

# Cities Teach: Youth Participation

*European Capital of Democracy Webinar*

→ Presentation



#Children'sParticipation | #ChildrenHaveTheirSay | #WeWantToDecide!



institut  
**infància i**  
**adolescència**



16th July 2024

# Barcelona, a City engaged with a rights-based perspective, has several legal frames, strategies and plans to realize children's right to participation



Art. 12, UNCRC

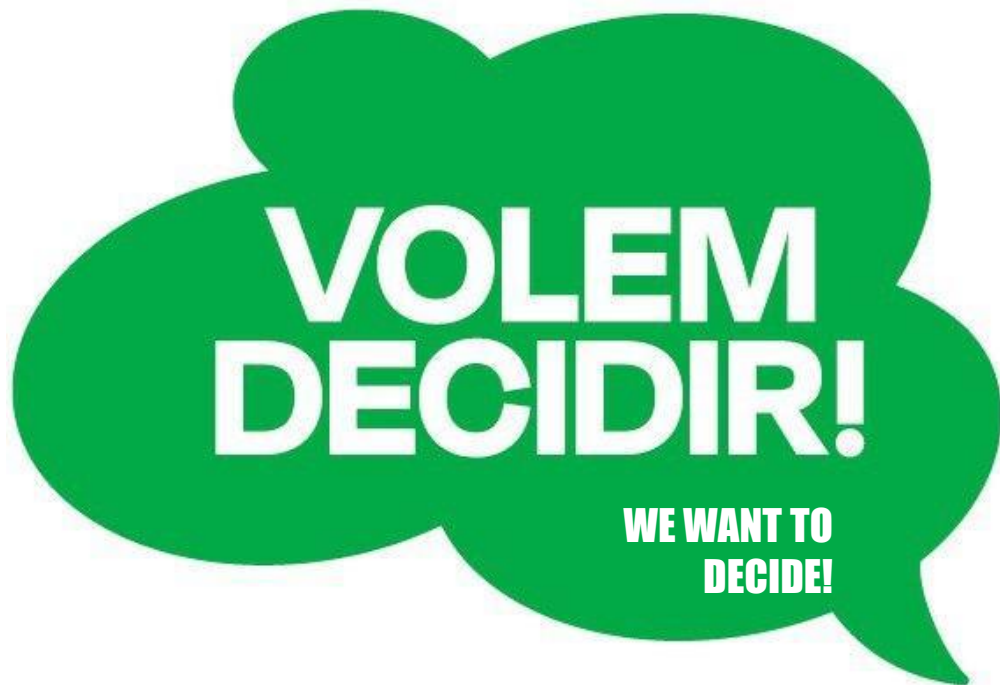
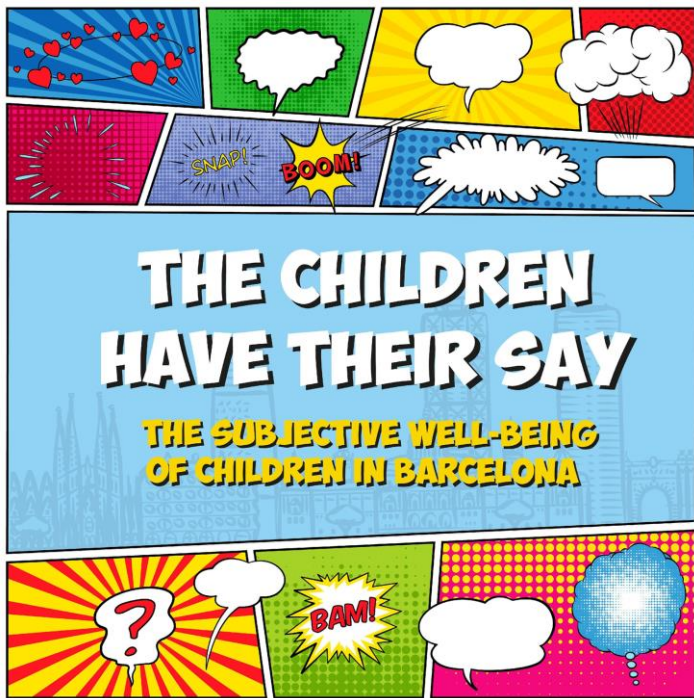
Art. 3, UNCRC

## Legal frames:

- The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC, article 12 + basic principle)
- The **Catalonia Act on the Rights and Opportunities during Childhood and Adolescence** (14/2010 – section 34)
- The **Barcelona's Charter of Citizenship, Rights and Duties** (2010, section 22)

## International, national and local strategies:

- **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child**
- **Barcelona's new Childhood and Adolescence Plan (2021-2030)** (October 2021)



# “Children's Have their Say” at a glance: 3 goals in 3 circular phases



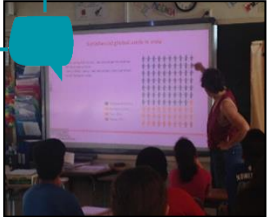
Survey



PHASE 1:  
**UNDERSTAND CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING (survey report)**  
Course 2021-2022: SURVEY to 5.300 boys & girls aged 8 to 11



Interpretation and debate



PHASE 2:  
**INTERPRET AND CALL FOR ACTION (workshops report)**  
Course 2022-2023: 38 HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS with 2.000 boys & girls aged 10 to 11 to interpret results and call for actions.



