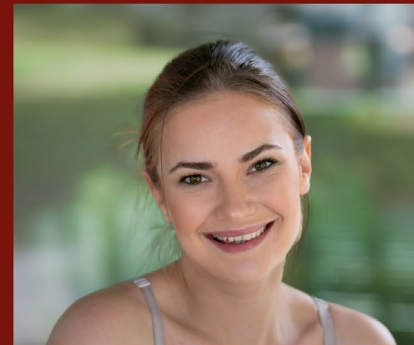


ANNUAL REPORT 2024



20th anniversary

CHANGE FACTORY

CHANGE FACTORY

where children have lead
the way for 20 years



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1

About Changefactory

20 years of change



20

YEARS OF CHANGE

20 years of work with children and young people

Changefactory's vision is a society where all children and young people experience safety, meaning, love and community, and where they are included in social development in areas that concern them. This is a society where children and young people's thoughts and opinions are included as the basis for decisions, and where decisions that concern them are made in collaboration with them.

The background for this work is that children and young people under the age of 18 do not have the right to vote, but at the same time have experiences, advice and solutions that are rarely used today. Politicians, bureaucrats and leaders of help services often lack knowledge from the groups of children affected by a decision, about what is important to them, when determining frameworks and routines to ensure good quality.

For more than 20 years, Changefactory (CF) has worked in collaboration with children and young people across Norway to ensure that children's experiences and advice are taken seriously in decision-making. Over the years, we have heard many children and young people wonder why more adults don't need to hear from them before making decisions on their behalf. They have explained how they can sense that adults don't understand enough, and still don't ask. Decisions made with the best intentions are often not accurate enough. In order for schools, kindergartens, help services, the police and the justice system to be perceived as safe and helpful for those concerned, knowledge from children and young people has to be collected and be an important part of the knowledge base for decisions.

National knowledge collection for more than 15 years

Since 2009, Changefactory has collected experiences and advice from children and young people across the country about how they experience school, kindergarten, help services, the police and the justice system. In order to collect, systematise and disseminate summarised experiences and advice from children and young people, a participatory and practice-oriented method is used. CF calls this the Changemethod. It has been developed in close collaboration with children and young people, and takes very seriously children's right to express their views in ways that feel safe for them. The method consists of process-descriptions and tools that help many different children and young people to participate. It is closely based on a participatory method used in action research, called Participatory Learning and Action (PLA).

Surveys with children in vulnerable life situations

CF has emphasised conducting qualitative research with children and young people in vulnerable life situations, because their experiences and advice are often not included when decisions are to be made for children in mental health- child protection- and legal services, and in meetings with the police.

The experiences and advice are collected in sessions or interviews. All parts of the research are organised with an emphasis on ensuring that it is experienced as engaging, important - and as safe as possible for the children who participate. The adults who facilitate are, among other things, trained by children to meet children and young people with openness and human warmth. This is based on main findings from children about how adults need to be, in order for children to be able to tell honestly.

Changefactory Knowledge Centre opened in 2017

After eight years of collecting experiences and advice from children and young people around the country, and after conducting several national qualitative surveys in the fields of school, mental health and child protection, politicians, professionals and researchers pointed out that this knowledge should be lifted higher, as an important supplement to knowledge from research, and knowledge from the field of practice. Changefactory Knowledge Centre was therefore opened in 2017 by the Prime Minister, parliamentary politicians, leaders in other knowledge centres and by state and municipal services. The goal was to show the way even more clearly for how summarised experiences and advice from children and young people could be collected and lifted, so that this knowledge could systematically become part of the knowledge base for decisions that concern children.

Children and young people present as “Pros”

Participants in the qualitative surveys are invited to present and explain the summarised experiences and advice from many children. They participate as Pros. The knowledge is presented in reports, films, podcasts, books and online. The Pros also present knowledge directly from children to politicians, national authorities, professionals and students. Team-building helps to make this safe for as many young people as possible. Pros in the different regions of Norway are invited to gatherings where they are given “missions”, and can give advice to systems they have experience with. They are also invited to cultural and social activities, to learn new things, have good experiences and gain experience from being together with others in a way that feels safe. At weekend gatherings, Pros can give advice on topics they are most engaged in. They can also feel a sense of achievement, believe in the future and practice being together with familiar and new young people. For many, our summer camp is the most beautiful adventure of the summer.

Established collaboration with organisations in several countries

The working methods and experiences of Changefactory are now inspiring other countries. We are establishing collaborations with organisations in several places. These are organisations with a similar focus to CF, on collecting knowledge from children and young people in vulnerable life situations, facilitating the opportunity for children under 18 to present and explain advice from groups of children themselves and/or on children's right to express themselves freely and to be taken seriously in decisions. In 2024, we carried out collaboration projects with organisations in Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Åland, Portugal and the Netherlands. Collaborations with research environments and educational institutions in several European countries are also underway.



Anniversary in Bergen



Anniversary in Stavanger



Anniversary in Trondheim



Anniversary in Tromsø



Celebration with parliamentary politicians
outside the Norwegian Parliament



Celebration with the Portuguese
organisation ComParte in Lisbon



Celebration with the Norwegian Minister of Children
and Families



Celebration with lawyers at Lund University in Sweden

Results from 20 years

A selection of changes in the framework for children in Norway that Changefactory has contributed to, closely based on knowledge from children:

The Parliament committees on education, family, health and justice made parliament resolutions (2020-2021)

The Parliament asked the government to review the laws in the different fields to ensure that they are in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child's articles on decisions in the best interests of the child (art. 3), the child's right to be heard (art. 12) and the child's right to privacy (art. 16).

Changes in the new Education Act (2023)

Several of the rights of children under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were included. Actions and decisions must be in the best interests of the pupil, and pupils have the right to participate in all matters that concern them and that pupils must be heard and that their views must be given due weight, new Education Act §§ 10-1 and 10-2.

Amendments to the Kindergarten Act (2020)

Children's right to have a say and to participate in the daily planning of the kindergarten was included in amendments to the Kindergarten Act.

Amendments to the Patient and User Rights Act (2017)

It was added in the law that, for children under the age of 12, information shall not be disclosed to parents or others with parental responsibility if compelling considerations relating to the best interests of the child argue against such disclosure. The age limit for children to be entitled to express their views in all matters concerning their own health, was lowered to 7 years.

Changes to the mental health plan

It was decided to initiate measures to reduce the prescription of psychotropic drugs to children and young people, adopted in the mental health escalation plan (2017). It was decided to investigate different ways to legislate municipal low-threshold mental health services and for the government to return to the parliament with a draft amendment (2023).

Amendments to act relating to child welfare (Child Welfare Act) (2021)

It now states in §1-3 and §1-4 that the child's opinion is a key factor in the assessment of the child's best interests. It also states that Children must be informed about what information provided by the child can be used for and who can access this information. The child has the right to express their opinion before it is decided that the information is to be shared, and due weight must be given to the child's views.

Amendment to the guidelines for child welfare education programmes

It was included in the guidelines for health and social care education (RETHOS) that "the core competence in higher education programmes is linked to child welfare research- and practice-based knowledge, as well as knowledge from children, young people and their guardians".

Amendment to the Police Act

In 2024, the parliament decided that the best interests of the child should be explicitly stated in the Police Act. Section 6 now states that: When the service act affects or occurs towards or in the presence of children, the best interests of the child shall be a fundamental consideration.

Changes to national guidelines for police encounters with children

The national guide for police encounters with children states that children should be given the opportunity to express their opinion before the police notify their guardians and that physical force should only be used when strictly necessary and when all other means have been tried first.

The place that changes lives

Quotes from Pros in Changefactory

“CF has given me friends all over the country. Being part of CF has given me self-confidence, helped me with my self-esteem, and been a great support in my life with good people I could always reach out to.”

“It has helped me to be more open about how things affect me in my daily life. I am able to be more honest about how what people say or how the school treats me really affects my life.”

“My biggest fear has been ending up being a crappy teacher, but with the experience and knowledge I have gained at Changefactory I am more confident that will not happen.”

“The most important thing CF has contributed to my life is that I have started to dare to talk to adults. I know what rights I have, and what they are not allowed to do, and the adults around me have learned a lot from everything I have learned from the young people in CF.”

“CF has also helped me to be more clear when I have met new psychologists and such. Then I have set the standard for them to get to know me and get to know them. It has meant that I have been able to have a much safer relationship with psychologists more quickly.”

“ I had long defined myself as a person based on the things I had experienced and the view adults had of me in the past, but CF gave me the opportunity to change that and focus on the positive things about myself. ”

“ CF showed that you could achieve things, they saw the positive resources I have. When I got up early, followed up on appointments with CF etc., I have also managed to do that with other things in life. ”

“ It has given me an opportunity to feel mastery. The feeling that I contribute to something. I am helpful, not just a problem, a constant problem that needs to be fixed and given this and that treatment. ”

“ Now I dare to say whether something is unfair, good or less good, in a good and calm way, that makes the collaboration good. ”

“ CF is a place where everyone wants you to be well. Everyone cheers you on and challenges you within what you are comfortable with. It's a place where you can come as you are and be accepted just like that. ”





KEY FIGURES FOR 2024

48 meetings with politicians

11 oral consultation inputs

35 written consultation inputs

3022 students and professionals met

64 films made

62 pro gatherings

329 pros who have participated in professional dissemination

92 pro activities

16 weekend gatherings



2

Events

Three important events in 2024

BOOK LAUNCH

Without safety, without a chance:
young people about the systems



Without safety, without a chance

In this book, 11 young people write about their encounters with health services, child protection and the police. Millions of Norwegian kroner have been spent on each of them over a long period of time - without their lives getting any better. Many got worse. These are stories about a brutal reality in Norway. At the same time, the book gives hope.

