

Evaluation of effects on children

What? The evaluation of effects on children is a process for evaluating the impacts of decisions on the rights of children in advance. It is a tool for preparing decisions that concern children. These decisions can relate to legislation, budget, policy programmes or actions plans. The effects to be evaluated can be both direct and indirect.

Why? Evaluating effects on children enables comparisons to be drawn between alternatives and the best solution to be found. By evaluating the effects of decisions before they are implemented, provision can also be made for any negative consequences in advance. Such evaluations make decision-making processes more open, transparent and inclusive.

When? The effects of a decision must be evaluated whenever the decision concerns all children or a large percentage of children, the decision has considerable implications either in the short term or in the long term, or the decision concerns a relatively small but vulnerable group of people. If the decision might also affect other age groups, its effects on children must be evaluated as part of the general impact assessment.

Who? The parties involved in the evaluation process include those responsible for drawing up proposals, experts, decision-makers and those who may be affected by the decision. This means that if a decision concerns children and young people, children and young people must also be consulted.

How? The evaluation process can be either long and comprehensive or short and concise.

Quick evaluations can be carried out in situations where there is already sufficient information available. Quick evaluations can also be used to establish whether a conventional, more comprehensive evaluation is necessary.

More comprehensive evaluations are needed in the case of decisions that can have wide-ranging or significant implications on the rights of children or if the matter is contentious or the objectives diverse.