Proposals and dialogues



PHASE 3:  
**OPEN DIALOGUES (Children's Agenda)**  
Course 2023-2024: 13 School Spokekids groups open 36 DIALOGUES with their school community (school staff, families, peers). 400 boys & girls aged 10 to 11  
Course 2024-2025: 1 City Spokekids group (will) open 6 dialogues with representatives of political groups and social platforms of the city. 30 boys & girls aged 11-12





# “Childrens Have their Say” at a glance: epistemological approach ‘to, from, and with’ childhood



The program start from recognising that boys and girls have their own skills to be:



6/6/2024: Solemn constitution of the City's Spokekids Group, with Barcelona City Mayor and Childhood's commissioner

## KEY INFORMANTS

SURVEY

## RESEARCHERS

CO-INTERPRETERS  
OF THE RESULTS

## SIGNIFICANT CITIZENS

OWN AGENDA  
DIALOGUES WITH ADULTS

# Interests and challenges of “Children’s Have their Say” program



## 5 main interests

1. participation is part of a wide and representative research process that supports the contents of children’s participation on a **rigorous evidence base**
1. it guarantees the **children's perspective** in all phases of the process
1. the **evidence is translated into an action plan** that makes visible and tangible the citizenship status of children and their capacity for political action
1. the **program is periodic**, which reflects the city's commitment and opens the opportunity to deepen in knowledge and better participatory processes
1. parallel research is generated on how to build better participation channels and move towards **models of children’s authentic participation**



# Interests and challenges of “Children’s Have their Say” program



## 4 main challenges

1. The need to **reinforce the value of the School Spokekids Dialogues**
1. To better **ensure that the participatory practices initiated continue** beyond the programme.
1. To **better prepare adults** for dialogue with children
1. The need for **greater commitment to change** on the part of adults and some form of feedback to children after the dialogue.



# The 11 demands to improve children's well-being



## THE CHILDREN'S AGENDA

### 11 DEMANDS AND 30 PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE OUR WELL-BEING

- 

**1. TAKE CARE OF OUR FAMILY LIFE.**
- 

**2. WORK TOGETHER TO END BULLYING.**
- 


**3. TAKE CARE OF OUR SAFETY, AND DON'T ALLOW ANY KIND OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.**
- 


**4. MORE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AND LESS PRESSURE TO BE A CERTAIN WAY.**
- 


**5. MORE HELP USING SCREENS SAFELY WITHOUT GETTING ADDICTED.**
- 


**6. MORE FREE TIME TO PLAY AND DO THINGS WE LIKE.**

- 

**7. A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY WHERE WE CAN LIVE AND PLAY OUTDOORS.**
- 

**8. LISTEN TO OUR OPINIONS AND LET US TAKE PART IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT US.**
- 

**9. MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS WHAT THEY NEED, BUY LESS UNNECESSARY THINGS AND SHARE MORE.**
- 

**10. TAKE CARE OF OUR SCHOOL LIFE, BEYOND JUST LEARNING.**
- 

**11. TAKE CARE OF THE PLANET AND ENSURE EQUALITY FOR EVERYONE.**

**TAKE A LOOK AT THE 30 PROPOSALS OF THE BOYS AND GIRLS TO ACHIEVE THEIR DEMANDS**



WORDS AND MORE INFORMATION BY BARCELONA'S BOYS AND GIRLS

Barcelona, November 2023

Institut d'Infància i adolescència

Ajuntament de Barcelona



# VOLEM DECIDIR!

We are more than the  
adults of the future



Capital Europea  
de la Democràcia



Ajuntament de  
Barcelona



Pla Estratègic  
Metropolità  
de Barcelona

# The project



It is a **participatory process** aimed at boys and girls aged **8 to 17**, initiated by the **City Council** within the framework of Barcelona, **European Capital of Democracy**, from February to June 2024 (including a follow-up phase during the 2024-2025 academic year).

## The questions



**How** do we want to participate in the city?  
On **which** topics?  
In **what** ways?

## The objectives



Create new mechanisms for child and adolescent participation in the city.



Empower children and adolescents to participate.



Highlight that child and adolescent participation is necessary and valuable for the city.

# What have we done until now?



## Sessions of the first phase



**741**

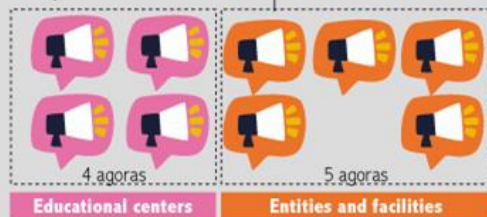
children and adolescents have participated in the first phase

## Sessions of the second phase



**293**

children and adolescents have participated in the second phase



**1 closing session**

May 30th at Canòdrom



**1 meeting with the Mayor**

on June 6th at City Hall



**Establishment of a Monitoring Committee for the 2024-2025 school year**

**20**

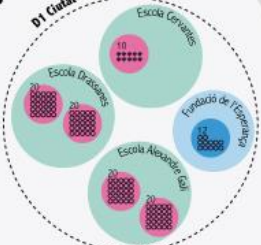
people interested in joining the Monitoring Committee



