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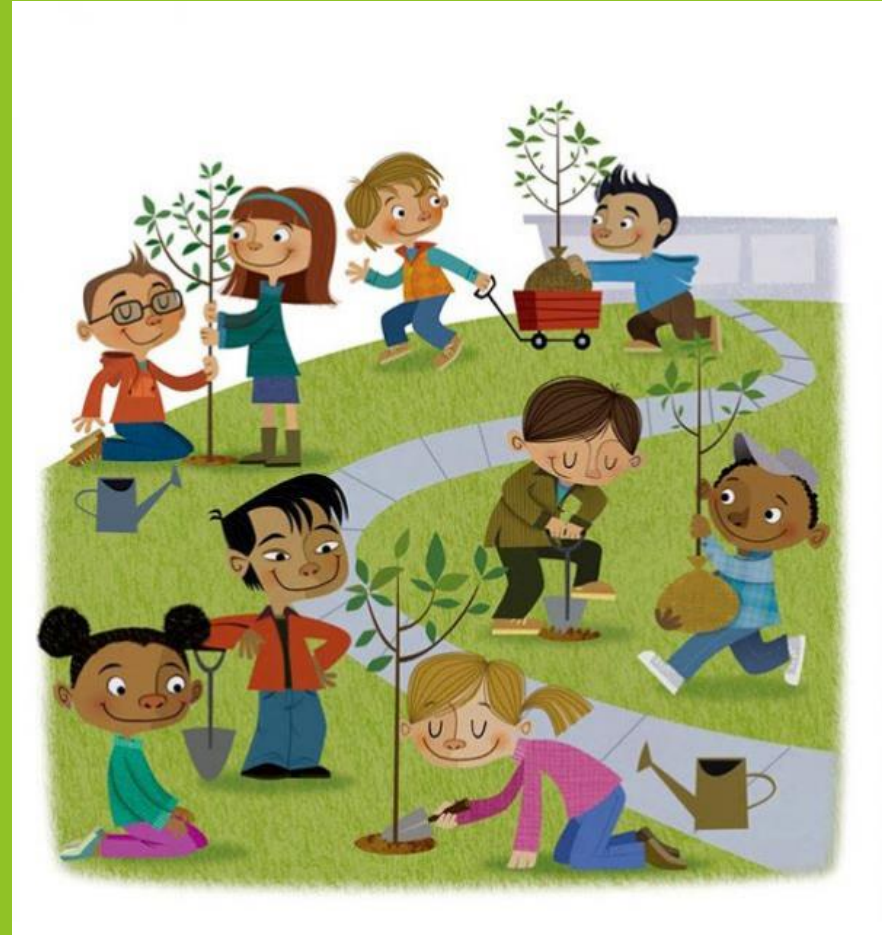
# Children's right to a healthy environment

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Sustainable development starts with:

- safe-
- healthy and
- well-educated children
- children's voices, elections, and children's participation are key to the sustainable future we want





- Environmental protection is the basis for the development of the quality of life - including children

- The child's right to a healthy environment is guaranteed by the CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child) and other international documents

Article 24 of the CRC, in which the child is guaranteed the right to health, states that environmental pollution poses a danger to the health and well-being of children and obligates states to prevent the danger and risk of environmental pollution.

<https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text>

In Article 29, in which the child is guaranteed the right to education, the state undertakes to direct the child's education, among other things, to the development of respect for the natural environment.