The young people describe how we can meet children and young people who harm themselves, substance abuse, run away, use violence, stop eating, try to take their own lives, or who do other desperate acts - in ways that are perceived as safe for them. They write about what kind of help is needed, and what good professionalism should be.

In news reports about substance abuse, suicide attempts, violence and crime, the authorities are held accountable. Politicians want to show action and more control, and force quickly becomes a solution. The message in this book is something completely different.

Society can choose other solutions. Politicians and professionals in the services can decide to listen to advice from children and young people who need the help. This advice must be given weight in choosing solutions. Then we safeguard the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and we save resources and valuable time in the lives of children and young people.

The book has been handed over to politicians in the Norwegian Parliament, politicians in the largest municipalities, the state administrator, the Norwegian Health Inspectorate, the Norwegian Bar Association, the Norwegian Psychologists Association, and knowledge centres.



LAUNCH WITH POLITICIANS FROM THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT



The Norwegian Labour Party, from the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs



The Progress Party, from the Standing Committee on Justice, Committee on Health and Care Services, and Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs



The Conservative Party, from the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs and Committee on Justice



The Socialist Left Party, from the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs and Committee on Labour and Social Affairs

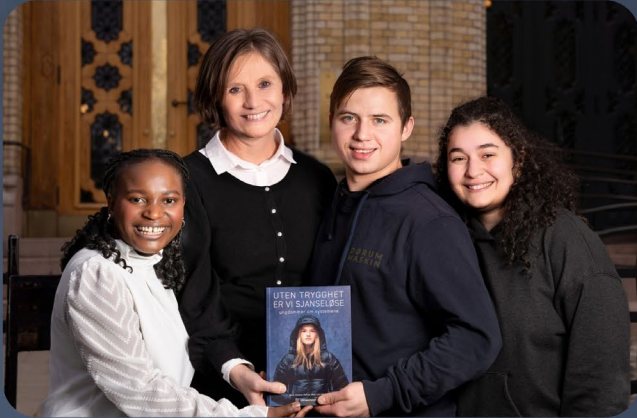


The Centre Party, from the Standing Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs, Committee on Justice and Committee Health and Care Services



The Conservative Party, from the Standing Committee on Health and Care Services

LAUNCH FOR NATIONAL ACTORS



Minister for Children



Leader of the Conservative Party



Norwegian Ombudsperson
for Children



Norwegian Psychological Association



Norwegian Board of Health
Supervision



Norwegian Bar Association

BERGEN LAUNCH



Agency for Children and Families and SLT Coordinator (Local Crime and Drug Prevention) in Bergen Municipality



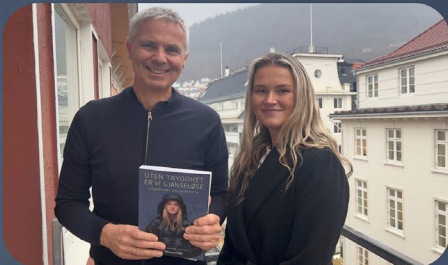
City Council Department for Child Protection, Social Services and Diversity in Bergen Municipality



Youth Outreach Services in Bergen Municipality



County Governor in Vestland



The Child Welfare Tribunal in Vestland



Hordaland District Court



Vest Police District



Masters in Child Protection and Welfare, University of Bergen



Faculty of Law, University of Bergen



Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism, University of Bergen



RVTS (Regional center on violence, traumatic stress and suicide prevention) West



Youth Team, the Norwegian Correctional Service West

TRONDHEIM LAUNCH

TROMSØ LAUNCH



City Council for Early Childhood and Education in Trondheim Municipality



County Governor Trøndelag, Section for Child Protection and Health



Child Protection Services in Tromsø Municipality



Department of Psychology, University of Tromsø



Heads of childhood and youth services in Trondheim Municipality



County Governor Trøndelag Section for Education



Anti-bullying Ombudsperson, Troms



Children and Adolescents' Psychiatric Outpatient Services, University Hospital of North Norway



RKBU (Regional Centre for Child and Youth) Central Norway



NAPHA the Norwegian Resource Centre for Community Mental Health



Heads of childhood and youth services, Tromsø Municipality



Faculty of Law, University of Tromsø



Youth Outreach Services in Trondheim Municipality



Secretary to the City Councillor for Social Services in Trondheim Municipality

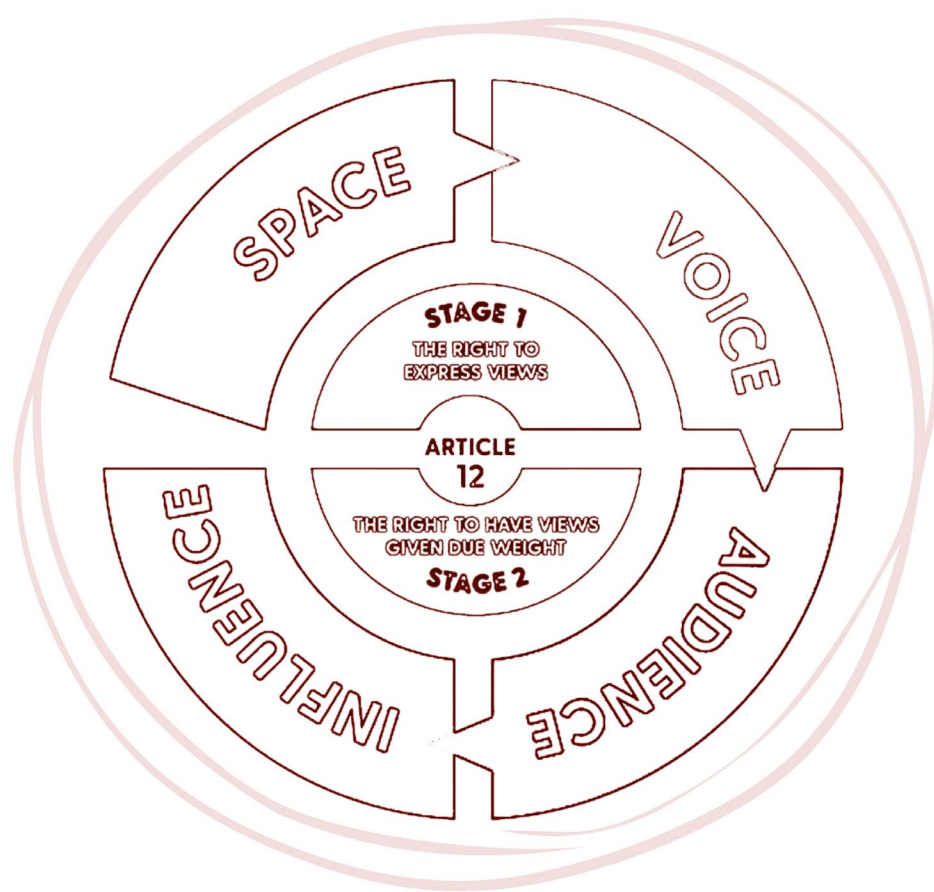


Youth Outreach Services in Tromsø Municipality

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Professor Laura Lundy on articles 3 and 12





Children's rights at a system level

“Norway is good at many children's rights, but not at Article 12. You should, and you can be. There is no question of whether this should be done, only how. Norway should build on the good experiences that have been made, by different actors”

- Laura Lundy

Laura Lundy from Northern Ireland has inspired more than 10 countries in and outside Europe to take major steps to ensure that groups of children under 18 to whom a decision applies are involved in all important decisions that affect them, both locally and nationally. She has also inspired the World Health Organisation (WHO) and guided the European Commission.

MANY SKILLED PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 24th

Laura Lundy, Co-Director of the Centre for Children's Rights, Professor of Children's Rights at Queen's University, Belfast and Professor of Law at University College Cork.

Eli Blakstad (The Centre Party), State Secretary at the Ministry of Children and Families

Grunde Almeland (The Liberal Party), Chair of the Family Committee in the Norwegian Parliament

Ragnhild Male Hartviksen (The Labour Party), Member of Parliament in the Justice Committee

Mina Gerhardsen, Ombudsperson for Children

Jon Christian Fløysvik Nordrum, Researcher at Department of Public and International Law, University of Oslo

Sjur Lehmann, Director of the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision

Christian Børge Sørensen, Special Advisor for Human Rights

Elin Saga Kjørholt, Senior Advisor from the Ombudsperson for Children

Marit Skivenes, Professor of Political Science and part of the CF Board

Arild Bjørndal, Professor of Community Medicine and part of the CF Board

Many promised that decisions will be better when we include children's solutions, that children must be involved early enough in decisions, and that we must be open and transparent about how we have considered and given weight to children's views. Something that also was discussed was what mechanisms we should have to stop decisions when we have not first secured the obligation in Article 12 to hear and take the views of children seriously.



Ragnhild Male Hartviksen (The Labour Party), politician in the Justice Committee in the Norwegian Parliament, with Laura Lundy and young people in CF



Eli Blakstad (The Centre Party), State Secretary in the Ministry of Children and Families, with young people in CF



Sjur Lehmann, Director of the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision, with young people in CF



Jon Christian Fløysvik Nordrum, Elin Saga Kjørholt, Marit Skivenes, Christian Børge Sørensen, Arild Bjørndal and Marit Sanner – with Lundy and young people in CF



Politicians in the Family and Culture Committee – Turid Kristensen (The Conservative Party), Grunde Almeland (The Liberal Party) and Tage Pettersen (The Conservative Party) – with Lundy and young people in CF



Mina Gerhardsen, Ombudsperson for Children, with young people in CF



The keynote speakers inspired in both presentation and dialogue



Professor Laura Lundy, Professor Kirsten Sandberg and Pros in CF



Dialogue with contributions from both the audience and the stage, about challenges today and opportunities for how Norway can better ensure its obligations under Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the future.
From left: Leon Bell from CF, Egil Saga from the Ombudsperson for Children, Sjur Lehmann from the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision, Marit Skivenes from the University of Bergen, Arild Bjørndal from the University of Oslo, Vanessa Gundersen from CF

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mathilde Day: about children's
autonomy in decisions



Mathilde Day

Mathilde was a Pro with a great commitment and desire that children should be allowed to decide more in their own lives. Mathilde managed to talk to several jurists about this, before she died suddenly in 2023.