# Who has participated?



## D1 Ciutat Vella



○ District

● 15 Educational Centres

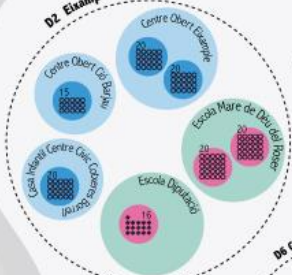
● 10 Class groups (primary school)

● 15 Class groups (Secondary Education)

○ Number of students \* Number of representatives

● 8 Facilities and Organizations

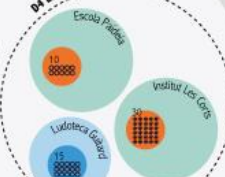
## D2 Eixample



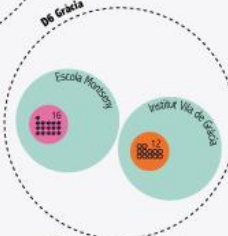
## D3 Sants-Montjuïc



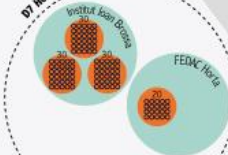
## D4 Les Corts



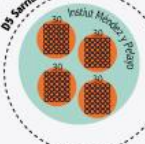
## D6 Gràcia



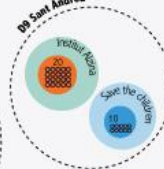
## D7 Horta i Guinard



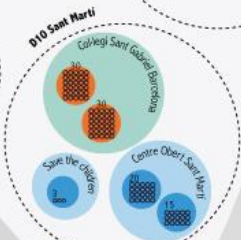
## D9 Santarri Sant Gervasi



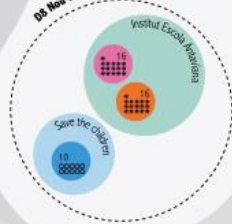
## D9 Sant Andreu



## D10 Sant Martí



## D8 Nou Barris



A total of **741** boys and girls from **37** different groups:

15 educational centers with 25 class groups

6 youth facilities with 8 groups

2 organizations with 4 groups



# Methodological Highlights



European Capital  
of Democracy



Pla Estratègic  
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de Barcelona



Development of specific **educational workshop materials** that are replicable and adaptable.



What does it mean to be part of a **community** and to take an active role in it?



Which **topics** from the Children's Agenda and Adolescent Citizenship do we prioritize?



What do we need to **participate**: information channels, safe spaces, attentive listeners, and supportive guidance?

Participation of **facilities and organizations**, in addition to educational centers: creating **self-guided workshop materials**.



Establishment of a **Monitoring Committee** (comprising 20 boys and girls) for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Coordination with the **City Council's Children's Participation Steering Group** and projects such as **"Children's Have their Say"** and **"Imcitizen."**



Dynamics of the **Agoras**: the importance of **Open Mic in public spaces**.





## PRIORITY TOPICS

Ages 8 to 11



Bullying



Poverty



Animal cruelty



Safety



Family life



Health



Planet and equality

Ages 12 to 17



Well-being and Health



Leisure and Recreation



Public Spaces



Sports



Education and Knowledge



Housing



Empowerment & Employment

## PARTICIPATION PROPOSALS

Ages 8 to 11



Creation of an app for voting and making proposals



YouTube channel similar to InfoK



Conduct interviews and surveys with us



School radio programs



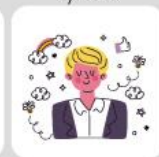
School voting systems



Children's participation association



Providing information in schools



Meetings with the Mayor



Children's Council in Barcelona



Creating participation accounts on social media



Receiving information at home through family

Ages 12 to 17



Open sports centers or playgrounds for additional activities



Create social media platforms for citizen participation



Develop participatory projects



Hybrid model of digital and in-person spaces



Launch awareness campaigns against cyberbullying and for personal data protection



Establish an adolescent council



Combat misinformation

# Next steps



**Political-technical meeting to finalize an implementation plan for the proposals.**

**“We Want to Decide Participatory Budgets”:**

from September 2024 to April 2025, Agora sessions will be held in districts for children aged 8 to 13 to choose (vote on) an investment proposal, which will go directly to the final voting of the city’s Participatory Budgets (24 proposals will be voted on for each district, plus the most voted children’s proposal from the Agoras).

**Ongoing engagement and periodic meetings of the Monitoring Committee for the 2024-2025 academic year.**



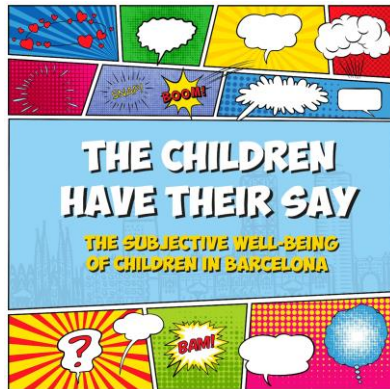






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