CHILDREN'S REPORT

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN ROMANIA



Why I cannot express my opinion the way I want?

We have met to analyze the way our rights are respected.

What about fake news, considering that they are more and more numerous?

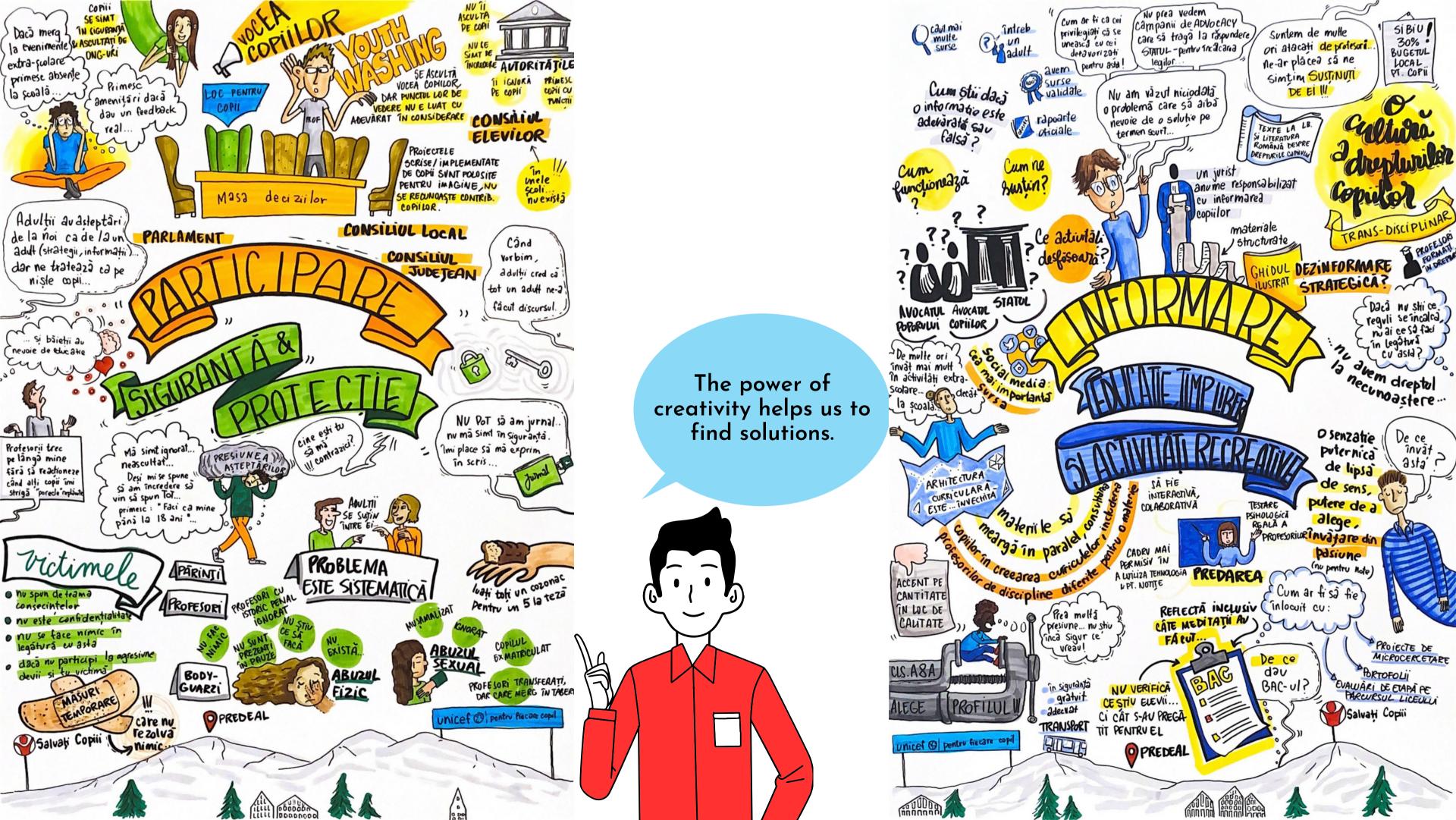
How do we manage to digitalize the educational system?

Does it make sense to get involved in activities if it doesn't matter what I say anyway?

And we had a graphic recorder with us who captured key moments from the discussion.









LETS BEGIN!



Information, knowledge of children's rights

We want adults to respect the rights we have as children and not focus only on our responsibilities for fear that our rights may lead to disobedience. We have to get informed on our own to know our rights since public institutions, schools or parents don't help us with that.

