

NEWSLETTER

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (IYAB) CONCLUDES WITH UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY



After a dynamic brainstorming session during the September 2024 IYAB meeting, young participants proposed several themes for COORDINATE's final IYAB, held on November 20th to mark Universal Children's Day. The chosen theme, "Who Am I?" focused on discussions around "the self": i) fostering child individuation from an early age; ii) creating supportive environments for children to explore and develop their potential; and iii) the role of self-awareness in shaping well-functioning individuals who positively impact society.

The discussion was structured over four prompts to allow for young people to better engage with the concept of “the self” that can be resumed as following:

- **1) The meaning behind the concept of “the self”** - IYAB participants explored “the self” as relational, blending core traits with adaptability, shaped by interactions, innate potential, and life experiences.
- **2) The benefits of focusing on “the self”** - Self-awareness was seen as crucial for addressing societal issues by fostering ethical, fulfilled individuals, supported by responsive parenting and value-driven caregiving.
- **3) Support to better understand “the self”** - Schools, parenting strategies, and institutional programs were identified as key to nurturing identity and self-exploration, starting from infancy.
- **4) Social media posts related to “the self”** - Young participants proposed posts highlighting the importance of self-awareness and supportive environments, shared on COORDINATE’s social platforms.

The event gathered young participants from the UK, Portugal, Croatia, and Finland, emphasizing the importance of nurturing “the self” in both home and educational settings. Participants stressed that providing opportunities for self-exploration helps children realize their potential, benefitting both individuals and society. Implementing these insights is essential to empower young people in understanding themselves and fostering a more inclusive, empathetic future.

Coinciding with Universal Children’s Day, the third International Youth Advisory Board meeting provided a platform for young people to discuss identity, individuality, and personal development. If you would like to find out more about the purpose and results of the YAB meeting, you can read a more detailed report [here](#).

