

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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MALTA, 2005

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

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

Not applicable

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

Not applicable

1.1.3 National youth parliament

One off activity, where the National Youth Council organise an activity within the National (and only) Parliament whereby youth #take-over# the parliament benches to discuss youth related issues. Members of parliament are also present to assist and participate in the discussions held. A similar initiative, with a European dimension, is organised by the National Federation of Students# Travelling Services (NSTS). This activity, known as the Mini European Assembly, facilitate the discussion, participation and better understanding of the European structures and their effect on European citizens.

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

The National Youth Council recently (2004)embarked on a project with twelve local councils encouraging the institution of Youth Local Councils: Zurrieq Local Youth Council B#Kara Local Youth Council Balzan Local Youth Council Fgura Local Youth Council Paola Local Youth Council Pieta# Local Youth Council San Giljan Local Youth Council San Gwann Local Youth Council San Pawl il-Bahar Local Youth Council Xghajra Local Youth Council Zejtun Local Youth Council Zurrieq Local Youth Council

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

Not applicable

1.2.3 National youth councils

National Youth Council 36, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 12, Malta Tel: (+356) 21245375 Fax: (+356) 21245376 info@knz.org.mt - www.knz.org.mt



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1.3 Others structures of participation

Diocesan Youth Council # Malta Diocesan Youth Council # Gozo University Students# Council

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

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)



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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

34.06 %

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
48 %	39.4 %	32.5 %	29.9 %	23.3 %	23.6 %

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

female	male
31.47 %	68.53 %

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

Sports Organisations # members: 30,449 (13-30 age bracket) Total dance student population: 1,466 (10-19 age bracket)

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 for Education, Youth and Employment, in conjunction with state-recognised bodies (the National Youth Council, Local Councils, Non-Governmental Organisations, Youth Centres and youth groups) is responsible for the promotion and implementation of the National Youth Policy (NYP). The NYP is intended to promote, in an integrated manner, young people's economic, social and cultural situations, such as their education and their access to information and advice, employment, housing, health and leisure. The ultimate aim of the NYP is to encourage young people to participate effectively in society and to educate them towards active citizenship. The NYP is an affirmation, by Government and by its associates in this particular sphere, of their belief in collaboration and partnership in thought and action of young people's personal, social and political development. It contemplates the creation of a Youth Service that is based on young people's expectations and needs for today and tomorrow. It proffers to exclude any hint of measures which may perpetuate a sense of powerlessness, apathy and indifference in young people. Equity, equality, empowerment and emancipation are the cornerstones on which the NYP of Malta stands.

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

A subsidiary law within the Maltese Laws foresees to the tax exemption of youth centres specifically intended to promote the social aspect of youth work. To avail of such exemption the centre must be run on a non-profit basis.

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

The Youth Section within the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment part-funds initiatives and activities organized by young people and by youth organisations. Grants are distributed twice yearly to applicant projects which are consonant with the National Youth Policy. A pivotal criteria to benefit from this programme is the innovative nature of the project. Attention is also allotted to individuals and organisations whose initiatives would have difficulty to find alternative funding sources. Over the last two years 56 local organisations were assisted financially through such programme.

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

The Youth Specialization Study Scheme (hereinafter referred to as the Scheme) is a joint venture between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Employment and one of the local Banks. The scheme is aimed at assisting financially young people between the ages of 18 and 30 years, who wish to pursue their studies or training abroad, provided that such studies are not available locally. The scheme allows young people to apply for loans ranging from #12,000 to #24,000 with minimal or no security from the Bank at a variable interest rate of 5.25% p.a. (i.e. 2.25% over the CBM Discount Rate, currently 3.00% p.a.). The loan may be repaid over a maximum term of ten years, including a maximum moratorium period of three years on capital repayments. Interest is to be settled separately as and when due.



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

yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

Disadvantaged young people Asylum Seekers Unemployed Youth at Risk Alcohol and Drug Addicts Disabled young persons Tackling illiteracy amongst young people

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

Constitution of Malta # Chapter 6 A person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter for the election of members of the House of Representatives if, and shall not be qualified to be so registered unless - he is a citizen of Malta; he has attained the age of eighteen years; and he is resident in Malta and has during the eighteen months immediately preceding his registration been a resident for a continuous period of six months. No person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter for the election of members of the House of Representatives if he is interdicted or incapacitated for any mental infirmity by a court in Malta or is otherwise determined in Malta to be of unsound mind; he is serving a sentence of imprisonment or suspended sentence (by whatever name called); he is disqualified for registration as a voter by or under any law for the time being in force in Malta by reason of his having been convicted of any offence connected with the election.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 18 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

A person is qualified to be elected as a member of the House of Representatives if he has the qualifications for registration as a voter for the same election. No person shall be qualified to be elected if he is a citizen of a country other than Malta; if holds or is acting in any public office or is a member of the armed forces of the Maltese Government; if partner with unlimited liability in a partnership or a director or manager of a company which is a party to, a contract with the Maltese Government being a contract of works or a contract for the supply of merchandise to be used in the service of the public and has not published in the Gazette (1 month prior) setting out the nature of such contract, interest, or the interest of any such partnership/company, therein; if bankrupt; if

interdicted or incapacitated for any mental infirmity or for prodigality by a court in Malta; if serving a sentence of imprisonment/suspended sentence exceeding twelve months.

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

73,484 *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.

24 %

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
29 %	32 %	39 %

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
48 %	52 %

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

24 %

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
29 %	32 %	39 %

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
48 %	52 %

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

23.6 %

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
29 %	32 %	39 %

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
48 %	52 %

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.

4 *persons*

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

female	male
1 <i>persons</i>	3 <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>

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

83 *persons*

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

female	male
15 <i>persons</i>	68 <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

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

The Youth Local Councils cater for the wide spectrum of young people within given localities. Their main aim is to be as inclusive and representative as possible.

9 Learning to participate

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

Various initiatives are undertaken to support participation of young people in all strada of society. This is encouraged by visits to cultural and social oriented initiatives, along with a thorough support to initiatives organised at a local level in which the educational structure is situated.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

Apart from the active presence of the students within the educational stucture, students are encouraged and supported in initiatives they present, such as theatrical performances, debating groups, enviromental issues within the school, and other similar activities for which participation is highly encouraged.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship



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At various levels, the sense of citizenship is brought to focus. These interventions are carried out both at a formal and non-formal level. Young people that passed their school age are supported to an extent by the organisation / association they frequent during their leisure time. On the whole, socially oriented activities that has as their prime aim that of supporting disadvantaged people. Various other socio-political initiatives are undertaken to instill and strengthen the sense of citizenship amongst young people.

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

The Scoop initiatives that offer the possibility to students to participate in forming a team-work structure with a product. Exchanges carried out both on a local and international level. The extra-curriculum activities that enhances participation in various fields.

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

Various competitions are held in various fields (sports, cultural, arts...) that promote participation and support emerging talents. The Youth Support Programme and the European Programmes offers financial assistance in respect.

9.2.1 Nature of this support

Financial and actions in favour of training and information.

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

Mainly NGOs and municipalities.

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

Various municipalities have organised exchange visits to other municipalities both on a local and european level. The Youth Support Programme supported various NGOs in putting up various socially oriented campaigns

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

National Campaigns that promote inclusion and collect funds for disadvantaged persons, with specific attention allotted to young people.

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

yes ~~no~~



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Participation

The specific target groups

Young people with disability Young people living in institutions Voluntary activities held by young people in international fora



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