

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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CYPRUS, 2006

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

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

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1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

N/A

1.1.3 National youth parliament

The first session of the Youth Parliament took place in 2005 with the objective being the support of efforts to increase young people's participation as a means for further modernization of political action through concrete and active participation of young people in the civil life. #Through the Youth Parliament young people have the opportunity to decide for their future and claim what they deserve#. At the first session of the Youth Parliament the young people had the opportunity to: - Comprehend the functions of democratic institutions and decision-making mechanisms of the state - Express their concerns at the decision-making centers - Discuss and propose solutions for issues of their concern - Present their vision for the future of Cyprus through their participation in civil life. Five Parliament Committees operated as follows: - Social Issues: Substance Abuse, Racism and Discrimination, Juvenile Delinquency - European Affairs: Cyprus Accession to the E.U and forthcoming changes in young people live - Cyprus Issue: Recent developments and potential - Politics and Democracy: Young people's participation in the decision-making mechanisms - Education and employment: Education in Cyprus, guidance, employability and meritocracy

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

A. Municipal Youth Councils: During 2006, the Youth Board held meetings with Municipalities and Community Councils in order to brief them on the programme. The aim of these meetings was to brief in detail the local authorities on this specific programme and on the opportunity that it gives to organized youth groups to develop their action as well as their participation in public affairs. On the basis of the relevant meetings held, the following Community Youth Councils have been established more recently and it is that of Kato Polemidia. The total number of Municipal Youth Councils in 2006 rose to 11. The Youth Board funded the above Municipal Youth Councils in 2006



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for their operational expenses as well as for various other activities carried out during the year.

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

N/A

1.2.3 National youth councils

Cyprus Youth Council Secretariat PO Box 22774 CY-1524 Nicosia CYPRUS Phone +357 22 87 83 16/ +357 99 34 46 34 Fax +357 22 87 83 17 E-mail cy.youthcouncil@cytanet.com.cy Web Address President Yiorgos David Christodoulou Secretary General Elena Neoptolemou

1.3 Others structures of participation

A. The advisory Bodies of the Youth Board of Cyprus (Political Committee, Trade Union Body, Students Committee General Advisory Body) B. Youth Clubs: General Information: The organizational and economic strengthening of Youth Centres by the Youth Board continued also throughout 2006 and it continues to support their effort for upgraded social contribution.

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

A. Youth Board of Cyprus: Through programs and actions developed young people participation in local life is encouraged and supported. More specifically, currently the Municipal Youth Council and Youth Clubs are supported financially and in terms of guidance and other support as requested. In addition, youth NGOs members and non-members of the General Advisory Body are also supported financially for their operational costs and actions/ activities as requested.

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

A. Youth Board of Cyprus: Through programs and actions developed young people participation in local life is encouraged and supported. More specifically, currently the Municipal Youth Council and Youth Clubs are supported financially and in terms of guidance and other support as requested. In addition, youth NGOs members and non-members of the General Advisory Body are also supported financially for their operational costs and actions/ activities as requested.

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

A. Municipal Youth Council - (CYP40.000) approximately 66.666 EUROS. B. Youth Clubs #



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(210.000 CYP) approximately 350.000 EUROS. C. Youth NGOs members and non-members of the General Advisory Body (CYP175.000) approximately 291.666 EUROS as an annual sponsorship in order to cover their operational and other expenses.

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

Continuation of the current programs that support youth participation and advancement of collaboration with them.

4 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at certain specific groups of young people?

yes **no**

If yes, what groups?

A. Young Deaf People B. Turkish Cypriot youth NGOs C. Youth organizations of the acknowledged by the Cyprus Constitution religious communities, namely Maronites, Armenians and Latins D. NGOs and schools for young people with disabilities E. Young people who chose to go through rehabilitation programs for substance abuse F. Children and teenagers living in Guest Houses/ Shelters G. Children and schools attendign schools within the Zones of Educational Priority (non Greek speaking persons who are living in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus) H. Enclaved children and teenagers (Greek Cypriots who are living in the occupied northern part of the island)

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

Voting is obligatory for all people over 18 years of age

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 35 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

From 35 years old for presidential elections and from 25 years old for Parliament Representatives elections - According to the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus person shall be qualified to be a candidate for election as President Vice-President of the Republic if at the time of election such person a. is a citizen of the Republic b. has attained the age of thirty-five years c. has not been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude or is not under any disqualification



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imposed by a competent court for any electoral offence;d. is not suffering from a mental disease incapacitating such person from acting in that position

6 The elections

6.1 Number of young people voting between the ages of 18 (or the age of the right to vote) and 30

52.772 *persons*

6.2 Number of young people between the ages of 18 (or the age of the right to vote) and 30 registered on the lists of voters

52.772 *persons*

6.3 Indicators of participation related to European polls

6.3.1 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered from the ages of 13 to 30.

N/I %

6.3.2 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by age groups

18-21	22-25	26-30
N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

6.3.3 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by gender

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

6.3.4 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

6.3.5 In European elections, the percentage of young people's participation in

relation to the total population to vote

11.24 %

6.4 National indicators of participation in the polls

6.4.1 National elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered

N/I %

6.4.2 National elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by age groups

18-21	22-25	26-30
N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

6.4.3 National elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by gender

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

6.4.4 National elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

6.4.5 National elections, young people as a percentage of participation in the total population to vote

N/I %

6.5 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

6.5.1 Regional and local elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered

N/I %

6.5.2 Regional and local elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by age groups

18-21	22-25	26-30
N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

6.5.3 Regional and local elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by gender

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

6.5.4 Regional and local elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

6.5.5 In regional and local elections the percentage of young people participation in relation to the total population to vote

N/I %

6.6 Number of young people (under the age of 30) who are member of the national parliament.

0 *persons*

6.6.1 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the national level, by gender

female	male
0 <i>persons</i>	0 <i>persons</i>

6.7 Enter the number of young people (under the age of 30) who are member of regional parliaments or are hold the position of a regional minister.

