

# 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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## **CZECH REPUBLIC, 2005**

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

#### **1.1 Youth parliaments**

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

There is over 100 local Children and Youth Parliaments in the Czech Republic. Urban and local children and youth parliaments are being gradually formed in the communities and cities. They can be subdivided into basic organizational units in housing districts, schools, sport teams, clubs and the like. The representatives of city parliaments form the Children and Youth Parliament. Parallel to this system, there are Regional Youth Councils as coordinating bodies of organizations and other children and youth groups. These Councils should be a partner in defending the interests of young people and non-governmental, non-profit organizations in negotiations with the regional authorities.

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

Regional Children and Youth Parliaments: Parliament of Region Jihomoravsky Contact: Madla Sobkova madla@luzanky.cz Tel: +420 549 524 119 Parliament of Region Plzensky Contact: Jan Krafka krafka.jan@seznam.cz Tel: +420 605 218 301 Parliament of Region Zlinsky Contact: Jarmila Vadachova vsetuly@centrum.cz Tel: +420 603 258 528 Parliament of Region Ustecky Contact: Jan Rybarik Rybarik.Jan@seznam.cz Tel: +420 607 248 490 Parliament of Region Olomoucky Contact: Jarmila Breckova roznavska@ddolomouc.cz Tel: +420 737 533 618 Parliament of Region Jihocesky Contact: Zdenek Brom ZdenekBrom@seznam.cz Tel: +420 736 129 489 Parliament of Region Jihocesky Contact: Marie Ruzickova ruzickovam@c-budejovice.cz Tel: +420 386 801 113 Parliament of Region Moravskoslezsky Contact: Dusan Dolezel ddolezel@iol.cz Tel: +420 603 752 991 Parliament of Region Liberecky Contact: Jana Pavlikova Jana.pavlikova@ddmliberec.cz Tel: +420 602 155 030 Parliament of Region Vysocina Contact: Daniela Havlickova icmpelhrimov@seznam.cz Tel: +420 602 864 837 Parliament of Region Kralovehradecky Contact: Eva Nadhajska Evinka@seznam.cz Tel: +420 777 212 133 Parliament of Region Kralovehradecky Contact: Vitezslav Jary vichy@post.cz Tel: +420 721 361 767 Parliament of Praha Contact: Andrea Kozuchova kozuchova@duha.cz Tel: +420 777 263 731 Parliament of Region Stredocesky Contact: Eva Knopova eknopova@izv-horovice.cz Tel: +420 737 656 553

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

National Parliament of Children and Youth "NPDM" The NPDM is one of the Participation projects in the Czech Republic devised in 1998. NPDM is an umbrella body for children and youth parliaments in the country. Members of the NPDM are elected representatives from the regional and local Parliaments of Children and Youth. NPDM is the superior structure of participation under



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## Participation

which representatives of children and youth gather, discuss and negotiate. This project has been implemented from the very beginning by the Duha Association in cooperation with a lot of organizations including the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children's Rights, DCI, and the European Association of Institutions for the Leisure-Time of Children and Youth (EAICY). Within this project, meetings of the children parliaments' representatives are regularly held in which the participants become familiarized with novelties in this area and share their practical experience. Top meetings at the national level are held regularly each year in which representatives of governmental bodies and social organizations participate. Contacts: Andrea Kozuchova Head of the programme Participation E-mail: kozuchova@duha.cz Tel.: +420 777 263 731 Jana Votavova coordinator of the programme Participation E-mail: votavova@duha.cz Tel.: +420 721 463 078 Address: Sdruzeni Duha Senovazne nam. 24 116 47 Praha 1 Czech Republic Tel.: +420 234 621 374 Tel./fax: +420 234 621 375

## 1.2 Youth councils

### 1.2.1 Local youth councils

Urban and local children and youth councils as well as local youth parliaments are being formed in the communities and cities. They can be subdivided into basic organizational units in housing districts, schools, working place and the like. The school councils existing at a large number of schools can be established independently by the founder of the school. The Student Councils at the secondary schools and the universities are also involved in the system of local participation. Parallel to this system, there are Regional Youth Councils as coordinating bodies of organizations and other children and youth groups. These Councils should be a partner in defending the interests of young people and non-governmental, non-profit organizations in negotiations with the regional authorities.

