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Newsletter - December 2023



FIRST ANNIVERSARY



**The Platform Turns One!**

It's our first birthday! In October we celebrated a year full of firsts promoting child participation across Europe. In this first year alone, we:

1. Co-created our Work Plan with children;
2. Had our first Advisory Board meeting with children;
3. Held our first General Assembly in Brussels;
4. Heard children's voices on how to keep them safe, in our first consultation.

Thanks to our members, partners, and experts, and above all, to EU children and teenagers for your support!



## **We Have a Plan!**

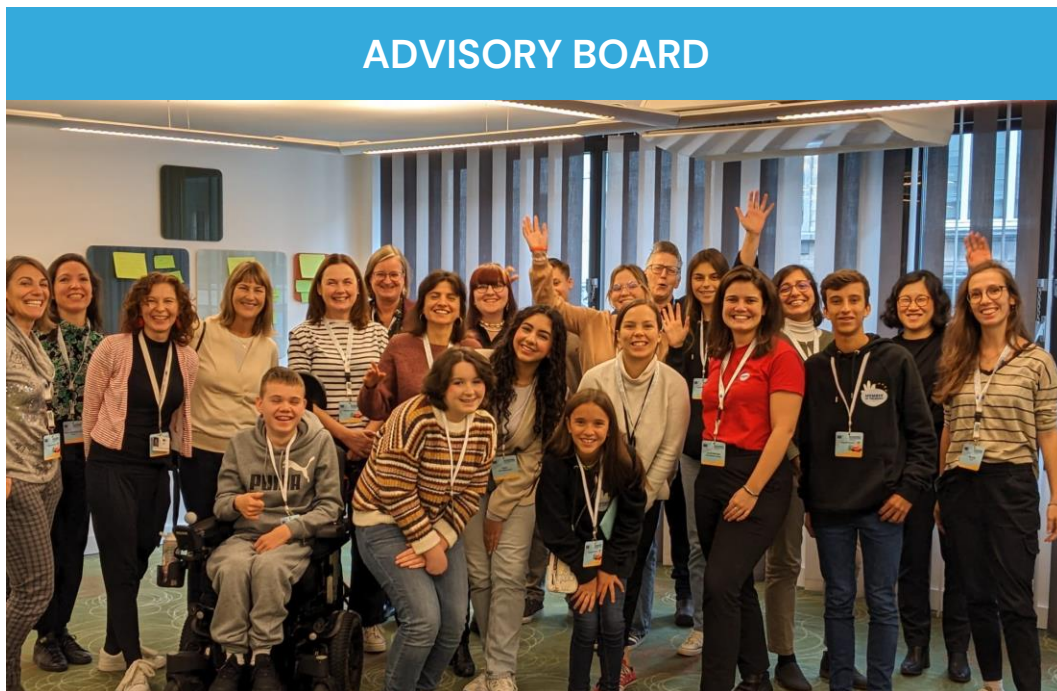
Our mission is to include children in the decision-making processes happening across the EU and help ensure that the issues they care about are addressed.

Our 2023-2024 Work Plan covers some of those key issues through four topics:

1. Feeling safe;
2. Democracy and voting;
3. The Platform's website;
4. What worked, what didn't, and what we want to do next?

**Read our Work Plan\***

\*(In English) – Available in all EU languages on the website in early 2024.



### **Advisory Board Meets to Guide Us Forward**

The Platform's Advisory Board met for the third time in Brussels on 22–23 October 2023. This was the first time that children joined as Board Members.

The Board meets twice a year to guide the Platform's development and ongoing improvement. They discussed how to work together to increase impact, decided how the Board will work together as a group, reviewed and approved the Work Plan, and brainstormed on how to engage more children and organisations in the Platform's activities.

## [Read the Advisory Board meeting report\\*](#)

\*(In English)

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- A new [call for proposals](#) for EU action grants in the field of child rights and child participation is open for project applications that focus on:
  - Children's mental health;
  - Including a child's rights perspective nationally and locally;
  - Promoting children's engagement and participation;
  - Improving children's understanding of democratic rights.

Deadline for submission: 26 March 2024.

- A [call for proposals](#) is coming up to address violence against children. This call invites innovative projects that can contribute to making an impact in this area. As part of our commitment to child protection, one of the key priorities is to make integrated child protection systems a reality.

Planned opening date: 12 December 2023.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### What children need to feel safe

The results are in from our first consultation. 1,095 children and teenagers across the EU shared their thoughts on what they need to feel safer.

They told us about the importance of being heard and informed about risks, and the ways they would like to get help when they need it. They want more actions to protect their mental health, and to be safe everywhere, including online.

## Read a short summary of initial findings\*

\*(In English) – More details and full report on the website in early 2024

### We have won an award!



The Platform won a clear writing award from the European Commission for the General Assembly's external communications. The award spotlights well-written, clear content with special attention to target audiences and accessible documents. A couple of the award-winning documents (in English):

- [Welcome Pack](#)
- [Report: short version](#)

## INITIATIVES AND RESOURCES

- **Survey:** Children under 18 can participate in the [The Europe Kids Want survey](#) developed by a Children's Advisory Group together with UNICEF, Eurochild, Save the Children, ChildFund Alliance, and SOS Children's Villages. Closing date: 14 January 2024.
- **Tools:** Visit the [CP4EUROPE website](#) for useful child participation tools and information, including training

opportunities and interactive courses such as: Planning a Collective Participation Process with Children.

- **Report:** A [UNICEF report](#) explains how the EU's decisions affect children, how the 2024 European Parliament elections are a key moment for the future of Europe's youth and children, and delivers three key messages for European political parties.
- **Report:** A new [Eurochild report](#) provides an overview on children in need across Europe and suggests ways to address issues such as child poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, health, online safety and early childhood services.

## WE WERE THERE

### World Mental Health Day



On World Mental Health Day, 10 October, the EU Commission hosted a conference in Brussels with people from EU institutions, national governments, and civil society.

The focus was to discuss ways to address mental health, including considerations for children and young people. The Platform was there to represent children's voices in this area which is very important for them.

[Read more](#)

### Education for Climate Day



The Platform joined an event for Education for Climate Day 2023 on 15 November to discuss climate education issues, innovative green solutions, and policy action.

During the interactive session, the Platform was presented to the Education for Climate Coalition, including what children would like to do for a fairer and greener Europe.

[Learn more](#)

## OUR COMMUNITY

### Building the EU child participation community

Explore our [Members page](#) to see which organisations across Europe have joined the Platform.

The Platform is an opportunity to participate in EU-level decision-making and join an EU-wide child participation community.

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

[More on membership](#)

## WHAT'S NEXT

## Coming up from the Platform:

- **December 2023:** The first online meeting of the website co-creation team will be held (Topic 3). This group of teenagers will provide perspectives and feedback for the scoping and development of the next phase of the Platform's website.
- **January 2024** – Activities on the second topic of the Platform: democratic participation & voting kicks off with an EU-wide consultation. The consultation includes an online survey, interviews, and focus groups. Any child living in the EU Member States can take part in the survey. If you are a Platform member, and the children you work with would like to participate in the interviews or focus groups, you can express interest here: [cpp@icf.com](mailto:cpp@icf.com).
- **January 2024** – Webinar to share and discuss the findings from the first consultations on child safety (Topic 1). Registered Platform members will receive more information about the webinar via email, including the schedule, access links, and additional resources.

[Read more about our Work Plan topics](#)

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