

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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GERMANY, 2005

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

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

There is no fixed definition of youth parliament. There are different forms and models. In Germany there are about 300 youth parliaments, youth local councils, youth councils, youth boards or youth platforms that meet regularly. More info: www.jugendbeteiligung.info/praxistipps/22667.html

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

There are so far 30 regional resource centres which support existing youth participation groups as contact points, as well as encouraging new projects and making it possible to put forward other ideas. Regional Association for Youth and Political Participation Jupp 21, www.jupp-21.de, contact: Tobias Hering (kasse@jupp-21.de), in charge of finances, publications, other. Jupp 21 represents about 100 district and local youth participation projects and parliaments. More info: www.jugendbeteiligung.info/regional/70340.html

1.1.3 National youth parliament

There is no national youth parliament so far. A petition was sent to the committee of the Federal parliament but not yet decided upon. There is an initiative by the German Federal parliament called "Youth in Parliament" where young people from all over Germany are invited to learn about the work of the parliament. They also take over the roles of members of parliament in a simulation. There is a Youth Participation Resource Centre (Servicestelle Jugendbeteiligung, www.jugendbeteiligung.info) that has been the contact for youth participation projects in Germany since August 2001. There young people find information on youth participation projects and possibilities.

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

There are more than 200 local youth councils in Germany including district and city youth councils. Detailed information on local youth councils, their members and so on can be found at the respective homepages of the regional youth councils.

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

Regional Youth Council of Baden-Wuerttemberg, www.ljrbw.de Bavarian Youth Council, www.bjr.de Berlin Regional Youth Council, www.ljrberlin.de Regional Youth Council Brandenburg,



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www.ljr-brandenburg.de Youth Council of Bremen, www.bremerjugendring.de Hamburg Regional Youth Council, www.ljr-hh.de Youth Council of Hesse, www.hessischer-jugendring.de Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, www.jugend.inmv.de Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, www.ljr.de Regional Youth Council North Rhine-Westfalia, www.ljr-nrw.de Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate, www.ljr-rlp.de Regional Youth Council of the Saarland, www.landesjugendring-saar.de Children and Youth Council of Saxony, www.jugendinfo.net Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, www.kjr-Isa.de Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, www.ljrsh.de Regional Youth Council of Thuringia, www.ljrt.de

1.2.3 National youth councils

German Federal Youth Council DBJR, Tanja Berger (tanja.berger@dbjr.de), involved in Project P (Initiative for the promotion of political participation of children and young people)

1.3 Others structures of participation

YoungAvenue.de is a virtual centre of youth protection which aims at older children and young people. It represents a connection between a portal and different interactive counselling modules in the field of youth protection. Counselling is provided by professionals (psychologists, child and family therapists) and volunteers (young people and young adults). Participation and media competence of young people are a main principle of this offer. Network U18 is a group of institutions, associations and single persons that would like to give children and young people the chance to get actively involved in democratic processes and learn more about democratic structures and their rights and possibilities to participate. In the framework of the elections for the Federal Parliament ahead children and young people under 18 can participate in a "fictitious" election procedure and vote. More Info: www.u18.org "mitWirkung!" is a initiative for the development of child and youth participation by the Bertelsmann Foundation. It has run a survey on local structures and the present development of participation of children and youth in 564 cities and municipalities in Germany. In a practical phase, 51 selected cities and municipalities will establish new or continue developing existing models of participation. More info: www.mitwirkung.net

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



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13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
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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

N/A %

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

N/A %



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

N/A

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

- offers and work of net of youth organisations at national, regional, local level; - provision of financial means by state for participation projects - offers / discounts for people working voluntarily in youth organisations (special regional laws on vacation, national youth leader card JuLeiCa); - development of local agendas 21, exchange of information among decision-makers in public administration / initiatives with non-statutory organisations which feel bound to participation, training programmes on participation for experts in administration; - federal programme #Entimon # together against violence and right-wing extremism#, strives for the promotion of democracy and tolerance and a new participation culture among young people; - involvement of young people in planning of international activities - participation of youth organisations and experts in international youth work in bilateral governmental expert committees on youth exchange; - "Project P" - promotion of political participation of children and young people (www.projekt-p.de); - participation of children and young people at local level -- youth city councils, children and youth parliaments (20% of the municipalities); -- child and youth platforms, town-meetings of young citizens, child conferences, youth hearings (35% of the municipalities); -- participation projects: creation of

playgrounds and free zones, traffic planning, maps for children, school-related projects, media projects, planning of youth clubs (70% of the municipalities); -- neighbourhood planning groups, participation in citizens' actions, panel discussions; -- contacts to politicians (postboxes for grumbling, special office hours, visits to town halls). -- participation campaign in Saxony-Anhalt (www.getup-info.de)

