

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

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

There are only a few, if any, permanent representative local youth parliaments in Swedish municipalities. Please see answer 1.2.1 for a list over local structures for youth involvement in local democracy.

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

N/A

1.1.3 National youth parliament

Please refer to question 1.2.3.

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

A number of Swedish municipalities have structures for dialog between young people and local decision makers. They are important arenas for those that still do not have the right to vote, and they have become a more frequent used platform for youth involvement at local level. They can however not be an alternative to, or compensate the lack of, youth participation in formal decision making processes at local level. A list of around 50 local youth councils who are members of the Swedish Association of Youth Councils (Sveriges Ungdomsråd)

<http://www.sverigesungdomsrad.se> can be found at
<http://www.ungdomstorget.se/ambercms/page/159.html>

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

N/A

1.2.3 National youth councils

The National council of Swedish youth organisations (LSU) functions as a platform for various matters, on international as well as national topics, and as a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations (<http://www.lsu.se>) . The Swedish Association of Youth Councils (Sveriges Ungdomsråd) (<http://www.sverigesungdomsrad.se>) is a platform for local youth councils. The organisation aims at supporting and promoting structures for youth involvement in matters



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concerning them at a local level. The Swedish student council association # SVEA (Sveriges Elevråd # SVEA) (<http://www.svea.org>) organises student councils from more than 800 schools. The Swedish Organisation for Pupils (Elevorganisationen) (<http://www.elevorg.se>) is the national platform of student councils from over 300 schools. The Youth Parliament (URIX) (<http://www.urix.org>) is an annual national gathering of approximately 1000 young people between 13 and 18. URIX is organised and financed by a foundation based on four major youth organisations. A parallel to URIX is the Youth Parliament of the Environment (UMR). This parliament is founded and mainly financed by one of the large environmental movements in Sweden (<http://www.umr.se>).

1.3 Others structures of participation

N/I

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)

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)



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rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

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

Many municipalities work systematically with youth participation in local life. A number of methods are used. Examples are: Local youth councils, appointing civil servants with a special role in supporting and guiding young people in their contacts with local authorities, students# and pupils# councils and youth surveys to gather young people#s views on local matters. The National Board for Youth Affairs (Ungdomsstyrelsen) support municipalities in their efforts to strengthen local youth involvement. Every year the Board appoints #The youth municipality of the year#, rewarding municipalities that work actively with youth participation. Furthermore, the Board helps municipalities in developing local youth policies, setting up local youth councils, carrying out surveys, etc. The National Board for Youth Affairs administer different funds for supporting youth organisations and other structures, such as the governmental fund for youth organisations, where youth organisations receive grants enabling them to work actively with youth participation in local democracy.

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

N/A

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

Swedish Youth NGOs receive financial support from the Swedish Government. The funding is distributed according to open criteria defined by the Government and interpreted by the National Board for Youth Affairs, the governmental authority responsible for administrating the funds. The criteria ruling the financial support are general, mainly focusing on matters of democracy.

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?



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yes ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

Some actions might have different target groups on a local level, depending on specific needs among the local population. Activities within this area would normally target the youth population in general, and - if necessary - focusing extra on specific groups to ensure that all young people would have equal possibilities to join.

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

Voting rights to Riksdag (Parliament) elections are reserved for all Swedish citizen who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day and who are, or have at some time been, registered residents of Sweden. Voting rights in county council and municipal assembly elections are reserved for Swedish citizens who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day and who are registered residents of Sweden within the county or municipality. Citizens of any Member State of the European Union (Union citizens) and citizens of Iceland and Norway are also entitled to vote under the same conditions. Citizens of other states are entitled to vote if they have been registered residents of Sweden for three consecutive years on Election Day.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 18 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

If you have the right to vote in an election (see 5.3), you are also allowed 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

N/I * *persons*



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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
26.2 %	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
70.7 %	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

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

N/I * %

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

17 *persons*

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

female	male
N/I <i>persons</i>	N/I <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.