### 1.2.2 Regional youth councils

Regional youth Children and Youth councils who provide support to the youth NGOs within the particular region are: Brno Circle - Children and Youth Association of Brno Region Contact: Jan Hochmann vbront@centrum.cz RADAMBuK - Children and Youth Council of Budejovice Region Contact: Vladimir Kubat radambuk@volny.cz Children and Youth Council of Vysocina Region Contact: Martin Paclik coody@centrum.cz Children and Youth Council of Karlovy Vary Region Contact: Hana Snajdrova krdmk@seznam.cz Children and Youth Alliance of Hradec Kralove Region Contact: Libor Balacek l.balacek@seznam.cz RADAMLK - Children and Youth Council of Liberec Region Contact: Jiri Smida knacelar@radamlk.cz DEMLOK - Association of Children and Youth Organizations of Olomouc Region Contact: JARoslav Bielek dlazka@dlazka.cz RADAMOK - Children and Youth Council of Moravia/Silesia Region Contact: Stefan Gres radamok@volny.cz Regional Children and Youth Council of Pilsen Region Contact: Marie Platzka U skolky 21, 326 00 Pilsen platzka@volny.cz Kolegium Praha - Praha Region kolegium@adam.cz Regional Children and Youth Council of Central Bohemia Contact: Bohuslav Kuhnel bkuhnel@quick.cz <http://www.srdm.cz> Regional Children and Youth Council of Usti Contact: Jan Eichler tilia@volny.cz Spektrum - Association of Children and Youth Organizations of Zlin Region Contact:



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Zdenek Rolinc spektrum-zlin@c-box.cz

### 1.2.3 National youth councils

Czech Council of Children and Youth is a national youth council which was established in June 1998 and integrates most of Czech NGOs (currently 98 children and youth associations with more than 200,000 individual members) on a voluntary basis. The Council observes sovereignty and independence of all its member organisations in compliance with their statutes and has towards these no supervisory or senior power, while representing them in dealing with authorities, organisations and institutions both national and abroad. The Council meets its purpose by supporting activities of its members, especially by creating legal, economic, social and cultural conditions for such activities. Moreover, the Council exercises assignments and powers it is charged and endowed with by its members through the Council's bodies. President: Mr. Pavel Trantina Czech Council of Children and Youth Senovazne namesti 24, 116 47 Praha 1, Czech Republic tel.: (+420) 234 621 209, 234 621 379 fax.: (+420) 234 621 541 e-mail: crdmintr@adam.cz, www.crdm.cz

### 1.3 Others structures of participation

The schools themselves can be also considered a basic element of the participation because they offer the broadest platform for the formation and operation of self-governing activities and their structures (for instance the Student Councils at the secondary schools and the universities). Another element is children and youth organizations providing the contents for leisure time or which are directly involved in this area, as well as adult organizations that enforce children's rights and protect the youth. Extensive experiences and potential as to the children and youth's participation are offered by school facilities for leisure-time activities that serve simultaneously as community centers primarily in small communities. They offer young people an opportunity to pursue interest and holiday activities spontaneously, incidentally and regularly. An integral part of the participation is cooperation with the media which is a large source of information.

## 2 Percentage of young people who are members of

### 2.1 Percentage of young people in global population n(100%)who are members of a political party

1,2 %

#### 2.1.1 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party (by age groups)

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
N/A %					



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### 2.1.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party (by gender)

female	male
N/A %	N/A %

### 2.1.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a political party in global population by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/A %	N/A %

