

# 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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## **NETHERLANDS, 2006**

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

#### **1.1 Youth parliaments**

##### **1.1.1 Local youth parliaments**

- Youth Parliament Leeuwarderdeel (Jeugdparlement Leeuwarderadeel), [www.forumjongerenraden.nl/?id=41](http://www.forumjongerenraden.nl/?id=41) - Youth Parliament Amsterdam Old-South (Jongerenparlement Amsterdam Oud-Zuid)

##### **1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments**

Some of the twelve Dutch provinces run a 'youth parliament' which all are involved in preliminary meetings for the National Youth Debate. Each year ten schools participate in the Friesch Youth Parliament, the adopted proposals are being executed (when they are within the budget) <http://www.fryslan.nl/sjablonen/1/infotype/news/newsitem/view.asp?objectID=17251> Furthermore provinces organise the Model European Parliament (MEP) for secondary schools (Atheneum). E.g. Foundation European Youth Parliament South-Holland (Europees Jeugdparlement Zuid-Holland), [www.ejz.nl](http://www.ejz.nl). The International Institute for Public and Politics (IPP) can help in organising a provincial youth parliament: [http://www.publiek-politiek.nl/organisatie/nieuwsbrieven/papier/maart\\_2006/provinciaal\\_jongerenparlement](http://www.publiek-politiek.nl/organisatie/nieuwsbrieven/papier/maart_2006/provinciaal_jongerenparlement)

##### **1.1.3 National youth parliament**

There is no national youth parliament in the Netherlands. However, each of the political parties represented in the Dutch Lower House has its own 'young division' of which young people may become (paying) members. These youth divisions follow their own course and can adopt a critical stance with regard to the policies of the 'parent' party. They receive funding from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations through their parent party. You can find an overview of the amount of youth memberships of a youth divisions on: [http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politieke\\_jongerenorganisatie](http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politieke_jongerenorganisatie) Each year, a National Youth Debate is held in the Lower House of the Dutch Parliament, organized by the National Youth Debate Foundation, a partner to the National Youth Council. In this debate, young people between the ages of ten and eighteen selected through regional meetings, discuss topics they consider important with adult politicians (ministers and parliamentarians).

#### **1.2 Youth councils**

##### **1.2.1 Local youth councils**

- Jongerenraad Hoogeveen - Jongerenraad in oprichting, Noordenveld - Jongerenraad Zeewolde -



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Jongerenraad Litterensadiel - Tytsjerkstradiel Jongeren Advies - Jongerenraad Didam - Stichting Jeugd & Jongerenraad Duiven - Jongerenraad Eibergen - Jongerenraad Groenlo - Jongerenraad Heumen - Jongerenraad Lochem/ Stichting De Garve - Jongerenraad Gemeente Nunspeet - Jeugd- en Jongerenraad Zaltbommel - Jongerenraad Delfzijl - Jongerenraad Stadskanaal - Jeugdraad Ten Boer - Jongeren Platform Brunssum i.o. tel. 045-5250025 - Jeugdraad Egchel Kapelaan Nausstraat 17 5987 AR Egchel - Jeugdraad Heerlen - Klankbordgroep Kerkrade tel. 045#5676767 - Jongerenraad Kessel Schijfweg Zuid 41, 5995 BD Kessel - Jongerenraad Margraten Scheulderdorpstraat 79 , 6307 PB Scheulder - Jongerenraad Meijel P/a Stichting Vorkmeer Ruijsstraat 20 5981 CM Panningen - Jongerenplatform Reuver Stichting Welkom, tel. 077-3266666 - Jeugd- en Jongerenraad Stein tel. 046-4288060 - Jongerenplatform Stem van Jong Venlo (SJV): [www.sjv-venlo.nl](http://www.sjv-venlo.nl) Jongerenraad Deurne, [www.jongerenraaddeurne.nl](http://www.jongerenraaddeurne.nl) - Jongerenpanel Stratum, 040-2110568 - Stichting Jeugd & Jongerenraad Haps Tulpenstraat 27 5443 BP Haps - Jongerenraad Tienerhuis Helmond, [www.tienerhuis.nl](http://www.tienerhuis.nl) - Jeugdgemeenteraad Laarbeek Postbus 28 5740 AA Beek en Donk - Jeugdraad Steenbergen - Jongerenraad Amsterdam Noord IJplein 3 1021 LA Amsterdam

### 1.2.2 Regional youth councils

- Provinciale Jongerenraad Drenthe - Provinciale Jongerenraad Overijssel: [www.jrov.nl](http://www.jrov.nl)

