



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

AUSTRIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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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

In Austria many local youth parliaments exist in Cities and districts - a list is available on the homepage of ARGE Partizipation, a network consisting of representatives of the federal and national youth departments in Austria [descriptions in German only]

[http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc/index.php?id=21&tx_csprojektraster_pi1\[category\]=20&cHash=738579af83](http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc/index.php?id=21&tx_csprojektraster_pi1[category]=20&cHash=738579af83) .:

More projects – also from new forms of participation can be found on the platform:

<http://www.entscheidend-bist-du.at/neu/?pg=content2&id=15>

Additional to that exist parliamentary structures in many schools. For example:

SchülerInnen - Parlament

(http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc/index.php?id=21&tx_csprojektraster_pi1%5Bproject%5D=109&cHash=79ba777e8f) - Hauptschule Lieferung

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

In Salzburg and in Vienna regional youth parliaments exists, the descriptions can be found at http://www.jugendbeteiligung.cc/index.php?id=21&tx_csprojektraster_pi1%5Bcategory%5D=22&cHash=d756842846

- Wiener SchülerInnenparlament - Wien
- Jugendlandtag - Land Salzburg
- Salzburger Bezirksjugendgespräche (BJG) - Die BJG finden alle zwei Jahre in jedem Salzburger Bezirk statt: Lungau, Pinzgau, Pongau, Tennengau und Flachgau.
- 3. Salzburger Jugendlandtag - Land Salzburg
 - 4. Salzburger Jugendlandtag - Land Salzburg

1.1.3 National youth parliaments

No national youth parliament exists in Austria.

But for pupils and for students elected parliaments exist on regional and on national level.

For further information refer for pupils to the *BundesschülerInnenvertretung* (BSV -

<http://www.bsv.at/>)

and for students the *Österreichische Hochschülerschaft* (ÖH - <http://oeh.ac.at/>)

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

The Austrian cities and towns established different forms of youth councils (like in Schwechat, where young people decide on the usage of parts of the youth budget of the city)_

www.schwechat.gv.at

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

Salzburg - Salzburger Landes-Jugendbeirat

Lower Austria - NÖ Jugendrat

Vorarlberg - Vorarlberger Landesjugendbeirat

Styria - Steirischer Landesjugendbeirat

Burgenland - Burgenländischer Jugendbeirat

All regional youth council are consulted by the federal youth departments in youth connected affairs; they also comment laws in regard of youth compatible participation.

1.2.3 National youth councils

Austrian Federal Youth Representative Council (Bundesjugendvertretung). The BJV is consulted by the ministry in charge of youth and the government in affairs concerning young people in Austria and comments laws that have an influence on the Austrian youth.

2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of institutions allowing for participation in representative democracy

2.1 Percentage of young people in global population from 13 to 30 who are members of a political party

The number and percentage of young people being members in political parties (not in political youth organisations) can only be estimated.

2.1.1 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party by gender

N/A

2.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a trade union from the ages of 13 to 30

N/A

2.3 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a youth organisation from the ages of 13 to 30

2.3.1 Identify if this category (percentage of young people who members of a youth organisation) is made up from a youth organisation with varied general activities, a sports organisation, a cultural organisation or others

No information available

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

No information available

2.3.3 Identify if this category (percentage young people who members of a youth organisation) is made up from a youth organisation with varied general activities, a sports organisation, a cultural organisation or others

No information available

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

Participation is a main focal point in Austrian youth policy. Therefore regional and national projects that provide youth participation are supported and funded on national and regional level.

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

Also projects that provide youth participation on the local level are supported and funded.

3.2 Financial actions to support the various structures for youth political and NGO participation – Among these actions, actions that have been undertaken this year

The law of support and promotion of youth in Austria defines the general outlines for financial support of youth organisations and projects. Youth organisations get a financial funding according to their members and based on project activities. Due to the focal points of youth policy, youth participation is a prerequisite for funding projects.

3.3 What other initiatives are planned in the short term to support youth participation on the local level?

Since the lowering of the voting age to 16, youth participation got a strong support on all levels of politics.

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

Youth work in Austria aims to reach all groups of young people, but specific groups are young people with lower education, young women and young people with migration background

4 The vote

4.1 Is voting obligatory?

YES NO

4.2 Age of the right to vote

16

4.3 Please describe, who is entitled to vote in local, regional and national elections.

The National Council is elected in accordance with the principles of equal, direct, secret and personal right to vote. All Austrian citizens who have turned 16 on the election day are entitled to vote. Since 2007 it is possible to do postal vote.

Austrians living abroad and Austrians who are not at their permanent residence at the time of elections can submit their votes by polling card. Voting is not compulsory. Citizens lose their right to vote and passive right to vote only if they have been convicted of criminal offences.

According to EU law, citizens of EU countries can vote in elections on the local level.

4.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

18

4.5 Describe as exact as possible, who is entitled to be a candidate in local, regional or national elections.

All citizens who have turned 18 on the election day have a passive right to vote, i.e. the right to be elected.

