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Newsletter - May 2025



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#EUChildParticipation

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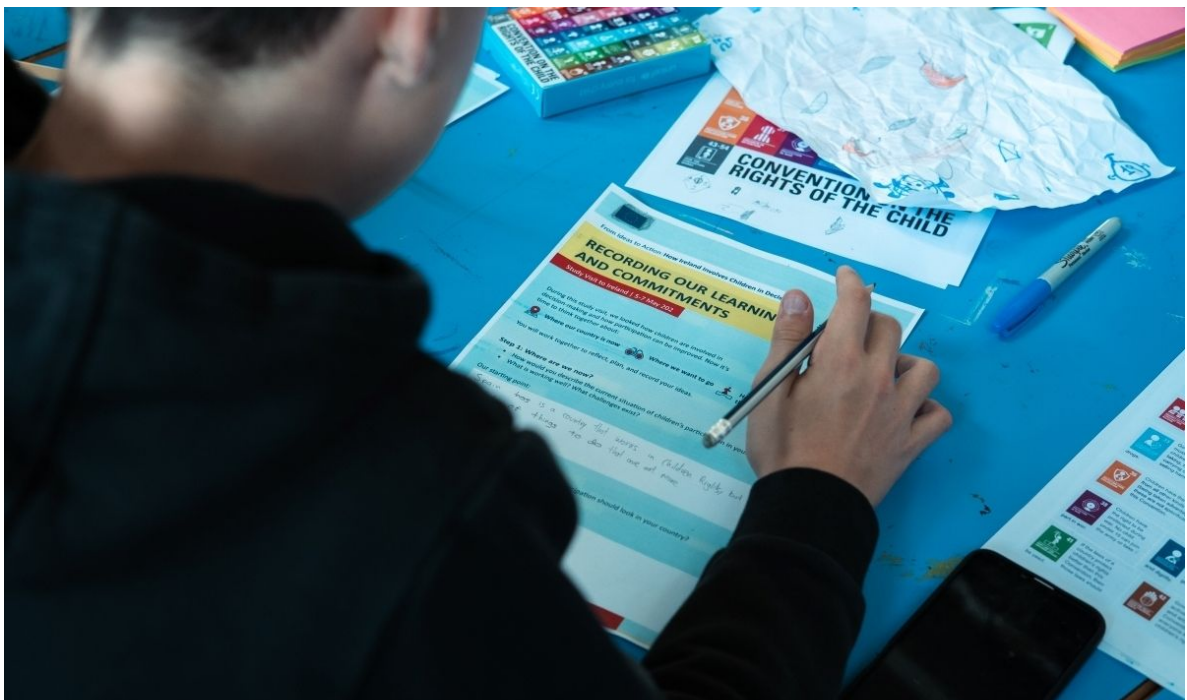
WHAT'S HAPPENING



Our Advisory Board meets with European Commissioner Glenn Micallef

On March 25, our young Advisory Board members spent a few hours with Commissioner Micallef (Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport). They got to know each other a little better, talked about important topics like mental health, and staying safe online and offline, had a photo session, and finished with a visit to the Commissioner's office.

[Read more about the visit](#)



Our first study visit: mutual learning in Ireland

On May 6-7, nine member children and adult national representatives from across Europe came together in Ireland. To see and experience how children are involved in decision-making locally and nationally and to work together on actionable projects to be taken back home.

[Read all about it and see the photos](#)

MEMBER NEWS



Aurora's story: a voice for change

A member of our Children's Panel, through her activism Aurora has inspired many young people to be brave and share their opinions. Showing us that using your voice can make a real difference in the world – even when you are young!

[Find out how Aurora is making a difference](#)





Bremore ETSS: Student voice in action

Bremore school students have been partnering with the European Commission since 2021 and were one of the first student councils to join the Platform. See the many ways student voices are being amplified: locally, nationally and in Europe.

[Hear from the Bremore students](#)



Voices of the Palermo Youth Advisory Board

The Palermo Youth Advisory Board (YAB) is a group of young people aged 15-25 who advise on the needs of their peers and propose solutions, acting as a bridge between youth and adults.

[Read more about the YAB's work](#)





Youth Policy Dialogue in Ireland

Two of our members – Faith and Lisa Marie – participated in the European Commission's Youth Policy Dialogue in Dublin with Commissioner Michael McGrath (Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection). Discussions were around improving and promoting democratic participation of young people – from their perspectives.

Faith and Lisa Marie share their experiences

OTHER NEWS



New multi-language publications and formats

It's important to provide key information in all EU languages and easy to use formats for children and teens, so we've got some new things online for you!

- [Children's Protection Recommendation \(animated webpage\)](#).
- [Updated one page information sheet \(pdf\)](#).
- [2025-2026 Work Plan \(pdf\)](#).
- [Report from 2024 Create, Plan Participate meeting \(pdf\)](#).



