



EU Children's Participation Platform

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING REPORT

#EUChildParticipation

December 2024



A SPECIAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING









The 5th Advisory Board Meeting, held from 30 November to 2 December 2024 in Brussels, was a truly special event. This meeting brought together **current members of the Advisory Board** and **new members** who will officially join in Spring 2025.

DURING THIS MEETING WE:

1. **Welcomed new child members**, helping them understand how the Platform works and what their role will be.
2. **Looked at what the Platform** has done in the past year.
3. **Approved the 2025–2026 Work Plan**, which will guide what the Platform will do over the next two years.
4. **Thanked leaving child members**, recognising everything they have done to make children’s voices heard in Europe.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

We were so happy to welcome eight new members to the Advisory Board:

-  **Elisabet** (Estonia)
-  **Maria** (Romania)
-  **Tea** (Croatia)
-  **Daniel** (Greece)
-  **Ryan** (Cyprus)
-  **Léonie** (France)
-  **Aleksandar** (Ireland)
-  **Alexandra** (Slovakia)

Although Ryan couldn’t join us in person, the group created a warm welcome message for her, which the Secretariat shared later.

A MOMENT OF APPRECIATION

We also said a heartfelt thank you to seven incredible child members who have completed their time on the Advisory Board:

-  **Eva** (Spain)
-  **Toby** (Ireland)
-  **Karolina** (Ireland)
-  **Guilherme** (Portugal)
-  **Carlotta** (Italy)
-  **Gabrielius** (Lithuania)
-  **Naya** (Netherlands)

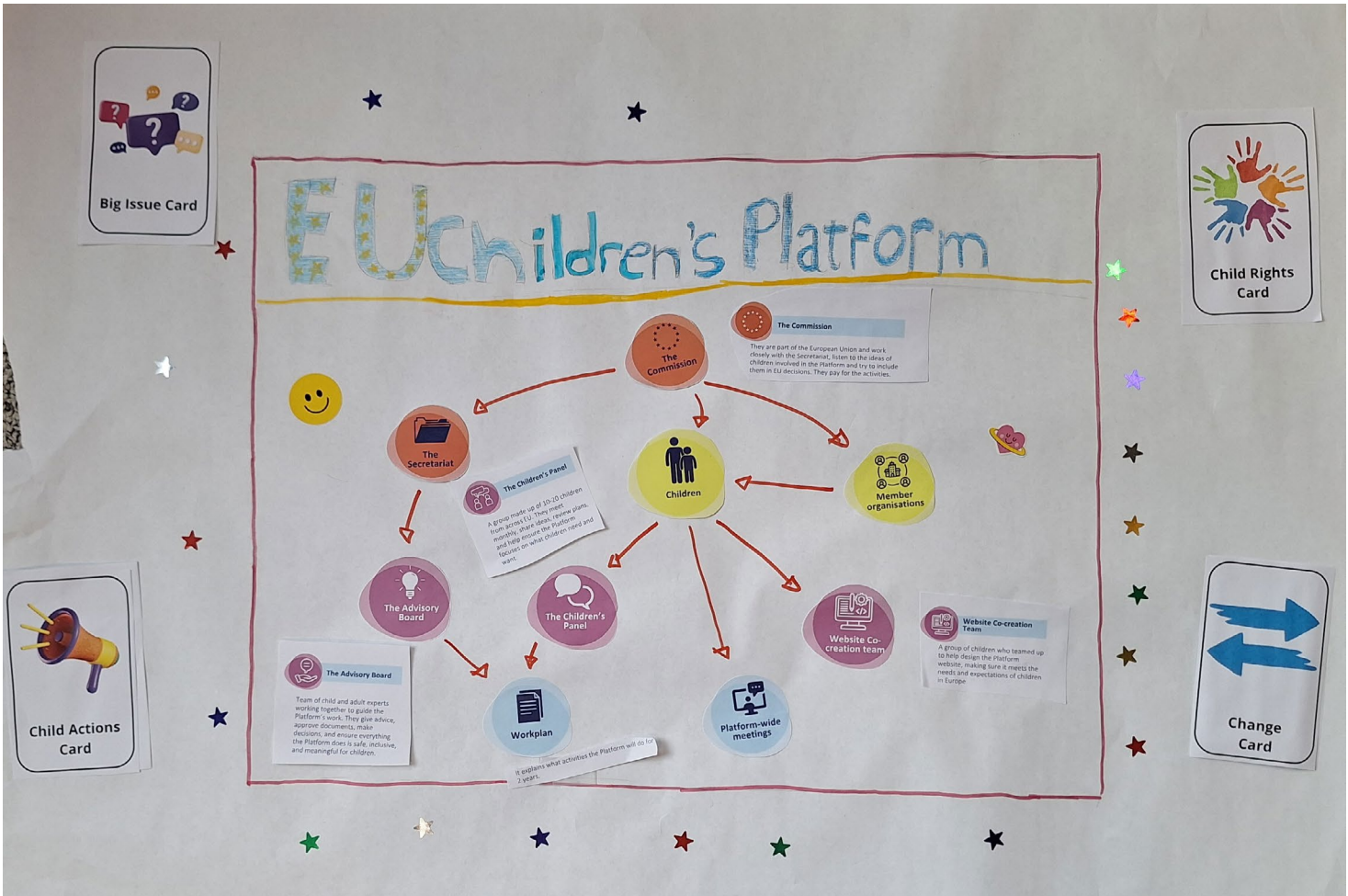
We celebrated their contributions and reflected on the impact they made during their time on the Advisory Board. Watch the [certificate award ceremony here](#).

