



Youth participation: *where to?*

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Seminar on youth political participation
European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France 10-11 October
2023

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



Covid-19 impact on youth participation and youth spaces

Research report

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YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



Youth Knowledge #29

Youth Partnership

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Strasbourg, 2 October 2023

CMJ(2023)34

JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CMJ)

49th meeting
24-25 October 2023
Strasbourg, European Youth Centre

YOUTH PARTICIPATION 2.0

The Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) guidelines on young people's participation

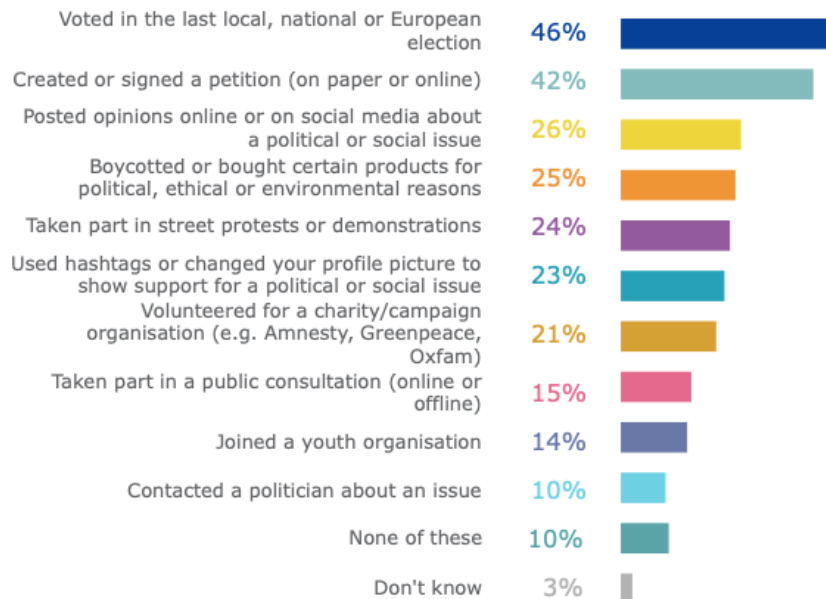
Agenda point 7.1.4

Prepared by the CMJ drafting group based on the research by Prof. Dr. Tomaž Deželan

1. Evolution of participation styles

Have you ever done any of the following?

EU27 average



Source: Deželan and Moxon (2021)

Participation styles are changing

tools for measuring youth participation are narrow and outdated

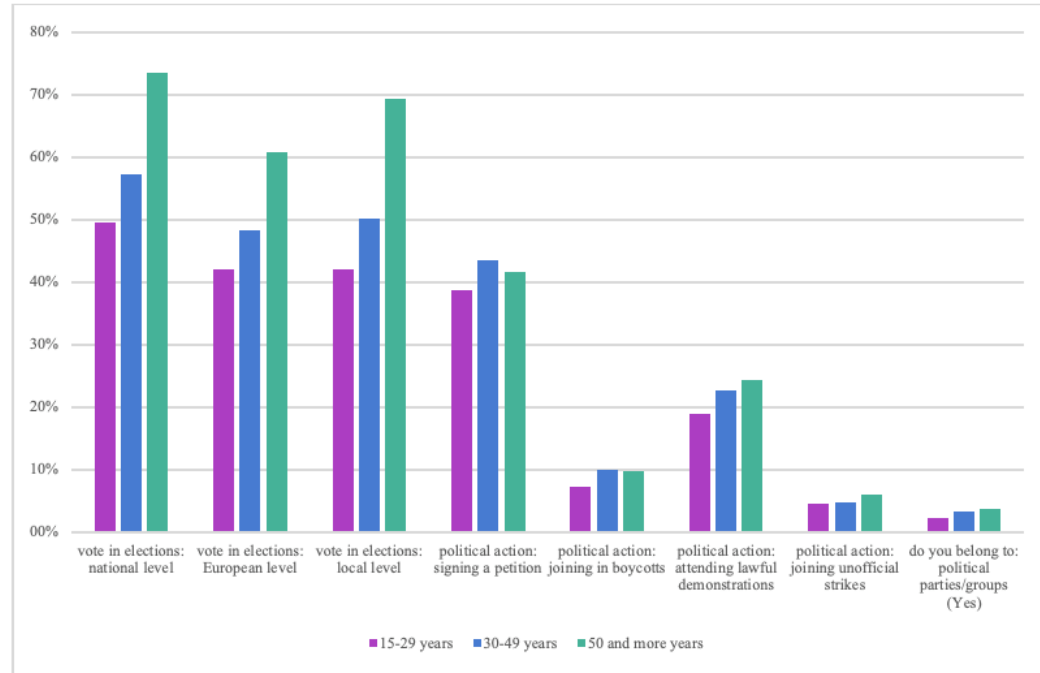
voting is still very important modality for youth to participate

