

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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LATVIA, 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

In June 2004 a new youth organization # Latvian Youth Movement TELLUS was officially established. This organization is a platform for the National Youth Parliament. The aims of organization are to educate young people on such themes as representative democracy, to give young people a possibility to learn more about European structures of participation of young people, to involve young people in discussion process of political processes. Latvian Youth Movement is a national platform organization for representation in the European Youth Parliament. Contacts: Martins Kalis Ozolciema 24, korp. 1, dz. 1 Riga Phone: +371 9865590 www.tellus.lv

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

N/A

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

N/A

1.2.3 National youth councils

Latvian Youth Council (LJP): association of non-governmental youth organizations of Latvia. (Kalpaka bulv. 10-18, Riga LV-1050); LJP ensures youth organizations with information about activities in Latvia as well as abroad, organizes training seminars for member organizations and represents the interests of youth at national and at international level; President: Andris Grafs (andris.grafs@ljp.lv)

1.3 Others structures of participation

1. International Federation of Medical Student Associations (IFMSA): Riga, Dzirciema 16, Latvia,



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LV-1007, D-312, president - Jelena Visnevskā, emery@one.lv; 2. Latvian Disabled Children and Youth Sports Federation (LDCYSF): Jelgava, Lacplesā iela 5, Latvia, LV-3002, president # Aija Klavina, LBJISF@mailbox.jelgava.lv

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 %

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

5.03* %

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



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trade union (by gender)

female	male
3.12* %	1.91* %

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

6.4* %

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

Nowadays there are about 90 youth organisations. According to the goals of youth organisations and social status of their members, there are about 13 types of organisations, e.g., cultural, political, environmental, religious etc. and this category is made up from youth organizations with varied general activities.

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

The draft Youth Law is intended to be implemented in accordance with the principle of facilitation of youth participation in decision-making process. The draft Law mentions, for instance, introduction of the system of five regional youth affairs consultants of the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs, whose functions are going to be: o co-operation with municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups, ensuring solution of youth problems; o coordination of co-operation between governmental and local institutions concerning youth politics; o organization of informative and educational events in certain territories, involving municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups and youth; o consulting young people about non-formal education and voluntary work; o co-ordination of youth involvement in social life and methodical support for municipal youth affairs specialists; o provision of proposals for the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs in the sphere of youth work development. It will help to implement facilitation of youth participation on regional and local level. Besides, the Law foresees a financing mechanism of youth organizations and projects. Apart from that, one of the highlights of the State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 is youth participation, achieved by the improvement of youth involvement system into youth organizations, for example, engaging social pedagogues in the mentioned involvement process by decreasing delinquency and increasing non-formal activity of schoolchildren or the creation of Association of Students Self-governments.

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

The draft Youth Law is intended to be implemented in accordance with the principle of facilitation of youth participation in decision-making process. The draft Law mentions, for instance, introduction of the system of five regional youth affairs consultants of the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs, whose functions are going to be: o co-operation with municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups, ensuring solution of youth problems; o coordination of co-operation between governmental and local institutions concerning youth politics; o organization of informative and educational events in certain territories, involving municipalities, youth organizations and youth initiative groups and youth; o consulting young people about non-formal education and voluntary work; o co-ordination of youth involvement in social life and methodical support for municipal youth affairs specialists; o provision of proposals for the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs in the sphere of youth work development. It will help to implement facilitation of youth participation on regional and local level. Besides, the Law foresees a financing mechanism of youth organizations and projects. Apart from that, one of the highlights of the State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 is youth participation, achieved by the improvement of youth involvement system into youth organizations, for example, engaging social pedagogues in the mentioned involvement process by decreasing delinquency and increasing non-formal activity of schoolchildren or the creation of Association of Students Self-governments.



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

The Draft Youth Law foresees a financing mechanism of youth organizations and projects. Apart from that, youth participation is one of the highlights of the State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009. It is planned to support youth organizations financially, creating a system of co-financing. It will help to increase the capacity of youth organizations and the ability to involve young persons in new projects.

