



EU Children's Participation Platform

2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly

"Building Fair Societies – Our Voices, Our Future!"

Brussels, 20 – 21 June 2025

## **Short Report**



## What Was the General Assembly About?

80 children and young people from across the European Union got together in Brussels for the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the EU Children's Participation Platform. We discussed how to build fairer societies for children today and in the future.

The event opened with a warm and encouraging welcome from **European Commissioner Glenn Micallef, Deputy Director of DG Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), Irena Moozová, and Gabrielius, Aurora and Mirabela** from the Children's Panel. This was followed by an interactive **session on intergenerational fairness** led by **Erica Bol** from Joint Research Center (JRC). This helped set the focus of the Assembly by exploring fairness across generations and how children and adults can work together to build more just societies.

The question **"How can we build a fairer future for all?"** was looked at during workshops on: Well-being in schools, safety online and cyberbullying, working together against hate and climate action.

We turned the ideas from these workshops into recommendations, which were later voted on and put together in a document called the [Call to Action](#). This was presented to EU and national decision-makers at the [15<sup>th</sup> European Forum on the Rights of the Child](#) in Brussels on 23 June 2025.

*"Kids should know that their problems are taken care of, and we as the Platform are working towards solving them." - Mirabela, 16*



## What Was Discussed?

We shared our thoughts and ideas on four big topics that matter to children all across Europe. The preparation for this event started long before we met in Brussels. Children from the Platform helped choose the main themes based on what they felt was most important for their lives. These same topics were also selected for the [2025–2026 work plan of the EU Children's Participation Platform](#) and match the areas the European Commission plans to focus on in the coming years.

Together, we talked about what's not fair, what we want to change, and the actions we think can make life better for everyone.

### ***Well-being in Schools – Guidelines for a Fairer School Life:***

In this workshop – with **Gabrielius** as a child co-facilitator, **Ignacy** as note-taker, **Jan** as a young expert together with **Laure Pailleau** (Eurochild), and **Chiara Piccolo** (The Foundation for Wellbeing)- we shared what fairness feels like in our schools every day. In groups, we imagined what a truly fair and kind school would look like. Following the “EC [Guidelines on Well-being and mental health at school](#)”, we came up with our own recommendations for children on how they could act to improve mental health and wellbeing at schools and how schools can be safer, more respectful, and happier places for every student.

### ***Safety Online and Cyberbullying – Shaping an EU Action Plan***

During this workshop- with a co- child facilitator **Mirabela**, note-taker **Maria**, young expert **Andon** together with **Donatella Nembrini** (DG CNECT), **Dillan Fangoo** (DG CNECT), **Rima Daoud** (European Schoolnet) and **Karl Hopwood** (European Schoolnet)- we talked about what cyberbullying really means, what are the main issues, and what can be done to stop it. In smaller groups, we discussed who should help: schools, tech companies, and other adults who can make a difference. We worked on suggestions for the EU's next action plan to keep children safer online.



### ***Climate Action - The Decline of Pollinators***

In this creative session- with child co-facilitator **Aurora** and young expert **Andon** together with **Mateusz Tokarski** (JRC), **Nicolas Manthe** (JRC), and **Nicolas Suzanne van der Neut** (JRC)- we imagined what the world would be like if every living being – not just humans – had a voice in important decisions about our planet. We took part in a “Parliament of Beings,” where some of us spoke on behalf of animals, plants, or even future generations, while others spoke as children living today. We



shared ideas and proposed “pollinator” actions that could protect the planet and make it a fairer place for everyone.

### *Working together Against Hate – Code of Kindness*

In this workshop- with **Naya** as child co-facilitator and **Alexandra** and **Ayat** as note-takers together with **Tommaso Chiamparino** (DG JUST), **Martin Sacleux** (DG JUST), we focused on how we can make schools and communities kinder and safer places for everyone. We started by sharing positive examples of things we’ve seen in our own lives that help stop hate and spread kindness. We also asked ourselves what the EU could do to help make actions happen in real life. We then created a “Code of Kindness” that included actions to make our environment safer and more respectful.



### **Special Activities and Fun Moments**

The Assembly wasn’t only about serious talks – we also had lots of fun and special moments together!

A **Game Session** was led by Children’s Panel facilitators. We split into teams and played a high-energy guessing game. We used words and phrases from our GA experience, describing, saying one-word clues, or acting them out. It reminded us of everything we had learned during the day.

In the **Young Voices, Big Changes** session, hosted by the Children’s Communications Co-Creation Team, we got to see 17 inspiring projects led by children or created with strong child participation. Presented by children from different organisations, these projects showed how children can make a real difference in their communities.

We also had **testing stations** for upcoming surveys and the website, and a “**All Voices In**” wall, where we could share even more of our ideas in a quick, easy and creative way during the breaks.

There were **stickers and water-transfer tattoos with powerful messages about European unity and child empowerment** – little reminders that our voices truly matter. There was a **photo booth**, to take

fun pictures with friends, celebrating the feeling of being part of one big team of children shaping the future together.



