

Challenges of youth participation in democratic life

Contribution of SALTO-YOUTH Participation Resource Centre

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Common ground:

Young people and participation in democratic life in Europe



Young people

Highly heterogeneous group in society with a variety of identities and backgrounds

169 000 000 young people in the EU (33,3%) – share of young people decreasing over recent years

Boomerang generation

Participation - conceptual stretching

Different forms and degrees of participation (ladder of participation)

Benefits of participation



Current trends, and challenges targeted by SALTO-YOUTH Participation:

RMSOS (access to information, motivation, skills, effective communication, awareness of the impact)

Better understanding of participation (research, good practices, policy);

Decrease in institutional forms
and **increase in unconventional forms of participation** among young people;



Current trends and challenges targeted by SALTO-YOUTH Participation:

New/Alternative forms and arenas of participation;

Propensity to participate in daily life linked to social status, financial situation, cultural background;

Personalize politics!



Current trends and challenges targeted by SALTO-YOUTH Participation:

Learning to participate/civic education -> young people & educators;

Learning to interact with young people/to attract them into participating in daily life -> policy makers, administration staff;

Additional support: coaching;



Approach and strategy of SALTO-YOUTH Participation:

- permanent dialogue and collaboration with the European Commission;**
- strong and long-term partnerships with strategic partners (Erasmus+ National Agencies, EU-CoE Youth Partnership etc.);**
- combining practice, research and policy;**
- long-term vision and innovative activities;**
- developing recommendations and ultimately a strategy to amplify participation of young people in Europe.**