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

1. Facilitation of youth initiatives: o creation of information system, a homepage, two free informative consultative hot lines, additional workers in the Ministry for Children and Family Affairs responsible for youth policy (2005-2006); o foundation of student self-governments (2005); o creation of a system involving youth in youth organizations (2006); o Support for programs of non-formal education (2006-2009); o Creation of a system of voluntary work (2006-2008) 2. Creation of a unified system of youth work (2005-2008); o Introduction of five regional youth affairs coordinators (2005-2009); 3. Establishment of state co-financing system (2006-2009).

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

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 also aims on least 4 specific groups of young people: 1. young people who serve punishment # to rehabilitate them; 2. young people after serving punishment # for their social integration; 3. young mothers # work at home; 4. young people with special needs.

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

All citizens of Latvia who enjoy full rights of citizenship and, who on election day have attained eighteen years of age shall be entitled to vote.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate



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From 21 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

Each citizen of Latvia, who enjoys full rights of citizenship and, who is more than twenty-one years of age on the first day of elections may be elected to the Saeima (the Latvian parliament). Also each citizen of Latvia, who enjoys full rights of citizenship and, who is 18 year of age on the first day of elections, may be elected in a local government.

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 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

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

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.

9 *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>	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 211 *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

There are no structured actions/support of national scope to promote participation of young people in the system of representative democracy. All actions are fragmentary.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

In 2004 Academy of Democracy project has been implemented, which was aiming at the facilitation of youth participation. In 2004 Latvian Youth Council organized 10 workshops of protection of interest were working in districts of Latvia (Jelgava, Talsi, Saldus, Riga, Valmiera, Madona, Livani, Daugavpils, Ludza, Rezekne), which developed model of youth advocacy and cooperation with local governments to encourage youth to accomplice in decision making process on local scale. This working field started to implement youth policy system in local and regional level.

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

State Youth Policy Program for 2005-2009 foresees the creation of Association of Students Self-governments. The program aims to develop a co-operation of governmental bodies and NGO sector implementing youth policy. The program also aims to create a consulting council of Youth Affairs in every municipality, which would consist of coordinators, sphere specialists, representatives of youth organizations and youth representatives of the municipality.

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

N/A

9 Learning to participate

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

The Law on Education defines creation of youth councils in all the schools and universities as a representative body of school students.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

The Law on Education defines creation of youth councils in all the schools as a representative body of school students, school councils often play an important role in the life of local municipality. School councils of different schools often unite to protect and develop their influence on school regulations. United school councils are a platform for the representation of school youth interests in local municipalities. Examples for such a cooperation is Riga School Students Council, Cesis School Students Council. Examples for cooperation between school councils are cooperation of school councils in Riga and Cesis. United School councils function in these cities as a youth platform for consultations for the local municipalities. In Cesis the school council is subordinated to the Committee for Culture Education and Sports and is participating in the sessions of this Committee. The Council is taking decisions and comments on Cesis City development plan and plays a role of information mediator between City Council and school students. The United School council is also involved in the planning and organizing of cultural and other events by the city. In Riga there are 126 schools, which established United School Students council of Riga school students. This Council is often asked for consultations by the Riga City Council Committee for Education Youth and Sports, also by the Committee for Environment on issues related to youth. These consultations don't have compulsory character, it's a good will of the Committees to involve youngsters in decision making process.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

From the September 2005. in all schools will be integrated a school subject on Social Sciences. It foreseen to introduce it in the elementary school in school grades 1 to 9. The Program for this subject includes adoption of such skills as decision making, structure of state and municipal decision making institutions, NGO and influence on decision making, citizenship learning on responsibilities, rights and duties. The program aims on teaching how to take decisions, search for information you need, ability to discuss and criticize, spread own opinion.

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

School programs in Latvia foresee a week of project work of school students. The topics of these



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projects are decided by the school councils. Many school projects run on such topics as responsibility on environment, work of NGOs, help by retirement communities. These projects help school children to learn about their responsibility to their community. Latvian Adult Education Association in cooperation with Social integration foundation developed in 2004 a project #Development of youth participation in regions# and worked out a methodical material on Citizenship education, with the aim to support teachers, youth NGOs and youth workers on citizenship education with young people. This material was disseminated in schools in order to provide teachers with methods and didactics on Social sciences subject.

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

N/A

9.2.1 Nature of this support

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A