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child has improved the child's procedural position in judicial and administrative procedures that refer to their interests**

**This Convention regulates the fundamental rights of the child for the first time**

**Article 12**

**- It enables the child to be a real subject of the law, not just a passive object of protection that the parents or competent state authorities should provide.**





***The recognition and guarantee of this fundamental right is in accordance with the modern idea of the rights of the child, the implementation of which takes place through two parallel processes:***


- expansion of the boundaries of the business and procedural legal capacity of the child and through**
- constitution of special, called participatory rights, which enable the child to influence their position to a greater extent**





❖ **The child can appear in a different procedural role (the role of a party, participant and witness) in civil court proceedings**

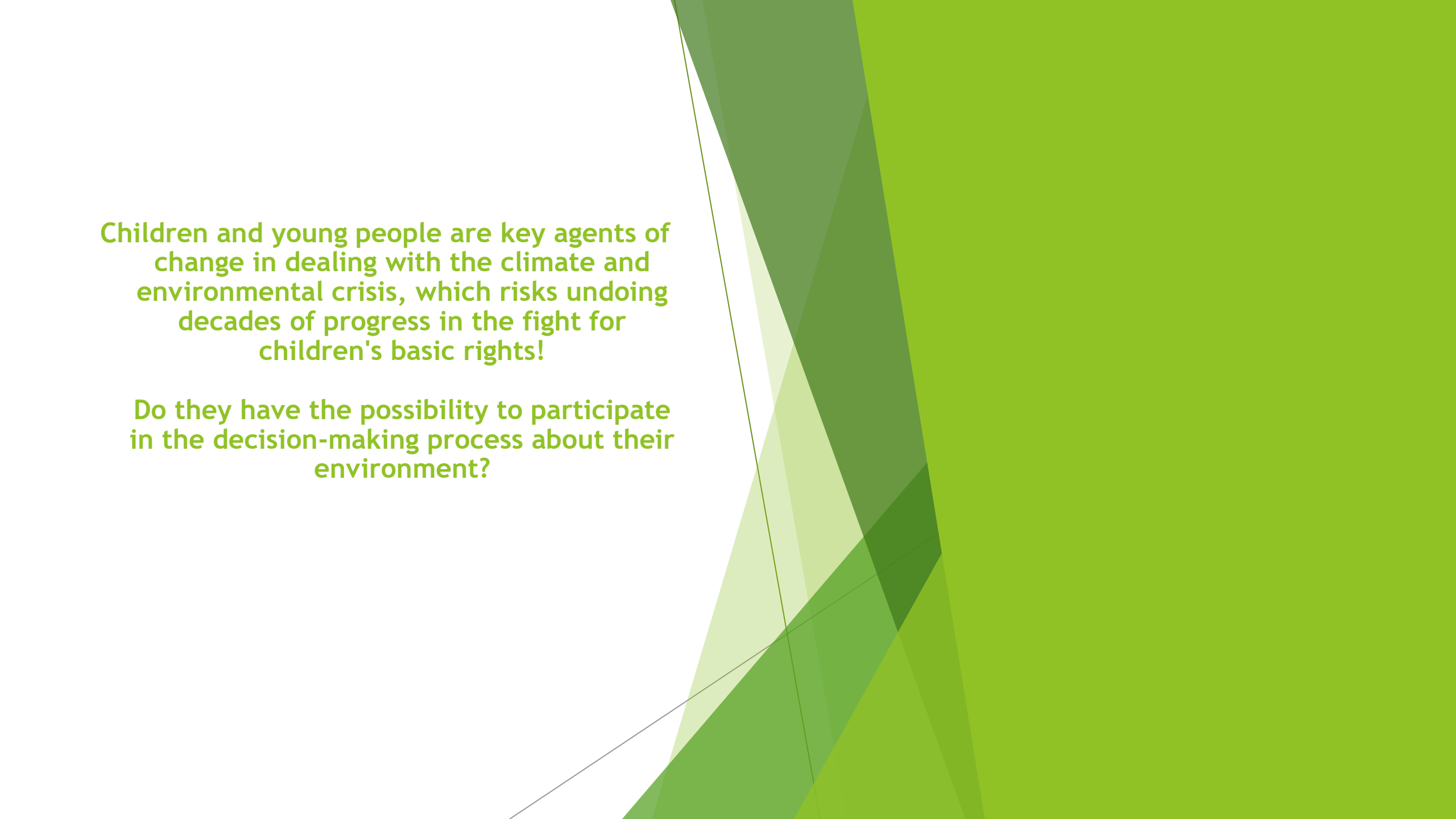
**- In every court procedure, the opinion of the child should be obtained, unless an expert authority determines that it is not in the best interest of the child (meaning the Center for Social Affairs)**



**The procedures to decide the child's rights  
need to be urgent**

**What kind of practice is there in North  
Macedonia???**  
-the majority of procedures last more than 3 - 4-5  
years



The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons that create a dynamic, layered effect. The colors range from light lime green to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily on the right side of the frame, with some extending towards the center.

