

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, 2006

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 & models. In Germany there are about 300 youth parliaments, youth local councils, youth councils, youth boards or youth platforms that meet regularly. More info on local youth parliaments: 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 & making it possible to put forward other ideas. More info: www.jugendbeteiligung.info/regional/70340.html The Regional Association for Youth and Political Participation Jupp 21 (info@jupp-21.de, www.jupp-21.de) represents about 100 district & local youth participation projects & parliaments.

1.1.3 National youth parliament

There is an initiative by the German Federal parliament called #Youth & Parliament# (Jugend und Parlament) 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. More info: www.bundestag.de/jugend/veranst/jup/index.html. The Parliament also offers a simulation #Study parliamentary democracy in a game# (Parlamentarische Demokratie spielerisch erfahren) that takes places on Mondays & Tuesdays. It is directed at pupils from the 10th grade up. They learn how legislation works & get an insight into the working procedures of the German Parliament. As members of parliament in a real political environment they discuss topics relevant to youth. More info: www.bundestag.de/jugend/veranst/planspiel/index.html The Resource Centre Youth Participation (Servicestelle Jugendbeteiligung, www.jugendbeteiligung.info) has been the contact for youth participation projects in Germany since August 2001. There young people find information on youth participation projects & possibilities. The Federal Working Group #Pupils shape school# (Bundesarbeitskreis #Schüler gestalten Schule#, BAK SGS) aims at further involvement of pupils, parents & cooperation partners from the non-formal sector in the formation of educational & upbringing processes including formal education.

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils



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There are more than 200 local youth councils in Germany including district & city youth councils. Detailed information on local youth councils, their members & so on can be found at the respective homepages of the regional youth councils (see #Participation#, chapter 1.2.2).

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, 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, info@dbjr.de, www.dbjr.de) The German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) was founded in 1949 as a standing conference of youth organisations and the regional youth councils active throughout Germany. Today (2005), there are 24 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils as well as 5 affiliated organisations in the DBJR. The affiliated organisations act in an advisory capacity on the committees of the DBJR. The youth organisations in the DBJR have different objectives and are of different orientations. The members range from religious, scouting/guiding, ecological, cultural and humanitarian associations right through to young workers' associations. Despite the differences between the organisations, the main focus of the DBJR's work is on young people and how they deal with daily life. The youth organisations work independently, without government influence but are funded by public money under the Children and Youth Services Act. The work of the DBJR can be divided into three main areas: it represents the interests of young people and the joint interests of the member organisations in public and in particular when dealing with parliament and government; it maintains a flow of information between the member organisations, giving them the opportunity to agree on common positions, especially in issues of youth policy, and it cooperates with youth organisations in other countries as well as being involved in international youth policy.

1.3 Others structures of participation

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



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N/I %

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/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

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

female	male
- %	- %

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

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

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

N/I %

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
- %	- %	- %	- %	- %	- %

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

female	male
- %	- %

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

rural	urban
- %	- %

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

6.7 %

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/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %	N/I %

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

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

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

rural	urban
- %	- %

2.3.4 What type of youth organisations are people involved in

The number provided in 2.3 is made up of members of youth organisations with a wide variety of activities, e.g. scouts organisations, organisations active in the fields of ecology, culture, humanitarian aid, work with rural youth, political, educational and spiritual work, etc. For more info: www.dbjr.de > Der DBJR > Mitgliedsorganisationen

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

- offers & 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,



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training programmes on participation for experts in administration; - federal programme #Entimon # together against violence & right-wing extremism#, strives for the promotion of democracy/tolerance & a new participation culture among young people; - involvement of young people in planning of international activities - participation of youth organisations & experts in international youth work in bilateral governmental expert committees on youth exchange; - "Project P" - promotion of political participation of children & young people (www.projekt-p.de); - participation of children & young people at local level -- youth city councils, children & youth parliaments (20% of the municipalities); -- child & youth platforms, town-meetings of young citizens, child conferences, youth hearings (35% of the municipalities); -- participation projects: creation of playgrounds & 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).

