

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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DENMARK, 2005

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

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

N.A.

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

N.A.

1.1.3 National youth parliament

The Parliament takes place for one day every second year and does not have real participatory structure but should rather be seen as an exercise in parliamentary democracy. The purpose of the Youth Parliament is to help young people from Denmark, the Faroes and Greenland to understand the democratic process better and to engage them in it by letting them draw up their own bills and proposals for legislation, which they debate in committees and in a full session in the Folketing (the national parliament).

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

N.A.

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

All city or district councils has or should have an youth council that consist of each approx. 15 young members, who manages their own meetings and projects to develop the youth-environment in their locality. They work together though the #U-net#, which is a federation of municipal youth councils in Denmark. The federation counts about 30 members from all parts of the country. U-Nettet's function is to be a network for exchange of information and experience between youth councils. Furthermore U-Nettet is a fusion reactor for young people's engagement and ideas.

1.2.3 National youth councils

The Danish Youth Council (www.duf.dk, contact: Thomas Bach, tb@duf.dk) is an umbrella organisation for more than 70 organisations working with children and young people at both national and global level. DUF supports it's member organisations financially and work to strengthen the participation and democratic involvement of young people in the society.



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1.3 Others structures of participation

The NGOs, such as The Danish Youth Council, and its more than 70 member organisations.

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

N.A. %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %

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

female	male
NA %	NA %

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

rural	urban
NA %	NA %

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

<3 %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %

2.2.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a



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trade union (by gender)

female	male
NA %	NA %

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

rural	urban
NA %	NA %

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

NA %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %	NA %

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

female	male
NA %	NA %

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

rural	urban
NA %	NA %

2.3.4 What type of youth organisations are people involved in

In 1999 a survey found that 32% of young people in the age 18-29 years old was engaged in voluntary activities. Of these 8% were engaged in social work, 6% in political work and 19% in cultural and sporting activities. There are no figures available for the number of members of the political parties under the age of 25. The number of members of the youth organisations of political parties in 2001 was 8535. The Confederation of Danish Trades Unions (LO) calculates the number

of young people under the age of 30 at 329,912 (2001).

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

The Danish Youth Council is the mainly responsible for promote and support the participation of young people in the local life. The Danish Youth Council is an umbrella organisation for more than 70 organisations working with children and young people at both national and global level. DUF supports it's member organisations financially and work to strengthen the participation and democratic involvement of young people in the society.

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

All members of The Danish Youth Council are encouraged to seek The DUF Integration Fund which distributes four million DKK which are earmarked to improve to participation in the local life of children and young people whose parents are in financial difficulties, e.g. immigrants.

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

Is it possible for any voluntary organisation to seek membership and financial support at the The Danish Youth Council which distributes millions of DDK from the Danish ministries and the receipts from the state lottery.

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N.A.

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

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

All members of The Danish Youth Council are encouraged to seek The DUF Integration Fund which distributes four million DKK which are earmarked to improve to participation in the local life of children and young people whose parents are in financial difficulties, e.g. immigrants

5 The vote

5.1 Obligatory?

yes no



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5.2 Age of the right to vote

From 18 years old

5.3 The right to vote

All permanent citizens above the age of 18 years, with the exception of persons who has been declared legally incompetent.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 18 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

All permanent citizens above the age of 18 years, unless the person is punished for an act wich in the public opinion renders him/her unworthy of having a publict 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

NA *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

837335 *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.

NA %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %

6.3.3 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the



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number of young people in age to vote registered, by gender

female	male
NA %	NA %

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
NA %	NA %

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

NA %

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

NA %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %

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
NA %	NA %

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
NA %	NA %

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

NA %

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

NA %

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
NA %	NA %	NA %

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
NA %	NA %

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
NA %	NA %

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

NA %

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

NA *persons*

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

female	male
NA persons	NA persons

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.

NA persons

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

female	male
NA persons	NA persons

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

NA persons

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

female	male
NA persons	NA persons

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

The Danish Youth Council continuously works to improve the political participation among young people, drawing on the white book of the European commission: #A New Impetus for European Youth# (2001), e.g. the STEM1306-campagne, which aimed at the young people voting for the first time at a European election.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

N.A.

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N.A.

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



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yes ~~no~~

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

All members of The Danish Youth Council are encouraged to seek The DUF Integration Fund which distributes four million DKK which are earmarked to improve to participation in the local life of children and young people whose parents are in financial difficulties, e.g. immigrants.

9 Learning to participate

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

In Denmark learning to participate democratically is obligatory as a part of the education at both primary school and upper educational levels. Democracy/participation form part of the Danish education system in at least three different ways: 1) Teaching in the way democracy functions. 2) Democracy in the concrete teaching situation. It is implicit in the education system that the pupils have a responsibility for their own learning. 3) Influence on the every day life of institutions and programmes of study # representative democracy. Denmark has a long tradition of the statutory inclusion of pupils and students in the every day life places of education.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

In Denmark learning to participate democratically is obligatory as a part of the education at both primary school and upper educational levels. Democracy/participation form part of the Danish education system in at least three different ways: 1) Teaching in the way democracy functions. 2) Democracy in the concrete teaching situation. It is implicit in the education system that the pupils have a responsibility for their own learning. 3) Influence on the every day life of institutions and programmes of study # representative democracy. Denmark has a long tradition of the statutory inclusion of pupils and students in the every day life places of education.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

In Denmark learning to participate democratically is obligatory as a part of the education at both primary school and upper educational levels. Democracy/participation form part of the Danish education system in at least three different ways: 1) Teaching in the way democracy functions. 2) Democracy in the concrete teaching situation. It is implicit in the education system that the pupils have a responsibility for their own learning. 3) Influence on the every day life of institutions and programmes of study # representative democracy. Denmark has a long tradition of the statutory inclusion of pupils and students in the every day life places of 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



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formal education context) which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people

The Danish Youth Council (www.duf.dk, contact: Thomas Bach, tb@duf.dk) continuously works to improve the political participation among young people, drawing on the white book of the European commission: #A New Impetus for European Youth# (2001).

9.2.1 Nature of this support

DUF support its memberorganisations in participation-projects both financially and with concrete advices and training.

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

DUF arranges wide collaborations between e.g. NGOs, medias ect.

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

E.g. the STEM1306-campagne, which aimed at the young people voting for the first time at a European election.

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

All members of The Danish Youth Council (www.duf.dk, contact: Thomas Bach, tb@duf.dk) are encouraged to seek The DUF Integration Fund which distributes four million DKK which are earmarked to improve to participation in the local life of children and young people whose parents are in financial difficulties, e.g. immigrants.