### 2.2 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union from the ages of 13 and 30 in global population

16 %

#### 2.2.1 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union in global population by age groups

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
N/A %					

#### 2.2.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a trade union (by gender)

female	male
N/A %	N/A %

#### 2.2.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union in global population by rural-urban.

rural	urban
N/A %	N/A %

### 2.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation from the ages of 13 and 30 in global population

30 %

#### 2.3.1 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in

### global population by age group

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
N/A %					

### 2.3.2 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in global population by gender

female	male
N/A %	N/A %

### 2.3.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in global population (by rural-urban)

rural	urban
N/A %	N/A %

### 2.3.4 What type of youth organisations are people involved in

Most of the young people, who declare membership in various organisations, are affiliated with sport clubs or associations (18%). The membership in various leisure time and interest organisations, clubs, fan clubs, ICT and collectors clubs and youth organisations is approximately 13%. More than one half of young people in the Czech Republic do not belong to any organisation (51%). In comparing with the young people in EU Czech young people are not so much involved in the life of religious organisations. Though they pursue activities in a whole range of various organisations dealing with arts and crafts, cultural and folklore activities, environmental, camp and out-door activities, science and technology, modern educational methods, social oriented activities (streetwork etc.) and of course traditional associations as YMCA, YWCA, Royal Rangers and others.

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

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has appointed the Institute of Non-formal Education # which is an organization established and directly managed by the Ministry # to systematically work in the area of children and youth participation and to support it. A significant work is in this respect done by youth organisations themselves. The Czech Council of Children and Youth organises several different seminars every year, which are attended by the representatives and workers of the organisations of children and youth and by guests from the government administration. The seminars are concerned with the actual problems of the non-governmental sector. Well known is



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the annual meeting of various associations in the premises of the Senate of the Czech Parliament. The most important event promoting youth participation is BAMBIRIADA - presentation of children and youth NGOs. Bambiriada is an annual four-day public presentation of the children and youth associations' activities, through which offer a solution to the problems of children's spare time. It shows to the public and to the representatives of the government and local administration the need for solving youth issues - it stresses the importance of the role of non-governmental sector in preventing social-pathologic phenomena in the society. Bambiriáda 2003 has taken place in 19 cities all around the country and was visited by more than 220.000 visitors - mainly children and their parents# Already 14 local administration's politicians were awarded by CRDM on the occasion of Bambiriáda for their support of the non-formal education and activities of children and youth. An important part of Bambiriáda, stressing the need for greater participation of young people in decision-making, is "Children's Parliament", organized in the premises of Senate of the Czech Parliament.

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

From the legislative and methodological point of view, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is competent to develop the participation of young people. For this purpose, it cooperates in this area with regional authorities, implements participation through the schools and school facilities and improves cooperation with non-governmental, non-profit organizations. In 2002, the government approved by its resolution Governmental Policy Concept on Children and Youth through 2007' that postulates the most relevant and topical areas of the governmental children and youth policy - a significant topic is participation of young people according to the Councils resolution on Common objectives. Resolution of the Government from 26th of January 2005 approved a report on implementation of the tasks of the "Governmental Policy Concept on Children and Youth through 2007" for the years 2003-2004. Minister of education, youth and sports has set up priorities for the forth coming period 2005-2006 as they emerge from the Concept. To 31st of December 2006 the minister will introduce to the government a report on implementation of the tasks of the "Governmental Policy Concept on Children and Youth through 2007".

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

Youth participation and NGO participation is supported within the Governmental Support Programmes of working with children and youth for non-governmental non-profit youth organizations for the years 2004 until 2006 that the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports proclaims every year. - The Programme is proclaimed for three years period. - The Programme is focused on support of children and youth work performed directly in children and youth NGOs, on fundamental forms of work with unorganised children and youth outreaching the basic activities of NGOs and on support of development of material technical bases of children and youth out of school activities.



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### 3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

Another participation opportunity that has not been fully used and is in the process of formation is the direct contact and cooperation with the representatives of cities and communities. This could be very beneficial. It is natural that the children and youth will want to change #something# and adapt it to the young generation's needs. They will want to solve issues above all in the communities and cities that affect them directly, such as freely-accessible sport grounds, clubrooms and spaces that could be used by the children and youth for their leisure-time activities, as well other issues including transportation, amenities of schools and pre-school facilities, employment, availability of information, local communication technologies and the like.