Youth participation and mainstreaming – February 2025

We joined an in-house workshop with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on raising awareness about child and youth participation related to their activities, like their Youth Advisory Panel. We shared some of the important lessons learnt from our own young members!

[FRA's Youth Advisory Panel](#)



Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS) – March 2025

We presented the Platform to a group of secondary school teachers (including Kathy – Principle from Bremore school who was there with Adam who participated in the student activities) and invited their student councils to join the Platform. YEYS is an annual workshop for 100 young people to have their say, with other sessions for educators.

[Five recommendations from the young people](#)

RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

Discover initiatives and tools to support and empower children across Europe. From events to resources, there's something for everyone to learn, participate in, and benefit from:

- **EU consultation on LGBTIQ equality:** Share your views on the EU's new strategy to combat the inequalities experienced by LGBTIQ people. To participate, you will need to sign in, either with an EU login, eID, Facebook or Google account. **Open until 24 June.** [Have a say on LGBTIQ equality.](#)
- **United Nations consultation on children's right to access to justice:** A consultation on UN general comment No. 27 (with child-friendly supporting information) where views from children are encouraged. **Open until 30 June.** [Have a say on children's right to access to justice.](#)
- **EU Youth Policy Dialogues:** Young EU citizens sat down with Commissioners to discuss topics like housing, climate, health, and democracy. You can now add your voice online. To participate, you will need to sign in with an EU login account or get support from an adult who has one. **Open until end June.** [Have a say on EU policies that impact youth.](#)
- **OECD Youth Advisory Board:** The OECD is accepting applications for young people aged 18-30 to join their Youthwise Advisory Board. **Apply before 15 May.** [More on the Youthwise application criteria.](#)
- **Child participation guide:** New Council of Europe publication on child participation in healthcare, with essential background information and practical guidance for healthcare professionals. [Guide to Children's Participation in Decisions About Their Health.](#)
- **Child rights guide:** A child-friendly introduction to the rights of child human rights defenders, their challenges, and actions from Child Rights Connect. A resource for children and adults to better understand and advocate for young activists. [Putting the Rights of Child Human Rights Defenders into Practice.](#)

- **EU Climate Action Toolkit:** A set of common questions, answers and supporting facts to help young people talk about and advocate for climate action in their communities. [How to talk to people about climate action](#).
 - **Inspiring stories:** A set of child-friendly tales of girls' journeys from childhood to successful science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) careers, created for girls aged 6-9. Part of an EU-funded project to promote and boost girls' interest in STEM topics and STEAM careers. [STEAM Tales](#).
 - **EU report:** In support of the European Commission's 2024 Recommendation, FRA's report builds on previous mapping of EU child protection systems, with 27 national reports. [Towards Integrated Child Protection Systems - Challenges, Promising Practices, and Ways Forward](#).
 - **UNICEF report:** Over 15,000 children aged 11-18 shared their views and concerns in a survey run by UNICEF Spain together with the University of Seville. See what they had to say: [Barómetro de Opinión de Infancia y Adolescencia](#) (in Spanish).
 - **2024 EU Youth survey report:** In October 2024, a survey engaged 25,000+ participants aged 16-30. The results offer insights into the perspectives of young people across the EU, including by-country factsheets: [Eurobarometer Youth Survey](#).
 - **UNICEF report:** Outlines progress and challenges for adolescent girls' rights over 30 years, with girls' perspectives on education, gender-based violence, harmful practices, and health and nutrition. [Girl Goals: What has changed for girls? Adolescent girls' rights over 30 years](#).
 - **Get involved:** The SHIELD project equips youth workers with tools to create safer spaces for young people. It leverages AI to raise awareness, identify risks early, and advocate for stronger policies that protect children from gender-based violence. Connect on: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)
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OUR COMMUNITY

Building the EU Child Participation community

A very warm welcome to our recent new Platform Members:

- Greek Council for Refugees
- Amsterdam UMC, Netherlands
- The Hives Project, Greece
- Asociația GEYC, Romania
- Jigsaw, the national centre for youth mental health, Ireland
- SOS Children's Villages, Greece
- Comissão Nacional de Promoção dos Direitos e Proteção das Crianças e Jovens, Portugal
- VSI Debesu kiemas, Lithuania
- Atelier Citoyenneté - Collège Louis Timbal, France
- Fundación Save the Children, Spain

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

[Find out more on the Membership webpage](#)

WHAT'S NEXT

Coming up from the Platform

- **20-21 June:** General Assembly meeting in Brussels
 - **23-24 June:** European Forum on the Rights of the Child in Brussels
 - **September:** Consultation with children on equal opportunities and social inclusion
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