We want to create a child rights-based culture where both adults and children know their rights, not just their responsibilities. We want the authorities to carry out relevant information campaigns and educate us, through the education system, as well as our parents, teachers, institutions, public authorities and other entities that should protect our rights.



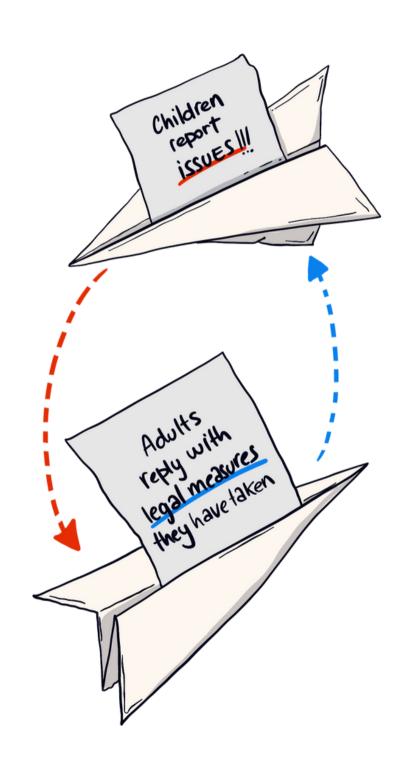
Information, knowledge of children's rights

When we report problems regarding the respect of our rights, we would like to get a response informing us about the legislative action that has been taken to address those problems.

We also feel that when a student doesn't follow the school rules, he or she receives a sanction, but when a teacher doesn't follow the rules, they try to avoid sanctions against him or her.

We want the law to be accessible to us as well, not just to adults. We want it to be drafted as clearly as possible, in a child-friendly language.

We feel the need to accurately know the sources of information that are most relevant to us, so that we can stay away from fake news. Fake news is everywhere, and we would like to see the government impose sanctions for spreading false information.

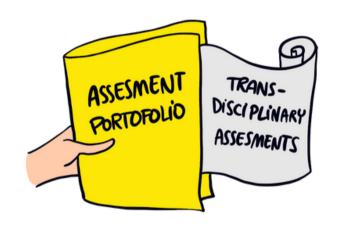


Education, leisure, recreational activities

We want students to benefit from civic education focusing on informing them about democratic principles, children's rights, the functioning of public institutions and the main organizations working in the fields of children's rights and youth rights.



We want to phase out high-stakes student testing in schools and make the transition to cross-curricular assessment based on an individual portfolio. We also think that it would be useful to consult with us in advance when choosing the number of optional subjects available on new and attractive topics, including when adding new optional subjects. Furthermore, we would like to have no pressure concerning grades for optional subjects, as their purpose is to improve our knowledge in areas we are passionate about.



We need free (not reimbursed) transportation, providing appropriate travel conditions to all students, in both urban and rural areas, to help prevent early school leaving, which is on the rise.



Education, leisure, recreational activities

We want a curriculum that also promotes volunteering and other opportunities for children to get involved so that we can fully develop our personalities. It is important for schools to support voluntary and extracurricular activities and integrate them in the education system.

We need spaces for recreational activities both in and out of school. We want appropriate funding for children's clubs and sports facilities.

We want schools to respond to our needs so that we don't have to spend our free time taking private lessons. We want teaching and evaluation methods that are based on practical activities, experiments, projects, and debates, encouraging us to express our opinions freely and acquire practical skills.



Inclusion and vulnerable groups

As children from ethnic minorities (e.g. Roma children) or of other nationalities living in Romania, we do not feel safe enough to practice our cultural customs, to speak our native language and to wear our traditional clothing because of the bullying and discrimination we face.

If we have disabilities, speaking up exposes us to bullying. We are therefore unable to fully exercise this right as we fear for our own safety.

We would like to no longer see public authorities perpetuate aggressive and discriminatory behaviors towards children with disabilities, Roma children or children from other ethnic groups. We want **legal action** to be taken against those who display such behaviors. As long as public entities perpetuate such behaviors, society will not change.

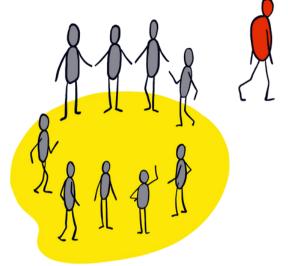


Inclusion and vulnerable groups

We no longer want schools to promote gender stereotypes and we want to be treated equally. Discrimination doesn't only occur among students; some teachers have this type of behavior as well.

