CiF social welfare councillor Vanessa Parellada participated today in UNICEF's “Building municipal networks to promote rights of the child”, a day-long event for Child Friendly Cities in the Balearic Islands.

Parellada sat for the round-table “Sharing good practices for Child Friendly Cities”, where she reported on work within the Formentera Council, a Child Friendly City since 2014. The councillor also underscored coordination between CiF offices to propose integrated initiatives for children and youth that foment recreation options on the island.

Parellada continued by highlighting efforts to boost young people's participation, holding up youth plenary sessions celebrated twice yearly at the Council seat.

“This is not the 'invest in our future because kids are the adults of tomorrow' talk”, said the councillor. “We're saying youth deserve a place at the table by virtue of their worthiness as human beings”. She continued by saying kids “should engage in civic life and bring their own outlook—those optics are often to thank for adults learning important lessons. Sometimes it's about obvious stuff, like recycling, and sometimes it's something that makes perfect sense...but that we adults seem to have forgotten”.

Parellada saluted the collaboration of the departments of the Council in renewing the island's Child Friendly Cities bid and pushing forward with the initiative. She celebrated the work of associations that work with children, giving a special nod to groups that work around functional diversity and offered concluding praise to sports clubs, schools and Formentera's other social stakeholders.

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