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Literature review and scoping study on the implementation of Child Friendly Cities in the UNIC network

Authors: Dr Shirley Martin, Katie Marah and Dr Helen Lynch, University College Cork

cork child friendly city

UNIC CITYLABS

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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For further information contact Dr Shirley Martin, School of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork
s.martin@ucc.ie

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Introduction

This UNIC4ER Seed Funded project is exploring the development of best practices for children and young people's participation in the implementation of child friendly city initiatives in UNIC cities. UNIC, the European University of Cities in Post-Industrial Transition, is an alliance of ten universities across Europe who are working with their cities and with one another to tackle urban challenges and develop shared, sustainable futures. The UNIC university partners are University College Cork, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Koç University Istanbul, University of Deusto in Bilbao, University of Liège, Ruhr University Bochum, University of Oulu. These ten cities include Bilbao, Oulu, Cork, Zagreb, Rotterdam, Liège, Lodz, Malmö, Bochum, and Istanbul. This overview document will provide broader understanding of what constitutes child-friendly cities within each municipality and will explore how these insights can be applied to developing a Child Friendly City in Cork.

Context of child friendly cities

Rapid urbanisation is leading to key challenges for the promotion and realisation of children's rights (Malone, 2015). There is a growing number of children living in cities worldwide, with approximately 56% of the world's population, including 1.18 billion children recorded as living in urban areas as of 2020. This is set to rise to 70% of the global population by 2050 (UNICEF, 2020a). Living in cities posits multiple benefits for children. Ezzati et al. (2018) suggest that urban residents indicate better health than rural counterparts and are provided with better opportunities for nutrition. In a study undertaken by Imperial College London (2023), it was also observed that city living provided ample opportunities for education and participation in sport and recreation activities. Despite this research, it is evident that living in rapidly urbanising areas can pose key challenges for our youngest citizens. Contrasting Ezzati and colleague's study, multiple researchers suggest that children living in cities are at heightened risk of poverty and social exclusion and this may impede on their access to adequate sanitation and nutrition (Cities4Children, 2021; UNICEF, 2020b; Kuddus, 2020). Further, in a report released by UNICEF in 2022, it was suggested that rapid urbanisation is associated with lack of green spaces and decreased independent mobility for children (UNICEF, 2022).

Foley and Leverett suggest that the design and delivery of services for children can contribute either positively or negatively to the ability of children to participate within these places and therefore spaces and places can be viewed as being 'constituted, physically, socially, historically and discursively for and by young people' (2011, p.1). This can be viewed in both the sense of creation of smaller spaces, for example a playground, or more widely, for example children's participation in the re-design and re-development of cities. Within multiple fields, including urban geography, social work, children's rights and childhood studies, there has been growing emphasis on the creation of 'child-friendly cities.' However, this poses a question: what exactly makes a city *child-friendly?* Brown and colleagues (2019) suggest that a child friendly city is a space which nurtures child-caregiver interactions, includes children in urban planning and design processes, enables independent mobility and safety and has space for play (as outlined in Alias, Nasri and Awang, 2023). Moreover, a child friendly city is a city which upholds children's rights, as outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN, 1989) (Gokmen and Gulay Tasci, 2016). This can be viewed through the creation of international initiatives such as the Growing Up in Cities project (UNESCO, 1970) and most recently, the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative (UNICEF, 1996). Within UNICEF, Child Friendly Cities is the only programme that is designed as a universal initiative, for both minority and majority world countries (Chatterjee, 2023).

The UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative emerged in response to the UNCRC (1989) and was launched by UNICEF and UN-Habitat in 1996 to promote the realisation of children's rights at the local level through the creation of specific networks with city councils, municipal governments, the private sector, organisations, academics, media and most importantly children themselves (UNICEF, 2023a). As Chatterjee explains, 'the purpose was not only to fulfil children's individual rights as enshrined in the UNCRC but as many have argued, to secure children's 'right to the city' which is a collective right' (Chatterjee, 2023, p. 2). Two key documents were published to shape the Child Friendly Cities initiative: one in 1996 and more recently in 2018. These were followed by a recent Guidance Note for implementing Child Friendly Cities initiatives (2023). While the initial framework was viewed as being instrumental in implementing more child focused policy and practices in urban contexts, it was formally reviewed in 2018, and new insights were consolidated into a revised framework document. The revised framework document in 2018, proposed five core programming pillars. These pillars included key principles: that every child and young person is valued, respected, and treated fairly within their community and by local authorities and they have a right to be heard and have access to quality essential social services. Two pillars address the physical environment in relation to child-responsive urban

planning (CRUP) and the right to play in response to the identified need for more specific focus on the urban environment. Core to these two goals was a commitment to planning, placemaking, and children's independent mobility.

Since its initial establishment, over 40 countries and 3000 municipalities have taken part in the initiative (ibid). This includes cities participating in the European University of Post-Industrial Cities Framework (hereinafter UNIC). The Child-Friendly Cities Framework (hereinafter CFC Framework) is foregrounded in the four main articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: right of the child to survival and development (Article 6), best interests of the child (Art 3), non-discrimination (Article 2) and the right of the child to participate in matters which affect them (Article 12) (UNICEF, 2023b). In addition, it is informed by the right to play, rest, recreation, and participation in cultural and artistic activities (Art 31) and General Comment no 17 (2013). The initiative is further guided by several principles for good governance, which include equity and inclusion, public participation of all stakeholders, accountability and transparency, effectiveness and responsiveness of governments and adaptability and sustainability (ibid). Drawing again from Brown et al (2019), the CFC initiative has introduced multiple positive changes within participating municipalities including the inclusion of co-creation and governance by and for children, leading to positive changes in adult behaviours, and the instalment of child-friendly city advisors. Despite this, Cordero-Vinueza and colleagues (2023) argue that while the UNICEF initiative is multi-dimensional (rights, governance, and physical environment), available studies mainly focus on the rights and physical environments aspects and fail to evaluate the governance dimension. This is concerning as good governance is a central facet of upholding the promotion and realisation of children's rights.