We want girls in Romania to no longer have to take to the streets demanding that their rights be respected, to feel safe when they walk alone on the streets and to be believed when they report sexual abuse. We want us, the children, to be able to express ourselves freely, safely and unconstrained by gender stereotypes that are harmful.

We would like to see an improvement in the psychological testing of teachers, as it does not always prevent abuse. Furthermore, we want our schools to be externally evaluated more often and spontaneously so as to observe what really happens in the classroom.







Child participation, children's voices

We feel that local and national authorities don't listen to us unless we have a representative organization behind. Our voices are heard, but our views are not really taken into account; the adults rarely give the opportunity to participate; we are not encouraged by adults, including our teachers, who tell us that we should focus on school.

Public authorities do not support or encourage children's representation and, in some cases, they even prevent it. We want to encourage other children to participate in various decision-making processes and not be afraid to express their opinions.

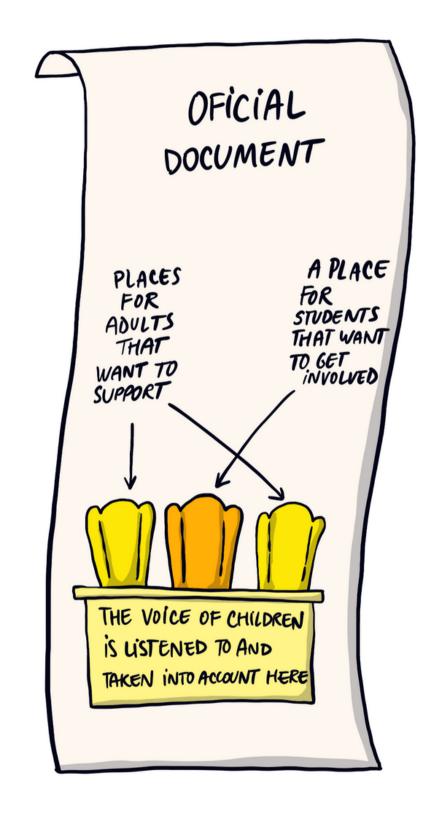


Child participation, children's voices

We build communities, we create projects and we do our best to reach out to our generation; and we need support from adults to do all these.

We want an official document that expressly states how, where, when and in what structures we can express our opinions on the various issues of concern for us.

We don't feel that we are encouraged to get involved in the Students' Councils or other representative structures, and when we do get involved and express our opinions, they are not taken into account.



Safety and Protection

We want crisis situations to be prevented in school, not just addressed when they occur.

We no longer want teachers who are sex offenders to continue teaching.

We want to feel safe when we report bullying incidents.

We want public authorities to take a more active stance on child trafficking and pass laws that truly protect us.

We want to be protected when we report cases of abuse perpetrated by public authorities and adults. Furthermore, we want to have teachers who report abuse to the authorities.



Climate Change

We want public authorities to stop prioritizing economic interests at the expense of our planet and fulfil the international obligations they have undertaken, providing hard evidence to children, and seeking their opinion. Climate change has both short-term and long-term effects on our lives.

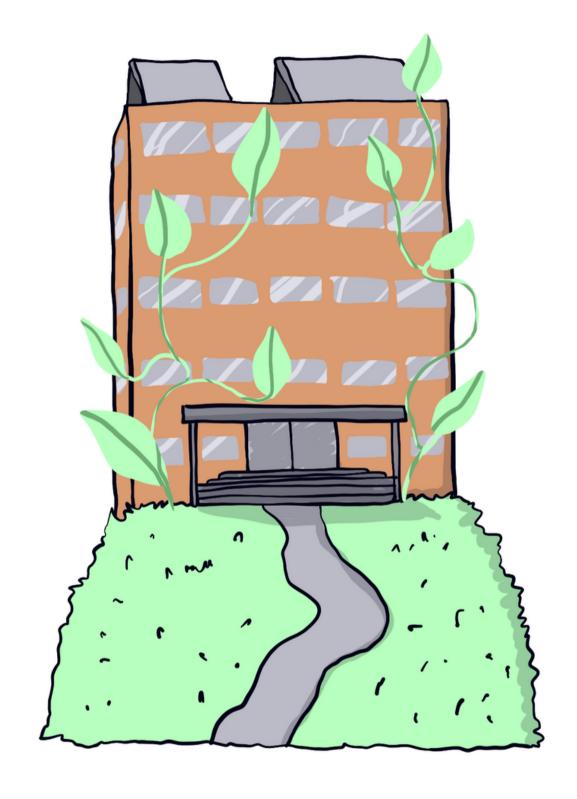
Urgent action is needed. Decision-makers need to take action to prevent and reduce pollution and to identify alternative solutions to power sources, fuel, and transportation.



