Youth Advisory Board
From the launch to the National Action Plan in Italy

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January 2022
Purpose of the YAB

- A space for children & young people to be meaningfully involved and participate in the development of the Child Guarantee National Action Plan
- To ensure children’s and young people’s participation in all phases of the Child Guarantee
- Established by UNICEF in collaboration with the government-led CG Steering Committee (MOLSP and DePFAM) with support from the Istituto degli Innocenti
Planning & outreach

- YAB proposal endorsed by the CG Steering Committee
- Establishment of the YAB Working Group
- Definition of criteria for membership
- Invitation letters & registration forms
- Special needs assessment & safeguarding procedures
Membership

- 23 members
  - 14 boys & 9 girls
  - Ages
  - 7 with migration background
  - 2 from ethnic minorities
  - 4 careleavers
  - 4 with disabilities
  - 6 volunteers
1\textsuperscript{st} meeting
11-12 December 2021

- Team building activities
- Plenary sessions on the EU Child Rights Strategy, the Child Guarantee and ECG National Action Plan
- Working Groups
  - Functioning of the YAB
  - Child & youth participation in the Child Guarantee
Goals of the YAB

- Awareness raising on the Child Guarantee and on the functioning of the YAB to children and young people in Italy
- Gather the opinions of children, adolescents and young people on the CG related issues and services.
- Communicate the advocacy messages gathered to institutional stakeholders.
Working Groups

- **Functioning of the YAB**: rules and regulations; tools and platforms to carry out YAB activities and related budget; members’ skills and talents.

- **YAB participation in the CG**: discussion on the priority issues regarding the proposed 5 areas of CG services and on how to ensure child and youth participation in the CG.
Communication platforms

- Face-to-face meetings
- Monthly online meetings (YAB and sub-WGs)
- Whatsapp chat, doodle & shared drive
- YAB website and Instagram page
- Podcasts & video pills
- U Report Italy & U Report on the Move
- Schools
Key milestones – March 2022

- Creation of the 3 sub-working groups
- Set up and launch of website and IG channels and development of other comms materials
- Polls to gather opinions of children & young people on priority themes
- Deep dives into the Child Guarantee & EU Child Rights advocacy strategy
- Drafting of advocacy messages to be shared with the inter-ministerial Commission for the elaboration of the National Action Plan
Challenges and lessons learned

- Lengthy outreach process requires joint effort of institutional stakeholders & CSOs delivering services for CG target groups

- Multiplicity of backgrounds and ages: investment in team building activities and production of adolescent friendly material

- Some YAB members have special needs; all members have different skills sets and talents: additional support to be factored in to guarantee meaningful & fulfilling engagement by all members, with additional training to be provided where needed/desired
Sustainability

- The YAB will remain active for the duration of the Child Guarantee (2021-2030).
- UNICEF will support the YAB for an interim period to be defined by all parties.
- Following this interim period, the YAB will be integrated in the permanent mechanism for child and adolescent participation as planned in the National Guidelines for Child and Adolescent Participation.
“From these 2 days in Florence I take home with me the beauty of the city, new friends and new ideas and the thought that we have been able to create something small that will grow into something big in the future”

Brieger M. 19 years
Thank you.