



# Toolkit for Children's Participation in Lawmaking in Moldova

The Role of Authorities and the  
Ombudsman for Child Rights

- child-friendly version -





# What is it about and why does it matter?

1

Laws

have a huge impact on our lives; they shape both people's lives, their relationships with each other, as well as the relationships between citizens and authorities.

2

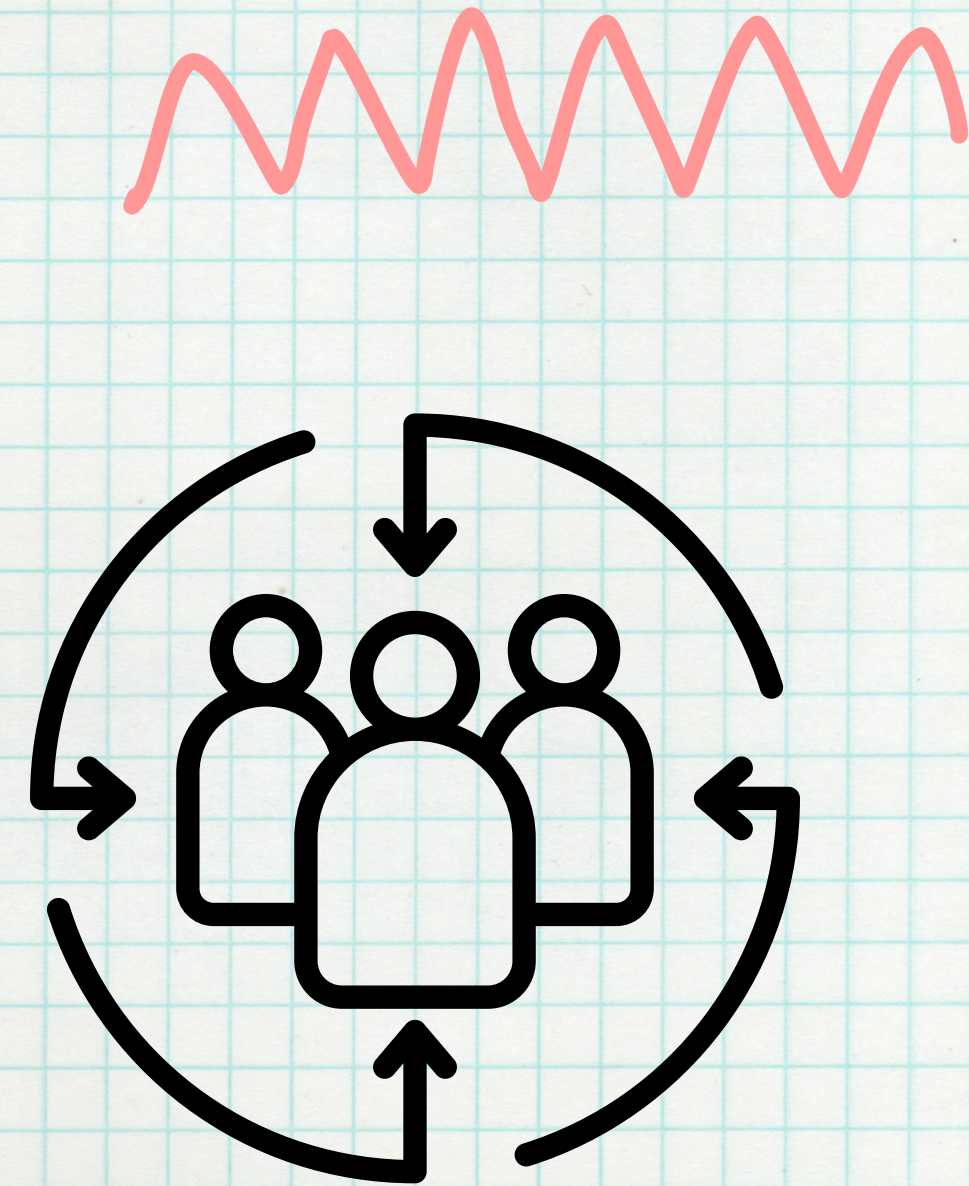
Lawmaking

the quality of laws depends on how they have been developed.

3

Citizens' participation

including children in the lawmaking process can increase the quality of the laws.



le



# The right of children to participate in lawmaking

is found in national and international legislative documents.



The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that authorities...

CRC  
General Comment 1

1

2

actively seek the opinions of children.

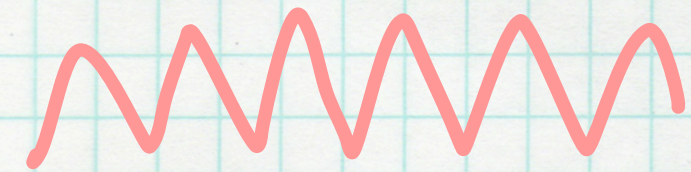
take children's opinions seriously and into account

- in all matters affecting children;
- applying standards for meaningful child participation.

... more here



# The aim of this document is:



1

to provide practical support for authorities and the Ombudsman for Child Rights in supporting children to participate in the development or amendment of laws.