the **actors, forms and targets** of participation are changing and so are the ways in which young people are politically active

depending on their **preferences, abilities** (and some other factors) young people participate in different ways

2. Lower youth participation in institutional politics

Political participation in Europe by age groups



Source: European Values Study, Wave 7 (2020)

Youth and institutional politics

youth **participation in institutional politics** is comparatively low

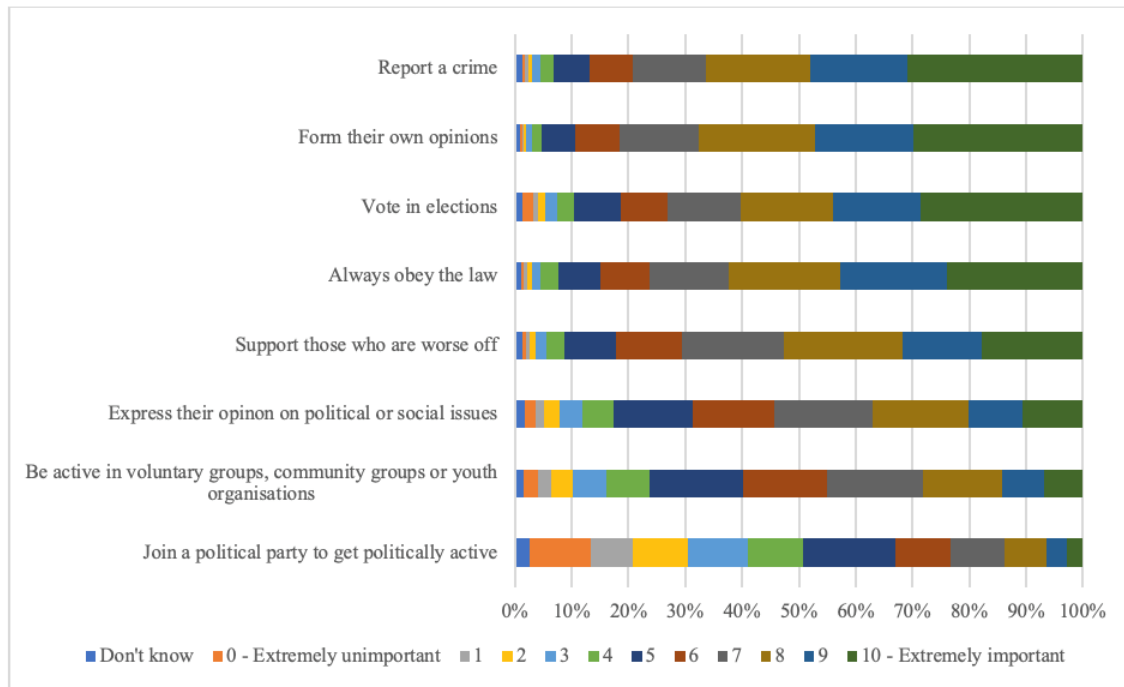
the **gap** between youth participation and other age groups is widening

low participation rates have a negative impact on representation

low representation of young people leads to policies less responsive to youth

3. The changing citizenship of young people

In order to be a good citizen, how important do you think it is for a person to...? (in percentages - EU27)