Two Days of Collaboration

DAY 1 PREPARATIONS

The first day of the Advisory Board meeting, **1 December 2024**, was all about preparation, teamwork, and creating a safe, welcoming space for everyone. New members of the Advisory Board met **current members** and together they created a space where everyone felt safe and included.

We looked at the **Platform structure**, the Advisory Board's role, and how different parts of the Platform work together. Current members shared their experiences and helped new members to get a clear picture of their responsibilities.



TEAM-BUILDING: PILOTING THE BOARD GAME



One of the highlights of the day was the Child Rights and Democracy **Board Game Activity**, a teambuilding exercise to help children understand how child rights connect to the EU and the Platform's work.

It was a fun way to learn, and the children also provided ideas to improve the game.

GETTING READY TOGETHER

We also prepared for the main meeting day, **2 December 2024**:

- > **Deciding on Roles:** children volunteered for roles such as co-chairs and timekeepers, making sure everyone had a part to play in the next day's activities.
- > **Shaping the Agenda:** Children and facilitators worked together to review the agenda, making sure it was clear, fun, inclusive, and engaging. Co-Chair Preparation: Two child co-chairs (Helena and Elisabet) and two adult co-chairs (Marie-Cécile and Marta) came together to plan and finalise the next day's agenda.

PART A: WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER

The co-chairs, **Marie-Cécile** and **Helena** kicked things off with a warm welcome, followed by a fun icebreaker led by **Guilherme** and **Aleksandra**. This helped everyone relax, get to know each other and feel ready to participate.

Arianna and **Roxana**, the CPOs, then led a reminder of the Code of Conduct, ensuring everyone felt safe and included.

The group then looked at how the Advisory Board works and had an open discussion about how the Board could be improved to make it simpler and more effective.

Key points:

- > **Adding a Youth Voice:** The group explored the idea of inviting a representative from the European Youth Forum to join the Board to bring fresh ideas and connections.
- > **Longer Mandates:** Members suggested making child members' time longer on the Board. 4–5 meetings, so they can have a bigger impact.
- > **Creating an Alumni Circle:** Leaving members could join an alumni group to:
 - ▶ Share resources and advice with current members.
 - ▶ Work on projects, like creating a video about the Platform.
 - ▶ Stay involved and help keep the Platform's work moving forward.

The Board Members were in favor of an alumni group to keep past members connected and contributing. They also supported changes to make the Board's structure simpler and more effective. Based on this feedback, the Secretariat will review the Rules of Procedure and suggest updates.

PART B: WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND WHAT WE WILL DO

This session was all about looking back at what the Platform has achieved and setting the stage for future work.