2

to contribute to improving the quality of laws that affect children and the way they are developed





# Who participates in lawmaking in Moldova?

- Members of Parliament (MP)
- The President
- The Government
- The Popular Assembly of Gagauzia

Ombuds-person

- ...
- Professionals
- Children
- Representative structures of children
- Children's initiative groups
- Experts
- NGOs led by adults

• suggest the development or amendment of laws and represent the opinions of children.

• initiate and lead the legislative process, ensuring meaningful participation of citizens.

• express or represent the opinions of those affected by the content of the law that is to be developed or amended.



# Lawmaking in Moldova: Key Stages

The authorities announce the intention to develop or amend a law based on an issue identified or reported by citizens.

Initiation

1

The deputies analyze the content of the law in Parliament and either vote on it or send it back for improvement. The version voted by Parliament is then sent to the President, who either approves it or returns it for improvement. The law comes into force once it is signed by the President and published in the "Monitorul Oficial"

Adoption and publication

3

Drafting

2

The authorities create a working group responsible for drafting the law's text and consulting with experts and citizens, including children.

Review

4

Both the authorities and citizens monitor how the law is implemented and whether it has addressed the initial issue. If not, they provide recommendations for improving the law.





# Lawmaking and children's participation

Stage  
1

Initiation

## Public authorities must:

- inform children and their representative structures about their activities and plans, including decisions related to legislative reforms that may affect children;
- actively seek children's opinions, take them into consideration, and provide feedback to children on how their opinions are being implemented;
- actively seek children's opinions, including regarding ways for them to participate, in order to make children's participation more meaningful and better legislated.

As soon as possible.

Plan together with the children.

## Children can:

- propose to public authorities the development or amendment of a law and present recommendations for its content.

NOTE: According to current regulations and practices, most children need additional support and guidance from public authorities, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, or non-governmental organizations to understand and meaningfully engage in this process.



# Lawmaking and children's participation

Stage  
2

Drafting

## Public authorities must:

- Ensure equal opportunities and conditions for meaningful participation of children by:
  - adapting usual public consultation methods and/or;
  - creating specific opportunities for children, such as: a children's advisory group that provides recommendations regarding the process/methods of participation;
  - conducting separate consultations with children in a child-friendly manner;
  - developing child-friendly materials, including feedback for children.

The children's advisory group

Child friendly methods and materials

## Children can:

- participate in the public consultation process just like any other citizen, using the dedicated website;
- request and provide recommendations regarding more meaningful ways of involving children;
- support the development of child-friendly materials (information/documents, methods, and tools, etc.).

**NOTE:** According to current regulations and practices, most children need additional support and guidance from public authorities, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, or non-governmental organizations to understand and meaningfully engage in this process.



# Lawmaking and children's participation

Stage  
3

Adaptation

## Public authorities must:

Communication channels and child-friendly materials

- Continue to inform children and their representative structures about the development or amendment of a law and its outcomes;
- Consider any opinions from children throughout this stage and inform them about how their opinions have been taken into account;
- Develop a child-friendly version of the law, following consultations with children.

Regular feedback to children

## Children can:

- communicate their recommendations to the deputies during the analysis or review of the law's text;
- after the law is adopted, children can collaborate with the president, depending on whether they wish to support the signing of the law or encourage the president to reject it;
- after the law is published, children can prepare or contribute to developing a child-friendly version of the law to disseminate it to their peer.

NOTE: According to current regulations and practices, most children need additional support and guidance from public authorities, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, or non-governmental organizations to understand and meaningfully engage in this process.



# Lawmaking and children's participation

Stage  
4

Review

## Public authorities must:

- establish connections with children's representative groups and stay informed about their activities;
- use children's opinions in their own work and respond to any recommendations regarding legislative reforms;
- involve children in their own monitoring, including by requesting and considering children's opinions.

Maintain contact and consult with children, while also monitoring how laws are applied and the general situation of children.

## Children can:

- monitor the implementation of laws and communicate to the authorities their experiences, issues, and recommendations for improvement.

NOTE: According to current regulations and practices, most children need additional support and guidance from public authorities, the Ombudsman for Child Rights, or non-governmental organizations to understand and meaningfully engage in this process.



- For more information, click here:

## CRIC - SOCIAL MEDIA

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## CHILDREN'S PLATFORM - SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.facebook.com/platformacopiilor>

[https://www.instagram.com/platforma\\_copiilor/](https://www.instagram.com/platforma_copiilor/)

<https://www.tiktok.com/@platformacopiilor>

web pages: [drepturilecopilului.md](http://drepturilecopilului.md) or

[monitor.drepturilecopilului.md](http://monitor.drepturilecopilului.md)



The Toolkit for Children's Participation in Lawmaking in Moldova was developed as part of the project "Advancing the rights, empowerment and protection of child human rights defenders (CHRDs) in promoting human rights in Moldova," implemented by the Child Rights Information Center (CRIC) and Child Rights Connect, in partnership with the Ombudsman for Child Rights, with the support of the Ville de Genève.

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CIDDC is a non-governmental organization founded in 1999. We inspire adults to listen to every child's voice and collaborate with children, families, authorities, public services, and civil society to develop and implement child rights-based solutions. For more information, visit [www.drepturilecopilului.md](http://www.drepturilecopilului.md).