It is also important to consider other important facets of creating child-friendly cities. Gleeson and Sipe (2009, p.5) contend that 'the sense of urgency which appears to characterize new assessments of children's well-being seems charged by the view that children have been downgraded or even swept aside as a political concern and an institutional priority'. Through the emergence of constructionist and structural perspectives on childhood, children are increasingly viewed as active participants in the formation of their lives and full and active citizens – with the capacity to act upon, interact with and influence the social worlds they live in (Smart et al., 2001). This can be viewed through the creation of child-friendly spaces. Speaking about children's role in the development of urban planning, Freeman and

Tranter (2012) posits that children have different needs and perspectives and bringing them together with other adults, including professionals, facilitates greater understanding of these differences and more in-depth knowledge of what constitutes as a good environment. Equally, in a study undertaken by Nordstrom (2009), it was observed that Norwegian children (aged 12) indicate other measurements of *child-friendliness* including safety and security of a space, and the provision of basic services.

Through individual case studies, it is expected to document local and national implementation of CFC initiatives in the next section. This will be concentrated on municipalities participating in the UNIC framework: Lodz, Bochum, Rotterdam, Istanbul, Liege, Malmo, Bilbao, Zagreb, Oulu, and Cork. Specific attention will be paid to the implementation of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities (or similar) programme in participating municipalities and how this can be implemented in Cork. This includes examining both local and national participation strategies, the availability and accessibility of capacity building training for children and young people and the availability of a clear research/evidence base.

Methodology

The first phase of the project would be a short literature review and scoping study to identify the implementation of Child Friendly City initiatives across the UNIC network. This review will also identify the regulatory and legislative frameworks which underpin children's rights and child participation within each context and are an essential part of the planning for Child Friendly Cities and in particular examples from within the UNIC network. This review would provide insights and direction to support the development of a city-wide Child Friendly City strategy in Cork which is embedded in both the local, national and EU legal and policy landscape. A key aspect of the review will be the identification of indicators used to measure the implementation of Child Friendly Cities with a specific focus on children and young people's participation. Such indicators can include indicators focused on the built environment, basic services (health, education facilities, transport, community activities) within various neighbourhoods, the role of safety and security through the design of street within neighbourhoods, and urban and environmental qualities of the various green and play areas. To do this we developed a case study template to collect data on 10 UNIC cities. We

identified appropriate secondary data sources available on children and childhoods in the cities. To date two of the case studies have been reviewed by UNIC partners in Zagreb and Istanbul and they have added additional information to the templates. See appendix B for case study template. The next section gives an overview of the key case study findings for each city.

City Case Studies

1. **Oulu- Finland**
2. **Zagreb- Croatia**[1]
3. **Rotterdam- Netherlands**
4. **Istanbul - Turkey**
5. **Cork - Ireland**
6. **Liege-Belgium**
7. **Malmo- Sweden**
8. **Bilbao- Spain**[1]
9. **Lodz- Poland**
10. **Bochum- Germany**

[1] Note that these countries (Croatia, and Spain) were early adopters of CFCI, during the 1996-2003 phase (Chatterjee, 2023).

1. City: Oulu (Finland) UNIC University: University of Oulu

Child Friendly City Related Policies

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	Yes -2016 and 2020 (2024 next application)
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	National Child Strategy https://stm.fi/en/child-strategy UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Started 2012 with 53 participating municipalities. 14 recognized as Child Friendly including Oulu. Led by Finnish National Committee for UNICEF Oulu has been participating in UNICEF's Child-friendly municipality operating model since 2016. The child-friendly municipality operating model is used in all the city's service sectors and administration. Children and young people play an important role in development work.
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Yes: child-friendly municipality model (UNICEF) **Five different work** phases of the Child-friendly municipality model. 1. Applying for the model 2. Getting to know the rights of the child 3. Mapping of the current situation 4. Goals and action plan 5. Monitoring, evaluation and recognition https://www.lapsiystavallinenkunta.fi/lapsiystavallinen-kunta-mallin-tyovaiheet Oulu's **Child-Friendly Municipality work goals and action plan for 2020-2023** Children involved in voting for a candidate in the municipality in 2023 https://www.ouka.fi/lapsiystavallinen-kunta#component-30677 Website with information on child and family initiatives: https://lapsuus.ouka.fi/en/as-a-family/childs-rights/ Student City development in Oulu (funded by Oulu City Council): https://www.ouka.fi/en/news/students-oulu-provided-their-opinions-development-better-student-city City of Oulu Participation and Interaction Plan 2023-2030: https://www.ouka.fi/en/participation-and-interaction-plan.

Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	Child-friendly Oulu- YouTube video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNZsheHjl-I Document on Oulu as a Smart City https://www.childfriendlycities.org/media/2491/file/Smart_cities_Oulu.pdf Ongoing evaluation https://www.hyvinvointikertomus.fi/preview/10811694586
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Yes extensive interagency collaboration.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Oulu Youth Council Children's Rights Week November 2023 https://www.ouka.fi/lapsiystavallinen-kunta/lapsen-oikeuksien-viikko Proposal of targeted digital platform for children and young people in Oulu – to include things such as support and advice, participation and influence (how to participate, suggestion box, participation groups, youth elections, youth council, NERO grant for young people and youth organisation grants),
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Municipality
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	Yes part of the child-friendly municipality model- step 2 link to training https://www.lapsiystavallinenkunta.fi/lapsiystavallinen-kunta-mallin-tyovaiheet/lapsen-oikeuksiin-tutustuminen

2. City: Zagreb (Croatia) UNIC University: University of Zagreb

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	Yes 2006
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	**National Plan for Rights of Children of the Republic of Croatia** by the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy. (NEF Croatia 2022-2024 is funded partially by the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy) https://djecja-prava.dnd-opatija.hr/en/national-eurochil-forum-of-childrens-councils-of-croatia/

