With Children, For Children
Demonstrating Participatory Practice to Deliver Children’s Rights in Europe

European Parliament, Brussels
18th - 19th November 2015

The Alliance for Childhood European Network Group, the European Children’s Rights Unit (University of Liverpool), in collaboration with the Department of Politics and International Relations (University of Southampton), Eurochild and the Universal Education Foundation present a special series of activities held at the European Parliament in the lead up to the United Nations Universal Children’s Rights Day on 20th November. Julie Ward MEP, founder member of the Children’s Rights Intergroup, will host the events.

The workshop (18th November, 15.00-17.30, Library Reading Room) on Demonstrating Participatory Practice to Deliver Children’s Rights in Europe will showcase how children can be actors in changing society when their right to participate in decision making is implemented. The workshop will include concrete examples of participatory practice presented and shared by children and young people, and offers a unique opportunity to explore how participatory methods can be used with at EU level. The workshop will support MEPs and members of the Commission, in particular, enabling them to work towards achieving the participatory commitments set out in the Investing in Children Recommendation.

The children and young people attending the workshop have been part of a range of events relating to the following projects:

- Children as Actors for Transforming Society (CATS) is a programme promoting child participation worldwide. Children are involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of all components of the CATS programme, enabling children’s delegations to feel prepared and confident in their interaction with adults in decision-making. http://catsconference.com

- As part of an interdisciplinary seminar series on ‘European responses to global children’s rights issues: building capacity and exchanging knowledge’, children have been involved in reflections on child friendly justice, violence against children, children as consumers, child migration and child employment. Much of this has involved children evaluating how European measures actually impact on their lived experiences. https://www.liv.ac.uk/law/research/european-childrens-rights-unit/esrc/

The workshop will be immediately followed by the launch of a new book, ‘The EU as a Children’s Rights Actor: Law, Policy and Structural Dimensions’ (18th November, 17.30-18.30, Library
Reading Room). This will provide an opportunity to learn more about how children’s rights can be brought to bear on a range of legal, policy and procedural issues at EU level. There will also be an opportunity to talk to children, young people and adults about their research and campaign activities. *The book launch is open to everyone. Cakes and drinks provided.*

The series of events will close with a Breakfast Meeting (19th November, 08.00-09.00, Members Salon), which will allow for an exchange between children and young people and invited European Commission officials on children’s active involvement in EU decision making and the mainstreaming of children’s rights.

**PROGRAMME**

**Workshop** 18th November 2015 from 15:00 - 17:30, Library Reading Room

15.00 Welcome and Setting the Scene
- Julie Ward MEP
- Young Representative and Helen Stalford, European Children’s Rights Unit
- Luis Pinto, Universal Education Foundation

15.15 Examples of participatory practices at local, European and international level
- Presentations by children and young people
  - Experience of children and young people involved in the following initiatives:
    - CATS - Children as Actors for Transforming Society
    - Children as partners in research
    - Taking children's experiences as the starting point in determining priorities
    - Using drama as a powerful research tool

16.00 Break-out discussion groups between adults and children:
- Participation with a purpose? - Children's experiences of engaging in decision-making (barriers and enablers)

17.20 Plenary reporting from group discussions

17.20 Closing words (Helen Stalford, European Children’s Rights Unit)

**Book Launch** 18th November 2015 from 17:30 – 18:30, Library Reading Room


**Breakfast Meeting** 19th November 2015 from 08:00 - 09:00, Members Salon

08.00 Welcome and Setting the context
- Julie Ward MEP
- Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild Secretary General
- Liam Cairns, Director of Investing in Children

08.10 Facilitated discussions between participants

08.50 Closing words (Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild Secretary General)