N/I *persons*

6.7.1 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the regional, level by gender

female	male
N/I <i>persons</i>	N/I <i>persons</i>

female	male
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6.8 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the local level

1 *persons*

6.8.1 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the local level, by gender

female	male
0 <i>persons</i>	1 <i>persons</i>

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

1.Children's Parliament 2. Municipal Youth Councils 3. Citizen's Education - Ministry of Education and Culture 4. Youth Clubs 5. Youth Parliament 6.Public Consultation process followed for Youth Board's programs and actions 7. National Youth Council

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

1.Children's Parliament 2. Municipal Youth Councils 3. Citizen's Education - Ministry of Education and Culture 4. Youth Clubs 5. Youth Parliament 6.Public Consultation process followed for Youth Board's programs and actions 7. National Youth Council

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

1. Youth Parliament 2. Youth Clubs 3. Municipal Youth Councils

8 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at specific groups of young people?

yes ~~no~~

Specific target groups of young people aimed at by existing or planned actions

1. Young People living in rural and remote areas 2. Turkish Cypriot young people 3. Young People with disabilities and/or special needs 4.Young people who belong in the communities acknowledged by the Cyprus Constitutions as religious minorities, namely Maronites, Armenians, and Latins 5. Children and teenagers living in Guest Houses/ Shelters 6. Enclaved children and teenagers (Greek Cypriots who are living in the occupied northern part of the island) 7. Children and teenagers attendign schools within the Zones of Educational Priority (not Greek speaking persons who are living in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus)

9 Learning to participate

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

A. Class committees B. School Central committees C. District school committees D. Pancyprian Coordinating Committee of Students (PSEM) According to school regulations in every school class a students committee/ council is elected with the primary objective to deal with that class# issues that arise throughout the school year. The elected class committees/ councils elect the School Central Committee, which is responsible for the entire school issues. The School Central Committees represent each and every school in the District School Committee. Based on the District School Committees, two representatives of every Class Committee participate in the Disciplinary Committee, which supervises students behaviour and is eligible to penalize those who are being disrespectful to school regulations. In addition, three representatives of the Student Committee participate in the Management Council, which acts as an advisory body of the School Director.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

Civil Education Class: Through participation in group projects and activities, students develop creativity and responsibility. Among the themes that are tackled in the Civil Education Class are the following: Respect of human beings and self-respect (as a means to develop competences, which will keep students away from substance abuse and juvenile delinquency), human rights, Nation # State # Constitution, the Cyprus Republic Constitution and the House of Representatives, Election Systems, Justice System, Municipality functions # local administration in general, Active Citizenship, Social Discrimination and Racism, the role of Media, International Organizations such as the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Union and the Commonwealth. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in organizing school events or by participating in the Ministry of Education and Culture program #Creativity-Action-Social Giving#.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

Civil Education Class: Through participation in group projects and activities, students develop creativity and responsibility. Among the themes that are tackled in the Civil Education Class are the following: Respect of human beings and self-respect (as a means to develop competences, which will keep students away from substance abuse and juvenile delinquency), human rights, Nation # State # Constitution, the Cyprus Republic Constitution and the House of Representatives, Election Systems, Justice System, Municipality functions # local administration in general, Active Citizenship, Social Discrimination and Racism, the role of Media, International Organizations such as the United Nations, Council of Europe, European Union and the Commonwealth. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in organizing school events or by participating in the Ministry of Education and Culture program #Creativity-Action-Social Giving#.

9.1.3 Other actions within the systems of formal education aiming at



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developing and deepening learning to participate

Clubs (either existing ones or formed according to students interest)

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

Promotion of learning to participate among young people is also promoted by young organizations' outreach activities.

9.2.1 Nature of this support

Financial support may be through the general grant-making programs of the Youth Board of Cyprus. In addition, there are 5 Youth Information Centers where young people may ask and receive information free of charge as well as to utilize the Counseling Services provided through the Youth Information Centers. In addition, young people are provided opportunities to participate in youth exchanges, trainings and youth events in Cyprus and abroad through programs such as the Bi-lateral Cooperation Protocols of the youth Board of Cyprus with respective services and bodies of other countries, the #YOUTH# program, and the program for #Participation of youth in conferences and seminars in Cyprus and abroad#. Training opportunities are forwarded to youth organizations so that their members may be benefited if they choose to participate, while training and non formal educational activities are organized by the Youth Board of Cyprus, such as the National and Regional Conference on the White Paper for Youth, #Exploring Cyprus# program, the working groups for the Formulation of the Cyprus Youth Policy and its Public Hearing, Human Rights and Anti-racism/Anti/discrimination Education for Children, etc.

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

NGOs and Association Municipal Youth Councils Youth Clubs

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

NGOs and Association Municipal Youth Councils Youth Clubs

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

Continuation of the efforts undertaken last year, as a means to further evaluate and assess the outcomes to be able to design future actions.

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

yes ~~no~~

The specific target groups



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Groups of young people with fewer opportunities (Turkish Cypriot Youth organizations, young people living in remote and rural areas, young people with disabilities and/ or special needs, children and teenagers living in shelters/ guest houses, children and teenagers attending schools within the Zones of Educational Priority - not Greek speaking persons who are living in areas controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, enclaved children and teenagers - Greek Cypriots who are living in the occupied northern part of the island, young people who chose to go through rehabilitation programs for substance abuse).



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