Climate Change

We want to see a change in decision-makers' approach to environmental issues, leading by example and supporting the projects that students have already been implementing.

We would like the authorities to make all the institutions working with and for children more environmentally friendly and educate us accordingly, so that we can contribute to solving environmental problems.

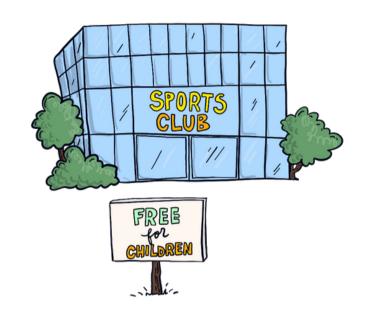


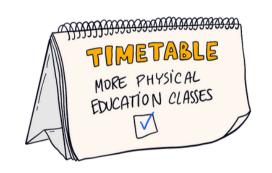
Health

We call for the inclusion of health education in the curriculum, development of health-related extracurricular activities, and prevention of risky behaviors.

We also want to see that physical activity is promoted among children and they have free access to sports facilities. Furthermore, we want school gyms to be properly equipped and have more physical education classes in schools.

Every child should have access to quality health care services, including in school-based medical basic services. These must be properly equipped and have competent health professionals available during school hours.





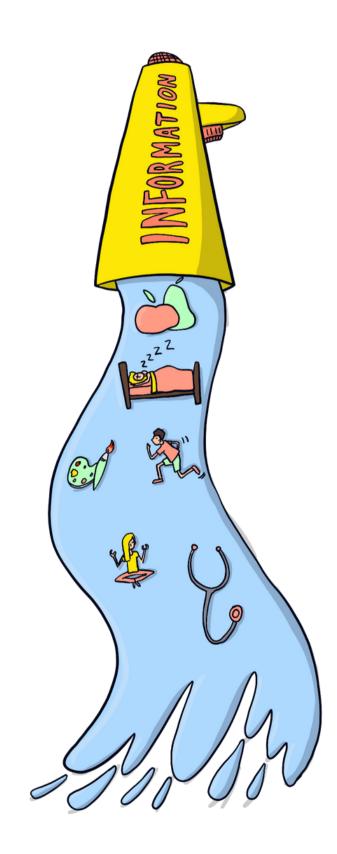


Health

We need support with mental health issues, we want to be able to reach out for help and not face stigma.

We need adults, teachers, decision makers to no longer consider mental health problems as uncommon and see them as obstacles that every child may face.

We want to see that addiction risks (alcohol, tobacco, drug) are addressed among children. We want to stop being exposed to materials that promote the use of illegal substances and instead be targeted by information campaigns that warn us about their harmful effects.



