



EU Children's Participation Platform

# **WORK PLAN 2025-2026**

## **#EUChildParticipation**

December 2024



## WHAT IS THE WORK PLAN?

The Work Plan helps us understand and organise what the Platform will be doing over the next two years. This plan will guide us to get views and opinions from lots of children in the European Union (EU for short), and help to get their voices heard by EU policymakers.

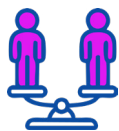
## HOW WAS THE WORK PLAN MADE?

Over the last two years, children proposed various topics that the Platform could work on. That happened during the first General Assembly in June 2023, meetings of the [Advisory Board](#) and the Children's Panel, and the [Create, Plan, Participate](#) meeting that took place in June 2024. At that meeting in June we:

- > Looked back at what the Platform had worked on based on the [2023-2024 Work Plan](#).
- > Looked ahead to brainstorm and discuss what should be in this 2025-2026 Work Plan.

Children shared what matters most to them. Based on all their input, [we then put together a list of important topics](#) for the future and matched them with the [European Commission's priorities](#). The children's voices directly shaped the four key areas of focus for 2025-2026, ensuring the Work Plan reflects their priorities and leads to concrete actions.

## WHAT DOES THE 2025-2026 WORK PLAN FOCUS ON?



- > **Equal opportunities and social inclusion:** Looking at children's access to good education, healthcare, and housing.



- > **Online safety:** How to help protect children on the internet and help them understand their rights online.



- > **Mental health and well-being:** How to help children feel happy and safe, both in real life and online.



- > **Climate action:** How to involve children more in protection of the environment and learning how to take care of the planet.

## WHY THESE FOUR TOPICS?

The Platform will focus on four topics to make sure the work is manageable and meaningful. These topics were picked because they match what children said was most important and what the European Commission is planning to work on in the next few years.

By focusing on the same topics as the European Commission, children's ideas can have a bigger impact on decisions being made across Europe.

## HOW DO WE WORK?

- > Consultations with children in different ways, like interviews, discussions, and surveys, to gather children's ideas and suggestions.
- > Study and peer visits with other countries to learn from each other, see how policies are made, and explore important topics from the Work Plan.
- > Interactive meetings online and in-person, with activities like games, role plays, and voting.
- > Conversations with experts, EU representatives, and youth activists to share ideas and learn from their experiences.
- > Simplifying important documents into easy-to-read versions, so children can understand and give their feedback.



## WHAT WILL WE DO IN 2025-2026?



### Hear from children

- > **Consultation 1 – Equal opportunities and social inclusion (first half of 2025):** Children will share their experiences and views on how poverty affects their lives, such as their education, health, and housing, and what can be done to improve these and other areas that were mentioned in the [EU Strategy on the rights of the child](#). This will help EU policymakers evaluate the [European Child Guarantee](#) and the Strategy.
- > **Consultation 2 – Mental health and online safety (2026):** Children will share their views about the impact of the online environment, including social media, on mental health, access to services, and how they can be improved. This will be linked to the EU-wide study on how social media affects mental health, as described in the [Political Guidelines](#) of the European for 2024-2029.



### Study visits

- > **Visit 1 – Children’s rights in action (2025):** Children will visit a country to see how child participation impacts policy-making at the local and national levels.
- > **Visit 2 – Climate action and education (2026):** This visit will focus on children learning about climate action and how they can help protect the environment.



### Peer visits

- > **Visit 1 – Online safety and digital rights (2025):** Children from different countries will meet to share ideas about online safety and digital rights.
- > **Visit 2 – Mental health peer support (2026):** Children will meet and explore how they can support each other with mental health in schools and communities.



### Make policies easier to understand

We will create easy-to-read, child-friendly versions of important policy documents and reports, like the Action Plan on Cyberbullying and the EU Guidelines on [wellbeing and mental health](#) in schools and [ask children](#) what they think about them.





## WHO ORGANISES THE ACTIVITIES?



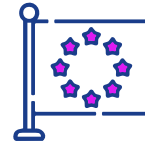
- > **The Secretariat** organises the Platform's work and helps to ensure activities are inclusive and child friendly. It includes partners ICF S.A., RPA, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, and the experts Laura Lundy and Cath Larkins.



- > **The Advisory Board** is a team of experts and children working together to guide the Platform's work. They give advice, make decisions, and ensure everything the Platform does is safe, inclusive, and meaningful for children.



- > **The Children's Panel** is made up of 10-20 children from across Europe. They share ideas, review plans, and help ensure the Platform focuses on what children need and want.



- > **The Commission** is part of the European Union. They listen to the ideas of children involved in the Platform and try to include them in EU decisions. They pay for the activities.



**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE  
A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE  
IN EUROPE!**





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A stylized illustration of two hands in a light blue color, one slightly behind the other, as if holding something. A small, light blue star is positioned between the hands, slightly above the right hand. The hands are rendered with simple, rounded shapes and no fingers are visible.

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