

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

DIRECTORATE GENERAL III - SOCIAL COHESION

SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT



## **CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOLS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### *Call for submission of information about projects*

The programme "Focus on Children and Families" is one of a series of activities and projects within Directorate General III for Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe to promote social cohesion and tackle policy issues affecting children and families. The programme is co-ordinated by the Forum for Children and Families, which has decided to studying children's participation in decision making in families and other living arrangements, schools and community, taking as a starting point article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Knowing that this is an area in which much interesting work is already going on, we would like to create an inventory of good practice with policy recommendations on **children's participation in schools and the local community**, by identifying projects conducted in the 44 member states of the Council of Europe in these areas. We also plan to visit and study selected projects.

*All providers of information will receive a copy of the catalogue of projects submitted!*

Governments, experts, NGO's and other relevant associations in the member states are therefore kindly requested to submit information about projects dealing with children's participation in schools and the local community as described below.

For the purpose of this request, the term "participation" should be interpreted as "children expressing their views and these views being given weight in the decision making process".

By "projects" we mean any pilot projects, model activity or programme which is either completed (within the last 10 years) or currently running. Initiatives that are only in their planning stage will not be considered.

### *Children's participation in schools*

You are invited to send information about projects which aim at involving children (boys and/or girls) aged 5 - 11 in decision making at schools. The projects should show how children's rights are taken seriously and how children at this age are given the opportunity to participate in planning and decision-making concerning the formal learning process (e.g. curriculum, evaluation, working methods, timetable, etc.), as well as with regard to other matters related to the school (e.g. seating in the classroom, equipment, building, playground, etc).

### *Children's participation in the local community*

You are also invited to send information about projects which aim at involving children (boys and/or girls) aged 5 - 11 in decision making in the local community (implemented by local governments, schools, NGO's, churches, children themselves, etc.) The projects should show how children's rights are taken seriously and how children at this age are given the opportunity to participate in planning and decision-making concerning their immediate environment and the daily life activities in their local community.

## INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTS

To be drafted (typed) in English or French and returned, before 1 August 2002 to Ms Siri Farstad, DG III – Social Cohesion, Council of Europe, F – 67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France, preferably to the following E-mail address: [siri.farstad@coe.int](mailto:siri.farstad@coe.int)

**Title of the project, if any:**

**Theme of the project:**

**Objectives:**

**Keywords:**

**Organisation/body/structure:**

**Who was initiating the project? (name and contact details)**

**Who was implementing the project? (name and contact details)**

**Contact person(s) (name, address, telephone, fax and e-mail):**

**Duration of the project (e.g. 1996 - 1998):**

**Target group (social/cultural background):**

**Number of participants (total):**

**Number and gender of the involved adults:**

**Number, age and gender of the participating children:**

**How were the children identified to participate in the project<sup>1</sup>:**

**Description of project (max. 1 page):**

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<sup>1</sup> Applies only to projects in the local community

Is there any documentation available on the project: Yes/No  
If yes, what kind of documentation:

Is the information about the project available via Internet: Yes/No  
If yes, URL:

Resource plan (including breakdown of costs):

Which one of the following objectives is pursued by the group?

1. The representation and realization of the interests of children and youths
2. Political socialization (encounter with political decision-making processes)
3. Expansion of political participation opportunities for children and youths
4. Other objectives, namely:

What mechanisms for participation are/were used (e.g. focus groups, discussions, questionnaires, role-playing situation etc.)?

What kind of support are/were children given to help them participate fully?

Evaluation and impact (including any (preliminary) results or experience with methods of participation (individual level & level of school society): Yes/No  
If yes, what are the main results?

What kind of problems have the adults or the children encountered during the activities?  
(Please list them and give a short description):

Were they able to solve the problems? If yes, please describe how:

What kind of essential conditions for successful participation of children have been revealed?

Can you give examples of how the children were able to influence the actual outcomes?

How are/were the results fed back to the children?

Please add any other comments you would like to make:

*Thank you very much for your help.  
Regrettably, there is no financial support available for projects.*