

CFCI Summit

Session documentation

This document summarizes the key topics, insights and next steps arising from the CFCI Summit held from 15th to 18th of October, 2019 in Cologne, Germany.

Track:	Participatory cities
Title of session:	Child participation training
Date and time:	Wednesday 16 th of October 11:00-12:30
Facilitator and resource persons:	Gerison Lansdown, Ana Isabel Guerreiro and Deji (RedZebra)
Name of rapporteur:	Ana Isabel Guerreiro and Gerison Lansdown

Main topics and ideas discussed:

The aim of this session was to help participants establish a common understanding on what constitutes meaningful child participation. Gerison Lansdown presented an overview of the processes, standards and approaches necessary for effective and ethical participation based on the experience and practice acquired over the past 30 years. Children and young people and representatives from CFCIs in Cardiff (UK), Kyrgyzstan, the United Arab Emirates, Korea and Spain presented their experiences of participating and implementing child participation in the different steps of the CFCI cycle, including governance and setting-up the CFCI, participation in the situation analysis, discussing the action plan, implementation and evaluation.

Key insights, good practices and lessons shared:

1. Participation has different meanings in different languages, but it is important to understand the concept in terms of the right to be heard as elaborated in Article 12 of the CRC
2. Effective and ethical participation necessitates consideration of 3 aspects:
 - Process – children are entitled to have space, voice, audience and influence in order that their views are heard (Lundy)
 - Quality – the nine basic requirements of quality participation as elaborated by the Committee on the Rights of the Child must be adhered to, including that it is relevant, voluntary, respectful, inclusive, child friendly, safe, transparent and informative, supported by trained staff, and accountable
 - Appropriate forms – participation can be consultative, collaborative or child/ youth led – all are appropriate to different context but allow for differing levels of empowerment
3. Participation matters because in addition to being a fundamental human right, it leads to greater protection from violence, better decisions, acquisition of skills, understanding of democracy and citizenship, empowerment, and strengthened accountability
4. The creation of an enabling environment for participation necessitates a supportive legal and policy environment, measures to address social norms and behaviours, training and awareness raising and provision of spaces and opportunities
5. Children and young people can participate in multiple ways including campaigns and advocacy, media, information and education, governance and political activism
6. Children and young people can engage at all levels of the CFCI cycle including in youth and school committees, taking part in data gathering for situation analyses, helping develop action plans, and

monitoring and evaluation. In order for this to happen, there needs to be real commitment on the part of the municipality, dedicated staff and sufficient budgets (participation is not resource free), regular opportunities for children and young people to meet the politicians, allocation of budgets for children, willingness to listen and act.

Next steps and actions points (when applicable):

Recommendations/ Actions	Person responsible	Target Date
1. Always commit to allocating a budget to enable child participation to be properly supported	Mayor	On-going
2. Recognize participation as a long term commitment needing continuous engagement and recognition	Mayor	On-going
3. Allow children to determine the ways in which they want to participate rather than imposing adult assumptions and structures	Dialogue between Mayor, municipal officials and children	On-going
4. Remember that participation is a right not an obligation and needs to be interesting and fun!	All	On-going