



**Implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015) "Growing with Children's Rights"
Good Practices and Initiatives**

Involving Children and Young People in the Development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Study (2014)

Department of Children and Youth Affairs in partnership with the HBSC Team in the National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

Country(ies): Ireland

Title of practice: Involving children and young people in the development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Study (2014), Ireland

Main scope/theme: Child participation

Managing organisation(s): Department of Children and Youth Affairs in partnership with the HBSC Team in the National University of Ireland, Galway, www.dcy.gov.ie, contact person: Anne O'Donnell, phone: 00353863837320, anne_odonnell@dcya.gov.ie

Brief description: Ireland became the first country in all 43 WHO participating countries to involve children and young people in the development of the Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Survey, 2014. In order to ensure the most meaningful participation of children and young people, they were involved in the identification of domains and questions for the Survey and will be involved at all further stages of the Survey process. Workshops were conducted with different groups of children and young people to identify domains and questions that they themselves considered to be important aspects of their health and wellbeing.

Timeframe: Started in October 2012. New domains and questions developed by children and young people are currently being included in the HBSC Ireland Survey to be conducted during 2014. The partners in this initiative will work together to develop mechanisms for children and young people to continue to be involved at all stages in the Survey process.

Type of activities: Workshops and consultations

Results and outputs: New domains and questions developed by children and young people are currently being included in the HBSC Ireland Survey to be conducted during 2014.

Target group(s): Children and adolescents, parents, professionals working with children (academics, researchers, teachers, health professionals, mental health professionals, politicians), decision makers, public authorities and civil servants, civil society organisations, public at large

Success factor(s): Involving children and young people in the development of an international research instrument represents a radically different approach to development of a national survey than is normally used. Domains on 'Having fun' and 'Parents, family and wellbeing' were the top choices of the 8-12 year old children and have never before been included in the HBSC Survey. The 13-18 year old young people identified 'Independence' and 'Diversity and Individuality' as priorities in their lives and neither of these domains have been included previously in the HBSC Study. The issue of 'stereotyping' strongly emerges under both domains, which in itself is interesting information about the lives of young people. The inclusion of new domains and questions in the HBSC Ireland Study in 2014 will provide valuable information on aspects of the lives of children and young people never before explored in the Survey. This information will assist in the development of policies and services that meet the needs of children and young people in aspects of their lives that are important to them. The outcomes of the process confirm the value of involving children and young people as stakeholders in the HBSC Survey and challenge researchers and policy-makers to consider involving children and young people in the development and design of other research related to their lives and behaviour.

Estimated budget and human resources: Budget - approximately 8,000 €. All individuals working on this initiative are already employed by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), a child participation service contracted by the DCYA and the National University.