The theme for the Mathilde Day of 2024 was “How can children be more involved in decision-making?”.

Several international and national legal experts have raised the principle of autonomy in recent years. They question whether it would not be more correct for the child's opinion to be followed when decisions are to be made, as long as it is not harmful to the child. We invited a dialogue about this.

Shouldn't we simply give children in very difficult life situations autonomy? These were the topics for the exciting dialogues on Mathilde Day.

Thank you to the Minister for Children, the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision, County Governors, Oslo Police District, the Child Welfare Tribunal, the Ombudsperson for Children and many more for good and helpful dialogues.



Minister for Children and Families Kjersti Toppe



Jannike Haaverstad and Nadia Torper from the Oslo Police, Adele Mestad from The Norwegian Human Rights Institution and Inge Nordhaug formerly from Regional center on violence, traumatic stress and suicide prevention and now author



Lise Gro Søreide from Hordaland District Court, Tove Bruusgaard from the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, Per Strandhaug from Inpatient Psychiatric Unit Bed Ward in mental healthcare services and Arild Bjørndal from CFs board



Ingrid Johansen, Christian B. Pettersen, Christian B. Sørensen, Ove Veum and Ingvild Aartun - all from the Child Welfare Tribunal, expert Jan Skandsen, Lise Gro Søreide and Åsa Bech from the District Court



Katarina Øi Heidem from the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision, Kari from the County Governor and Mathias from the Ombudsperson for Children



Marie Nordvik and Christian B. Sørensen, child rights experts



“Adults can't think they know best. When something is to be decided, they have to start with what the child wants, and they also have to have very good reasons if they are not going to follow that” – Mathilde





3

International work

CF's international work in 2024

CF's international work

Knowledge from children has contributed to major changes in the field of upbringing in Norway. The method we use ensures that the views of many different children can be heard, including young children and youth in vulnerable life situations. We believe that the method and idea of conducting qualitative surveys closely based on children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child can be used in other countries, and that is why Changefactory is currently working to inspire this.

Changefactory also facilitates presentations and dialogues between children and young people who participate in qualitative surveys, and adults with the opportunity and power to change. We are also working to disseminate experiences from 10 years of collaboration with young people in different life situations about disseminating knowledge from many children outside of Norway, both in lectures, on film and in articles. We hope and believe that these experiences can inspire many.

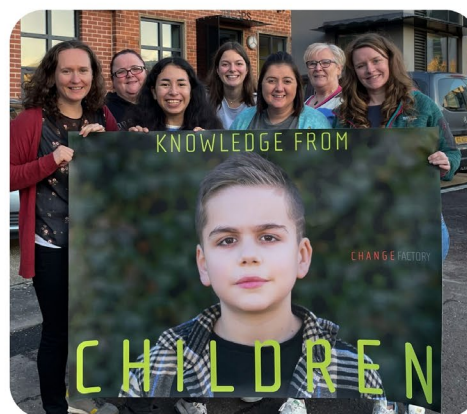
We know that organisations and foundations around the Nordic countries, Europe and the world are also working towards similar goals. In recent years, Changefactory has systematically looked for such organisations, and has found many. We are now building networks with some of them. This provides opportunities for exchange of experience, inspiration and collaboration to improve methods so that many different children, in many different life situations, can be taken seriously in decision-making processes.



Changefactory met researchers at the Children's Research Centre, Open University in Milton Keynes (England)



Changefactory met the organisation Alliance for youth justice (England)



Changefactory met the organisation Voipic (Northern Ireland)



Changefactory met the organisation ComParte (Portugal)



countries we have, and
have had, partners in



Some important recognitions

Changefactory started its work as a social entrepreneur. Opportunity thinking and innovation have strongly influenced both activities and the organisation. In 2010, Changefactory was named Social Entrepreneur of the Year, the first in Norway. CF experienced this as a great honor, and it provided great inspiration and many opportunities for the future.

Appointed by ASHOKA: The founder of Changefactory, Marit Sanner, was appointed an Ashoka Fellow in 2011. Ashoka is an organisation for people who are among the leading entrepreneurs in the world. CF then collaborated with Ashoka's office in the Nordic region and participated in Nordic networks to share courage, inspiration and concrete experiences. Ashoka has connected CF with other social entrepreneurs in similar fields of work.

Awarded by ACSI: In 2017, Changefactory was named one of Europe's best social entrepreneurs for children by the international organisation Accelerating Change for Social Inclusion (ACSI). Changefactory met with the authorities in Barcelona to inspire the empowerment of young voices. CF later provided training to the local authorities there.



International projects in 2024



Our Rights, Our Future

In 2024, Changefactory started a project with Skunk (Åland) and Unga Örnar (Sweden), funded by Nordic Culture Point. The goal of the project is for children and young people to teach other children and young people about the rights in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The young people have met for a joint workshop in Stockholm, and for workshops in their own countries. In 2025, a website with short films will be launched.



Learn Safely

Changefactory has collaborated with Comparte (Portugal) on a project on how everyday school life can feel safe for pupils, co-funded by Erasmus+. In 2024, pupils from both Norway and Portugal have given advice on what is important to feel safe in different situations in everyday school life, such as group work, blackboard teaching, presentations and tests. The advice from the pupils will be collected in films, a toolkit and presented on a website, for use in Norway and Europe.



Nordic Network

In 2024, Changefactory has collaborated with Knas Hemma (Sweden), Pesapuu (Finland), De Anbragtes Vilkår (Denmark) in a project funded by Nordic Culture Point. Young people from the organisations have met for two physical workshops, one in Oslo and one in Copenhagen. The goal of the project has been to exchange experiences and methods on how children and young people in vulnerable life situations can be more involved in decisions that affect them.





4

Main areas

CF's work in 2024

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



CF's work with children's rights

UNCRC art. 3, 12 og 16

In several qualitative surveys, children in Norway have pointed out that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is of little value to them if it does not lead to a change in their lives. Children that CF has met across Norway have for years asked why children did not receive enough information before decisions about them were made, and why adults did not need to hear children's views before making best interests assessments. It was child rights experts who first pointed out how the knowledge from children and Articles 3, 12 and 16 of the UNCRC have many parallels. These articles describe how children must be given sufficient and understandable information, that children must be able to speak safely, that children must be informed and given the opportunity to express their views before anything they have said or done is shared, and that children must be taken seriously in decisions.

Children's rights on a system level

For more than 20 years, children under the age of 18 have had the right to be taken seriously in decisions that affect them. This follows from UNCRC Articles 3 and 12. CF has had a strong focus on children as a group, their right to have their views considered and given weight in decisions that affect them. Norway has not come very far in this area when it comes to securing this right for all children. Ensuring that the views of groups of children are given weight in decisions that affect them, is absolutely central for Norway to secure the rights under the UNCRC, but also for creating good and effective measures, policies and laws for the children concerned. Therefore, Laura Lundy was invited to Norway to inspire and motivate Norwegian professionals and decision-makers.

Information about articles 3, 12 and 16 for children

In 2024, CF created two platforms designed to provide information to children about their rights:

CF created films for children about the rights they have under sections §§ 1-3 and 1-4 of the Child Welfare Act. These two provisions give children the right to participate and ensure that their views are given weight when decisions are made about them. The platform consisted of films, drawings and descriptions of what the rights mean in practice in all phases of children's contact with the Child Protection System. One was created for children aged 8-12 and one for children aged 13-17. The platform is specially designed for mobile and was widely disseminated to services and children in the Child Protection System.

Our Rights, Our Future was a project in collaboration with children's organisations from Åland and Sweden. The young people met in workshops to create content and films. Films were made with young people explaining the rights in UNCRC Articles 3, 12 and 16 to other young people, and short texts explaining how the rights work in practice. The films are subtitled in Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and English and the platform has been disseminated across the Nordic countries.

New general comment from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issues General Comments that explain how the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be interpreted. In 2024, the Committee worked on General Comment no. 27, which deals with children's access to justice. CF held gatherings with young people who gave input to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on what should be in the new general comment. The input was summarised and sent to the Committee.

Supplementary report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Changefactory has provided summarised knowledge from children to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child when Norway was to report on its implementation of the UNCRC for the seventh time. In 2023, the Committee sent input on which priority challenges the Committee should hear from Norway about. Norway responded to these questions. At the end of 2024, Changefactory sent a supplementary report to the Committee, with comments on Norway's answers to the Committee's questions - based on knowledge from children. The Committee requests supplementary reports from children and civil society to ensure that they receive information about the real state of children's rights in a country. We prepared to participate in the pre-session in Geneva, where civil society and children meet the Committee to highlight challenges to children's human rights in Norway.

Meetings with international child rights experts

CF has met with several professors specialising in children's rights. We have met with Maria Grahn Farley, Pernilla Leviner, Laura Lundy and Aoife Daly to find out how children's rights can be better secured in Norway and around the world.



