What do we mean by child participation in Child Friendly Cities?
The Five Goal Areas of the CFCI

The right to be heard
Understanding children’s participation

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Wed 16th October 2019
What does it mean to participate?

Roger Hart’s Ladder of Young People’s Participation:

Rung 8: Young people & adults share decision-making
Rung 7: Young people lead & initiate action
Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people
Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed
Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed
Rung 3: Young people tokenized
Rung 2: Young people are decoration
Rung 1: Young people are manipulated

Note: Hart explains that the last three rungs are non-participatory.

Article 12

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity’
Implications of Article 12

- Children are agents in their own lives

- A principle and a right – a means and an end

- All children of all ages and everything that affects them

- Children as individuals and as a group

- A right not an obligation

- Adults making decisions about children must listen

- Linked with other civil rights
Child participation can be defined as.....

‘Girls and boys (individually and/or collectively) form and express their views and influence matters that concern them directly and indirectly’. 
Why does it matter?

- A fundamental human right
- Addressing violence and abuse
- Building skills
- More informed decision-making
- Understanding democracy
- Empowerment
- Strengthened accountability
The necessary steps for effective participation
1 The Process

Space
Provision of safe and inclusive time and space for participation

Voice
Provision of information and support to facilitate expression of views

Audience
Ensuring that children are able to express views to people who have a responsibility to listen

Influence
Ensuring that views are acted on, as appropriate

Meaningful participation

L.Lundy: Voice is not enough, Conceptualising Article 12 of the CRC, British Educational research Journal, 2007 Dec;33(6):927-942
2 The quality

Children
- Respecting
- Relevant
- Voluntary
- Transparent and informative

Adults
- Supported by training
- Accountable

Spaces
- Inclusive
- Child-friendly
- Safe and sensitive to risk

CRC General Comment No.12, The Right of the Child to be Heard, 2009
3 The appropriate level

- Consultative
- Collaborative
- Child or youth led
How to make participation happen?

Addressing attitudes and behaviour

Creating spaces and opportunities

Making laws and policies

Building skills and capacities

Promoting awareness
Involvement in the CFCI

- Setting up the CFCI
- Child rights situation analysis
- CFCI action plan
- Implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation
Some examples of participation……

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<th>Protecting and promoting rights</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Advocacy for reform</td>
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<td>• Campaigns</td>
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<td>• Reporting abuses of rights</td>
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<td>• Using complaints mechanisms</td>
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<td>• Governance and accountability</td>
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<td>• Peace-building</td>
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<th>Knowledge and communication</th>
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<td>• Peer education</td>
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<td>• Media work including social media</td>
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<td>• Building networks</td>
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<td>• Research and consultations</td>
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<td>• Conference participation</td>
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<th>Community and political involvement</th>
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<td>• Youth parliaments and councils</td>
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<td>• Online campaigns</td>
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<td>• School councils</td>
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<td>• Auditing public services</td>
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<td>• Monitoring and evaluating implementation of rights</td>
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Useful tips

• Involve children and young people from the earliest stage

• Recognize that children and young people will need on-going training and support

• Make sure that adults have training as well

• Always feedback to children and young people on how their views were taken into account

• Engage parents and caregivers

• Reach out to all children and young people, including the most marginalized

• Make sure that the resources are committed – participation does not come cost-free!

• Remember participation is a right not an obligation

• Make it fun!
In summary

Child participation is about...

Dignity
Respect
Empowerment
Influence
Protection
Engagement
Citizenship
Child Friendly Cities Summit
Cologne, October 2019

Thank you!