

Webinar on child and youth participation: Focus on decision-making processes at local, regional and national level

Time: Wednesday 22nd of March 2023, 1:00-3:30 PM (CET)

Place: Online (Teams; link to the online event will be sent to those registered to the event)

Language: English

What do children and young people want from decision-makers? They want not only to be heard by those with the power to take decisions that affect them, but for their voices to have real influence on those decisions.

This European webinar will explore what needs to change to create more meaningful participatory spaces for children and young people. It will offer examples of processes and structures at national and local governmental levels that do exist within Europe to offer children and young people real influence in their lives. The webinar will provide opportunities for professionals working with and for children, child participation experts and anyone who needs knowledge and skills on child participation to share and learn from each other about what works and why.

PROGRAMME (subject to change)

Opening words

Niklas Wilhelmsson, Head of Unit for Democracy and Elections, Ministry of Justice, Finland

Keynote: Do we really care about the views of children and young people?

Reflections on progress on implementing Article 12 in government decision-making

Gerison Lansdown, International Child Rights Consultant and Advocate, Adjunct Professor at University College Cork, Ireland, and the University of Carleton, Canada

Q&A: Questions from the audience

Examples on child participation in Europe

- **ICELAND – Experiences from the Children’s Council and law drafting processes**
Arnar Snær, 16 years old, and **Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Children and Education
- **FINLAND – Online child participation in the National School Meal Development Programme**
5th grade pupil, Jokirinne Learning Center (tbc), and **Virpi Kulomaa**, School Meal Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- **SCOTLAND – The role of the Children’s Commissioner in supporting children’s involvement in local, national and international decision making**
Bruce Adamson, Children and Young People’s Commissioner in Scotland & Young Advisors

Q&A: Discussion with participants

CP4Europe – Strengthening National Child Participation Frameworks and Action in Europe

Anne-Laure Baulieu, Senior Project Officer at the Child Rights Division, Council of Europe

Closing words

Liisa Männistö, Senior Specialist, Unit for Democracy and Elections, Ministry of Justice, Finland