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CHILD PARTICIPATION IN ROMANIA

is increasingly institutionalised, supported by a new dedicated legal framework that strengthens children's participation rights.



LAW 295/2024

1 A dedicated legal framework establishing children's participation rights

PARTICIPATION IS REQUIRED

2 Public authorities must consult children aged 14-18 and establish permanent participation mechanisms

PROMISING LOCAL INITIATIVES

3 Participatory budgeting, Child Friendly Cities, advisory councils: meaningful participation is possible

IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING

4 Effective monitoring, evaluation and oversight are needed

FROM LAW TO IMPACT

5 Next challenge: turning legal rights into meaningful participation

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WHERE LOCAL SYSTEMS FALL SHORT



Significant **gap between legal provisions and implementation** and the absence of a national monitoring, evaluation, and accountability framework to assess compliance with laws.



Lack of dedicated and predictable funding for children's participation mechanisms.



The legal framework **lacks any targeted measure to overcome** territorial, socio-economic, disability, minority and gender-related **barriers** to children's participation.



Heavy r**eliance on project-based initiatives** and civil society organisations rather than sustainable institutional practices within public authorities.



Territorial inequalities, with most good practices concentrated in larger and better-resourced municipalities.

STRENGTHS WE CAN BUILD ON

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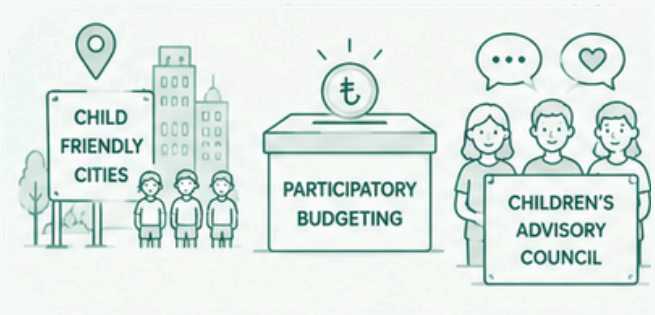
Adoption of Law No. 295/2024, **establishing the first dedicated legal framework for children's participation in public decision-making.**



Complementary participation framework combining children's participation (Law No. 295/2024), youth participation (Law No. 350/2006), and student representation under education legislation.



Existence of **innovative local participation models**, including Child Friendly Cities, participatory budgeting initiatives, and children's advisory councils.



Involvement of civil society organisations in developing participation methodologies, building children's capacities, and advocating for legislative reform.



CREATING PARTICIPATION THAT LASTS

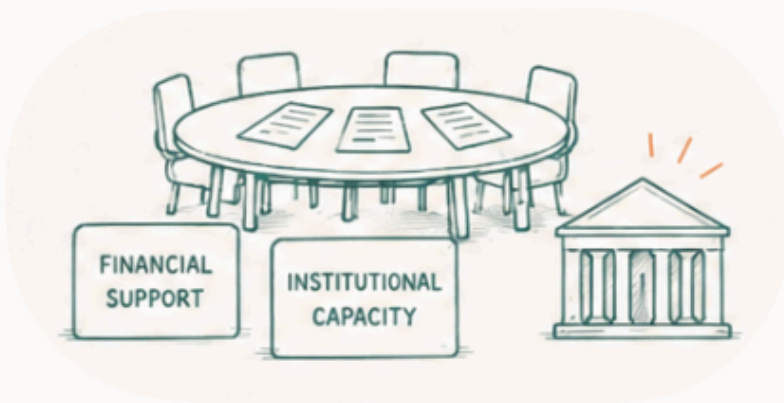
Establish a **national monitoring and accountability framework** for children's participation



Move beyond consultation towards **meaningful participation** throughout the entire policy cycle.



Strengthen **financial and institutional support** for youth and children's participation.



Scale up **participatory budgeting programmes** for children and young people.



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Meaningful participation means being consulted before decisions are made, receiving enough information to understand the issue, and seeing that your opinion can influence the final outcome. It means not being invited just to tick a box.

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