On the first evening, we went on a **tour of Brussels**, exploring its history, beautiful landmarks, and cultural diversity. It was a chance to relax, laugh, and connect with each other after a full day of discussions.

### **Festival of Fairness – Choosing the Actions that Matter the Most**

At the end of the Assembly, we all came together for a big creative session called the Festival of Fairness. This was a chance to look back at all the ideas and actions shared in the workshops and decide which ones were the most important to include in a “Call to Action” to present at the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child.

We moved around in our homegroups, visiting four themed stations, each linked to one of the workshop topics. Every station was different and let us be creative while thinking about the actions we want adults to hear about most:

- **Station 1 – Build the Fair School (Well-being in Schools):** We became Well-being Architects, using action cards and lots of colourful, open-ended materials to build models of what a fair, supportive, and happy school would look like. Every object we chose had a meaning, soft fabric could mean kindness, string could mean connection, making our dream school come alive.





- **Station 2 – Speak Up, Scroll Fair (Safety Online and Cyberbullying):** Here, we became “Digital Changemakers”, working in teams to create videos or social media-style posts with strong, positive messages about how to make the online world safer and kinder for everyone.



- **Station 3 – Create Against Hate (Working Together Against Hate):** This was a calmer space, where we slowed down and thought about the actions that really matter to stop hate and

spread kindness. We decorated notebooks with drawings, words, or symbols that showed the change we want to see in our schools and communities – a reminder we could take home with us.



- **Station 4 – Climate Auction (Climate Action):** We stepped into the role of eco-investors, working as teams with a small budget of “eco-money” to bid on the climate actions we thought would make the biggest difference for the planet. This lively and fun auction helped us choose the top ideas for protecting nature and building a greener future.







### Highlights from the Call to Action- What Matters Most

During the General Assembly, we came up with many ideas on how to make life fairer for children in Europe. These ideas were then prioritised during the Festival of Fairness to then come up with our final Call to Action: a document of recommendations for EU decision-makers to listen to and act on. Here are some of the actions and thoughts:

#### ***Intergenerational Fairness***

Children spoke about wanting more respect and understanding between adults and young people. We want adults to stop blaming or talking down to children and to work with us to create solutions for the future. This can be exemplified in one idea shared in the Call to Action is that the EU should organise events and campaigns where children and adults meet as equals, discuss problems, and work together on solutions.

*"Before we are students, we are kids, and before we are kids, we are people with dreams, fears, hope and a voice that should be heard. Everyone is valid and has something important to share." – Diogo, 16*





### **Well-being in Schools**

Schools should be more than just about grades, they should help every child feel safe, understood, and supported. One of the actions states: "To get EU funding, the municipalities in member countries should be required to make mental health care accessible at schools. A lot of kids need help from professionals like teachers and/or psychologists and school counsellors."

*"The action plan of the children's participation platform is important because it shows how to contribute for a good world and how I can control my mental health and physical health at school" - Ayat, 13*


### **Working Together Against Hate**

We talked about how hate hurts, divides, and creates unfairness. We want more chances to learn about and connect with children from different cultures and backgrounds. One action we believe in is to make Erasmus bigger, so that more countries, schools and children can participate. This promotes understanding and reduces hate by learning more about cultures of other countries.

*"At the end of the day, we come to the big conclusion that it's essential to have unity through diversity. The action plan promotes the importance of everyone's opinion." - Illica, 16*

### **Safety Online and Cyberbullying**

Children shared that online spaces can feel unsafe, and adults don't always know how to help. An important action we proposed is that teachers should learn how to teach children about online safety, healthy screen habits, and how to protect their accounts and information online.



*“The action plan of the EU Children Participation Platform has a huge role in every children’s day-to-day life, making sure that safety, democracy and other EU values are represented by politicians across Europe.” – Gabrielius, 17*

### **Climate Action**

We all agreed that fairness is also about protecting nature and making sure future generations have a safe and healthy planet. One action we prioritised is to “Create more safe spaces for pollinators in our neighbourhoods and around schools. These creatures are essential for climate protection.”

*“It is very empowering to see a lot of kids thinking not only about themselves but also about the environment and other kids. We have a really great atmosphere here, everybody is so energetic and ready to change the world!” – Aurora, 17*

These are just a few of the ideas we came up with together. Read the full Call to Action and see all the recommendations.

### **What Happens Next?**

After the Assembly, Andrea, Aley, Jad, Alexandra, Jan, Margaux, Mihael, Lukáš and Rugile went to the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child to share the Call to Action with decision-makers. The ideas we agreed on together were part of many big conversations at the Forum, making sure that children’s voices were truly heard.

Adults at the Forum also sent messages back to through a special QR code, showing they were listening and wanted to respond to our ideas. See what the adults said about our Call to Action

Our proposals will be included in the official Forum report and will help shape the new EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, so that children’s thoughts and priorities can guide real actions and decisions in the future.

***For more information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly and the EU Forum on the Rights of the Child visit:***





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