	Included in National Strategy for Child Right and discussions on development of national indicators on child welfare. https://total-croatia-news.com/lifestyle/child-friendly-city-in-europe/ Previous initiative '**Towns/Municipalities – Friends of Children'** (*Gradovi/Općine – prijatelji djece*) in Croatia started in 1999 and is carried out by the Union of Societies "Our Children Croatia" (*Savez društava „Naša djeca" Hrvatske*) and the Croatian Society of Social and Preventive Pediatrics. The UNICEF Office for Croatia supports the initiative in cooperation with the Association of Cities, the Association of Municipalities and the Croatian Community of Counties.Any local authority in Croatia can opt into the initiative; there are currently 121 participating cities and municipalities, of which 71 have earned the prestigious title of being 'Child Friendly'.
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	NATIONAL EUROCHILD FORUM OF CHILDREN'S COUNCILS OF CROATIA- https://djecja-prava.dnd-opatija.hr/en/national-eurochil-forum-of-childrens-councils-of-croatia/ UNICEF Child Friendly City national initiatives: https://savez-dnd.hr/sto-radimo/djecja-participacija-2018/ ● **children's forums** - for learning about and realizing children's rights, education for peace, tolerance and cooperation (30 nationally) ● **children's city/municipal councils** - for encouraging and active participation of children in issues concerning children in local communities ● **meetings of children with mayors, mayors, prefects** - meetings and gatherings of children and representatives of local authorities in Children's Week as well as at events for children **Meetings of children from Children's Forums with representatives - annual thematic sessions of representatives of children from Children's Forums and parliamentary representatives** **inclusion of children as nominal members of the DND - children,** with the consent of their parents, who are involved in the activities of the DND, can be members of the Society "Naša djeca" **Commemoration of the Day of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child -** **the best projects of the Children's Councils** - a competition for the most original projects of children from the Children's Councils, which are aimed at improving the lives of children in communities. Children record a problem, design and implement targeted projects to solve it independently or together with adults. **Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Center (Child Board) https://www.poliklinika-djeca.hr/en/** **WHO Healthy Cities** The city of Zagreb was one of the initiators of the development of the "Healthy City" project in Europe, and in the fall of 1988 it hosted the European Healthy Cities Conference (which during the conference in Athens in 1998 was officially marked as the beginning of the European Healthy Cities project). The Zagreb project

	initiated the creation and expansion of a network of healthy cities in Croatia. (only Croatian) https://www.zagreb.hr/opcenito/491 UNICEF equipped five inclusive classrooms at universities in Zagreb, Split, Osijek, Pula and Rijeka. (preschool teaching training) https://www.unicef.org/croatia/en/node/3166
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	This paper looks at 'family-friendly cities' through lens of CFC and other initiatives (includes synopsis of Zagreb's provisions): https://www.proquest.com/docview/2773883532?parentSessionId=A8HFqO3wEk7TfM6xwKpHaPsZKIBNcUzX2yZhERVXJMY%3D&pq-origsite=summon&accountid=14504 Zlatar's background to urban planning in Zagreb (not child related but handy for context): https://www-sciencedirect-com.ucc.idm.oclc.org/science/article/pii/S0264275114000390?via%3Dihub) Demographics (including children) https://www.zagreb.hr/en/demographic-measures/136703 and https://dzs.gov.hr/news/from-the-cradle-to-adulthood-everything-is-monitored-by-statistics/1704 City Healthy Profile https://www.zagreb.hr/opcenito/491
Interagency structures in place to support CFCs and partners	In partnership with Association of Cities, Assoc of Municipalities and Community of Counties. Selma Šogorić- Healthy Cities Eurocities – international city-based initiative (Tomislav Tomisavec (mayor of Zagreb) – under initiative InclusiveCities4All
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Child Board at the **Zagreb Child and Youth Protection Center**
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	UNICEF
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	Inclusive Cities 4 All (Eurocities) initiative has several principles. Under these principles, includes: Rolling out local education and development opportunities within Zagreb (under Principle 1) Funding child and young people programmes which promotes realization of rights and promotion of family's capacity building (under Principle 11)

Any other relevant information	UNICEF more involved in programme implementation and support in Croatia and focus on marginalized children- for example preschool attendance for Roma children, play hubs and library support, child poverty (EU Child Guarantee). Inclusive Cities 4 All involved in roll out of ECEC programmes and free primary school meals alongside other opportunites. Digital literacy support- With support from UNICEF medijskapismenost.hr portal was launched as **a national platform supporting educational professionals, parents, and children in understanding the media,** tackling misinformation, online violence prevention, and learning about how new media content can affect our lives. **Media Literacy Days** initiated in 2018 have gathered more than 72 thousand participants at numerous media literacy events across the country. Educational materials aimed at organizing workshops in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools have almost 800.000 downloads.

3. City: Rotterdam (Netherlands) UNIC University: Erasmus University

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	Participation embedded into Youth Act 2015 but can be viewed through a tokenistic lens (see Bouma paper: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0145213418300802). For older children/young people – Youth Participation strategy: https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Netherlands_2007_Youth_Policy_Overview.pdf. Aims to 'improve participation' both at municipal, local and national level. Child and Youth Act (enacted in 2018)
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Rotterdam is not a participant of UNICEF CFC. However, it has developed its own CFC strategies. This includes: 1) Declaration of Rotterdam (European Network Child Friendly Cities): https://ciudadesamigas.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/declaration_rotterdam_2008.pdf 2) https://playingout.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Rotterdam-How-to-build-a-Child-Friendly-City.pdf (Colophon, 2010 – Building Blocks of Child Friendly City Rotterdam) 3) More recently – Promising Neighbourhoods strategy (focused on more affluent neighbourhoods – a criticism of this is that low SES areas of Rotterdam are being further excluded from participation in favour of more affluent areas). 4) 2019-2022: Green-Blue Project. Child Friendliness of Rotterdam measured through specific established framework (kindvirenlijk) Participant in Cities of Learning.
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	Promising Neighbourhoods strategy is here: https://www.erasmusmc-rdo.nl/strategy/#Id-1565259332156-27a88f60-07ed Extensive body of research on Rotterdam as a Child Friendly City including; - Tim Gill 's blog 'Rethinking Childhood' and book chapter 'Transforming a Failing City' (Chapter 3) in his book Urban Playground: How Child-Friendly Planning and Design can Save Cities.

	- https://muse.jhu.edu/article/896287/pdf - by Adrian Voce - This study examines climate adaptation planning so not exactly relevant but involves public participation, undertaken in Rotterdam and one other area: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09640568.2019.1569503 - https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264275123002925 - again another study looking at co-production and public participation in Rotterdam. - https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7721/chilyoutenvi.16.1.0151 - Karsten and van Vliet (Rotterdam as a Child Friendly City) - Promising Neighbourhoods, which emerged from Building Blocks/Child Friendly Rotterdam (known under two different names) and is led by Erasmus University Medical Centre. See research basis here: https://www.erasmusmc-rdo.nl/project/promising-neighbourhoods/
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Co-ordinated by Association of Netherlands Muncipalities (VNG) - serves as platform for city and district councils, civil servants, policy advisors and other stakeholders. Also involved is City of Rotterdam (Youth and Children division) who helps to implement the CFC initiative.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Child in the City organisation – Dutch board is based in Rotterdam and provides structures to support child-friendly environments and child participation at local level. However, information is not easily accessible.
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Funding from City of Rotterdam (15 million euros) for Building Blocks for a Child Friendly Future. For Promising Neighbourhoods – funding comes Erasmus University Medical Centre
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	UCee Station (Click F1) website/online media platform – aims to build capacity of children and young people to aid in participation in everyday decision-making. Yes for Green-Blue project: Speeldernis provides technical support to schools and then schools provide capacity building training to children and families.