Maria Grahn Farley, head of the research project HRjust, and young people in CF



Pernilla Leviner, Dennis Sabo and Tim Holappa from Stockholm University, and young people in CF



Elin Wernquist and Ida Hellrup from Barnrättsbyrån, and young people in CF

KNOWLEDGE- COLLECTING





CF HAS COLLECTED KNOWLEDGE FROM



+150000



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2009-2024

Brief about the method

About the Changemethod

The method for collecting data has been developed by CF, based on the action research method Participatory Learning and Action (PLA). Various creative and visual tools are used to make it safe and exciting to participate in the qualitative surveys. Safety is a fundamental part of the implementation, and the researchers are responsible for making the space safe for all children. Recurring answers are highlighted as main answers or main findings, without being linked to theory. It is presented as knowledge from children in reports, books, films and podcasts. Children are invited to help change, which is why we call the method the Changemethod.

Changefactory's qualitative surveys are not to be regarded as research, but at the same time follow specific methodological requirements to ensure that children's experiences and advice are documented in a reliable way. Summarised knowledge from children and young people is a supplement to research-based knowledge and can be an important contribution to making better decisions in efforts to improve working methods and results. The qualitative surveys are exclusively participated in by children who have not previously participated in Changefactory surveys, which distinguishes these from other knowledge collections in CF.

The method summarised

- Participatory method with a strong focus on making it safe for children to participate
- Both qualitative and quantitative approaches
- Engages all children, including children who cannot or do not like to speak
- Creative and visual tools combined with dialogue
- Systematic and verifiable, and should provide a reliable description of children's experiences
- The experiences and advice are summarised without adding our own opinion or interpretation

Responsibility for the method

Professor Marit Skivenes and Professor Arild Bjørndal are responsible for quality assurance of Changefactory's work with qualitative surveys. In addition, a researcher follows the implementation of each of the surveys. Changefactory has, for more than 10 years, collaborated with researchers on the work with knowledge collection, including the surveys.

Professionals and researchers assist

Researchers or key professionals from the field of practice are invited to assist in assessing which themes and questions are most important for Norway. In the formulation of the final questions, Changefactory strives for them to be asked in a way that children will understand and can relate to. Before the interview guide is finalised, the questions are therefore assessed by subject consultants and/or professionals who are familiar with the relevant age group.

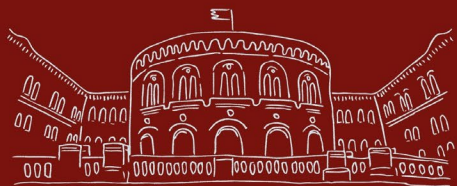
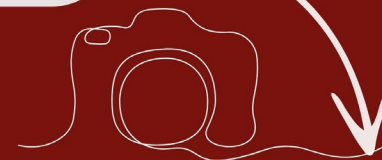


COLLECTING KNOWLEDGE

Factory workers collect experiences and advice from children and young people from across Norway, about how systems for children are experienced by children and young people who are in the system now, or have been in them during the past two years. They are asked for advice on how the systems can feel safe and helpful for children.

PRODUCING REPORTS

Once the knowledge has been collected through qualitative surveys and advice collection, answers from many places across the country are summarised in reports. These reports contain knowledge directly from children, are published on CF's website, and are distributed to politicians, professionals, and authorities.



DISSAMINATING TO POLITICIANS

Politicians can receive knowledge from children through written consultation inputs where knowledge from reports and booklets is presented, oral consultation inputs where Pros visit the Norwegian Parliament and present main answers from children, or in political meetings where Pros and politicians engage in dialogue.

DISSAMINATING TO STUDENTS

Students can learn knowledge from children through reading reports and booklets, watching films, listening to podcasts, carrying out teaching programmes created by children and young people, or by experiencing Pros participating in teaching.



DISSAMINATING TO PROFESSIONALS

Professionals can learn knowledge from children through Pros giving lectures, reading reports and booklets, watching films, listening to podcasts or through other resources created based on knowledge from children.

PRODUCING DISSEMINATION MATERIALS

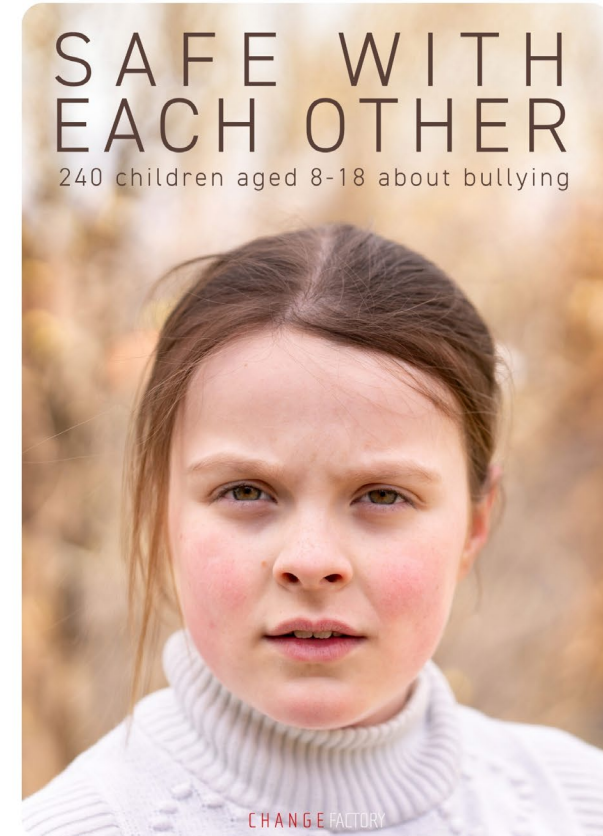
The knowledge directly from children in the reports can further be presented, for example, in books, knowledge films, podcasts and teaching materials. Then children and young people, often some of those who have participated in the knowledge collection, present the main answers. They also provide elaborations and examples related to the answers.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

FROM QUALITATIVE SURVEYS AND ADVICE COLLECTIONS



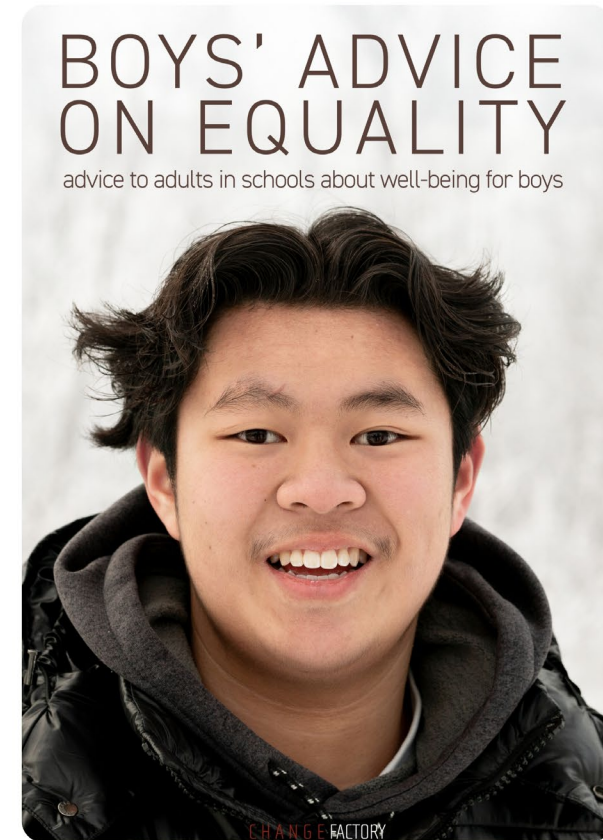
211 young people, aged 11-20, give advice on how adults in help services and the police can make it safe so that children can trust them, tell safely and make decisions together with them



240 children and young people, aged 8-18, give advice on how adults in school can be, and how they can work, to contribute to more inclusion and community at school, and less bullying



40 children and young people, aged 13-20, give advice on how the Child Protection System can collaborate with children when giving family guidance, so that the guidance feels safe and helpful for the children



186 boys, aged 13-19, give advice on what adults at school can do so that boys feel treated equally to girls at school, feel that they are learning well, and so that they can feel motivated

THE PROS 2024



over **500** pros have participated in pro gatherings, pro activities, weekend gatherings and camps in 2024

62 pro gatherings

92 pro activities

16 weekend gatherings



About the Pros

In Changefactory, young people can get involved as Pros from the age of 13 until they are 21. Most join Changefactory after having participated in a knowledge collection. All participation in Changefactory is voluntary, and young people can withdraw at any time.

All young people are welcome regardless of whether they are quiet, restless or if they are not used to being in a group. The exception is if the young people struggle with substance abuse or other strong expressions of pain that can make it unsafe for other young people.

The main task of Pros is to disseminate summarised answers from qualitative surveys to students, professionals and authorities. This can be done in meetings, lectures, on film or on podcasts. The Pros also contribute to the development of tools, working methods and descriptions for professionals.

Changefactory has a number of different offers for Pros both regionally and nationally:

Pro gatherings

CF conducts organised Pro gatherings in each of the regions: Troms, Trøndelag, Østlandet, Rogaland and Vestland. In addition, gatherings have taken place in Finnmark, Nordland and Agder. The Pros have been offered the opportunity to participate in a weekend gathering approximately once a quarter. At Pro gatherings and weekend gatherings, the Pros have shared advice on the systems and gotten to know each other in a safe community. There have also been a number of smaller meetings where Pros have contributed to the production of films.

Pro activities

CF has organised monthly Pro activities for active Pros in the regions. The focus is on the Pros getting to know each other better and feeling safe with each other, so that it becomes possible to give advice together at Pro gatherings, in meetings or in lectures. Examples of activities have been creative workshops, trips with barbecuing, cinema visits, swimming, go-karting, climbing parks, amusement parks and mini golf. In December, we held our regular December-dinner tradition in each region for active Pros and young people who have previously been Pros. Here, good food was served, Christmas gifts were given to all the Pros, and pleasant activities such as Christmas card making and beading were carried out.

