives and civil-society organisations that work to promote child rights all over Europe.
- **June 2024:** The last mutual learning activity of the Platform's first Work Plan is coming! In June, children will have a chance to join an in-person meeting in Brussels to share their thoughts on what the Platform has achieved and plan the next steps. Stay tuned for more information.

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