

EN

E-001253/2025

Answer given by Ms Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2025)

The Commission shares the European Parliament's unwavering commitment to strengthen children's rights, promote their active participation, including at local level, while fostering cross-border exchanges. They are key objectives of the EU Strategy on the rights of the child, notably of its EU Children's Participation Platform involving children in EU decision-making process. The local dimension is also central in the Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems, or in the implementation of the European Child Guarantee.

The initiative proposed requires a thorough analysis to define objectives, scope and an impact on children's lives and promotion of their rights. It is also crucial to avoid duplications and consider synergies with existing initiatives (e.g. the European Youth Capital, the European Capitals of Inclusion and Diversity Award, the European Capitals of Culture, the Access City Award), and with related existing initiatives led by partners (e.g. UNICEF). Such an assessment will consider already available EU funding schemes supporting projects with strong local dimensions for children, such as the calls for proposals on the rights of the child and children's participation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, or the development of the EU Children's Participation Platform. Children themselves should be involved in consultation, together with other relevant stakeholders, including international organisations, child rights organisations, local and regional authorities. Such analysis needs to consider equally resources and priorities under the next programming period, namely the Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034).