Pro camp

Pro camp is a summer camp where young people from all over the country meet. The camp exists so that young people from all over Norway can give advice to schools, help services and the police, together with other young people. The camp also exists so that young people can experience community, mastery, meaning - through giving advice, doing different activities and making new friends.

In 2024, two summer camps were organised, one for young people with experience from school and mental health services, and one for young people with experience from the Child Protection System and the police. Young people have contributed with advice to students, professionals and politicians. They have given advice in small groups on various topics, such as to adults in schools, public health nurses, general practitioners, Youth Outreach Services, the Child Protection System, Children and Adolescents' Psychiatric Outpatient Services, residential childcare institutions, police and more. The young people got to know each other, played volleyball, kickball, painted, made music, swam and did other fun activities together. Many have also contributed to knowledge films and podcasts.

Pros in the media

In 2024, knowledge from children was also brought to the media. The focus was to raise answers and debate around topics that challenge Norway. Here are some examples:

FONTENE

Yes, human rights make effective substance abuse treatment possible!

On behalf of the state, assessments are being carried out on how much physical force can be used on children within the framework of human rights. Norway can choose. We can hold children down, lock them up and follow them around, or we can be humble and ask children and young people what they need.

FONTENE

Use of force by staff at institutions can harm children

Physical force and restrictions on freedom of movement can most often be avoided if adults manage to meet the child safely enough. Every child has the knowledge of how exactly this can be met and stopped safely, after growing up in unsafety or fear.

FONTENE

Municipal housing measures for safer child Protection

Today's institutions do not feel safe and helpful enough. Municipal housing measures will save resources and provide a safer Child Protection System.

Over the past decade, Changefactory has conducted several qualitative surveys in which children that has experience from residential childcare institutions are informants. Advice that is repeated by many children in many places in the country becomes the main advice of the survey. In the survey "They think they know best" (2021), 152 children aged 11 to 18 participated.

KLASSEKAMPEN

Wants to remove stigmatising words

The Minister for Children and Families Kjersti Toppe (The Centre Party) wants to remove stigmatising terms such as "behaviour" and "running away" from the Child Welfare Act. She believes that children should be given full party rights from the age of 12. She referred to the views of children on this as an important justification for making these changes.

LEKTOR LOMSDALENS INN FALL

Changefactory Pros about being queer in school

What is it really like to be a queer pupil in a Norwegian schools, and what is needed to ensure that queer pupils are safeguarded? What can be useful for us as teachers and school owners to know? The Pros at Changefactory have helped produce a booklet with advice and information for schools about being queer in school.

KNOWLEDGE TO POLITICIANS

2024



35 written
consultation
inputs

11 oral
consultation
inputs

48 meetings with
politicians



How Changefactory does advocacy work

The advice that children and young people have given to national and local authorities has been influencing legislation, guidelines and initiatives for more than 10 years. Knowledge from representative groups of children, together with children's human rights, is therefore the basis for all the advocacy work that CF does. By presenting the message in dialogues with politicians, young people from CF represent many children and young people. CF provides written and oral consultation input to the Norwegian Parliament, ministries and directorates.

In meetings with politicians and authorities, Pros present input that is based on knowledge collection and children's procedural rights. The role of the Pros is not to tell their own story, but to raise answers from several children and young people. The Pros decide for themselves whether they want to participate in such meetings. Prior to the meetings, factory workers and Pros prepare to talk about what the topic of the meeting is, what inputs are important to give, and the Pros distribute input and explanations that are based on knowledge collection and children's rights among themselves. This is done in collaboration between Pros and factory workers.

Meetings with politicians

Pros are invited to present knowledge from representative groups of children in meetings with politicians. An important part of CF's advocacy work is to facilitate the ability of children and young people, also those in vulnerable life situations, to speak directly to those in power. In these meetings, politicians are presented with summarised advice from representative groups of children on what are good solutions from the perspective of those concerned.

Oral consultation input

Pros present knowledge from representative groups of children in different hearings, on matters concerning children. Pros participate in hearings in the Standing Committee on Children and Families, the Standing Committee on Justice, the Standing Committee on Education and Research, and the Standing Committee on Health and Care Services of the Norwegian Parliament. This is both for hearings on budgets and other matters concerning children in the field.

Written consultation input

CF provides written consultation inputs on matters concerning children. We only provide written input on a matter if we have already summarised knowledge from representative groups of children to whom the matter applies. The knowledge from children is always the starting point for our written inputs, together with children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The inputs are written in collaboration between young people in CF with their own experience, and jurists in CF.



In 2024, Pros met with politicians in the different committees of the Norwegian Parliament. In the meeting points, Pros explained knowledge from children on different topics, so that politicians could make important changes based on knowledge from children.

SYSTEM INPUT

SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Regulations for the new Education Act

CF noted that the draft regulations did not address the most central topics for pupils, as CF knows from the main answers from pupils in Norwegian schools. The regulations do not provide guidance to teachers on topics such as school environment, school democracy and pupil participation.

Official Norwegian Report (NOU) 2023:27

Quality Development Committee

CF provided input to the Ministry of Education and Research on the quality development committee's proposals in the Official Norwegian Report (NOU) 2023:27. CF noted that children's right to be heard at the system level must be described and secured better in several of the committee's proposals. CF also noted that discontinuing the current Pupil Survey and replacing it with a school environment survey could give pupils the opportunity to provide input and concrete solutions to how schools can work with the school environment in a good way for pupils.

Use of physical force in school

CF provided input to the Norwegian Parliament on the Ministry of Education and Research's proposal to open up the use of physical force in schools. CF noted that the bill has not sufficiently considered the best interests of the child based on the views of groups of pupils, or allowed children to participate. The Ministry has also not placed sufficient focus on the harm that the use of physical force can cause pupils.

HEALTH

White Paper on Social Equalisation and Social Mobility

CF provided input that the report must ensure children's right to participation at the system level through measures and solutions that are based on the answers from a representative group of children and young people. Low-threshold services must be strengthened so that they are experienced as accessible to children and young people, through a low threshold for talking about what is difficult and opening hours that allow young people to use the services after school.

Children's Act

Changefactory provided that the Children's Act must have a separate chapter on children's rights at the beginning. This is to clarify the rights of all children. Changefactory also provided input that equality for parents cannot come at the expense of children's rights. What is in the best interests of a child when parents are to separate, must be determined in each individual case, after the child has been given information and has been able to express their views safely. A standard for how this should be violates children's rights.

The National Budget 2025

CF provided input that user-surveys must be carried out in ways which children themselves can answer how they experience mental health services. CF also asked the government to initiate work on a national framework for the prevention of coercion in mental healthcare services for children and young people. Input on help for substance abuse concerned strengthening low-threshold services in the municipalities and that non-profit actors can provide treatment for young people.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Child Welfare Act (quality report)

CF's most important input was that the age for party rights must be lowered to 10 years, as in Denmark, and that this must also apply to measures of assistance. CF also provided input that children must be given the opportunity to stop contact sessions, that municipal housing measures must also be used as measures of assistance, and that children must be stopped in ways that are experienced as safe, without the use of physical force. CF supported the government's proposal that institutions can employ adults with different types of competence.

White Paper on foster homes

CF provided input that efforts to recruit foster homes in children's local communities should be strengthened, so that children do not lose the sense of safety they have by being moved away from school, friends and leisure activities. CF also provided input that parental responsibility should be transferred from the Child Protection System to the foster parents, so that the foster home becomes as similar as possible to an ordinary family.

The National Budget 2025

CF provided input that a national strategy must be established to include children and young people in decisions at the societal level, that should be a renewed initiative focusing on residential childcare institutions with meaning, that children must be stopped safely in residential childcare institutions, and that efforts to prevent youth crime must include knowledge from children and children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

JUSTICE

Escalation plan against violence

CF provided input to the Norwegian Parliament that many of the proposed measures did not ensure children's right to receive information and to express their views before decisions that concern them are made. CF also reminded the Standing Committee on Justice that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child writes in General Comments that these rights apply particularly strongly to children subjected to violence or abuse.

The Storberget Commission

CF met with the Storberget Commission to provide input to the assessment. CF provided input that the Commission has an obligation to hear the views of groups of children who will be affected by the Committee's work. CF also issued a clear warning, based on answers from young people over more than 15 years, against creating institutions that resemble youth prisons, and calling them residential and rehabilitation services.

The National Budget 2025

CF provided input that the Ministry of Justice must clarify in the allocation letters to the National Police Directorate that new guidelines for Barnahus must be in line with the obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. CF also pointed out the seriousness of the government's increase in the number of places in the youth unit, and that this may lower the threshold for imprisoning children and young people.

KNOWLEDGE TO PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS

2024



Dissemination to professionals and students

Knowledge from children in reports and books

The foundation of Changefactory's work is summarised experiences and advice from children and young people in the system(s) that the knowledge collection focuses on. This is summarised into what CF calls knowledge from children. The knowledge from children is presented directly by them, with the aim that it should be easy for professionals and students to make use of it. In our books published by The University Press, knowledge from children is often presented together with contributions from university staff and professionals.

Knowledge from children in films, podcasts and live presentations

The reports and books are the basis for films and podcasts. The themes and talking points for films and podcasts are developed based on the main answers in CF's knowledge reports and children's rights. Knowledge from children is also presented live to authorities, researchers, professionals and students. A group of Pros then present the main answers from knowledge collections, often together with Articles 3, 12 and 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. All this work is done so that knowledge from children can reach students in the education programmes as easily as possible.