Source: European Parliament Youth Survey (2021)

Different citizenship norms of young people

young people share **different citizenship norms**, more focused on protest politics and self-expression

peers and **social networks** have greater importance in shaping political beliefs

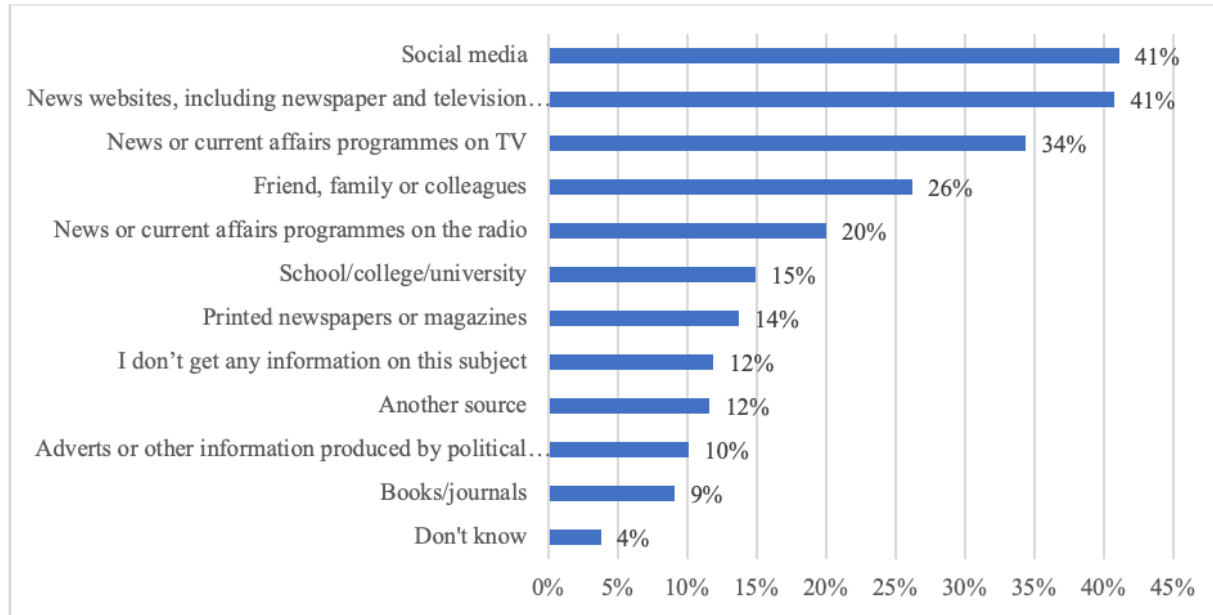
youth are **more networked**, but still appreciate social order alongside solidarity and self-expression

the **environment, poverty and inequality, and humanitarian crises** are among key concerns of young people

4. The impact of ICT

From which of these sources do you get the most information about political and social issues?

Please select up to three answers. (in percentages - EU27)



Source: European Parliament Youth Survey (2021)

The ICT

ICT tools are the main source of information on politics and social issues

the internet can have positive effects on the online and offline participation of young people



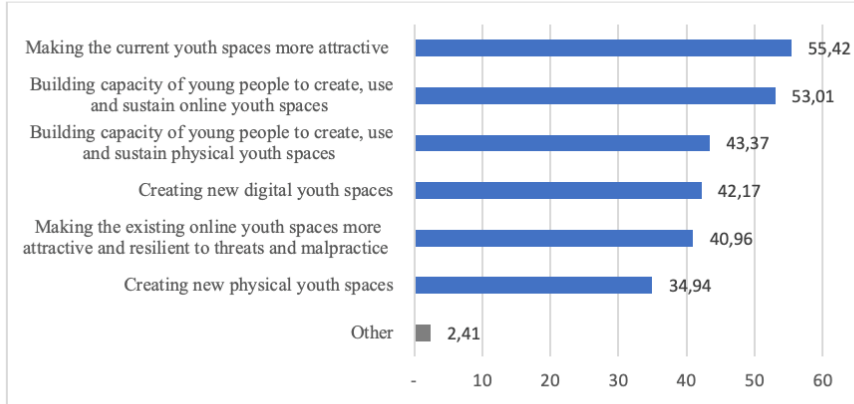
social media can strengthen political literacy and skills

since social media are mainly **used for recreational purposes**, they do not have a positive impact on political mobilisation

excessive screen time has a negative impact on young people's mental health and physical development