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

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

A number of projects and actions is being run by NYGOs and NGOs. Most of these activities are focused on Roma children and youth. Organisations working with this specific group are the Association of Romas in Moravia, Summer House, Small Prince, Flower. Great attention is also paid to orphanages, alcohol and drug addicted (P-Centrum, Extended Hand, Sananim etc.), disabled and disadvantaged children (Tilia, Daneta, Dys-Centrum etc.) and youth from large housing estate areas.

## 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

At national level every citizen of the Czech Republic, who reached the age of 18 years has the right to vote to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, it means to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The obstacles to exercise the right to vote consist in case of limited private freedoms imposed by the law for the reason of protecting the public welfare and deprivation of the eligibility to perform legal acts. The right to vote to the regional representation has every citizen of the Czech Republic, who reached 18 years and has a permanent residence in the location which belongs to the territory of the region. The obstacles to exercise the right to vote are in case if limitations of the private freedoms are imposed by the law for the reason of imprisonment, deprivation of legal capacity, limitations of private freedoms imposed by law on the basis of protection of public welfare and performance of the military or substitute military service, if the security of the state requires so.



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## 5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

*From 21 years old*

## 5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

At national level: Every citizen of the Czech Republic, who has the right to vote and reached the age of 21 years, is eligible to be elected to the Chamber of Deputies. Every citizen of the Czech Republic, who has the right to vote and reached the age of 40 years, is eligible to be elected to the Senate. At regional level: Every voter who has not been deprived of the legal capacity or who is not serving the sentence of imprisonment, can be elected to the regional council of representatives. At local level: Every voter who has not been deprived of the legal capacity or who is not serving the sentence of imprisonment, can be elected to the local board of representatives.

# 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

*N/A 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

*N/A 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 18 to 30.

*N/A %*

### 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
<i>N/A %</i>	<i>N/A %</i>	<i>N/A %</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/A %	N/A %

**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/A %	N/A %

**6.3.5 In European elections, the percentage of young people's participation in relation to the total population to vote**

N/A %

**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/A %

**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/A %	N/A %	N/A %

**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/A %	N/A %

**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/A %	N/A %

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



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N/A %

## 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/A %

### 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/A %	N/A %	N/A %

### 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/A %	N/A %

### 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/A %	N/A %

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

N/A %

## 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>

female	male
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**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.**

23 *persons*

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

female	male
2 <i>persons</i>	21 <i>persons</i>

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

5781 *persons*

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

female	male
1193 <i>persons</i>	4588 <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**

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in cooperation with the Czech National Children and Youth Council proclaimed in March 2004 a competition "Envie d#agir". The competition was proclaimed with reference to the Council Resolution on Common Objectives for Participation by and Information for Young People. Its main objective is support of active involvement of young people in the society, their co-operation on national and international level, promotion of democracy and eliminate all forms of discrimination. The Czech Republic participates in the competition according to the resolution of negotiations of the working group Involvement of the European Council. There were four categories announced: projects realized on local level by young people till 18 years of age (project of a primary school in Mikulcice #The way to a book#), projects realized on European level by young people till 18 years of age (project of a non-governmental non-profit organization Junior Internet #Junior Internet#), projects realized on local level by young people between 18 and 26 years (project of a non- governmental non-profit organization Movement Brontosaurus #The Nature-Action # the Brontosaurus Action#) and projects realized on European level by young people between 18 and 26 years (project of a Club of Young Europeans #Europe in the student#s line of vision#. Additionally, as the most original



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project was awarded a project of a civic association Student Union CVUT #Radio Acropolis#. The authors of best projects were awarded by Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, Mrs. Petra Buzkova at the ministry in September 2004 and then participated in the European round in France in autumn 2004. The conditions of the competition for the year 2005 were announced at the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the beginning of April 2005. The national round will be held from April to July 2005. The winners of the national round will be invited to the international round which will take place in France in autumn 2005.