4. City: Istanbul (Turkey) UNIC University: Koc University

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	- UNICEF policy 'Children First' implemented in Turkiye to promote the realisation of children's rights and decrease child welfare and protection concerns. See link here: https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/media/821/file/TURreport_childrenfirstbrochure.pdf.pdf. 10 cities, not including Istanbul, were selected as child-friendly cities; Turkey is no longer part of the child-friendly cities initiative https://www.unicef.org/turkiye/en/child-friendly-cities https://www.childfriendlycities.org/initiatives/turkey - National Youth Participation and Sports Strategy – see link here: https://gsb.gov.tr/dosyalar/mevzuatlar/TheNationalYouthandSportsPolicyDocument(1).pdf Policies implemented by MoFLSS (Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services) in 2011, 2013 and 2015 – including family friendly cities policy in 2015 (limited effect
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Istanbul Regional Plan (2010-2013): - No exclusive comment on children's rights to inclusion in development plans. - However, plan does focus on health of children and discussions of how to support homeless children (street children). Istanbul Development Agency (ISTKA) (2010-2013): - Reports to build youth and children's councils (first introduced in 2005) to empower CYP to participate in local decision-making (in line with international policy). Istanbul Regional Plan (2014-2023): - New IRP plan launched with vision of Istanbul as 'Unique Istanbul: City of Innovation and Culture with Creative and Free Citizens'. - 23 priorities, 57 strategies, 3 main axes – economic, social and spatial development of Istanbul. o Note – while plan is designed to include people extensively in decision-making, it does not specifically mention children's participation.

	- 1 relevant strategy is child & young people's wellbeing – - UNESCO Creative City partner. - Certain municipalities within Istanbul participating in WHO Age Friendly Cities initiative (for example, Kadikoy – highest rate of 65+ in all of Turkiye). - Turkish Healthy Cities Network – Istanbul Metropolitan Area participating in this network. The Istanbul City Council of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality has several activities focusing on child participation: Istanbul asks the children: https://istanbulkentkonseyi.org.tr/istanbul-cocuklara-soruyor/ https://istanbulkentkonseyi.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ISTANBUL_COCUKLARA_SORUYOR_RAPORU_2022.pdf Istanbul talks children: https://istanbulkentkonseyi.org.tr/istanbul-cocuklara-soruyor/istanbul-cocuklarla-konusuyor/ https://istanbulkentkonseyi.org.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/WEB_5_NISAN_ISTANBUL_COCUKLARLA_KONUSUYOR_RAPORU_2023-1.pdf Child and parent friendly governance guidelines report: https://argudenacademy.org/publications/Cocuk-ve-Ebeveyn-Dostu-Belediye-Yonetisim-Rehberi.pdf?d=2024-04-03-15-41-17
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	Very little research in this area. See paper also by Ataol et al. (2022): https://www.researchgate.net/publication/358850097_The_inability_of_Turkey_and_Istanbul_in_institutionalisation_of_children's_participation_in_urban_planning_A_policy_analysis_study. Very little local strategies/policies in this area. Ozelmnur Ataol (and colleagues) has undertaken some research looking at participation of children in urban planning in Istanbul: - 2022 paper: Looking at inclusive environments for very young children (babies and toddlers) - 4 neighborhoods in Istanbul. - 2023 paper: Children co-generating knowledge in Istanbul around urban planning. You can access more studies in full text in Turkish and abstracts in English here:

	https://www.idealkentdergisi.com/ideal-kent-sayi-17/
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Istanbul Development Agency (ISTKA) – focused on child development more so than child participation. The Union of Marmara Municipalities, which is a union covering the entire Marmara region, including Istanbul, has some street-based activities. https://www.marmara.gov.tr/tr/sokaklar-cocuklar-icin-donusuyor
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Children's Council of Istanbul Metropolitan Area (established 2005): - For children aged 8-15 years of age. Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Children's Assembly: https://istanbulkentkonseyi.org.tr/cocuk-meclisi/
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	N/A
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	No Civil society organisations and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and some municipalities are working on a small scale. Municipalities in Istanbul are currently preparing their strategic plans for the period 2024-2028. It is expected to be finalised in November. Their strategic plans can be analysed in this respect.

5. City: Bilbao (Spain) UNIC University: University of Duesto

Child Friendly City Related Policies

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	Yes
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	Youth Strategy 2030 (Estrategia Juventud 2030): - Policy runs from 2022-2030. - Covers multiple different areas which affect CYP including: education and training, housing, health, employment and entrepreneurship, leisure and sports, volunteering, co-existence, inclusion and participation (European Commission, 2023) - Part 5 of this policy looks at participation Participant in EU Strategy on Rights of the Child and European Child Guarantee.
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Municipal Plan for Children and Adolescents (due to lapse in 2025) (in Spanish) - available on Bilbao City Council website. Previous Municipal Plan for Children and Adolescents (2018-2021) Strategic aims of previous plan include: ● Promote the participation of girls, boys and adolescents in leisure, cultural and sports activities through an inclusive offer adapted to their tastes and needs. ● Incorporate the needs of children and adolescents transversally in the design of the city, recognizing them as an active part of the citizenry and guaranteeing their participation in decisions about it. Age-Friendly Cities (WHO) - municipal plan available on Bilbao City Council website. Participant in Eurocities InclusiveCities4All.
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	Berasategi et al. (2021) - 'Walking with friends to school' project. Morentin-Encina, Noguerra-Pigem and Barba-Nunez (2022) paper on inclusion as a value for participation: children's councils in Spain. On UNICEF Spain/Ciucades Amigas de la Infancia – plenty of overviews of cities participating in CFC programme including Bilbao (cannot be translated as PDF).

Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Child-Friendly City Interdepartmental Table: - Est. November 2016. - Internal co-ordination body – established of management and/or technical staff from all municipal areas and/or entities aimed at those who have programmes/services directed at children and young people (under 18 years of age). 15 municipalities currently taking part.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Municipal Council for Children and Adolescents of Bilbao: - Est. November 20th 2017. - Permanent and stable consultative and dialogue body. - Led by the Mayor of Bilbao. Comprised of 5 representatives from political groups (with representation in municipal plenary group) and 46 child representatives from 5th & 6th grade of primary school (final two years – equivalent to 5th and 6th class in Ireland) and 1st and 2nd years of secondary school (equivalent to 1st and 2nd year here).
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Municipality
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	Toolbox available on Ciucades Amigas da la Infancia (In Spanish) See website: https://ciudadesamigas.org/reconocimiento-ciudades-amigas-de-la-infancia/caja-de-herramientas/

6. City: Cork (Ireland) UNIC University: University College Cork

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	National Participation of Children and Young People in Decision-making Action Plan 2024-2028
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Local Economic & Community Plan (2023-2029) Cork City Development Plan: - 10 strategic goals, including 'A healthy, inclusive and diverse city', '(a) city of neighbourhoods and communities' and '(a) city of learning and culture' (p.9) - Key issues of note: Walkable neighbourhoods (ensuring child-friendly design through UDL principles); planning for a diverse and inclusive city (including child-friendly cities); children and young people's participation. Cork Healthy Cities Action Plan (Phase VII 2020-2030): - Guided by 6 themes: Investing in people who make up cities; designing urban cities which improve health and well-being; ensuring greater participation and partnerships for health and wellbeing; the promotion of peace and security through the creation of inclusive societies; and protecting the planet from degradation by fostering sustainable consumption and production. - 1 Core theme supports the development of a Child Friendly City through publishing demographic data of children in the Cork City profile; engaging with key stakeholders who will lead the CFC initiative; organising a CFC seminar; supporting the development of a steering group; and the delivery and implementation of a specific CFC Plan (from 2021-2030). Age Friendly City UNESCO Learning City Lets Play Cork and URBACT
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	Cork City Profile Freedom of Our City Project

	O'Mullane et al. (2023) paper on implementing a WHO Healthy City in Cork (2020-2030): https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/33/Supplement_2/ckad160.1020/7327921 O'Sullivan, S., O'Connell, C. & Byrne, L. (2020) paper: https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/article/view/2884 (Siobhan and Cathal)
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Cork Child Friendly City Forum Comhairle na nÓg Child Friendly Cities Steering Group Appointment of a dedicated Child Friendly City Coordinator in June 2024.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Comhairle na nOg
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Multiple sources
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	Yes- Child Participation Training (Hub na nOg)

7. City Name: Liege (Beligum) UNIC University: University of Liège

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No

National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	Flemish Youth and Children's Rights Policy (JKP for short) is a policy instrument to be implemented by the Government of Flanders from 2020-2024.
	- 5 government-wide priorities for 2020-24 strategy:
	  ○ Wellbeing and positive identity development;
	  ○ Healthy and liveable neighborhoods;
	  ○ Civic engagement through volunteering;
	  ○ Leisure for all; and
	  ○ Media literacy.
	- New National Youth Decree (entered into force 1st of January 2024) - serves as framework to create & develop youth policy instruments and to support youth work organisations at regional and subregional level in Flanders.
	- Horizontal consultation group (key stakeholders) on children and young people's policy established – comprising of contact points for new children and young people's rights in all departments and agencies under Flemish authorities, the Flemish Youth Council and intermediary youth organisations. Vertical consultation organised also with relevant Flemish minister.
	- Impact assessment of new legislation on children and young people (known as JoKER)
	- 'Youth Progress Report' to monitor situation of young people.

Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	No information available.
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	No information available.

Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	No information available.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Latitude Jeunes (Liège) - organisation which supports child citizenship education.
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	N/A
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	Through Latitude Jeunes.

8. City Name: Malmö (Sweden) UNIC University: Malmö University

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	No specific strategy on children's participation, however increasing CYP's participation in decision-making is an important objective in national youth policy as of 2014. 1st of January 2020, when the UNCRC became part of the Swedish law (as cited in Bjorkhagen Turesson & Staaf, 2021).
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Inclusive Cities For All (Eurocities) - pledged to reaffirm commitment to children under Pillar 11 of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Healthy Cities Sweden (sub-branch of WHO Healthy Cities).
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14733285.2013.827873 - paper on children's ability to participate in urban planning in Sweden – child participation in planning (as opposed to participation in other events), according to the authors, is non-existent or tokenistic. Designing for Children's Rights association (DC4R) (the Malmö chapter is a working group under Save the Children Malmö). DC4R has created a guide (here: https://childrensdesignguide.org/) which is implemented locally. Research looking at children's play spaces in an increasingly urbanised Malmö. https://www.cogitatiopress.com/urbanplanning/article/view/3953 (Use of blue-green spaces such as stormwater spaces as innovative tools to promote children's play in urbanised lands). https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/330/article/897087/summary (This paper by Jansson and Martensson looks at school ground 'greening' in Malmö). Project led by AFRY, Save the Children Sweden, Malmö University and Stadsmissionen to decrease child homelessness through following a *Housing First* approach. (https://afry.com/en/newsroom/news/afry-lead-project-aimed-reducing-homelessness-among-children)
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	**Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF)** funds youth organisations and other civil society organisations on a national level through specific grants for outreach activities to increase participation. Particular aim is to reach groups with low participation levels.

City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	European Youth Parliament (Syd) - based in Malmö.
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society (MUCF)
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	For children who are unaccompanied minors/refugees, Digital Storytelling has been used in Malmö as a tool for participation/eliciting views (see here: https://www.ecre.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/RB_From-participation-to-empowerment.pdf) Anna Lindh Foundation – empowering the voice of young people: https://www.annalindhfoundation.org/members/centre-capacity-building-and-empowerment through specific training opportunities for young people and youth professionals.

9. City Name: Lodz (Poland): UNIC University: University in Łódź

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	Currently there is no government strategy to promote the participation of children and young people in civic/political life. Poland has introduced two draft strategies in recent years: 1. 'The Youth Strategy for 2007-2013' 2. 'Youth Programme: Active Youth'. Both draft strategies have examined the introduction of participation initiatives (at local and national level). However, neither of these programmes have been implemented. There is also one current document named 'Sectoral Programme Youth Joined in Action for 2016-2019'. (Policy from the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy).

