



Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2012-2015 - national practices in member states

Children's Consultation Process for the Evaluation and Drafting of Regional Plans for Children's Rights

Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, Belgium

Country(ies): Belgium

Title of practice: Children's Consultation Process for the Evaluation and Drafting of Regional Plans for Children's Rights

Main scope/theme: Child participation, democratic citizenship and human rights education, education and information on children's rights

Managing organisation(s): Observatory for Childhood, Youth and Youth Care, CEMEA asbl, the Minister in charge of the Coordination of Children's Rights for the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Eurochild

Brief description: The Governments of Wallonia and Wallonia-Brussels Federation decided to consult children in order to evaluate their action plans in regard to children's rights and also to draft the next ones. Led by a youth organisation, the consultation process will reach around 15 groups of children from all provinces of Wallonia and Brussels. These groups are selected from schools and associations, paying special attention to age distribution. Specific attention will be paid to children living in vulnerable situations. Participants will be informed about children's rights and trained in child participation. They will have the opportunity to engage in discussions about their lives and their rights. The outcomes will be presented to politicians in order to evaluate their previous action plan and to draft the next one.

Timeframe: The process is ongoing. Outcomes are expected in November 2014.

Type of activities: Consultation is organised in several steps:

- 1) Focus groups in schools and associations about children's rights
- 2) Meeting on the purpose of training and information on NPA
- 3) Focus groups in schools and associations about NPA evaluation and drafting
- 4) Dissemination of the report – presentation to the political leaders in an end event
- 5) Evaluation with participants

Results and outputs: An evaluation report of the current action plan and recommendations for future policy are expected in November 2014.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, professionals working with children (children are the direct target groups, but the outcomes of the consultation process are dedicated to decision makers and public authorities. NGOs and professionals should be involved if their associations or schools are selected for the focus groups), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations

Success factor(s): Quality of the consultation process in accordance with international standards:

- Transparent and informative
- Voluntary
- Respectful of children
- Relevant
- Child-friendly
- Inclusive
- Supported by training
- Safe and sensitive to risk
- Accountable

Estimated budget and human resources: Around 60 000 euros for the project management, but a preparatory analysis has been conducted as well. In addition, the end event should be included. Around 6 people work on the project (part-time) for one year. Joint efforts of around 10 people to support and implement the project.