### 7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

The conditions of the competition "Envie d'agir" for the year 2005 were announced at the website of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the beginning of April 2005. The national round will be held from April to July 2005 for the same categories as last year. The winners of the national round will be like last year invited to participate in the international round which will take place in Paris in autumn 2005. A significant event was organised by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Department for Youth Affairs in November 2004. The ministry held an international Conference for professionals on legislation in the field of Youth from the states of Visegrád 4. Main objective of the Conference was to identify V4 member states priorities in connection with the Council Resolution on Common objectives for participation by and information for young people, exchange of good practices in implementation of the common objectives in accordance with legislation framework of the V4 states, draw up adequate measures for implementation of the common objectives, share experience in connection with preparation of the act on work with children and youth, and propose best methods of future co-operation and ensure exchange of information. Participants of the Conference were 18 experts on legislation in the field of youth from particular ministries of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, representatives of national institutes for youth and representatives of national youth councils of the member states.

### 7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

The Czech National Agency Youth will participate in the European Youth Week from 5.- 11. 11. 2005. See [www.youth.cz](http://www.youth.cz) The Minister of Education, Youth and Sports will awarded winners of the second round of the competition "Envie d'agir" in September 2005. The session of the National Parliament of Children and Youth - the event under the patronage of the Senate committee for education, science, culture, human rights and petitions and the Czech section of DCI. The Institute of interest education, a directly subject organization of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is going to organise two seminars for youth workers and teachers focused on participation of young people.

## 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



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A number of projects and actions is being run by NYGOs and NGOs. Most of these activities are focused on Roma children and youth. Organisations working with this specific group are the Association of Romas in Moravia, Summer House, Small Prince, Flower. Great attention is also paid to orphanages, alcohol and drug addicted (P-Centrum, Extended Hand, Sananim etc.), disabled and disadvantaged children (Tilia, Daneta, Dys-Centrum etc.) and youth from large housing estate areas.

## 9 Learning to participate

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

The basic component of the participation is beyond doubt the school, which enables the gathering of many young people and which is the broadest base for the establishment and activities of self-governing activities and structures. There are other agents in the process like associations of children and youth concerned with leisure programmes, and also the associations of adults with the interests in protection and implementation of the rights of the child. The facilities for leisure activities or community centres in less populated areas are very experienced and can offer their expertise in the issue of participation of young people. The young people can spontaneously, regularly or occasionally pursue their activities after school or in their vacation. The centres for leisure time activities are linked to the educational activities of the schools, support the associations, take part in the life of the community and in the preparation of the new workers and volunteers for this field. An important part of participation activities is co-operation with media, which are sources of information. In terms of legislature and methodological guidelines it is the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport which is responsible for the development of young people participation and which co-operates with schools and school facilities and increased co-operation with non-governmental non-profit organisations.

#### 9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

The major opportunities for young people to learn to active participate in the life of society within the formal education system are the school councils and school parliaments. At present according to the valid legislation (Law No.564/1990 Coll. on stte administration and self-administration in education0 a school council is established within a school, which is a body of the school enabling the legal guardians of underage pupils, mature pupils, staff of the school, citizens of the community and other individuals to have say in management of the school. The chool council can be established and also abolished by the founder of the school. The school council approves the annual report, budget proposal and financial report, which means that it also fulfils the role of public control of the schhol. It also gives opinion to the school programme and curricula, which are prepared by the school, to the development plans fo the school, appointment and suspension of the school directors and has the right to ask for inspection and financial audit of the school. The details of the procedure of establishment of the school council and its scope of activities are defined by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Any further advisory body can be



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established after the agreement with the director of the school. It regards for instance the school parliament, to which representatives of individual classes are elected, thus acquiring the authority to have say in the management of the school.

### 9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

The best way how to learn young people to participate in the life of their society and become active citizens is direct involvement of active young people into advisory bodies of the community - into the community council (special commissions for education, sport, environmental protection etc.) or into the municipal board (financial and control committees etc). Young people have the opportunity to take part in the sessions of expert commissions at local level by way of regional councils of children and youth. In this respect there are specific projects in secondary schools but also run by NGOs designed to support education for citizenship of young people.

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

Schools in the Czech Republic are welcome to participate in a competition proclaimed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport in cooperation with the Czech National Children and Youth Council called "Envie d#agir". Every year young people can present a project based aiming at supporting of active involvement of young people in the society, their co-operation on national and international level, promotion of democracy and eliminating all forms of discrimination.

