

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Participation**



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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## **AUSTRIA, 2005**

### **1 Structures of participation at the local, regional or national level**

#### **1.1 Youth parliaments**

##### **1.1.1 Local youth parliaments**

In Austria many local youth parliaments exist. A list is available at [www.jugendbeteiligung.cc](http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc), the homepage of ARGE Partizipation, a network consisting of representatives of the federal and national youth departments in Austria. examples: Jugendgemeinderat Kufstein (Tyrol): Alex Molitor; the young people aged 14 to 20 in this parliament work for the needs and wishes of the youth in Kufstein (Tyrol), the Jugendgemeinderat Kufstein has an own budget which is administrated by the members. Jugendgemeinderat Weiz (Styria): Waltraud Graf; 25 bi-annually elected young people aged 13 - 17 (7 apprentices, 9\*2 pupils of different schools), 4 meetings the year with the mayor of Weiz. Jugendbezirksvertretung 15 (Vienna): Lisa Stanek, in moderated workshops pupils of the 7th grade in the Viennese 15th district develop their petitions and projects which are presented to the politicians

##### **1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments**

Salzburger Jugendlandtag 2001, Harald Brandner; a number of proposals - like the establishing of annual local/regional youth consultations in Salzburg - were worked out and in the follow up passed the federal government of Salzburg. The Jugendlandtag should take place again soon. For further information see: [www.jugendbeteiligung.cc](http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc)

##### **1.1.3 National youth parliament**

N/A

#### **1.2 Youth councils**

##### **1.2.1 Local youth councils**

The Austrian cities and towns established different forms of youth councils (like in Schwechat, where young people decide on the usage of parts of the youth budget of the city - [www.schwechat.at](http://www.schwechat.at)).

##### **1.2.2 Regional youth councils**

Salzburger Landes-Jugendbeirat (Salzburg); Angelika Hechel; <http://landesjugendbeirat.akzente.net/home/home.html> NÖ Jugendrat (Lower Austria); Vorarlberger Landesjugendbeirat (Vorarlberg); Steirischer Landesjugendbeirat (Styria), Anneliese Richter Burgenländischer Jugendbeirat (Burgenland); Maria Huf All regional youth councils consult the



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federal youth departments in youth connected belongings, they also comment laws in regard of youth compatability.

### 1.2.3 National youth councils

Austrian Federal Youth Representative Council (Bundesjugendvertretung); Bernd Lunglmayr. The BJV consults the youth department and the government in belongings regarding young peopl in Austria and comments laws that have an influence on the Austrian youth.

### 1.3 Others structures of participation

open forms: consultation hours with the mayor or other politicians (on local level) project related forms of paricipation: integration of young people in the development and construction of youth centres, playgrounds, schoolyards etc. integration of young people in the urban and regional planning: village development Pettnau (Tyrol): the youth in Pettnau is integrated in the registration of focal points for a future village development, the young people were also integrated in the finding of solutions and in the planning of public places.

## 2 Percentage of young people who are members of

No answers available

## 3 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms

Participation is a main focal point in Austrian youth policy - on local, regional and national level. Therefor projects that provide youth participation are supported and funded

### 3.1 Legal actions to support the structures for participation of young people in local life

N/A

### 3.2 Financial actions to support the various structures for youth political and NGO participation

The law of support and promotion of youth in Austria defines the general otlines for financial support of youth organisations and projects. Due to the focal points of the youth policy participation is a main point of the funded projects.

### 3.3 Other initiaties planned in the short term

N/A

## 4 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at certain



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## specific groups of young people?

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

young people with migration background disadvantaged young people females Projects integrating these groups are supported on regional or national level with higher priority.

## 5 The vote

### 5.1 Obligatory?

~~yes~~ no

### 5.2 Age of the right to vote

*From 18 years old*

### 5.3 The right to vote

The National Council is elected in accordance with the principles of equal, direct, secret and personal right to vote. All Austrian citizens who have turned 18 on the election day are entitled to vote. There is no postal vote, but Austrians living abroad and Austrians not at their permanent residence at the time of elections can submit their votes by polling card. Voting is not compulsory. Citizens lose their right to vote and passive right to vote only if they have been convicted of criminal offences.

### 5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

*From 19 years old*

### 5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

All citizens who have turned 19 on the election day have a passive right to vote, i.e. the right to be elected.

## 6 The elections

No answers available

## 7 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to promote the participation in the system of representative democracy and follow-up mechanisms

No answers available

## 8 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at specific



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## groups of young people?

No answers available

## 9 Learning to participate

### 9.1 Existing actions within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate

In Austrian schools exists due to the decree GZ 33.464/6-19a/78 the educational principal "political education". Curricula on this topic exist for every kind of Austrian school with the aim to enable young people to understand and perceive the different forms of democratic participation in Austria. According the "European Year of Citizenship through Education" national action days for models of good practice were established.

#### 9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

In schools representatives of the classes are elected, who elect the representatives of the schools, who elect on a national level their representatives. Pupils are also involved in the decision finding process in their school through the SGA. This body consists of three representatives of the teachers, the parents and the pupils each.

#### 9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

The educational principal "political education" in Austrian Schools aim for the learning of citizenship in Austria. The implementation of "The European Year of Citizenship through Education" foresees the establishment of action days for political education.

#### 9.1.3 Other actions within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate

N/A

### 9.2 Fields of actions and/or support # (national or regional scope, outside the formal education context) which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people

Federal and national support of youth organisations, youth initiatives and projects that aim for the learning and promoting of participation of young people.

#### 9.2.1 Nature of this support

The main approach is to fund projects that deal with participation of young people. In some federal states of Austria, like Salzburg, Burgenland, Tyrol or Styria, local structures of youth participation and representation are legally established and are supported by the federal governments.



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**9.2.2 Concerned sector of activities: company, associations and NGOs, training bodies, municipalities, medias**

municipalities Youth-NGOs

**9.2.3 Among these actions (question 9.2.1 and 9.2.2), actions that have been undertaken this year**

N/A

**9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term**

N/A

**9.3 Are there specific target groups of young people aimed at by existing or planned actions?**

~~yes~~ no

The specific target groups

N/A