	- 1 main objective is to 'facilitate the creation of a space in which to develop young people's engagement influencing their identity, family, social, cultural and professional life' (Youth Wiki, n/d). Under Priority III (Young citizens), funding is envisaged as being provided to several streams of activities including: ● Young people's participation in local communities and representative democracy; ● Encouraging participation in local and national elections; ● Citizenship education and global education; ● Participative methods to design places for leisure and integration for children and young people; ● The creation of various bodies (such as councils) to represent children and young people; ● The creation and support of both regional and local youth websites; ● Young people's participation in decision-making through consultation and extension of social agreement; ● Undertaking of local initiatives to foster participation such as social activism, creation of informal/formal organisations for children and young people, and the facilitation of partnerships and co-operation networks. (Youth Wiki, n/d) - Implemented by Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy.
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	RELOCAL (EU strategy) - Participatory budget for Lodz. - First implemented in Lodz in 2013, arising out of previous project 'The Voices of Inhabitants Matter'. - Four versions of the strategy (2013-2017). - Strategy aim is to enable bottom-up, place-based decision-making and development action in Lodz through small-scale, local projects, which will increase local citizens' ties to local neighbourhoods and place-identities. - Led by local governments, as well as NGOs, local neighbourhoods, local artists and individuals. - One of the key drivers of the Development Strategy for Lodz 2020+. Participant in WHO Healthy Cities (Phase VII) Active 60+ (Age-Friendly Cities policy) Participant in Creative Cities Network (UNESCO)

Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	This research looks at the impact of 'greening' children's routes to school on their overall welfare: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901119310780 This paper looks at the impacts of 'participatory budgeting' on citizens of Lodz. https://sciendo.com/article/10.2478/mgrsd-2018-0028?tab=referencias
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	EduKabe Foundation with City of Lodz Office.
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	This is a recent project held by Edukabe Foundation with the City of Lodz office, attempting to encourage children's participation in decision-making re school budgets. https://aktywniobywatele.org.pl/en/projekty/youths-for-lodz-school-participative-budgeting/
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Active Citizens Fund
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	EduKabe alongside City of Lodz are running capacity building training workshops.

10. City Name: Bochum (Germany) UNIC University: Ruhr University

Child Friendly City

UNICEF Child Friendly Status	No
National policies relevant to Child Friendly Cities	Multiple strategies both at local, regional, federal and national level which can be combined to create an 'Independent' Youth Policy. 1. 14th Kinder-und-Jugendbericht (Child and Youth report) - first introduced the idea of an 'Independent' Youth Policy. 2. Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth introduced a policy building on previous policy. This policy is known as 'Action for a youth-friendly society' (Handeln für eine jugendgerechte Gesellschaft) (2015-2018) Adoption of Youth Strategy (Jugendstrategie) (2019). (Emerging from 'Action for a youth-friendly society')
Local policies relevant to child friendly cities	Participant in Age-Friendly Cities. Participant in Smart City Initiative Participant in Eurocities Social City Programme – policy regarding the wise urban development for future of cities (including Bochum).
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related.	'Urban Green as a formative element in cities – urban development by the use of 'Green Urban Labs' using the example of Bochum-Riemke' (Dehof, L., Pallagst, K. and Hammer, P., 2022) - available on UCC Library website. ● Looks at role of the creation of 'green urban labs' in Bochum & participation of all citizens in the creation and development of these spaces. ● Very little mention of children but this might be a good criticism? Local neighbourhood's participation in redesigning their playground (including children and young people) in Bochum: https://playground-landscape.com/en/article/2121-a-playground-designed-with-the-input-of-the-neighbourhood-in-bochum.html Funded by Bochum City Council and Social Cities programme
Interagency structures and partners in place to support CFCs	Bochum City Council.

City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	Youth Dialogue – initiative to enable 16–21-year-olds to participate in dialogue/conversations with Bochum's mayor about the development of Bochum. Ruhr University – Children's Council founded in 2022 to speak to children about mental health (https://www.psy.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/psy/aktuelles/akt00249.html.en)
Sources of funding for CFC initiatives?	Municipality
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC?	No

Overall learning for Cork Child Friendly City Forum

Overall, of the ten UNIC cities, only three currently has active UNICEF CFC status. However, all ten cities are involved in child friendly city initiatives that are not UNICEF-led, but show similar commitments to fulfilling child rights, as an important part of their municipal policymaking, programme provision and decision-making.

Research and Evidence base:

Overall, throughout most UNIC cities, there is a limited research and evidence base to draw from regarding the establishment of Child Friendly Cities initiatives. Of the ten UNIC cities, Bilbao, Zagreb and Oulu are the only cities with CFC UNICEF status. Oulu has ongoing annual evaluations, undertaken by UNICEF and the municipality, to ensure that it maintains its UNICEF Child Friendly Cities status. It also publishes regular reports monitoring the participation and interaction of all citizens, as per its current plan 'City of Oulu Participation and Interaction Plan 2023-2028' and its predecessor.

Similarly, Rotterdam has a plethora of reports and research articles which examine the undertaking of its independent Child Friendly Cities initiatives (mostly Promising Neighbourhoods). However, there is a dearth of literature which directly evidences the undertaking of CFC initiatives in the other UNIC cities, including Bilbao and Zagreb. Further, in some UNIC cities, although there is some research being undertaken in areas including child participation in urban planning, the creation of children's playspaces and urban 'greening', there is little-to-no research which explores the child-friendliness of cities and the potentiality of other CFC initiatives.

Applying this knowledge to the Cork initiative, it is therefore suggestible that regular research/evidence is gathered and presented by named stakeholders to ensure the meaningful implementation of the CFC initiative. According to the UNICEF guidance document (2023), this requires beginning with conducting a local situation analysis. It also requires consistent monitoring of children's rights at local level, and progress on priorities and actions set out in local development plans.