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

The Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services, Chapter 1, § 8 defines the participation of children and young people in activities in the field of child and youth services at all levels. Young people have the right to vote at the age of 18. The National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children (Nationaler Aktionsplan "Für ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005 - 2010) concentrates on education, renunciation of the use of force, health and environment, social equality, participation and international issues. With regard to the participation of children and youth at local level (districts, cities, municipalities), most of the federal states have specific regional regulations in conformity with the regional constitutions or regulations on the implementation of the Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services. Local mechanisms are: - petitions by inhabitants where a certain number of inhabitants can bring the bodies of self-government of municipalities and regional districts to deal with or decide upon a certain issue. This right can be used, in the federal states that know the instrument, by young people at the age of 16, in some states at the age of 14, - Children's Bureaus as contact points for the specific interests of children and youth, - Children's Lawyers. Another special regulation for participation for local planning processes is the regulation on construction planning in § 3 code of law on construction (Baugesetzbuch). There it says that among others the social and cultural needs of young people must be considered in the construction plans.

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

Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes) - the central promotion tool for child and youth policy and child and youth services, administrated by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Funding by EU programme YOUTH Funds for participation projects provided by German Children's Aid Association (DKHW, Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk)

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~~



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If yes, what groups?

young people between 12 and 21

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

- Germans: from the age 18, who have lived for at least 3 months in Germany or in any other of the member states of the European Union, who are not excluded from the electoral register. - Germans abroad: but have lived at least 3 months in Germany after 1949, who live in a member state of the Council of Europe, who live less than 25 years in another third state, who are registered in the German electoral roll.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 18 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

Germans: from the age of 18, who have no criminal record, who are not excluded from the electoral register.

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

6673300 *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

9498200 *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/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
N/A %	N/A %	N/A %

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

70,3 %

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
70,2 %	68,1 %	72,1 %

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
70,5 %	69,9 %

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

13,6 %

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.

15 *persons*

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

female	male
6 <i>persons</i>	9 <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/A *persons*

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

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

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

N/A *persons*

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

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

One institutionalised mechanism of participation in representative democracy is for example the Advisory Board for the Compulsory Non-Military National Service (www.bmfsfj.de/Kategorien/Ministerium/beiraete,did=10562.html). Four members of the Advisory

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Board are those doing compulsory non-military national service. In order to represent the interests of those doing compulsory non-military national service there is also the institute of the Ombudsman. Political parties, their youth organisations and political foundations also play a very important role in the promotion and support of participation in the system of representative democracy. Children and young people are sent as delegates to international conferences, e.g. as members of the German delegation to the World Congress against sexual exploitation of children 2001, to the World Children Summit in New York 2002, as youth delegates to the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly 2005 elected by the German National Committee for International Youth Work (DNK), to the session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) in 2006. The setting up of the #National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children# (Nationaler Aktionsplan für ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005-2010, <http://www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=31372.html>) took place by involving children and young people into the decision-making process. "Project P" is the initiative for the promotion of political participation of children and young people. It was initiated by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the German Federal Youth Council who have formed an alliance. Project P supports concrete political participation of thousands of children and young people in Germany. Therefore local, regional and national initiatives are being supported financially and new offers being initiated. In the beginning of 2005 about 6000 young people were actively involved in about 200 projects.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

The #National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children# (Nationaler Aktionsplan für ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005-2010) was launched in 2005. As part of #Project P", the initiative for the promotion of political participation of children and young people, a big event took place in Berlin (10 to 12 June 2005) called "Berlin 05 - Festival for young politics". 11 200 young people from the entire country had the chance to present their projects, go to concerts, participate in competitions and workshops and discuss ideas for new projects. They could also directly discuss with politicians. More info: www.berlin05.de The left-wing parties hold a campaign #Youth votes left# in order to get young people to the polls in September 2005. More info: www.jugend-waehlt-links.de In some of the federal states the network U18 organised symbolic elections for young people under 18. More info: www.u18.org

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

No answers available

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

Yes no If yes, what groups? Age 12-21 (Berlin 05), Age 18-30 (electoral campaign #Youth votes



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left#), under 18 (symbolic elections U18)

9 Learning to participate

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

Participation of pupils and students in the committees intended for them is an integral conceptual part of formal education, settled down in the agreement of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education of the federal states of Germany dated 3 October 1968. By that means, pupils and students should be enabled to learn how to take over responsibilities and duties and exercise their rights. In the process of defining the aims of the White Book on Youth young Germans demanded the providing of further possibilities for participation in schools and the further development of school committees. In Germany formal education aims at: - bringing the ideas of freedom and democracy to the minds of children and young people, - bringing them up as tolerant people who respect other people and convictions, - awakening peaceful beliefs in the spirit of international understanding, participation in social issues and political responsibility, - enabling them to carry out exercise rights and obligations in society. In that spirit the institutions and methods of participations of pupils at school are instruments of learning skills and competences by themselves. As formal education is within the competence of the 16 federal states the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate differ from one another. They also depend on the involvement of the teaching staff. Participation and the learning of citizenship depend very much on one another and at the same time on the opening up of schools for the enforcement of participative elements at daily school life (reevaluation of pupils# responsibility/pupils# representation, right to a share in decisions on contents of lessons, self-responsibility of school classes in room decoration, etc.). Schools should also be open for co-operation with companies, organisations and associations, church communities, etc.). Both sides provide offers for participation and involvement which, eventually, also promote the learning of citizenship.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