Digitalization

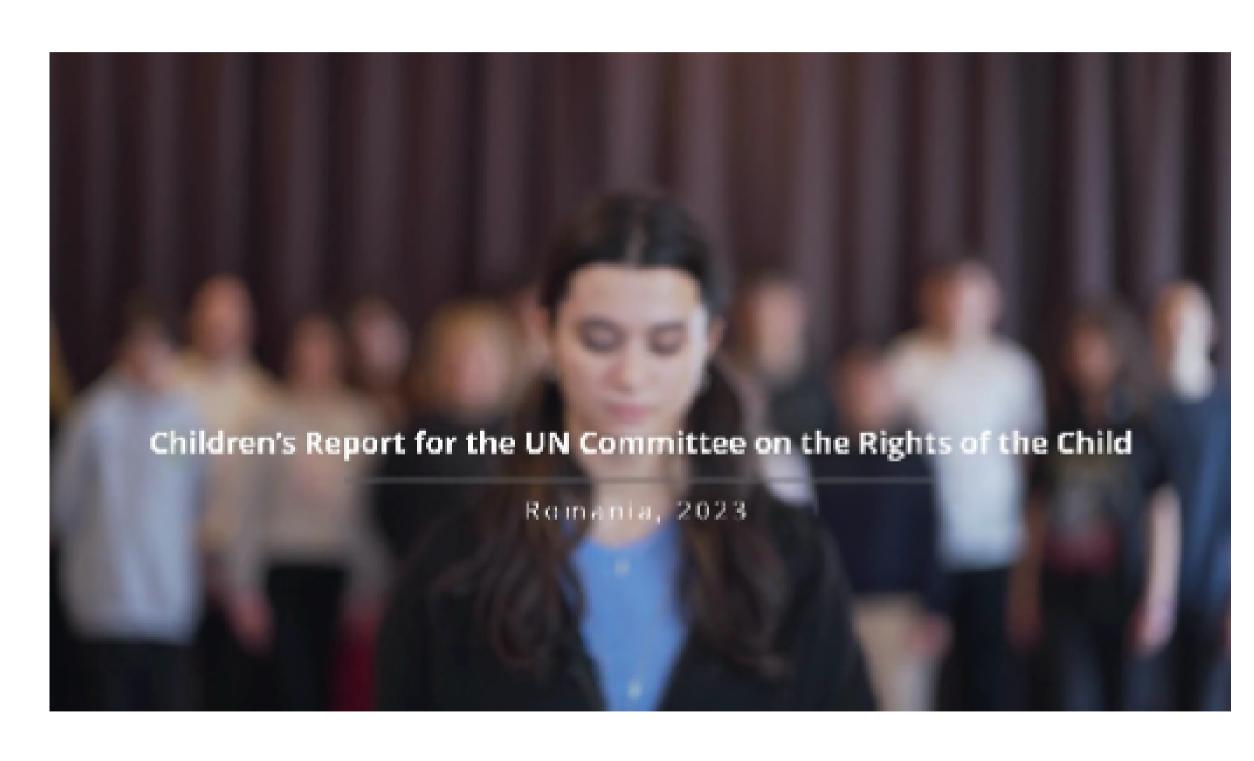
We want digital literacy to be provided not only to young people, but also to adults (decision-makers, teachers, parents, partners, professionals), as they facilitate our access to online platforms.

We would like the state to impose sanctions for misinformation, as we are susceptible to radicalization and fake news. We want the education system to include media literacy courses so that we can minimize the way in which misinformation impacts us, in addition to the measures taken by the authorities.

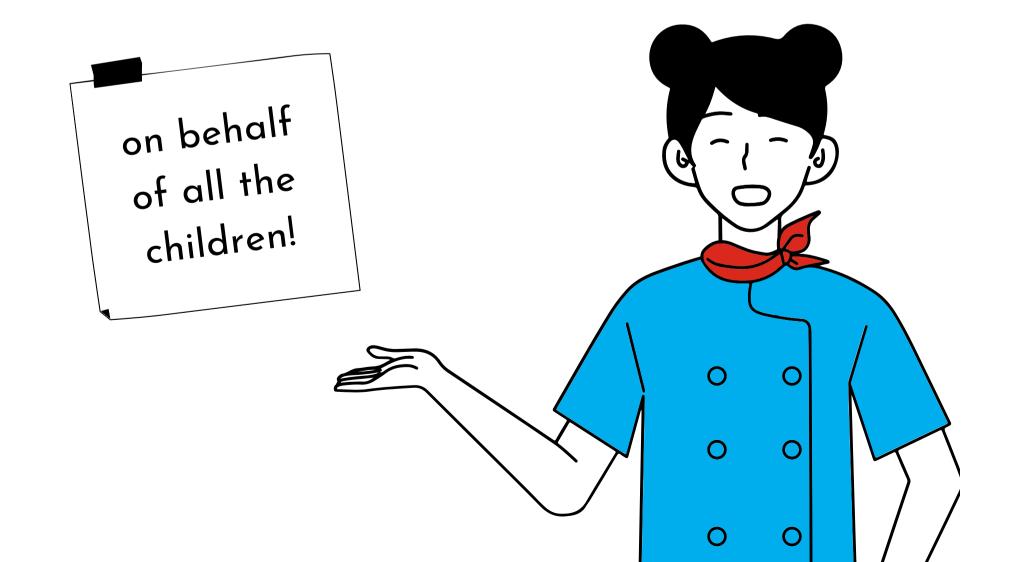


As part of this report, we have created a manifesto video.

We are the voice of 55,000 children throughout the country, who have been consulted in recent years and who request that their rights are respected.



Thank you!







This is an initiative coordinated by Save the Children Romania and UNICEF in Romania and supported by:

- ANAID
- Constanta Students' Association
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 - National Students' Council
 - Romanian Angel Appeal
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