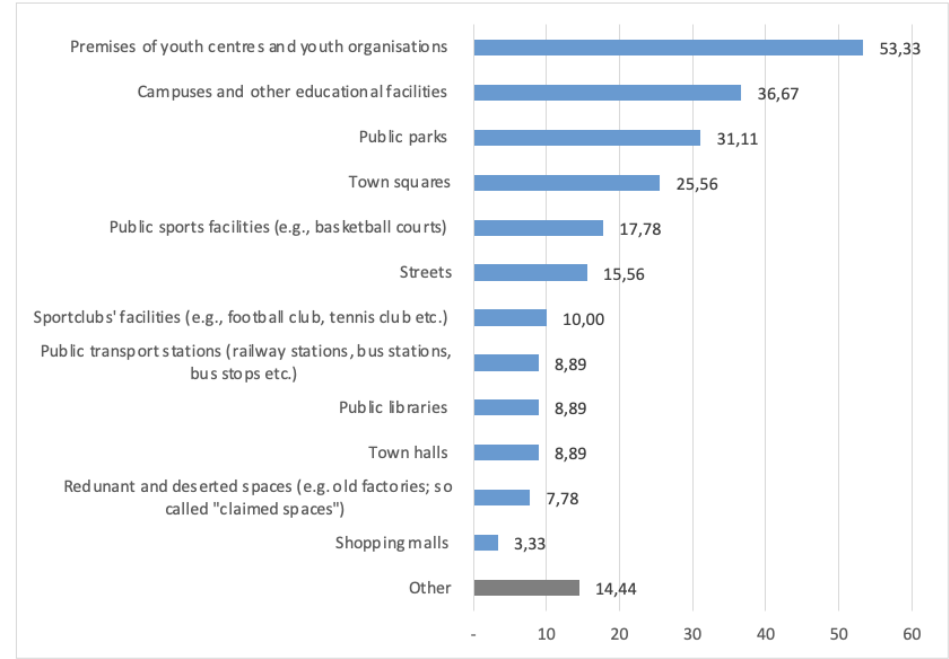
5. Shrinking civic spaces

What strategies related to youth spaces will your organisation pursue most to ensure youth engagement in the post-pandemic period?



Source: Deželan (2021)

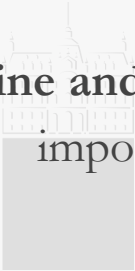
What kind of physical (offline) spaces have proven most valuable to your organisation in securing youth engagement since the outbreak of COVID -19?



Source: Deželan (2022)

Shrinking civic spaces for young people

the **civic space** for young people is shrinking and the Covid 19 increased this problem



open offline and online spaces for young people are an important prerequisite for youth participation

youth work and youth organisations are two of the most important creators of open and safe civic spaces

the key is in **maintaining and improving** existing civic spaces

Youth participation 2023

Young people are active (85% in recognised forms of participation).

Young people are radically kind citizens (Bowman et al. 2023).

Radical kindness is about dissent. It is about calling for wholesale, systemic and radical change in the politics and economics that have brought the world into a climate crisis. Radical kindness is reflected in the words of Greta Thunberg (Snapes

Radical kindness is about a vision of transformative change that comes from grass-roots collaboration. To quote Drew (Youth Strike for Climate participant): "Everyone

Radical kindness is a system of civic ethics based on care and kindness.

Young people vote less, but they vote when it matters.

Young people consume and practice political and social action online more than others (and differently), therefore institutional politics needs readjustments.

Civil space for young people crucial and its facilitators as well (youth/youth work organisations, CSOs...).