Funding:

Drawing from all 10 UNIC cities, it appears that there is little clarity on how CFC initiatives are funded, who is the funding body and who is allocated funding. In some cities, including Oulu, Bilbao and Bochum, CFC initiatives or similar work is funded directly by the municipality. In other cities, such as Zagreb, Lodz and Malmö, CFC initiatives or similar work is funded by outside agencies, including UNICEF, Save the Children Malmö, Active Citizens Fund and Zagreb's City Healthy Profile. Additionally, in Rotterdam, it is evident that CFC initiatives are funded on a case-by-case basis, with some initiatives being funded directly by the municipality and others being funded by other agencies, including the Erasmus University Medical Centre for the Promising Neighbourhoods initiative. There is no information regarding the funding of CFC or similar initiatives in Istanbul or Liège.

Creation of digital platforms:

Throughout multiple UNIC cities, the creation and utilisation of digital platforms appears to provide capacity building opportunities for children and young people, alongside parents, professionals and other stakeholders, and to provide opportunities for children and young people to participation through electronic media (e-participation). In Oulu, the

creation of a digital platform to promote and extend children's participation has recently been proposed, with specific attention being paid towards e-participation opportunities and capacity building training for children and young people. Further, the website 'UCee station' was launched in several municipalities of The Netherlands, including Rotterdam in 2009, to promote media education/literacy amongst children and young people aged 13-23. Finally, in Bilbao, on the Ciucades Amigas des Infantes website (UNICEF Spain), Bilbao has launched a specific toolbox which appears to support children and young people in participating in everyday contexts in their home city.

In Cork, a new website has recently been launched (see: https://childfriendlycitycork.ie/) to promote the Child Friendly Cities initiative. The website includes information and relevant training aimed at parents, educators and professionals about child participation and the creation of child-friendly spaces. Currently there is no information on training aimed directly children and young people living in Cork City and an e-platform could be developed to promote and affirm children and young people's rights and to create opportunities for children and young people to participate electronically (e-participate) in decision-making at local and regional levels. Further, the provision of an e-platform can also lead to capacity-building training opportunities for children and young people.

Creation of a local children's rights/child friendly cities strategy:

As acknowledged in multiple cities, there is growing consideration for the need to recognise children's rights at local level through the creation and provision of specific strategies. Oulu and Zagreb have introduced several local and regional strategies and models to promote children's rights, including the introduction of the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities initiative (in both cities), the creation of a specific forum for local children's councils across Croatia (Zagreb); and a specific strategy for the creation of Child-Friendly Municipalities in Oulu. Additionally, while not a participant in the UNICEF CFC initiative, Rotterdam has introduced its own child-friendly city strategies, wherein the child friendliness of the city is measured through a specifically established framework (kindvirenlijk). In Bilbao, the Municipal Plan for Children and Adolescents (2018-2022; and 2022-25) has also been introduced. According to the Municipal Plan's introduction (as translated from Spanish), the Plan has three objectives: to highlight the commitment of the Bilbao municipal area (and its City Council) to promoting the rights of children and adolescents in the regional area; to highlight the Mayor's personal commitment to the promotion of children's rights, as highlighted under the Spanish

Government's Education, Training, Youth and Development of Values programme; and finally, to fulfil the requirements of UNICEF to recognize Bilbao as a child-friendly city.

Applying this knowledge to the Cork region, it is evident that the creation of a local or regional children's rights strategy may prove beneficial for assuring the promotion of children and young people's rights. Connecting to Young Ireland: The National Framework for Children and Young People (2023-2028), the provision of a local and regional plan may aid in achieving '(a)n Ireland which fully respects and realises the rights of children and young people'. Furthermore, while previous plans have been introduced by the Cork City Services Children and Young People's committee, it is unclear how this has been adopted into practice by Cork City Council and other stakeholders. In Cork Healthy Cities Action Plan 2020-2030, it has already been established that a child friendly cities plan will be delivered and implemented during this time frame. It is therefore suggested that the creation of a collaborative, inclusive, children's rights strategy and child friendly cities action plan needs to be developed, that is adopted by all stakeholders, to provide clarity and consistency.

Creation of meaningful and inclusive child participation

As acknowledged above, in multiple UNIC cities, there is growing consideration for the need to recognise children's rights at local level through the creation and provision of specific strategies and implementation of child participation processes. In Cork, there are several existing child participation structures already in place as part of Comhairle na nOg for example. However, to date no formal structure of child participation forum has been established for the Child Friendly Cities initiative. Further work can be done to establish a children's advisory group for the Child Friendly Cities forum specifically, as a way to connect to existing child participation structures and to maximise diversity of representation for the children from birth to adulthood in the city.

Training of all city employees on child participation

To facilitate meaningful and inclusive child participation in Child Friendly City initiatives, efforts need to be put in place to support stakeholders and municipalities to systematically involve children in local decision making (UNICEF 2023). Several cities such as Oulu are training all their city employees on children's rights as part of their UNICEF's child-

friendly municipality activities using online training. In Cork in-person child participation training is being made widely available by the Cork Child Friendly consortium with the support of the national Hub na nOg. These initiatives support the capacity of adults to implement children's rights on a city-wide scale, and will require ongoing implementation as Cork evolves as a child friendly city.

Creation of outdoor child-friendly spaces in urban areas:

The creation and re-design of outdoor play and recreation spaces in urban areas appears to be a common trend throughout multiple UNIC cities. In Rotterdam, multiple initiatives, including DroomStraat, have been introduced by the City and other stakeholders. DroomStraat is a programme which aims to enable children and young people's voices in urban design and redevelopment. Through the pedestrianisation and redevelopment of particular streets throughout Rotterdam, it is aimed to make the city more child-friendly and accessible to children and young people. Similarly, in Lodz, the adoption of the RELOCAL strategy has resulted in the redevelopment of urban areas, using a bottom-down approach which includes all residents, particularly children and young people. This is echoed in Istanbul where researchers have undertaken initiatives to embed children and young people's voices with the redevelopment and re-design of urban neighbourhoods. Urban greening processes also are a common trend in certain areas, with Bochum, Malmö and Rotterdam creating specific programmes to aid in the provision of more green spaces within urban areas.

Contrastingly, while the provision of playgrounds in cities as child-friendly cities appears to also be a common theme, child and young people's participation in design appears to be minimal or nonexistent. This can be viewed in Malmö, where despite the plethora of playgrounds available, children and young people's participation in playgrounds is little-to-none. Further, in Bochum, while there has been some attention by researchers into the redesign of playgrounds including children and young people as stakeholders, this has yet to be adopted and funded by the local municipality.