5 The elections

5.1 Number of young people that have voted recently between the ages of 18 (or the age of right to vote) and 30

No information available

5.2 Number of young people between the ages of 18 (or the age of right to vote) and 30 registered on the lists of voters

Since everybody who reached the age of 16 at the day of the elections is allowed to vote the number equals the number of people in that age span: appr. 1.560.600

5.3 Indicators of participation related to European polls

5.3.1 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 and 30.

The exact percentage is not available, but exit polls and political market research claim that the percentage is more or less similar to that of the global population. That was: appr. 40%

5.3.2 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by age groups

Information not available

5.3.3 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by gender

Information not available

5.3.4 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by rural-urban

Information not available

5.3.5 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population to vote

Information not available

5.4 National indicators of participation in the polls

5.4.1 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered

In the last national election the voting age was still 18. The exact percentage is not available, but exit polls and political market research claim that the percentage is more or less similar to that of the global population. That was: appr. 78 %

5.4.2 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by age groups

Information not available

5.4.3 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by gender

Information not available

5.4.4 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered, by rural-urban

Information not available

5.4.5 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population to vote

Information not available

5.5 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

5.5.1 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people in age to vote who are registered

The same as on national level holds for the regional. In the last elections in Burgenland (2005), Niederösterreich (2008) and Tyrol (2008) the voting age was 16 the participation in the global population was: Burgenland (80%), Niederösterreich (74,5%) Tyrol (65,8%)

5.5.2 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population to vote

Information not available

5.6 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the national level: overall and by gender

2 female and 3 male

5.7 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the regional level: overall and by gender

Information not available

5.8 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the local level: overall and by gender

Information not available

6 Actions, programmes, and financial or social support that promote the participation in the system of representative democracy, in particular to young people under the age of 30.

The study group on participation (ARGE Partizipation) is a group of representatives of the youth departments in the countries and promotes participation of young people on all levels of public life. Further information can be found here: www.jugendbeteiligung.at

The initiative of the Federal Government – “entscheidend bist du” – wants to foster and promote the participation of young people in the system of representative democracy and the election with 16. Further information: www.entscheidend-bist-du.at

Following the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management a strategy group dealing with the topic of participation was created. This expert group is - among other activities - developing a guideline for participation that should help people in the administration to fulfil the requirements of participation.

6.1 Instruments used to monitor the results of this support.

Normally projects are evaluated, to see the acceptance of the young people but also the effects resulting from the projects.

6.2 Existing or planned actions aiming at specific groups of young people?

All young people should participate in public life so no specific groups are highlighted.

7 Learning to participate

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

In Austrian schools exists due to the decree GZ 33.464/6-19a/78 the educational principal "political education". Curricula on this topic exist for every kind of Austrian school with the aim to enable young people to understand and perceive the different forms of democratic participation in Austria. Additionally for secondary higher school (AHS) political education is part of the curriculum of the topic "history".

A collection of all used curricula can be found here [in German only] (http://www.politische-bildung.schule.at/index.php?TITEL=Lehrpl%E4ne%20/%20Er%E4sse%20/%20Unterrichtsprinzip&kthid=9697&kathomelink_off=1)

7.1.1 Mechanisms of citizens' education in formal education?

Teachers for history in the higher secondary schools have a special curriculum for political education. Furthermore many web resources (e.g. forum politische bildung

<http://www.politischebildung.com/>; Zentrum polis <http://www.politik-lernen.at/>) offer possibilities for downloading material for the educational principle “political education”.

One mechanism of citizens’ education in schools is the direct democracy in the institution. In schools representatives of classes and representatives of the school are elected. The representatives of the schools elect on a regional level their representatives. The regional representatives elect the representatives on national level.

Pupils are also involved in the decision finding process in their school through the SGA – Schulgemeinschaftsausschuss. This body consists of three representatives of the teachers, the parents and the pupils each.

7.1.2 Guidelines, teacher training programmes, etc. related to citizens’ education but not directly affecting the formal curriculum.

The “*Donau Universität Krems*” established a master study course (<http://www.donau-uni.ac.at/de/studium/politischebildung/index.php>) for political education, affecting both the formal and the non-formal curriculum.

The democracy centre (<http://www.demokratiezentrum.org/en/index.html> Demokratie Zentrum Wien) provides detailed information and educational material like articles, videos and audio files on the section “knowledge” on their website for download (<http://www.demokratiezentrum.org/en/cms/knowledge/index.html>) .

The “*Forum politische Bildung Steiermark*” (<http://www.gesellschaftspolitik.at/>) offers trainings and seminars for the non-formal education.

7.2 In which fields, other than formal education, do actions and/or support - of national or regional scope- exist, which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people? What is the nature of these actions/this support?

Federal and national support of youth organisations, youth initiatives and projects that aim for the learning and promoting of participation of young people.

The main approach is to fund projects that deal with participation of young people. In some federal states of Austria, like Salzburg, Burgenland, Tyrol or Styria, local structures of youth participation and representation are legally established and are supported by the federal governments.

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

Information not available