

The KidsRights Index 2020

Italy scores 15th
on global ranking on Children's Rights



ITALY

OVERALL SCORE	LIFE	HEALTH	EDUCATION	PROTECTION	CHILD RIGHTS ENVIRONMENT
RANK: 15	RANK: 2	RANK: 29	RANK: 23	RANK: 10	RANK: 64-75
SCORE: 0,878	SCORE: 0,984	SCORE: 0,967	SCORE: 0,858	SCORE: 0,991	SCORE: 0,643



KIDSRIGHTS
Index

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND
METHODOLOGY ARE ACCESSIBLE ON [KIDSRIGHTS.ORG/KIDSRIGHTSINDEX](https://www.kidsrights.org/kidsrightsindex)

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children's rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes the performance records of states on the most crucial aspects of children's lives for which comparable data is available. In addition, the Index charts how states are faring in mobilizing the enabling environment for children's rights that the CRC requires them to have. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

1. Right to Life
2. Right to Health
3. Right to Education
4. Right to Protection
5. Enabling Environment for Child Rights

The KidsRights Index ranks countries on each of these five domains which in turn generate a comprehensive overall ranking. The content of the Index is a sound basis for making concrete recommendations on how the children's rights record of specific countries could be improved.

SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index pools data from three reputable sources: quantitative data published and regularly updated by UNICEF (www.data.unicef.org) and UNDP (www.hdr.undp.org/data)¹, and qualitative data published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crc/pages/crcindex.aspx) in the detailed individual country reports (the so-called Concluding Observations) that it adopts for all states that are parties to the CRC. The KidsRights Index aims to make the data more accessible to a broader audience, in an effort to stimulate dialogue about children's rights. Since the United States of America is the only state in the world that is not yet a party to the CRC, there is no material for scoring the country on domain 5 and thus it cannot be included in the KidsRights Index.

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILD RIGHTS

Domain 5, the 'Enabling Environment for Child Rights', is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (*non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation*) and the extent to which there is a basic 'infrastructure' for making and implementing child rights policy (in the form of *enabling national legislation; mobilization of the 'best available' budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights*). The scores on domain 5 are derived from the Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These Concluding Observations (COs) finish off the state reporting procedure under the CRC and represent the Committee's views on the level of realization of children's rights in a particular country.

¹ The data for the KidsRights Index 2020 was downloaded from the listed UNICEF and UNDP sources in January 2020. In addition, the latest available Concluding Observations for each country were used.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each sub-indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the document. The resulting final scores are standardized.

KidsRights Index Scoring System:

Score 1 'bad'	= only negative remarks
Score 2 'average'	= negative and positive remarks
Score 3 'good'	= only positive remarks
N/A	= not addressed

Color	Meaning
Red	Negative change
Orange	Stayed the same
Green	Positive change

DOMAIN 5: ITALY (CO DATA FROM 2019, SEVEN SCORES AVAILABLE)

	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
Italy 2019	1	2	2	3	2	2	1
Italy 2011	1	1	2	N/A	1	2	N/A

Italy's record in the 2019 Concluding Observations shows 2 low scores (on *non-discrimination* and *state-civil society cooperation for child rights*), 4 average scores (on *best interests of the child*, *respect for the views of the child*, *best available budget*, *collection and analysis of disaggregated data* and *state-civil society cooperation for child rights*) and 1 high score (on *enabling legislation*). The indicators on *non-discrimination*, *respect for the views of the child* and *collection and analysis of disaggregated data* remained at the same score as in 2011, being an average score. Italy showed some improvements for the indicators relating to *best interests of the child*, *enabling legislation*, *best available budget* and *state-civil society cooperation for child rights*. The indicators *best interest of the child* and *enabling legislation* rose from a low score to an average score. The indicators *enabling legislation* and *state-civil society cooperation for child rights* received a score, compared to no score in 2011, with the indicator on *enabling legislation* receiving a high score and the indicator on *state-civil society cooperation for child rights* scoring a low score. Fortunately, no indicators faced a downfall. Overall Italy experienced a positive change when observing all scores combined.

ON NON-DISCRIMINATION (SCORE 1):

KidsRights remains concerned about the existence of disparities between regions in access to health-care services, the minimum standard of living and education for all children throughout the country. Additionally KidsRights is concerned about the prevalence of negative attitudes towards children based on their status, origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Recommendations

- To take all necessary measures required to remove the existence of disparities between regions in access to health-care services, the minimum standard of living and education for all children throughout the country.
- To take all necessary measures available to combat the negative attitudes towards children based on their status, origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.

ON BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2)

KidsRights recognizes and appreciates the State's efforts to integrate the principle of the best interest of the child into its legislation.

Recommendations

- To strengthen efforts to ensure that the principle of the best interest of the child is appropriately integrated and consistently interpreted and applied in all regions across the country in all legislative, administrative and judicial proceedings and decisions, all policies, programs and projects that are relevant to the rights of children, in particular in relation to unaccompanied or separated children.
- To develop procedures and criteria to provide guidance to all relevant professionals for determining the best interests of a child and for giving it due weight as a primary consideration, in particular in relation to unaccompanied or separated children.

ON RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE CHILD (SCORE 2):

KidsRights welcomes the introduction into legislation of the right of the child to be heard in selected settings, however is concerned this right is not applied in all settings.

Recommendations

- Introduce a comprehensive legal provision establishing the right of the child to be heard without any discrimination due to age, disability or any other circumstance, both in the family environment and in any administrative, judicial or mediation procedure in which the child is affected.
- To ensure that the child's opinion is taken into account in accordance with the child's age and maturity.
- To promote meaningful and empowered participation of all children.

ON ENABLING LEGISLATION (SCORE 3):

KidsRights appreciates the legislative, institutional and policy measures taken by the state to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the adoption of Law No. 71 of 29 May 2017 on the protection of children in preventing and countering cyber-bullying, Law No. 47 of 7 April 2017 on measures to protect unaccompanied foreign children, Legislative Decree No. 66 of 13 April 2017 on rules for the promotion of the inclusion of students with disabilities and the fourth national plan of action and interventions for the protection of the rights and the development of children and adolescents, adopted in 2016.

Recommendations

- To continue taking legislative, institutional and policy measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in areas where its presence is absent or insufficient.

ON BEST AVAILABLE BUDGET (SCORE 2):

KidsRights appreciates the efforts made by the State party since 2012 to mitigate the negative impact of the high level of unemployment and poverty, including child poverty, that are the result of the austerity measures taken by the Government since 2010. Nevertheless, KidsRights remains concerned that the austerity measures continue to undermine the effective protection of children's rights within the State, and that the preparation, approval, execution and monitoring of budgets lacks a child rights perspective.

Recommendations:

- To take all measures necessary to ensure the effective protection of children's rights within the State.
- To ensure that the preparation, approval, execution and monitoring of budgets includes a child rights perspective.

ON DATA COLLECTION (SCORE 2):

Recommendations:

- That the State continue to improve its data-collection system, in particular the informative system for social services, including by continuously extending its dataset, to cover all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and disaggregate data by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic and national origin and socioeconomic background in order to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.

ON STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY COOPERATION FOR CHILD RIGHTS (SCORE 1):

KidsRights is deeply concerned by continuing smear campaigns against some civil society organizations engaged in search and rescue operations for migrants, including children, in the Mediterranean.

Recommendations:

- To guarantee the rights and freedom of action of civil society and to ensure that the rescue of migrants is not considered a crime.



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