

Reflecting upon Child Participation

in Public Decision-Making

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING CHILD PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING



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MEASURE 1. PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE





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1.1. Legislation reflecting the legal protection of the right of the child to participate

Ensure a national commitment that guarantees the right of children to participate in the decisions regarding all matters affecting them



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- **Promoting the legislative analysis based on the right of children to participate, namely within the scope of specific pieces of legislation that directly affect them, such as those in the area of:**
 - a)** Child protection/care /adoption procedures;
 - b)** Children guardianship and access in civil proceedings;
 - c)** Education;
 - d)** Healthcare and consent for health treatment;
 - e)** Parental responsibilities;
 - f)** Immigration and asylum;
 - g)** Criminal justice;
 - h)** Other civil and administrative processes.
- **Whenever justifiable, proposing legal changes with a view to the legal obligation of hearing children's opinions in all the abovementioned areas and giving those due weight**



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- 1.2. Explicitly including the participation of children as part of a wider governmental strategy for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and of other international instruments and conventions

Implementing consultation procedures that promote the participation of the child



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1.3. Implementing complaints procedures adapted to children

- 🕒 Developing adequate complaint mechanisms, which are adapted to children's age, understanding capacity and specific needs, namely in public services, such as social security, health, justice and education
- 🕒 Ensuring that children are informed about their right to complain and to receive help, as well as ensuring that children are supported when complaining, according to their age and capacity

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MEASURE 2. PROMOTING AND INFORMING ABOUT THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE





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2.1. Integrating training on child participation in training actions provided to leaders and professionals that work with and for children

- Including, in the training programs directed at leaders and professionals, information actions and the reinforcement of competences regarding the participation of children and young people
- Developing a guide on existing methodologies that enable the effective participation of children in decision-making



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2.2. Providing children with information on their right to participate

- 🕒 Developing broad information programs, in diverse formats - including Braille - on the right to participate directed at children of different age ranges
- 🕒 Promoting the introduction of a compulsory component on the rights of the child in the school syllabuses of the first cycle (1st to 4th grades) and of the second cycle (5th and 6th grades) of studies

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MEASURE 3. CREATING SPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE





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3.1. Representation of children and young people in decision-making bodies at the parliament and government levels, namely through advisory committees

- 🕒 Introducing the representation of children and young people in decision-making bodies at the parliament and government levels, namely through advisory committees
- 🕒 Creating spaces to hear the opinion of children and young people and giving them due weight, namely through consultation mechanisms where children of all age ranges, of all capacities and of all origins are represented



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3.2. Implementing children-specific response mechanisms in public services in the areas of Social Security, Justice, Education and Health

- 🕒 Ensuring that public services implement adapted, easily accessible and prompt mechanisms to receive comments of children and young people, namely surveys and complaint mechanisms
- 🕒 Progressively including response systems