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

The Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII) Child & Youth Services, Chapter 1, § 8 defines the participation of children & young people in activities in the field of child & youth services at all levels. Young people have the right to vote at the age of 18. In Berlin and the federal states Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, Northrhine-Westfalia, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein young people have the right to vote in local elections at the age of 16. The National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children (Nationaler Aktionsplan "Fuer ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005 - 2010) concentrates on education, renunciation of the use of force, health & environment, social equality, participation & international issues. With regard to the participation of children & 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 & Youth Services. Local mechanisms are: - petitions by inhabitants where a certain number of inhabitants can bring the bodies of self-government of municipalities & 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 & 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 & 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 & Youth Plan of the Federation (Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes) - the central promotion tool for child & youth policy and child & 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



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Kinderhilfswerk) Funds for Youth Banks provided by Deutsche Kinder- und Jugendstiftung (German Children and Youth Foundation) and Deutsche Bank Stiftung (Deutsche Bank Foundation). More info: www.youthbank.de

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/I

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

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

Entimon: young people, pupils at Hauptschule (secondary modern school) and vocational school; migrants; youth at risk (mainly male) being sympathetic to right-wing extremism

5 The vote

5.1 Obligatory?

yes no

5.2 Age of the right to vote

From 16/18 years old

5.3 The right to vote

Germans: - can participate in European, national, regional and local elections - can vote being 18 years of age (in local elections in Berlin and the federal states Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt, Schleswig-Holstein at the age of 16), - who have lived for at least 3 months in Germany or are permanent residents, - who are not excluded from the electoral register, - who live abroad due to their work in public services and their relatives, - who live in a member state of the Council of Europe (CoE) as long as they have lived for at least 3 months in Germany after 23 May 1949, - who live in other countries than CoE member states and have lived at least 3 months in Germany before they moved and no more than 25 years outside Germany. More info on right to vote for Germans abroad: www.bundeswahlleiter.de/wahlrechtausld.htm Citizens of EU member states: - can participate only in European and local elections.

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



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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

6836900 *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

9934700 *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

N/I %

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

68.8 %

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 %	66.5 %	70.1 %

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
69.2 %	68.5 %

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

14.1 %

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.

26 *persons*

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

female	male
12 <i>persons</i>	14 <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>

6.8 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the local level N/I persons

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

female	male
N/I persons	N/I persons

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 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 & political foundations also play a very important role in the promotion & support of participation in the system of representative democracy. Children & 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. More info: www.jugenddelegierte.de The setting up of the #National Action Plan for a Germany Fit for Children# (Nationaler Aktionsplan fuer ein kindergerechtes Deutschland 2005-2010, www.bmfsfj.de/Politikbereiche/kinder-und-jugend,did=31372.html) took place by involving children & young people into the decision-making process. The German Federal Parliament runs an online Youth Forum at www.mitmischen.de that offers chats with representatives of the parliament, discussion forums, votings, news & background information on current political topics.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

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7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

Action Youth Participation 2007-2009 by Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Federal Agency for Civic Education and Federal German Youth Council. More info: www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/4Z7WVR,0,0,Ausschreibung_der_bpb_zum_Ideenwettbewerb_2007.html



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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

Compulsory Non-Military National Service: young men

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 & 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 & students should be enabled to learn how to take over responsibilities/duties & 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 & the further development of school committees. In Germany formal education aims at: - bringing the ideas of freedom & democracy to the minds of children & young people, - bringing them up as tolerant people who respect other people & convictions, - awakening peaceful beliefs in the spirit of international understanding, participation in social issues & political responsibility, - enabling them to carry out exercise rights & obligations in society. In that spirit the institutions & methods of participations of pupils at school are instruments of learning skills & competences by themselves. As formal education is within the competence of the 16 federal states the systems of formal education aiming at developing & deepening learning to participate differ from one another. They also depend on the involvement of the teaching staff. Participation & the learning of citizenship depend very much on one another & 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 & associations, church communities, etc.). Both sides provide offers for participation & 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 & apprentices/trainees. At their educational institutions & beyond them they take part in the shaping of socio-political opinions. At school there are representations of pupils at regional & at national level which are involved as participants in discussions, also in questions going beyond formal education. There are so called youth/pupils#/students# councils at schools & universities as representative bodies of school students.



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9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

Participation & the learning of citizenship depend very much on one another & 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 & associations, church communities, etc.). Both sides provide offers for participation & 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 & young people are experts themselves & therefore have the right to intervene & participate in the creation of their lives. Thus, they must have the opportunity to bring in their needs, interests, hopes, fears & problems into planning & decision making processes within their direct living surroundings & to have influence at all political levels. Yet, young people also have duties & obligations. It is the task & challenge of the policy-makers to enforce participation & create the necessary pre-conditions. Areas & offers within the scope of child & youth services are all of a participative nature. Non-formal education in Germany is mainly a field of activities of youth organisations & specialist associations of non-formal education, including political, artistic & cultural education as well as sports. Participation in the respective organisations is taking place via the normal discussion & 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 & 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 & thus included into the dialogue with policy & 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

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9.2.2 Concerned sector of activities: company, associations and NGOs,



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Participation

training bodies, municipalities, medias

-

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

-

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

-

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

yes ~~no~~

The specific target groups

young migrants



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