Applying this understanding to emerging Child Friendly Cities such as Cork it is evident that the involvement of children and young people in the creation and re-design of urban areas is paramount. For the first time in Cork in 2020, over 2,000 children engaged in consultation on the newly developing city development plan and submitted a

report on their views for the city (Freedom of the City report, 2021). As outlined in the recent response to the Cork City Draft Development Plan (Harford, 2021), children and young people must be considered in the creation of urban spaces, including play, recreational and leisure. It is therefore suggested that this is achieved through the development of a specific aim or goal, which is trackable, and enveloped within the creation of a local children's strategy.

Implementing strategies

Within the CFCI Handbook (2018), eight strategies are proposed for facilitating child friendly cities to evolve: 1) Child-friendly policies and legal frameworks; 2) communication, awareness raising and advocacy; 3) city-wide strategic planning; 4) budget allocations for children;5) cross-departmental coordination and partnerships; 6) inclusive child participation mechanisms and processes; 7) capacity building to create sustainable results for children; 8) collection of data and evidence through monitoring.

The final strategy is a challenging one as in Ireland we do not have pre-existing indicators for outdoor play let alone the other core goals of CFCI. We can be guided by the Handbook which provides some ideas for how to develop indicators meanwhile (see appendix A), and guidance such as that from the Global Designing Cities initiative, (HTE-Templates-PDF.pdf (globaldesigningcities.org) (2022). Assessment tools for local authorities have also been developed (see Child Friendly Cities Initiative (CFCI): self-assessment tool for Local Authorities | UNICEF)

While these efforts to identify ways to monitor CFCI are welcome, they are not universally applicable. For example, Rakhimova et al (2022) note that the tools and indicators do not apply so well in the USA due to the differences in how urban contexts are designed compared to European cities. In their study, they identified a child friendly neighbourhood assessment tool for use in relation to children aged from 6-14 years, utilised it in a local area of the city in Arizona, and made some recommendations on how it can be modified for use elsewhere. It consists of 23 indicators across 6 dimensions derived from the Child Friendly Community Assessment Toolkit [CFCAT].

Conclusions

There is much to learn by gained through collaboration and networking with the UNIC consortium to identify best practices within child-friendly city practices. The research and evidence base for Child-Friendly Cities (CFC) initiatives vary across UNIC cities, with some cities like Oulu and Rotterdam having extensive evaluations and reports, while others have less available data. Therefore, it is recommended thateducation.ch as Cork which are developing CFC initiatives ensure regular research and evidence gathering to facilitate meaningful implementation.

Regarding funding, there is a mix of national, municipal and other sources which the UNIC cities utilise, with different funding bodies and allocation methods. The importance of establishing designated funding with support from local municipality decision-makers is an important step if Cork is to continue to advance CFC strategies and plans.

The use of digital platforms is common in UNIC cities for capacity building and e-participation. Training city employees on children's rights, as seen in Oulu, is essential for promoting children's well-being.

Many UNIC cities have local strategies for children's rights, enhancing their commitment to CFC. Cities such as Cork could benefit from such a strategy, aligning with national frameworks and ensuring clarity among stakeholders.

The creation of a designated child participation advisory group or forum for Cork CFC will be an important step in achieving many of the goals of CFC.

The creation and redesign of outdoor child-friendly spaces are prevalent in UNIC cities, but genuine participation of children and young people in design processes is often lacking. Cities must prioritize genuine involvement of children and young people in urban planning and design to create inclusive spaces.

In summary, adopting strategies from successful UNIC cities can guide Cork in becoming more child-friendly, ensuring meaningful participation, clear funding mechanisms, and inclusive digital platforms, ultimately promoting the well-being of children and young people in the city.

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Appendix A screenshot from UNICEF CFC FRAMEWORK 2018

4.2.2 Development of a logic framework with indicators

In addition to the change pathways identified in the theory of change, it is crucial to identify indicators against which progress and impact will be monitored and evaluated (the logic framework). This is also an important step in demonstrating the results of the CFCI and the impact it has on children's lives.

A good indicator will have three components:

1) A unit of measure, either quantitative or qualitative (e.g. a number);
2) A unit of analysis (e.g. children);
3) Context being measured (e.g. living in a community where the CFCI is implemented).

To monitor progress and impact, it is essential to establish a baseline and target value for each indicator. The baseline is the most recent, known status for an indicator (starting point) and targets are what is to be achieved by the end of the programme. The indicator value can be obtained from data collected from the situation analysis or from secondary data sources (such as official statistics). To make the exercise cost effective, additional baseline assessments should be conducted after logic frameworks are finalized (with desired chain of results and associated indicators) and after data gaps have been determined.

Three types of indicators must be developed to monitor progress and impact of CFCIs. They are:

Output indicators. These indicators measure activities undertaken to enable the building of a child-friendly environment.

- Example A: Establishment of local child and youth counciils
- Example B: Development of a road safety strategy.

Outcome indicators. These indicators measure what actual achievements have been made and how far the activities have reached across the city/community.

- Example A: Number of recommendations from the child and youth council that have been endorsed and implemented.
- Example B: Number of children using pedestrian crossings near schools, homes and hospitals.

Impact indicators. These indicators measure the actual changes that have taken place in children's lives and in experiencing their rights.

- Example A: Children's increased well-being through participation and policy change.
- Example B: Reduced number of child accidents near schools, homes and hospitals.

Impact indicators include tangible, objective results and improvements as well as children's subjective perceptions of their daily environment.

Appendix B Case Study Template

City Related Policies

Does City have UNICEF Child Friendly Status?	
If yes when:	
Contact person for UNICEF CFC:/UNIC City La	
Is there a national child participation/children's strategy or other relevant strategy?	
Are there other relevant policies- Healthy Cities/ Learning Cities/Age Friendly City?	
Are there any evidence/research documents on CFC or related (urban planning etc) for this city?	

Interagency Structures /Child and Youth Participation Structures

Are there are any interagency STRUCTURES in place connected with child participation e.g. LCDCs here in Ireland.	
City level initiatives which support child participation (child/youth parliament etc.):	
Sources of funding and resourcing for CFC initiatives?	
Identify key city level partners for Child Friendly City work:	
Are there capacity building / training opportunities available in the city related to CFC? (i.e. child participation training)	
Is there a research/evidence base for CFC at city level?	
Any other relevant information:	