**Children and young people are key agents of change in dealing with the climate and environmental crisis, which risks undoing decades of progress in the fight for children's basic rights!**

**Do they have the possibility to participate in the decision-making process about their environment?**

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

- The results of the research show that there is an insufficient level of informing children and young people about ways to exercise their right to a healthy lifestyle in the environment
- The respondents have so far been informed to the greatest extent at school (65.1%), through the media (51%) and through parents/guardians (46.9 %) regarding the state of the environment, their rights, and ways of protecting the rights to a healthy environment. However, about 1/3 of respondents get information through social networks (35.6%) and independent research (34.6%).
- The largest number of respondents believe that providing information at school is the best way to learn and raise the level of knowledge of children about their rights to a healthy environment and ways of their realization and protection.

## To improve their rights, what do the children propose?

- to motivate children who participate in actions and publicly praise them
  - to create an ecological section
- to create verified sites that inform about the pollution of nature and the ways in which we can reduce it
- to organize camps to educate children (on how to protect the environment and how the environment affects their health)
- to introduce mandatory subject in schools “protection of the environment and children's rights”



**What is the situation in the judicial practice in Macedonia?**

**Only 4 cases-the claim was rejected in all of them**

**To what extent is the right to sue for environmental protection used?**

**What is the responsibility of the municipalities and the state concerning damages from violating the concept of "sustainable development", environmental disaster, etc.?**

***The practice in the Republic of Macedonia is very poor in terms of lawsuits for damages based on environmental disasters***



**Macedonian legislation has incorporated European solutions, and dozens of laws, by-laws, and conventions have been adopted**

**On the other hand, we have a report for the Environment published for 2021 by the European Commission, according to which 5,600 Macedonian citizens died due to air pollution** (This means that in 2021, Macedonia is at the top in terms of deaths from air pollution in Europe)

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child calls on states to act on commitments to protect children's rights and the environment, with a focus on climate change

**General Comment No. 26**

<https://childrightsenvironment.org/general-comment-no-26/>

**What does every country need to do???**

- 1. To Empower children and youth regarding their environmental rights**
- 2. To Raise awareness and to build capacity among national, regional, and global decision-makers on the relationship between children's rights and the environment, including state obligations in this regard**
- 3. To Convene key stakeholders and to facilitate dialogue and stronger cooperation regarding the fulfillment of children's right to a healthy environment**
- 4. To Shape and to secure international recognition of a global set of guiding principles on children's rights in the environment and to inform standard setting and policy development at global, regional, and national levels.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- To analyze the legislation and policies of the state from the point of view of realizing the child's right to a healthy environment.
- To determine the compliance of the legislation and policies of the state in the field of environmental protection
- To determine the key challenges in practice that lead to inadequate application of the adopted regulations and inadequate implementation of defined strategic measures.
- To Improve the legislative and strategic framework that will ensure the realization of children's rights in a healthy environment.
- To Improve the monitoring system and to ensure effective application of regulations.
- To Improve the level of capacity of all professionals at the national and local level in areas of realizing the child's right to a healthy environment, to coordinate a multispectral approach and the adoption of sustainable policies that ensure a healthy life for children and the environment.
- To make a serious challenge in realizing the child's right to a healthy environment and the fact that children and young people do not spend enough time outside.
- ▶ To determine the reasons that lead to children and young people not spending enough time in nature.





Thank you for your attention!