## 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

The most significant event in the field of non-formal education in the Czech Republic is BAMBIRIÁDA - a place for presentation of children and youth NGOs and for youth participation. Bambiriada is an annual four-day public presentation of the children and youth associations' activities, through which offer a solution to the problems of children's spare time. It shows to the public and to the representatives of the government and local administration the need for solving youth issues - it stresses the importance of the role of non-governmental sector in preventing social-pathologic phenomena in the society. Bambiriáda 2003 has taken place in 19 cities all around the country and was visited by more than 220.000 visitors - mainly children and their parents# Already 14 local administration's politicians were awarded by CRDM on the occasion of Bambiriáda for their support of the non-formal education and activities of children and youth. An important part of Bambiriáda, stressing the need for greater participation of young people in decision-making, is "Children's Parliament", organized in the premises of Senate of the Czech Parliament.

### 9.2.1 Nature of this support

Participation of young people is supported both from the legislative, financial and education point of view. Participation of youth is a subject of the Governmental Policy Concept on Children and Youth



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through 2007 (which refers to the Council Resolution on common objectives for participation by and information for young people), participation should be also legally ensured by the law on the work with children and youth which is under preparation. Financially participation is supported by the Programme of governmental support of NGOs in the years 2004 # 2006 proclaimed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and educationally by various seminars organised by the Institute of Extracurricular Education and Children and Youth Institute, directly subject organizations of the Ministry. Regional authorities have own programmes of support of children and youth work covering also the area of participation of young people.

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

NGOs and youth associations - a strong tool to involve young people in the life of the society is their engagement in various activities of youth NGOs and youth associations. Various ways of participation of children and young people facilitate development of abilities and skills. The differentiation in groups of young people makes it possible for a young person to choose among many kinds of activities on voluntary basis. It helps young people to understand different problems of life, helps them to utter their opinions in public and evaluate. Among these important issues are the awareness of the rules of life in society, communication skills, the art to formulate and express one's opinion, formulate and defend the attitude to a problem, to be able to design a plan, improve the skills necessary for leadership in a group etc. local authorities and municipalities - In many places the local authorities support the participation of the young people, but it is not systemic approach. The enhancement of the participation of young people at local level is a positive trend, because it may become an initial step for the work of children a youth parliaments in given community and the young ones can thus have an influence on the conditions of life in their place of living. Another way of increasing participation of active young people is their the involvement into advisory bodies of the community - into the community council and the municipal board. schools - involvement of young people into school and student councils established within schools. medias - an example of involving medias in participation of young people is Amateur journalism - widely spread activity of young people especially at schools and local level. For example school magazines, author's journals, newsletters, broadcasting in school and local radio etc. By doing so the young people learn to express their own views and overcome their constraints to publicise their opinions.

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

The most significant event in the field of non-formal education is BAMBIRIÁDA - an annual public presentation of NGOs and promotion of youth participation. Between 26.-29. of May 2005 Bambiriada will take place in 27 towns. Its important part, stressing the need for greater participation of young people in decision-making, is "Children's Parliament", organized in the premises of Senate of the Czech Parliament. Another event is the international competition "Envie d'agir". The second round will be held from April to July 2005 for four categories. Winners of the national round will be invited to the international round in Paris in autumn 2005. In autumn 2004



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## Participation

young people from the Czech Republic, students and members of NGYOs participated in an competition organised by the CEI. The aim of the competition was to write an essay on active citizenship of young people. The best authors were invited to Roma to give comments on their work and share experience with other writers.

### 9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

"Envie d'agir" - a significant event of the this year is the international competition "Envie d'agir". The national round will be held from April to July 2005 for four categories. The Minister of Education, Youth and Sports will award the winners of the second national round of the competition in September 2005. The winners of the national round will be invited to participate in the international round which will take place in Paris in autumn 2005. The session of the National Parliament of Children and Youth - the event under the patronage of the Senate committee for education, science, culture, human rights and petitions and the Czech section of DCI. The Institute for extracurricular education, a directly subject organization of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is going to organise two seminars for youth workers and teachers focused on participation of young people in 2005.

### 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



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