Guidance on Child and Adolescent Participation as part of Phase III of the preparatory action for a European Child Guarantee

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UNICEF & partners: ECG Phase III participation

Hart’s Ladder of participation

1. Manipulation
2. Decoration
3. Tokenism
4. Assigned but informed
5. Consulted and informed
6. Adult-initiated, shared decisions with children
7. Child-initiated and directed
8. Child-initiated, shared decisions with adults

Degrees of participation

Polls
Assessment
Focus groups

Empowerment workshops and mentoring (Preparation)

Child-led research
Community network partnership
Steering committee
Advisory board
Council

Meaningful? Ethical?
Safe? Sustainable? PM&E?
Objectives

Provide guidance on how to mainstream child and adolescent participation in the different activities of the ECG Phase III

Document the child participation work being advanced in the pilot countries

Provide a framework for effective engagement of children and young people by the Member States when planning, implementing and monitoring the ECG

Child Participation in:

- Evidence generation
- Policy Making
- Decision-making
- Service Design and Delivery
- Case management
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Advocacy and Communication

Special emphasis on Adolescents – UNICEF Guidelines on Adolescent Participation and Civic Engagement
Policy and Decision-Making

European Child Guarantee National Action Plans (ECG NAP)
• Specific inclusive mechanisms for CAP as part of the mechanisms and processes to develop the CGNAP, e.g. advisory board (Italy), youth steering committee (Greece)
• Building awareness, capacities and skills of children, government actors, service providers and other stakeholders.

Local level Decision-making
• children and adolescents - direct participants of the services and interventions - are enabled to bring their voices and opinions in the local decision-making platforms and processes.
Service Design and Delivery

- **Design phase**: designing a service that is accessible, appropriate and acceptable to users. Identifying the needs, expected outcomes, practicalities, potential challenges and pitfalls.

- **Implementation phase**: putting in place functional feedback loops, that are accessible, open, anonymous when necessary, and child-centred.

- **Review/Revision Phase**: review processes with children and families built into service provision.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**: putting in place M&E mechanisms, integrating voices of children and routine data collection measuring levels of satisfaction and tracking indicators important to children and families.
Case management

Child participation is a fundamental element of case management and care planning process.

• **Identify and consider the child’s wishes and preferences** during the child and family complex assessments.

• **Build trust with the child** while managing confidentiality expectations.

• **Involve child’s family**, appointed representative and/or other persons they see as important and trusted.

• **Help the child to understand what was decided and how this decision was achieved.** Taking the child’s views into account does not mean that the adults must do anything the child wants.

• **Place the individual care plan at the heart of case management.** Child friendly version of the care plan should be developed.
Participatory M&E is a process through which stakeholders at various levels:

- engage in M&E of a policy, programme or project
- share control over the content, the process and the results of the M&E activities
- engage in taking or identifying corrective actions

Participatory M&E can:

- strengthen relevance, accountability, ownership
- build engagement and trust in M&E
- help to make policies more responsive to needs and contribute to better outcomes for children
- has proven methods and tools
MONITORING & EVALUATION

Implementation and monitoring of M&E framework and plan incl. PM&E activities

Participatory data gathering
- Data on implementation processes, strategies and results can be collected using both quantitative and qualitative methods (incl. community-led methods)

Participatory data analysis
- Active stakeholder engagement in the analysis of data and information, particularly of successes and constraints and the formulation of conclusions and lessons learned, and in defining and agreeing on actions to be taken

Participatory data use and dissemination
- Active stakeholder involvement in sharing and using the information
- Stakeholders themselves

Participatory M&E process

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING

ECG Phase III
- Theory of change and Results Framework development
- Deep Dive analysis incl. indicators, recommendations
- Strengthening existing M&E systems at all levels
- PM&E of models

ECG NAP and M&E Framework
PM&E process planning:
- Identification of stakeholder groups to be involved in the planning of the PM&E process (as part of the overall M&E process of ECG implementation)
- Establishment of PM&E coordinating mechanism (e.g., as part of national M&E technical working group)
- Stakeholders define the objectives of PM&E, what will be monitored, how and by whom, and how data will be used and disseminated (PM&E agenda and plan). Includes: identification of relevant PM&E indicators.
Why child participation is important in communication?

Child, adolescent participation in communication & advocacy helps to:

• Ensures that their views are heard, valued and respected
• Empowers them as advocates in processes affecting them
• Enable children and young people to develop skills to support their own inclusion – as researchers, bloggers, reporters, problem-solvers
How UNICEF is promoting child participation in communications through the EUCG

Engaging UNICEF’s social media/online platforms and media contacts in the 7 pilot countries and beyond through the network of UNICEF's NatComs.

Focusing Social Media Activations on stories and voices of children and young people through direct participation, short video human interest stories and testimonies.
Thank You