3022 students and professionals met

64 films made

329 Pros participated in professional dissemination



LIVE DISSEMINATION



SCHOOL

Pros taught students studying to become teachers at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) about what makes teachers safe, how to motivate, collaborate with pupils, and how to prevent bad situations.

Pros who wish to do so, can present knowledge from children live to students and professionals physically or digitally. A group of Pros present main answers from knowledge collections, often together with explanations of Articles 3, 12 and 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Topics can include schools, health services, preventive services, the Child Protection System, the police or the justice system. Safety routines with risk assessments ensure that this is carried out in a safe way.

The Pros who participate must have experience from the system and the topic that the lecture concerns. They explain advice that is repeated by many children, and can elaborate on this with examples from their own encounters with that system. The role of the Pros is not to tell their own story, but to raise answers from many children and young people. Often three to five Pros take part. They distribute among themselves which main answers they wish to explain. Factory workers prepare together with the Pros. During the presentation, the factory worker facilitates by asking questions and making it safe for the Pros to explain and elaborate on the main answers.

Here are some examples of Pros disseminating knowledge from children in 2024:

Pros attended the School Absence Conference 2024 to give advice to teachers and leaders on what is needed to prevent school absence, and advice on how to help pupils return to school.

MENTAL HEALTH

Pros taught and took part in case-work with psychology students in Tromsø. The students received advice on how to make it safe for young people to meet with therapists and how to achieve good collaboration. They were given the opportunity to practice talking about what was good and what can be improved.

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Pros gave advice at the Child Welfare Tribunal's annual conference on how the tribunal can collaborate with children and make legal processes feel safer for children.

Pros gave advice at the Child Protection Emergency Unit conference on how to ensure safety and collaboration with the child, even in times of emergency.

CRIME

Pros gave advice at a concern conversation-course for new preventive police officers in the Oslo Police District on how concern conversations has to be carried out in order to be experienced as safe as possible for children and young people.

STUDENTS



Child protection students at the University of South-Eastern Norway



Teacher education students at the University of South-Eastern Norway

PROFESSIONALS

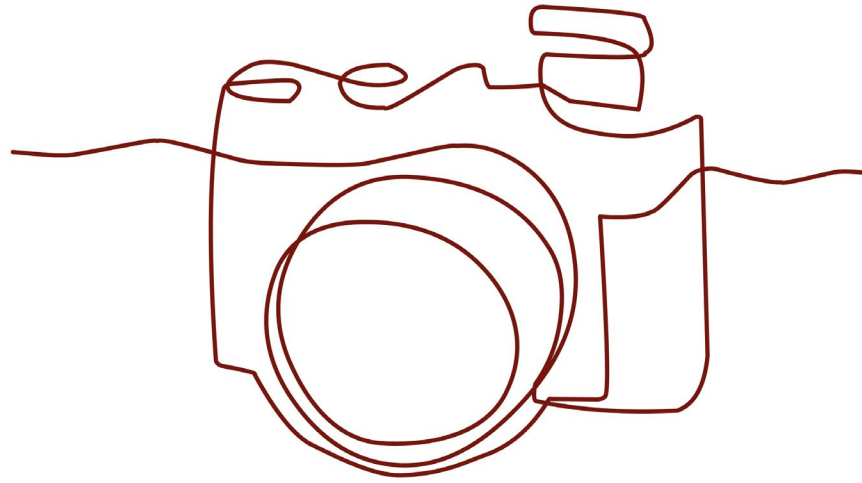


The Opportunity Days, organised by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration in Trøndelag



Concern Conversation Course at Oslo Police District

FILM AND PODCAST



SCHOOL

Knowledge from children in films and podcasts

CF produces films and podcasts for kindergarten, school, help services, the police and the justice system - always based on knowledge from many children. To ensure that this is experienced as safe for young people who choose to participate, and that their privacy is safeguarded, CF's routine for films and podcasts with associated risk assessments is followed. To ensure that knowledge from many children is what is presented, talking points are developed, in collaboration between Pros and factory workers.

Young people with their own experience related to the topic are invited to present the advice in film or podcast. They are informed about the purpose and about who can see the films or podcasts, and that participation is voluntary. The young people choose which advice they wish to disseminate. They are given the opportunity to see or listen to their contribution for approval before it is used.

Boys' advice on equality

Films in which boys attending lower- and upper secondary school talk about how it feels when it feels like you are treated differently or badly, because you are a boy, They give advice to adults who work in schools on what they can do so that boys can feel that school is also made for them, and that they are wanted at school.

Learn Safely

Films where pupils tell adults who work in schools how they can be and what they can do, so that as many pupils as possible can learn in safe and helpful ways.

Local Youth Xperts

Films where young people explain to adults who decide in schools that pupils have important knowledge, and why the adults need this knowledge to be able to make good decisions concerning groups of children.

CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Collaboration with children on contact sessions

Films in which children and young people give advice to adults who work in the Child Protection System on how to make it safe for children to express their views on, and take part in deciding, contact sessions.

Safe and helpful family guidance

Films in which young people with minority backgrounds give advice to the Child Protection System on how they can collaborate with children and provide helpful support.

Rights in the Child Protection System

Films in which young people with experience from the Child Protection System explain what rights children and young people who are currently in the Child Protection System have, in different situations in the Child Protection System.

HEALTH

Local Youth Xperts

Films in which young people explain to adults who make decisions about health services for children and young people that children and young people have important knowledge, and why adults need this knowledge in order to make good decisions that concern groups of children.

CRIME

There's always a reason

Films in which young people explain some of the reasons to why young people start committing crime, what adults can do when they are concerned about a young person, and what adults can do when they meet young people in a group or one-on-one.

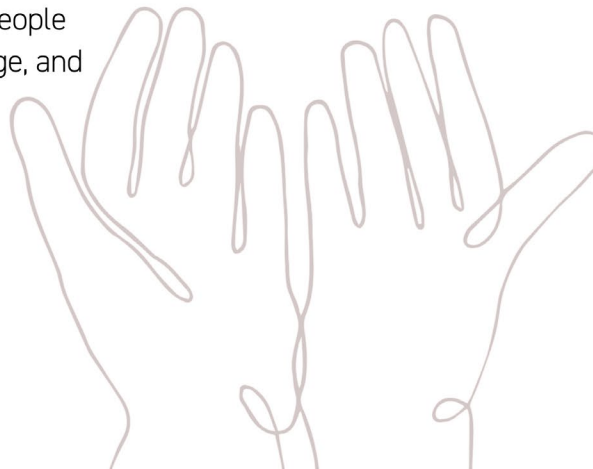
UPBRINGING ACROSS SYSTEMS

Pro & Professional

Podcast in which professionals and young people with their own experience have a dialogue about how professionals in different services can identify and help children who are subjected to violence and abuse in close relations.

ProPod

Podcast in which young people, in different episodes, give in-depth explanations of what kind of view of children adults should meet children with, how adults can build trust, and how to look beyond children and young people's behaviour.



Collaboration with researchers

A good knowledge base must consist of several types of knowledge: knowledge from research, knowledge from professionals, and knowledge from children. In order to develop good systems for children, it is crucial to have research that actively collects children's own views and develops methodologies to better listen to them. CF has therefore collaborated with researchers to ensure that children's knowledge and procedural rights become a clear and important part of research projects that concern different systems that meet children and young people.

CF has contributed in different ways to such projects, but always with the same aim: to strengthen children's voice in research. This has, among other things, involved providing input on questions that children and young people should be asked, with an emphasis on solutions and advice to the systems. CF has also organised workshops and gatherings to collect answers from children and young people, which are then communicated to the researchers to ensure that children's answers come across clearly. In addition, young people have provided feedback during the projects, for example, in the development of methods, recommendations and models. The young people's input is based on knowledge collected from many children and young people on the relevant topic, and on children's procedural rights. CF has also collaborated with researchers on disseminating children's perspectives in articles aimed at students, professionals and other researchers.

The goal of this work is to ensure that research projects concerning systems for children and young people base their results, tools, methods and recommendations on actual knowledge from children. In this way, the solutions that are developed will be more relevant, accurate and in line with children's human rights.

CF's contributions in research collaborations, at conferences, in networks and research projects in recent years

#Care4YoungTeeth <3 Contribute to improving dental health among young people, regardless of social, geographical or economic background.

A pill for the pain Study on the use of painkillers and addictive medications, and the development of mental illness in young people.

Orchid Improve the dental health service's ability to detect violence and abuse against children, both in dental clinics and Barnahus.

PANDA (Participation and Collaboration for Action) Strengthening the involvement of younger children (under the age of 12) in the Child Protection System in Europe.

Children's Right to Participation A collaborative knowledge project that aims to increase understanding of, and contribute to the implementation of, children's right to be involved.

EUSARF The European Scientific Association on Residential and Family Care for Children and Adolescents.

The Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation International meeting place for researchers and professionals.