74 *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

752 *persons*

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

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

7 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to



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promote the participation in the system of representative democracy and follow-up mechanisms

During the last few years, a number of actions have been taken to promote the participation of young people in the system of representative democracy. During the period 2000 # 2002 the Government's Advisory Group for the Promotion of Democracy (Demokratidelegationen) distributed approximately 20 million SEK to 142 projects regarding political participation and democracy development. Around 80 of these projects were aimed at young people. A special information campaign was targeted at students in upper secondary school. In 2004 the Government launched a campaign promoting young people's participation in the EU parliament election 13 June 2004. The project was managed by the National Board for Youth Affairs. 51 local projects run by youth organisations and other NGOs, schools, municipalities, etc. received in total almost 4 million SEK. In connection with the 2006 years national, regional and local elections the Government launched a democracy campaign. The campaign aimed at promoting the inclusion of different target groups in democratic processes. Young people benefited from several projects. One project, School elections 2006, targeted young people directly. More than 405 000 students in almost 1 400 schools participated in a learning process involving an educational programme, internet resources, discussions, visits from young politicians, and concluding with an election day where they were able to vote as in the ordinary elections.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

The Government's democracy campaign 2006 was carried out this year.

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/I

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

N/A

9 Learning to participate

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

According to the Education Act, the curriculum, national objectives and guidelines for the public education system, promotion of active participation in different levels of society is one of the missions of the Swedish school system. Swedish schools focus on formal learning within the ordinary curriculum, they offer pupils and students both formal and informal forums for influencing



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teaching, budgets, physical environment, etc., they provide education in citizenship and they actively work against any form of harassment and discrimination. Even if participation and citizenship is a part of the ordinary curriculum, special efforts are made from time to time to focus on specific matters. In connection with the 2006 years national, regional and local elections the Government initiated School elections 2006. More than 405 000 students in almost 1 400 schools participated in a learning process involving an educational programme, internet resources, discussions, visits from young politicians, and concluding with an election day where they were able to vote as in the ordinary elections.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

The role of pupils and students in decision-making in their schools is defined in the Education Act and specified in the national objectives and guidelines for the public education system. According to the Education Act, pupils and students have the right to influence on their education. The guidelines lists areas where this right come into force, such as the planning and evaluation of lessons. In many classes pupils form a class council where subjects of common interest are discussed. Most schools have a pupils or students council. In every upper secondary school there is a forum where representatives for students and employees meet to discuss matters of importance for the management of the school. Finally, some schools are trying out local boards where students are in majority.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

According to the Swedish Education Act, all children and youth shall have equal access to education. Under the law, pupils are to be allowed to exercise influence over the structuring of their studies, to the extent and in the form warranted by their age and personal development. The democratic assignment is furthermore regulated in the national curriculum for the compulsory and non-compulsory school. It consists of: * Teaching the students democracy and fundamental values. * Schools and preschools themselves operating democratically; both staff and students are empowered and participate in schoolwork and the learning/teaching environment. * The responsibility of schools and preschools to foster democratic members of society able to live and function in a democratic society. This involves working with the fundamental value system, i.e., democratic values such as solidarity, equality between people and equal opportunity.

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

N/I

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

Non-formal learning to participate does to a large extent take place in Swedish youth organisations. In the youth organisations, young people will learn how to participate in the



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development and management of the organisation's own activities, as well as how to use the organisation as a base for the democratic dialogue with the rest of society. Government grants to Swedish youth organisations are therefore an important element of the Swedish youth policy, allowing youth organisations to play an active role in the democratic upbringing of young people. In connection with the 2006 years national, regional and local elections the Government launched a democracy campaign. The campaign aimed at promoting the inclusion of different target groups in democratic processes. Young people benefited from several projects. One project, School elections 2006, targeted young people directly. More than 405 000 students in almost 1 400 schools participated in a learning process involving an educational programme, internet resources, discussions, visits from young politicians, and concluding with an election day where they were able to vote as in the ordinary elections.

9.2.1 Nature of this support

The nature of the governmental support to youth organisations is mainly financial. The school elections project 2006 offered information materials, training material, etc.

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

The governmental support to youth organisations concerns youth NGOs. The school elections project 2006 was targeted at schools.

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

Both actions have been undertaken during 2006.

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/I

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