- > **Maria** spoke about the [Feeling Safe Consultation Report](#).
- > **Tea** shared the progress of the [Platform on creating child-friendly information](#).
- > **Jane** shared updates on the Platform's [website](#).
- > **Gabrielius** discussed the [Democracy Consultations Results](#).
- > **Eva** presented [results from her own Vote 16 consultation](#) and shared how she took action locally, locally.



WORK PLAN 2025-2026:

To explore the new Work Plan, Board members took part in a hands-on puzzle activity. This showed how deciding on focus areas for the Work Plan is like solving a puzzle—every piece must fit together to address what matters most to children and make an impact.

Building the Puzzle of Platform Priorities





FEEDBACK ISLANDS: EXPLORING THE WORK PLAN

As part of the session on the Work Plan, Advisory Board members reviewed the four main topics:

- > Equal Opportunities & Social Inclusion,
- > Mental Health,
- > Online Safety, and
- > Climate Action.

Some of the key recommendations for all the activities are:

- > Make sure children from different backgrounds are included in all consultations and visits.
- > Keep language simple and clear, so it's easy for everyone to understand.
- > Share the results of consultations and activities, so children know how their ideas made a difference.

FEEDBACK BY TOPIC



Equal Opportunities & Social Inclusion

- > Study visits and consultations should be fun, inclusive, and welcoming to all, especially for children from **disadvantaged backgrounds**.
- > Activities need to be **safe, accessible, and engaging** to increase participation.



Mental Health

- > **Peer support and having mental health services available in schools** and communities is very important
- > Workshops to **raise awareness** and make sure children can easily access support could be organised.
- > **Working with schools and mental health professionals** is key to making a real difference when planning the activities.



Online Safety

- > It is important to **teach safe technology use**, not only focusing only on risks.
- > Create **resources for parents**, carers and teachers to support children online and offer information in different languages.
- > Address **online bullying** and learning from best practices in other countries were seen as priorities.



Climate Action

- > Activities that explain local and global environmental challenges in a clear way.
- > Sharing ideas between countries and creating simple materials about big EU climate policies like the Green Deal.
- > The goal is to inspire children to take action in their communities.

The Advisory Board validated the Work Plan through a vote with the majority in favour.

PART C: CELEBRATION AND SAFEGUARDING

We took time to thank the children whose time on the Board had ended and shared kind messages on the “Advisory Board Tree”. This gave everyone a chance to reflect on the contributions they’ve made.

To recognise and thank the leaving child members for their valuable participation, each child received a certificate and a European Youth Card, kindly offered by the European Youth Card Association (EYCA). (include the link on EYCA: <https://eyca.org/>)



During a session on safeguarding, we discussed the traffic light system (red, yellow, green) as part of risk assessments, following interest from Board members in a previous meeting. We also looked at the four key elements of safeguarding: awareness, prevention, reporting, and responding.

The Platform will continue to work on making safeguarding easier to understand and access through child-friendly materials, videos, and clearer processes, so everyone feels informed and protected.

PART D: EVALUATION AND END

The meeting ended with feedback on what went well and what could be better next time. Advisory Board members enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere, fun activities, and the chance to work together, while also offering suggestions for improvement.

What went well

- > Meeting new people and feeling part of a supportive team.
- > Fun activities like games, icebreakers, and brainstorming sessions.
- > Learning about the Platform and contributing to important EU issues.
- > Sharing ideas with both adults and children and feeling heard.
- > Informal moments, like visiting the town and enjoying the Christmas market.

What Could Improve

- > A better balance between games and structured activities.
- > Including more participants from different backgrounds.
- > More time for discussions and idea-sharing.
- > Better support to help new members and adults settle in.
- > More active breaks, like dancing or movement games, to stay energised.





Looking Ahead

This meeting wasn't just about plans— it was about building a foundation for the future. Together, current, new, and leaving members showed how powerful children's participation can be in shaping EU policies.

With the **2025–2026 Work Plan now approved**, the Platform is ready to continue its work to make children's voices heard across Europe.



#EUChildParticipation

**ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING REPORT**

