



EU-CHILDOCRACY

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Summary Report: WP7 - Youth Campaign Events “EU at Your Doorstep” – Bulgaria

Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law

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Local Child-Led Campaigns “Europe at Your Doorstep” in Bulgaria

Between **October and December 2025** as part of **Work Package 7** of the **EU Childocracy** project, the Bulgarian Centre for Not-for-Profit Law supported the implementation of **five child-led local campaigns**, designed and delivered by children on issues that matter to them in their everyday lives. These campaigns grew directly out of the Democracy Co-Creation Lab and turned ideas into action - in schools, public spaces, and local communities. From a small rural village to major cities, the activities reached **five locations**, reflecting the diversity of children’s realities and community contexts in Bulgaria:

- **Dermantsi village** (Lukovit municipality), at the Neofit Rilski School and the local weekly market
- **Sofia**, at 157 Secondary School “César Vallejo”
- **Blagoevgrad, Varna and Gabrovo**, through a travelling youth self-governance training initiative.

Participants

In total, **236 children and young people** participated in the campaigns (**162 girls and 74 boys**). All participants were from **Bulgaria**. Teachers, school leaders, youth workers and external experts supported the process, but the spotlight always remained on the children — as idea-generators, organisers, speakers, and leaders.



Local advocacy campaigns: overview



The Isolator Campaign, Sofia

Across all five campaigns, EU values were translated into concrete actions rooted in children's realities, strengthening their right to participation and visibility in matters affecting them and their communities. Each campaign tackled a topic chosen by children themselves, linked to core EU values and to challenges they experience at school or in their communities. The campaigns translated core EU values into concrete, child-identified issues, including:

- human dignity (Campaigns 1, 2 and 3);
- children's rights, protection and right to a safe environment (Campaigns 1 and 2);
- privacy and consent in the digital space (Campaign 2);
- youth participation, democracy and civic engagement (Campaigns 3, 4 and 5);
- equality, empowerment and non-discrimination (Campaigns 2 and 5).

The formats used were diverse. Children organised different participatory formats, including peer-to-peer outreach, public engagement in shared community spaces, educational simulations, symbolic actions, facilitated dialogue and youth-led training activities.



'The Wardrobe is Open – Speak Up!' Campaign



'You Are Not To Blame!' Campaign



'Children See Everything: Be the Good Example'
Campaign



The five campaigns



'You Are Not to Blame'
campaign poster in a local
shop

Two campaigns in **Dermantsi** focused on children's protection, dignity and digital rights, combining school-based activities with public outreach in the village ('Children See Everything: Be the Good Example', Campaign 1; 'You Are Not to Blame: The Photo is not Your Consent', Campaign 2).

In **Sofia**, students created and delivered an educational simulation on drug prevention, followed by an open discussion with external speakers that encouraged honest conversation instead of fear-based messages. Another campaign transformed a simple object — a wardrobe separating two schools — into a powerful symbol and a new channel for student voices and participation in school decision-making ('The Isolator', Campaign 3; 'The Wardrobe in Open – Speak Up!', Campaign 4).

The fifth campaign travelled to **Blagoevgrad, Varna and Gabrovo**, where members of student councils took part in the "Students' Self-Governance Course on Wheels". Through peer-to-peer learning, they strengthened their skills for representation, cooperation and democratic participation in school life (Campaign 5).

Across all five campaigns, children showed that they are ready and able to take an active role in shaping their communities. They identified problems, started conversations, challenged adults and proposed solutions.

The local campaigns demonstrated something simple, but powerful: when children are trusted and given space, responsibility and support, they don't just learn about democracy — they practice it.



Related materials:

- [Campaign for youth participation carried out at 157th School – ‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world’](#) – 23 December 2025, BCNL Facebook page
- [The Isolator Campaign](#) - 20 December 2025, BCNL Facebook page
- [Students’ Self-Government Course on Wheels in Varna](#) – 11 December 2025, Sofia Students Council
- [Dermantsi Children with a strong message – YOU ARE NOT ALONE!](#) - 12 Nov 2025, BCNL Facebook profile
- [YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME! – School Campaign against Online Harassment](#) - 8 Nov 2025, Neofit Rilski School Facebook profile
- [Childocracy in action - the children from Dermantsi have this to say: Children See Everything!](#) - 24 Oct 2025, BCNL Facebook profile



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