Professional board SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN 2024

Mandate of the professional council for schools and kindergarten

- advise Changefactory on strategic choices and priorities in the kindergarten and school field
- comment on prioritised initiatives and activities linked to the adopted strategy in the kindergarten and school field, so that these can be adjusted in line with new experiences and new knowledge
- contribute to important dialogues in the kindergarten and school field on how to ensure children's right to be collaborated with in everything that concerns them, at both the individual and system level
- advise Changefactory on how knowledge from children can be collected, processed and disseminated in a reliable and professionally sound way in the kindergarten and school field
- advise Changefactory on the choice of topics and on how collaboration with professionals, researchers and relevant knowledge environments can best be organised and structured in the kindergarten and school field

Members

Jon Halvdan Lenning
Anti-bullying Ombudsperson in Troms

Åshild Viken Wåle
Deputy Head of Department at the Department of Educational Science, University of South-Eastern Norway

Jogeir Sognnæs
Director at the Agency for Special Educational Services, Department for Kindergarten and School, City of Bergen

Marit Mjøs
Associate Professor of Education at NLA University College

Marianne Dahlseng
Office Manager at the Secretariat to FUB and FUG (the national parents' committees for kindergarten and school)

Fredrik Sørensen
Emotional and relational support worker for schools in Porsgrunn

Elisabeth Walsøe Lehn
University college lecturer in Education at Queen Maud's Memorial University College

Christian Håve
Principal at Grav School, Bærum Municipality

Malin Iversen
Head of Kindergarten in Vestre Toten Municipality

Joakim Caspersen
Sociologist and Head of Research at NTNU Social Research



FREDRIK SØRENSEN



MARIT MJØS



JOGEIR SOGNNÆS



ELISABETH W. LEHN



JOAKIM CASPERSEN



JON HALVDAN LENNING



MARIANNE DAHLESEN



ÅSHILD V. WÅLE



CHRISTIAN HÅVE



MALIN IVERSEN

Professional board HEALTH 2024

Mandate of the professional council for health

- advise Changefactory on strategic choices and priorities in the health field
- comment on prioritised initiatives and activities linked to the adopted strategy in the health field, so that these can be adjusted in line with new experiences and new knowledge
- contribute to important dialogues in the health field on how to ensure children's right to be collaborated with in everything that concerns them, on both a individual and system level
- advise Changefactory on how knowledge from children can be collected, processed and disseminated in a reliable and professionally sound way in the health field
- advise Changefactory on the choice of topics and on how collaboration with professionals, researchers and relevant knowledge environments can best be organised and structured in the health field

Members

Anne-Kristin Imenes

Senior Advisor at KORUS (Knowledge Centre for the Substance Use Field) South

Kjersti Lillevoll

Associate Professor at the Department of Psychology, University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway

Siv Førde Refsnes

Associate Professor Emerita at the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL)

Arne Kristian Myhre

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Head of the Youth Resource Centre in Sandnes Municipality

Gerd Marie Furfjord

Public Health Nurse in Bodø Municipality

Ann Karin Swang

Head of the National Group of Public Health Nurses



Professional board CHILDREN AND FAMILIES 2024

Mandate of the professional council for children and families

- advise Changefactory on strategic choices and priorities in the field of children and families
- comment on prioritised initiatives and activities linked to the adopted strategy in the field of children and families, so that these can be adjusted in line with new experiences and new knowledge
- contribute to important dialogues in the field of children and families on how to ensure children's right to be collaborated with in everything that concerns them, at both the individual and system level
- advise Changefactory on how knowledge from children can be collected, processed and disseminated in a reliable and professionally sound way in the field of children and families
- advise Changefactory on the choice of topics and on how collaboration with professionals, researchers and relevant knowledge environments can best be organised and structured in the field of children and families

Members

Marie Lindsjørn Nordvik

Postdoctoral fellow in law at the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway

Vegard Snartland

Programme coordinator at the Department of Health, Social and Welfare Studies, University of South-Eastern Norway (USN)

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Yngvild Brynildsen

Director at Blå Kors Øst (Blue Cross Eastern Norway)

Inge Nordhaug

Clinical Social Worker in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, retired

Nina Bolstad

Head of the Knowledge Centre in the Agency for Children and Families, Bergen Municipality

Gunnar Toresen

Adviser in the Guidance Team at the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs (Bufdir), and former Head of Child Protection Services in Stavanger Municipality

Elisabeth Wulff Hansen

Child Protection Manager at the Children and Youth Services in Vefsn Municipality

Katrine Wolla

Child Protection Manager in Stange Municipality

Mogens Albæk

Specialist Psychologist in Kristiansand



INGE NORDHAUG



ELISABETH W. HANSEN



REIDUN FOLLESØ



NINA BOLSTAD



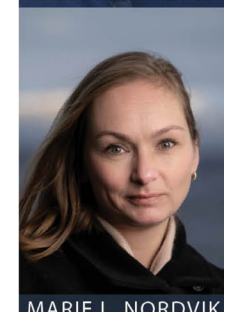
MOGENS ALBÆK



YNGVILD BRYNILDSEN



VEGARD SNARTLAND



MARIE L. NORDVIK



GUNNAR TORESEN



KATRINE N. WOLLA



5

Management and organisation

How the factory is organised

Core values



Equality

About seeing children and young people as just as valuable as adults and showing this through words and actions

Openness

About giving honest and sufficient information, sharing from our lives, and meeting all children with curiosity and a desire to understand

Love

About caring, showing human warmth, having warm and open body language and warm eyes and voice

Humility

About believing in children, taking them seriously and being open about not knowing everything. We admit mistakes and say sorry

Normality

About organising things in normal ways and with normal expectations, also when young people in vulnerable life situations participate

Organisational development

The background for Changefactory's work

Changefactory was established in 2004 by adults who had listened to many children. Many children experienced that they had little influence in their own lives and in society. This was particularly described clearly by children under 18, who were living in vulnerable life situations. When decisions were to be made on behalf of one child or groups of children, knowledge from the child or the children concerned was rarely part of the knowledge base.

Norway missed out on important answers from children and young people

Pupil councils and youth councils were arrangements that existed in Norway in the early 2000s. Some groups of children under the age of 18 were thus able to express their views. However, they were rarely asked about what gives good learning, what is good help, or how adults need to be in order to help children in good ways. Norway particularly lacked answers from younger children and children in vulnerable life situations. Entire classes and children in leisure activities were also rarely asked. Authorities and service leaders could, with the best intentions, make decisions that did not make children's lives better or learning easier.

The Changemethod was developed

The Changemethod was developed in 2004-2006, built on Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), an action research method used by researchers and organisations in many countries around the world, including Save the Children. The tools were adapted to Norwegian conditions, in close collaboration with children and young people in Norway. The method has been further developed on several occasions, together with researchers, professionals, children and young people.

Knowledge collection across the country from 2009

Since Changefactory was established, children's right to express their views and to be taken seriously in decisions that affect them has been the fundamental message. For more than 15 years, CF has systematically collected experiences, advice and proposed solutions from more than 15 000 children and young people across Norway. They are invited to participate in qualitative surveys in collaboration with schools, kindergartens, services and social media. The experiences and advice are summarised into main answers and presented in reports, books, films and podcasts.

Young people presented to those who could change

Young people who had participated in qualitative surveys have been invited since 2009 to present the answers from the surveys in dialogue with factory workers. Main answers from children have been presented and explained to national and local authorities, professionals in government, municipalities and organisations, and to students and teachers in education. This way, young people have a direct line to those who could help make a change.

My Life, five major professional development efforts 2013-2021

Changefactory carried out several MY LIFE professional development projects over a decade, in collaboration with schools, municipal- and state services. The idea was developed together with leaders, professionals, children and young people: If they could together find out what constitutes good quality in services, it must have decisive significance for frameworks and national initiatives. This could inspire authorities when legislation, guidelines, practice and higher education programmes were to be further developed.

Five professional development projects were carried out: My Life child protection services (2013-2017) with more than 150 services, My Life mental healthcare services (2016-2018) with more than 10 hospitals with 32 inpatient psychiatric unit and outpatient clinics, and My Life residential childcare institutions (2016-2018) with 21 public, non-profit- and private institutions, My Life primary and lower secondary schools (2017-2019), with 30 primary and lower secondary schools, and My Life mental health services in the municipality (2018-2021), with more than 50 services from 10 larger municipalities.

Network with heads of childhood and youth services in the major cities

After many years of professional development in different municipal services, some of the heads of childhood and youth in the major cities took the initiative to establish a major cities network for heads of childhood and youth. They wanted to learn more about children's rights and how they could develop services of good quality. Ten of the largest cities in Norway participated in biannual gatherings. The starting point for the major cities network was children's rights under Articles 3, 12 and 16 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with knowledge from children about school and help services. Young people from the major cities presented knowledge from children on different topics, followed by dialogues between the heads of childhood and youth, and the young people.

The heads of childhood and youth pointed to higher education programmes

In order for knowledge from children to be systematically taken seriously in decisions concerning children, professionals and the heads of childhood and youth pointed more clearly to higher education programmes. Knowledge from children was included in the curriculum in some places, but was often dependent on individual enthusiasts.

Some of the young people in CF asked for meetings with leaders of the student unions, to create dialogues about the connection between knowledge from children and children's rights. Seven of the boards of the major universities in Norway decided in 2020-2021 that higher education programmes for all professional groups who are to meet children and young people, must include knowledge from children and children's rights on the curriculum and in teaching.

In retrospect, something is clear to us

Changefactory has been built brick by brick, with a strong ambition to give children and young people the right to express their views, and greater influence over the development of systems and services for children. The idea has always been to facilitate as well as possible so that children and young people of all ages and life situations themselves are given the opportunity to present and to be in dialogue with those who have the power and opportunity to change. Most importantly, the views of children and young people should be taken seriously in decisions that concern them. We have worked with the conviction that this would make Norway better for more children, for professionals and for society as a whole. Children and young people would learn better and experience better help, and society's resources would be used better.

Organisation, management and financing

Changefactory is a knowledge centre, organised as a non-profit foundation. In 2024, the foundation consists of a team of Pros, factory workers, volunteers, three professional councils and a board. CF is headquartered in Oslo, but in 2024 also worked from regional bases in Bergen, Trondheim, Tromsø and Stavanger. At the end of 2024, there were 15 full-time and part-time employees in CF, including some Pros. The main answers from CF's knowledge collection are the starting point for CF's strategy and priorities. CF's work is done in collaboration between Pros with experience from systems for children, and adults employed as factory workers.