### 1.2.3 National youth councils

The Dutch National Youth Council (Nationale Jeugdraad), is an independent organization dedicated to representing the interests of young people in the Netherlands. It is an umbrella organization encompassing more than 25 youth organizations. Its members include political and leisure interest groups, those for young people of ethnic minority backgrounds and students' unions. The Council is also expected to support the participation of young people at local level by providing information and support by volunteers. See for member organizations: <http://www.jeugdraad.nl/lidorganisaties.php?letter=h>

### 1.3 Others structures of participation

1. Community work experience in secondary education. 2. Client-councils within youth care institutions (New Youth Care Act). 3. A large scale of tools and trainings have been developed to stimulate participation, e.g. peer-education as method to stimulate youth 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

N/I %

#### 2.1.1 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party (by age groups)



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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
N/I %	N/I %

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

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

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

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

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

## 2.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation

## from the ages of 13 and 30 in global population

N/I %

### 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
N/I %	N/I %

### 2.3.4 What type of youth organisations are people involved in

Source: SCP, Youth 2002. Youth participation 12-18 in voluntary work: Sports association 15% School 8% Church or mosque 8% Hobby club 5% Choir, music or theatre group 5% Neighbourhood centre / scouting 4% Attention/special interest groups (e.g. Amnesty International): 4% Political party 3% At least one of the above 31% Source: Verwey-Jonker, 2005, p.53 # ages 14-16 (N = 575) Social participation: 80% member of a club (sports) or organisation: sports clubs 53%, youth organisation 4%, hobby activities 19%, religious youth organisations 4%, scouting 3%. One at the six youngsters is active within a mosk, the neighbourhood or an Internet or computer group. A quarter of the youth is structurally active within political participation. Most of them are members of youth panels, or school or pupil councils. Four% of the youngsters are member of nature and environmental organisations (4%) and political youth organisations (3%). Incidentally, 9-30% of the youngsters are politically active (e.g. demonstrations, debates or frivolous actions).

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

The Netherlands does not have a general statutory definition of #youth participation#. The support function is allocated to the provinces. In the Netherlands, the right of the child to participate is



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made concrete in areas such as education and youth care, but then mainly as a user of services and facilities. The responsibilities for preventive youth policy are laid down in various sections of Dutch laws relating to youth. Participation is by the Dutch Government considered part of preventive youth policy. Under the Youth Care Act, which came into force on 1 January 2005, the responsibility for participation has been transferred from the provinces to the municipalities. Transitional arrangements will apply until 1 January 2007, so that the municipalities can prepare for taking over this task from the provinces. Under the new Youth Care Act, the various youth care institutions are obliged to set up client councils. One development is the participation structure in the education system. Every secondary school will be obliged to set up a student council.

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

Generally, there has been a major change in subsidy policy. Institutional subsidies for youth organisations will disappear, with the exception of subsidies for organisations for disabled young people. The main reason for the new subsidy policy was to counter the dissipation of resources. At the same time, resources have been allocated to two new schemes, which fit in with the new subsidy policy: the Neighbourhood-Education-Sport Impulse (BOS) and the Incentive Scheme Voluntary Work for and by Young People. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health, Care and Sports structurally subsidise the Dutch Youth Council as representative of bounded and non-bounded youth. The youth divisions of political parties in the Lower House receive funding from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. At provincial level, the main focus of attention is the political participation of young people. In addition, the Dutch Centre for Political Participation (IPP) organizes shadow elections in (secondary) schools throughout the country.

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

- All different, equal campaign: The Ministry of Health, Care and Welfare has provided the National Youth council with a budget to coordinate the Dutch all different, equal campaign (2006 -2007). - Youth Programme (2007-2013)

### **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?

Specific attention is required for young people at risk, among others. Subsidies are made conditional on the following three objectives: staying healthy, getting better and helping vulnerable groups. Based on signals from the municipalities and of research, some policy efforts in 2004 and



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2005 were targeted specifically at Antillean youth in the areas of education, support, safety, young parenthood and housing. From 2006, resources will be made available to promote the participation of immigrant and ethnic minority youngsters through sports.

## 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 persons from eighteen years living in the Netherlands legally more than five years. On the local level persons of eighteen years and older are entitled to vote.

### 5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

*From 18 years old*

### 5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

All persons from eighteen years living in the Netherlands legally more than five years. On the local level persons of eighteen years and older are entitled to be a candidate.

## 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/I 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

*2,553,277 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**

N/I %

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

**6.4.3 National elections, percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote registered, by gender**



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female	male
N/I %	N/I %

**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**

N/I %

**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**



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N/I %

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

3 *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>	2 <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.

