

Children and Young People in the Nordic Region – a cross-sectoral strategy for the Nordic Council of Ministers 2016-2022

Goals:

(1) the better integration of the children's rights and youth perspective into the work of the Nordic Council of Ministers as a whole, thus better highlighting and taking into consideration the voices of children and young people; and

(2) a greater focus by the Nordic Council of Ministers on the three strategic focus areas

A child rights and youth perspective

- Acting on the basis of what the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates about what children (0–18 years) are entitled to,
- and analysing and considering the perspective and participation of children and young people (0–25 years).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Article 2: The principle of non-discrimination, that all children have the same rights.

Article 3: The principle that, in all decisions concerning children, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.

Article 6: The principle of right to life, survival and development.

-Knowledge about young peoples living conditions

-Young peoples own voices and views

Article 12: The principle of respect for children's views, and that all children have the right to express their views.

Mainstreaming

In all phases of the project, analysing how children and young people with different circumstances and living conditions will be affected by the project, the initiatives or the decisions taken

How?

Step 1: AWARENESS

- How do the issues you work with concern children and young people?
- Which children and young people are concerned and which are not?
- Who are excluded and why?

Step 2: PROCESS MAPPING

- Identify the processes – your work tasks and products – in which a child rights and youth perspective needs to be integrated.

Step 3: DIVISION of ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

- Decide who is to be responsible for what. Create an ownership to ensure integration of a child rights and youth perspective in the project.

Step 4: KNOWLEDGE and TOOL KIT

- Identify your needs for knowledge about different children and young people
- Consider if and how children and/or young people's views on the issue can be part of the project or different activities
- Consider if and how children and/or young people can have an influence/participate in the project or different activities

Step 5: INTEGRATION

Why?

Better decisions: Active engagement provides decision-makers with more information and greater insight into children's and young people's lives.

Empowerment and engagement: By being or becoming aware of their rights, children and young people have the chance to advocate respect for their own rights.

Capacity building: A proper participation process equips children and young people with skills, knowledge, competencies and confidence.

Good governance: Participation is an important part of building accountability, and helps to create more transparent and open decision-making.

The child's and youth's perspective: Adults often believe that our experience and knowledge mean that we understand what children and young people want and need. But the only way to get the child's or the young persons own perspective on an issue is to listen to them. Adults can have a "child perspective" but the "child's perspective" is held by the child.