CF is membership-based

CF is a membership-based foundation to ensure that Pros have an even stronger position within Changefactory. The young people who are active in Changefactory are members and registered in the foundation's membership register. The members elect representatives to a representative assembly consisting of 50 representatives from the regions. The representatives are between 15 and 23 years old. CF's board is elected by the representative assembly.

The Pros

Children and young people aged 13-21 have contributed answers in knowledge collections. They are invited to participate as Pros and disseminate the main answers from the knowledge collection, in meeting points with, or in knowledge products for, students, professionals and authorities.

Changefactory's Board

The board is responsible for the activities of Changefactory. This entails final responsibility for all activities, including the way in which knowledge collection, knowledge products- and activities with children and young people are conducted. In 2024, the CF board had strong professional, leadership and administrative competence.

Factory workers and project Pros

Main answers from children carry a clear message that systems created for children must collaborate closely with children. CF also takes this answer seriously in the organisation of the work. Everyone on the team contributes to equal collaboration between young people and adults. In 2024, 4-5 Pros have worked together with factory workers throughout the year, as Project Pros.

The work of Changefactory is organised as follows:

- RESEARCH & METHOD collects experiences and advice from children and young people across the country and summarises the knowledge in reports.
- PROFESSIONAL WORK AND STUDENTS disseminates knowledge from children to professionals and students, so that knowledge from children is used in practice. This is done through knowledge products such as films, podcasts, descriptions and some lectures.
- POLITICS & LAW conducts advocacy work with politicians and other national authorities, to ensure that knowledge from children and children's rights is included in legislation and governance documents.
- REGIONS organises Pro gatherings and Pro activities in order to strengthen the community of the Pros and to act as bridge-builders, so that Pros can receive helpful help in the systems.
- INTERNATIONAL works to ensure that Changefactory's method for collecting knowledge, working methods and experiences from 20 years of work will inspire and be used in other countries. Authorities, organisations, research environments and educational institutions are partners.

Financing

Over the past decade, Changefactory's work has mainly been funded by public funding from the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, the Norwegian Directorate for Health, the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training, and the Secretariat for the National Mediation Services. This support is fundamental to CF's work. At the same time, we have seen it as an important recognition of the work CF does to systematically collect, disseminate and carry out advocacy based on summarised knowledge from children.

In 2024, Changefactory received funding from the Norwegian Directorate for Children, Youth and Family Affairs, the Norwegian Directorate for Health and the Secretariat for the National Mediation Services. Changefactory also received support from Erasmus+ and Nordic Culture Point for international work. Important contributions also came from foundations, funds and private individuals. CF received project funding and contributions from the Kaare Berg Foundation, Sparebanken Vest, Adolf Øiens Fund, Fridheim Foundation and The Norwegian Gambling and Foundation Authority.

Supporting partners over the years



Thank you from the board

2024 has been an exciting year for Changefactory. The experiences from 20 years of work in Norway to collect, systematise, present and explain children and young people's experiences and advice are gaining ever stronger wings, and are spreading across the Nordic countries and Europe. This motivates us all and gives us strength together to continue the work together, to ensure that children and young people are able to express their views and are taken seriously in decision-making processes.

2024 was the year when we were able to celebrate an organisation that has gone ahead in finding ways for Articles 3, 12 and 16 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to have meaning for all children and young people under the age of 18 in Norway. Throughout all these years, Changefactory has done what "everyone" says is important and right, namely to facilitate for all children to be able to express their views and be taken seriously, and that children in vulnerable life situations have an additional right to this.

2024 marks the twentieth year that Changefactory has been delivering work in Norway. A small factory saw the light of day in 2004, and since then it has been built, brick by brick. Creativity and perseverance have ensured a lot of innovation. The organisation has gained ever greater strength and more warm, beating hearts have become connected to this work. Changefactory has travelled around the country to meet older and younger children, groups of pupils or entire school classes, children who live in unsafe life situations and children who may make situations unsafe for others. We have met children in schools, leisure activities, help services and correctional services.

The paths for CF's work have not been paved before, so we therefore had to pave them ourselves. This required courage and an organisation constantly searching for solutions. With limited funding, a large number of activities have been carried out. Young people and adults have gone to great lengths to give voices to those who are rarely heard. CF has often gone further, and done more, than anyone could expect. The board is very grateful for this.

2024 has been a productive year. The qualitative surveys "Trust Is Crucial" and "Safe With Each Other" were published, and the advice booklets "Decide with Each of Us" and "Boys' Advice on Equality" were published. Pros across the country have participated in 16 weekend gatherings, 48 meetings with politicians, 62 Pro gatherings where they have given advice and 92 Pro activities. 11 oral and 35 written consultation inputs have been submitted to the Norwegian Parliament. More than 3,000 students and professionals have had the opportunity to meet the Pros.

2024 was also the year for several important events. Mathilde Day was the highlight of the spring semester, with children's autonomy as the main theme. In the autumn semester, the young people invited the Irish professor Laura Lundy to help Norway better understand what the Convention on the Rights of the Child actually says about ensuring children's rights in decision-making. The book "Without Safety, without a chance" came from the printers late in the autumn and was launched through visits to the places that the 11 young authors prioritised as the most important places to visit.

At the end of these twenty years, I would like to especially thank Marit Sanner, founder, Managing Director for almost 20 years and now Professional Director of Changefactory. Thank you for having, throughout all these years, so steadily carried the idea and steered the ship, in tailwinds, headwinds and rough weather. Thank you for having received and endured the impatience of all the young people who, for good reason, have insisted that change is urgent. Thank you also for standing tall when different groups of adults have wanted to stop Changefactory. Thank you for all the ideas for solving challenges and for the courage to break new ground. Thank you for all the ambitious projects and work plans you have developed, in close collaboration with Pros and many committed factory workers. For all of this, you deserve a deeply heartfelt thank you.

For me, as Chair of the Board, this work is deeply impressive. On behalf of the entire board, I would like to humbly thank all Pros and factory workers over the past 20 years for their great efforts. Students, professionals and politicians across Norway have received knowledge from children as gifts. At the same time, I also thank all of you around the country who have taken this knowledge into use and taken it seriously. And finally, thank you to all our supporting partners, who in different ways have contributed to the great adventure that these 20 years with Changefactory have been.

Greetings from a deeply grateful
Alexander Sommerseth, Head of the Board of Changefactory



Top left: Trond Aarre, Hilde Ordemann, Marit Skivenes, Arild Bjørndal
Bottom left: Caroline Rørnes, Alexander Sommerseth, Vanessa Marin Gundersen

Board members

Alexander Sommerseth (Head of the board), was a Pro in CF and project worker 2011-17. Long experience as a sales manager.

Arild Bjørndal (Deputy Head of the board), Professor of Community Medicine and former Director of the Regional Centre for Child and Youth Mental Health and Child Welfare East and South. Head of the Centre for Evidence and Implementation

Vanessa Marin Gundersen, pro, and **Caroline Rørnes**, previously Pro in CF

Marit Skivenes, professor of political science, head of the Centre for Research on Discretion and Paternalism, University of Bergen

Hilde Ordemann, Municipal Lawyer. Long experience from the County Governor

Trond Aarre, Head of Department at Nordfjord Psychiatric Centre and Professional Director in Mental Health Services, Helse Førde

CF's work towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals



3 Good health and well-being

The Young Data survey shows that there are still a number of children who are excluded from the community, who struggle with mental health and who need a lot of help from the health services in Norway. Changefactory works to involve and include children and young people when new legislation and guidelines are to be developed in the fields of substance use and mental health. At the individual level, we work continuously to ensure that children in difficult life situations are included and find meaning and a sense of mastery through participation in Changefactory's work and activities.



4 Quality education

Changefactory works to strengthen the education system by using children and young people's own experiences and advice to promote changes that can improve learning environments in schools and kindergartens. We develop advice and guidance for kindergartens and educational settings based on pupils' experiences and perceptions in schools and kindergartens.



5 Gender equality

Changefactory works to promote gender equality, particularly when it comes to children and young people's participation in society. We work to ensure that young people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation and background, have equal opportunities and rights to actively participate in decision-making processes that concern them at the individual or system level.



10 Reduced inequalities

Changefactory focuses on reducing inequality, particularly by including children and young people from low-income backgrounds and other vulnerable groups. All our activities and gatherings are free of charge, and include close follow-up of each individual young person. Through our projects we ensure that advice and knowledge are collected from young people, and that children and young people in vulnerable situations are given a platform to influence their own future.



11 Sustainable cities and communities

Changefactory carries out activities and conducts qualitative surveys and advice collections across the country. The aim is to work across public and private actors through region-based projects with children and young people to ensure good living conditions for children and young people in local communities. In this way, we contribute to target 10.3, to strengthen opportunities for participatory, integrated and sustainable community development in Norway.



16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

Changefactory works actively towards target 16.7, to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes at all levels. For 15 years, CF has contributed to inclusive and representative decision-making processes by collecting and disseminating answers from children, especially those in vulnerable life situations. We work to ensure that knowledge and advice from groups of children are collected and given value by decision-makers, in order to ensure Norway's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to include and listen to children in decision-making processes.



17 Partnerships for the goals

Changefactory is committed to collaborating with both public and private actors to create change for individuals and at the system level. Through collaboration with CF, private and public actors can gain a unique opportunity to collaborate directly with children and young people.

CHANGE FACTORY

where children have lead
the way for 20 years