20 *persons*

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

female	male
13 <i>persons</i>	7 <i>persons</i>

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

4 *persons*

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

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

Voter turnout has increased since around 2002. This is also the case for young people. For instance, research shows that 67% of young people in the 18-24 age group voted in the referendum on the European constitutional treaty, the turnout figure for the population as a whole was 61%. The campaigns aimed at raising voter turnout devote specific attention to young people.

The National Youth Council operates a website: ([www.stemjong.nl](http://www.stemjong.nl)) aimed at encouraging young people to participate in the democratic process. Here, you can also find overviews of young politicians at the local, regional and national level. On the provincial level provincial politics and provincial politicians have been introduced to young people, e.g. in Zeeland where members of the Provincial Assembly regularly visit schools to discuss themes which concern young people and the political parties. Other good examples are the annual award for the Young Councillor of the Year introduced by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities in 2005. In addition, the Jargon Brigade of the National Youth Council which encourages politicians to speak in plain language and thus to make politics more accessible to young people.

### 7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

N/I

### 7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

The newly constituted network of provincial officials working on participation issues has agreed to coordinate the preparations for the provincial elections in 2007 with a view to maximise the turnout of young people and the participation of young politicians.

## 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

No specific groups

## 9 Learning to participate

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

In the Netherlands, all children aged 4 to 16 are obliged to attend full-time education. This government has started the introduction of community work experience in secondary education. From 2007, resources will be available for all schools. During a community work placement a learner will have an opportunity to discover society in a controlled way. This can be done through voluntary work or through participation in the political process and in many other ways as well. Pupils form part of the schools consultative councils, alongside parents and teaching staff. Every school is required by law to have a pupils' charter, stating the rights and obligations of pupils. Many schools, particularly the secondary schools, also have a pupils council, although this is not a legal requirement. There are various national organizations for school children and students. For those in secondary education there is the National Pupils Action Committee (LAKS), while there are two major students' unions. For students in vocational training there is the Young People's organisation for Vocational Education (JOB). All such organisations are funded by the Ministry of



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Education, Culture and Science. Furthermore, provinces organise the Model European Parliament (MEP) for secondary schools (Athenaeum). The stimulation of community schools. Exchange programmes for pupils like Socrates.

### **9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school**

see answer 9.1.

### **9.1.2 Learning of citizenship**

Learning of citizenship is especially stimulated during history and learning about society lessons (maatschappijleer). The European Platform for Dutch Education (Europees Platform) e.g. Europe as learning environment at schools:

[www.elos.europeesplatform.nl/index.php?var\\_content=materiaal&code=alles](http://www.elos.europeesplatform.nl/index.php?var_content=materiaal&code=alles).

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

Rotterdam's pot of gold was established as a foundation in January 2005. Within this structure 15 educational institutions in the south of Rotterdam have committed themselves to a project aimed at stimulation learners to become socially active by doing voluntary work. In recognition of their efforts, they receive gold coins; they can exchange for a bonus, for instance an event, or visit etc.

## **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 EU Youth Programme for (inter)national informal activities for youth between 15-25. The programme gives youth the possibility to develop individually and broaden their horizon. - Efforts are undertaken for young people who have left school and are looking for work. The Youth Unemployment Taskforce seeks to encourage young people, municipalities and employers to participate in projects in which young people learn and work. - WhoZnext is a government-subsidized project run by the Netherlands Institute for Sport and Physical Activity (NISB). The aim of WhoZnext is to ensure that young people begin or continue to engage in sports and other physical activities and that they are directly involved in these activities ([www.whoznex.nl/files/practice\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.whoznex.nl/files/practice_brochure.pdf)). - Amsterdam's municipal authorities have published a manual on youth participation and communication ([www.jeugd.amsterdam.nl](http://www.jeugd.amsterdam.nl)). To initiate knowledge exchange on youth participation projects.

### **9.2.1 Nature of this support**

see answer 9.2

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



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- St. Alexander - Institute for Public and Politics (IPP) - European Platform for Education. And see answer to questions 1.

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

see answers to 9.1.1 -9.2.1

### **9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term**

This government has started the introduction of community work experience in secondary education. From 2007, resources will be available for all schools. During a community work placement a learner will have an opportunity to discover society in a controlled way. This can be done through voluntary work or through participation in the political process and in many other ways as well.

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

yes ~~no~~

The specific target groups

Through incentive programmes, specific attention is targeted for young people at risk.