

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.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



TURKEY, 2006

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

Youth for Habitat Turkey National Youth Parliament is founded in May, 2004 by the participation of 297 delegates from 75 cities. Yet, it is not considered as a legal national parliament.
(www.youthforhab.org.tr)

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

Youth Council Initiative does not have a legal status yet, it is only an initiative which aims to gather the youth organizations and NGOs. Ari Movement is now conducting the national secretary.
Contact Person: Hakan Gumuscu, Ph: +90 212 211 9771 www.ari.org.tr

1.3 Others structures of participation

N/A

2 Percentage of young people who are members of

No answers available

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



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms

No answers available

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

yes **no**

If yes, what groups?

females, young men, immigrants, young people from different ethnic groups, young people with special needs, young unemployed groups.

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 Turkish citizens over 18 years of age shall have the right to vote in elections and to take part in referenda. The exercise of these rights shall be regulated by law. Privates and corporals serving in the armed services, students in military schools, and convicts in penal execution excluding those convicted of negligent offences cannot vote.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 25 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

Citizens have the right to form political parties and in accordance with the established procedure to join and withdraw from them. One must be over 18 years of age to become a member of a party. Every Turk over the age of 25 is eligible to be a deputy. Persons who have not completed their primary education, who have been deprived of legal capacity, who have failed to perform compulsory military service, who are banned from public service, who have been sentenced to a prison term totalling one year or more excluding involuntary offences, or to a heavy imprisonment; those who have been convicted for dishonourable offences such as embezzlement, corruption, bribery, theft, fraud, forgery, breach of trust, fraudulent bankruptcy; and persons convicted of smuggling, conspiracy in official bidding or purchasing, of offences related to the disclosure of state secrets, of involvement in acts of terrorism, or incitement and encouragement of such activities,



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



shall not be elected deputies

6 The elections

No answers available

7 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to promote the participation in the system of representative democracy and follow-up mechanisms

The elective age to parliament has been reduced to 25 in 2006 which brings up an effective support in promoting the participation in the system of representative democracy. Political parties have youth organisations as well and besides, according to the compliance with EU, establishment of youth councils in each municipality became a legal obligation, efforts for the establishment of a National Youth Parliament continue and the General Directorate of Youth and Sports endeavours for promoting the participation of young people in the social life via the youth centres. Children & young people are participating in local, regional, national or international summits, councils, or conferences as delegates.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

N/A

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/A

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

There are national campaigns for the development and education for the girls, especially in the rural and eastern part of Turkey. Besides, there is an attempt to care and educate the children and youngsters who need special care. NGOs and public institutions are working hard to protect the children working and living at the streets.

9 Learning to participate

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

The National Basic Education Law no. 1739 defines the principles governing the training of individuals, use of education rights, provision of equality of opportunity in education and

organization of democracy and secular education. In that context, democracy and civil education has been included in the school programs either as multidisciplinary or independent courses aimed at ensuring that students adapt and acquire a democratic thinking system. In order to raise civil awareness in and teach democratic behavior to students and to ensure that they have their freedom, are aware of and protect their own and others' rights, 7.-8. classes schedules of primary schools include one hour of "Civil and Human Rights Education" course and 3. class schedule of high schools include selective "Democracy and Human Rights" course. In these courses; - Individuals are taught to respect the human rights mentioned in the Constitution and the Basic Law of National Education, - Students are trained as individuals who adopt the Republican order and apply and protect human rights and democracy principles in their daily lives, - Students are taught their own rights and liberties, made aware of and taught to protect their own rights and the rights of everyone in society, - Students are taught to be participatory, responsible and respectful to human beings and human honor, - Students are trained as individuals and citizens who are at peace with the community and the world and who are familiar with the values of modern civilization. On the other hand The Learning Schools Project ensures participation of teachers and students in the program development and Text book preparation efforts and aims to emphasize the principle of "student-centered education" and make the schools knowledge production centers and classrooms a democratic environment where knowledge is generated.

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

Ministry of National Education aims to enable the participation of students in social and cultural activities organized in the schools, to provide guidance services for students and to bring solutions to the problems of the schools as well as the students. Classroom and/or school representatives are selected and school councils operate as participatory democracy mechanisms.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

Citizenship Education Project" which aims to reinforce a culture of human rights and democracy is executed by the related project group established in the Ministry of National Education. Goals of the project are: - To train effective, responsible, participative and free individuals for the decision-making processes in social life - To develop awareness of democratic citizenship - To reinforce a culture of human rights and democracy - To implement the principle of commitment to legal rules, justice and equality in a world of differences - To produce creative, non-violent, participative and peaceful solutions for social problems - To maintain education in democratic citizenship in order to provide adolescents and adults with the opportunity to determine their own future - To work in cooperation with civil social organizations and experts.

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

N/A

9.2 Fields of actions and/or support # (national or regional scope, outside the



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

www.youth-knowledge.net | www.youth-partnership.net



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

There are national campaigns for the development and education for the girls, especially in the rural and eastern part of Turkey. Besides, there is an attempt to care and educate the children and youngsters who need special care. NGOs and public institutions are working hard to protect the children working and living at the streets.