In formal education participation takes place as institutionalised participation of pupils, students and apprentices/trainees. At their educational institutions and beyond them they take part in the shaping of socio-political opinions. At school there are representations of pupils at regional and at national level which are involved as participants in discussions, also in questions going beyond formal education. There are so called youth councils in all the schools and universities as a representative body of school students.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

Participation and the learning of citizenship depend very much on one another and at the same time on the opening up of schools for the enforcement of participative elements at daily school life (reevaluation of pupils# responsibility/pupils# representation, right to a share in decisions on



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contents of lessons, self-responsibility of school classes in room decoration, etc.). Schools should also be open for co-operation with companies, organisations and associations, church communities, etc.). Both sides provide offers for participation and involvement which, eventually, also promote the learning of citizenship.

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

None

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 Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth claims that children and young people are experts themselves and therefore have the right to intervene and participate in the creation of their lives. Thus, they must have the opportunity to bring in their needs, interests, hopes, fears and problems into planning and decision making processes within their direct living surroundings and to have influence at all political levels. Yet, young people also have duties and obligations. It is the task and challenge of the policy-makers to enforce participation and create the necessary pre-conditions. Areas and offers within the scope of child and youth services are all of a participative nature. Non-formal education in Germany is mainly a field of activities of youth organisations and specialist associations of non-formal education, including political, artistic and cultural education as well as sports. Participation in the respective organisations is taking place via the normal discussion and decision-making processes, in youth organisations via steering committees. Within the field of employment social partners are involved in decision-making processes, e.g. by being invited to hearings during law-making processes. They also send their members to the administrative council of the Federal Agency for Employment and the administrative committees of the agencies for employment. Involving the trade unions respectively the youth organisations of the trade unions in these processes guarantees the representation of the interests of its juvenile members. Socio-political issues of gender equality connected to employment are increasingly taken up by other youth organisations and thus included into the dialogue with policy and administration. Participation of young people plays an important role in the field of health-political educational campaigns. This work follows a comprehensive, live accompanying approach.

9.2.1 Nature of this support

Main legislative documents for the promotion of actions aiming at learning to participate are: - the Constitution respectively the constitutions of the federal states which guarantee basic norms for the participation of young people, - the UN-Convention on Children's Rights as part of German legislation, see article 12 concerning participation, - Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child and Youth Services: § 8 concerning the participation of children and young people in all decisions in the field of youth services concerning them according to their stage of development, § 11



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concerning the support of youth work, § 12 concerning the support of the work of youth associations, § 14 concerning the work and offers by local youth offices, § 17 concerning the right of children to get involved when parents get counselling by organisations active in child and youth services, § 36 concerning the decision, planning and implementation of assistance in single cases, § 80 concerning the provision of offers by institutions of child and youth services according to the wishes, needs and interests of young people. - Works industrial-relations scheme which covers the legislative basis for the representation of interests of young people and people who give them a vocational education, - Law on representation of interests for personnel of the Federation and the Federal States for the administrations of the Federation and the Federal States. Young people over 18 in enterprises and public administration have the same rights for participation as adults, - school laws of the federal states, responsibility rests with the ministries for culture. The main financial tool for the support of actions to promote participation of children and young people is the Child and Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes). There also funds from regional child and youth plans and by the municipalities for the promotion of actions aiming at learning to participate.

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

Participation of children and young people in Germany takes place on a legal basis. Therefore it is the responsibility of all authorities to implement and support possibilities for participation within their scope. The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth takes up a special function as administrator. According to the Common Standing Orders of the Federal Government it needs to be involved when legislation concerning child and youth policy is treated. Responsibility for the participation of children and young people rests with all authorities and institutions which can provide for participation of young people and make it possible. These are: - schools in the field of formal education, - youth authorities in all areas of child and youth services, - cities and municipalities for all issues concerning the local community. Generally it needs to be pointed out that in Germany not only the federal states have a high level of autonomy but also the municipalities, the schools and non-governmental organisations active in the field of child and youth services. Political parties, their youth organisations and youth organisations in general play a very important role in the promotion and support of participation in the system of representative democracy, e.g. by promoting the participation in elections.

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

Wahl-O-Mat by the Federal Agency for Civic Education before the elections in September 2005. More info: www.bpb.de/methodik/VKWM02,WahlOMat.html U 18 2005. Symbolic elections for young people under 18, organised by the network U18. More info: www.u18.org

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/A



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

yes ~~no~~

The specific target groups including age group 13-27