



**Youth**Partnership

# ***QUESTIONNAIRE***

# ***“PARTICIPATION”***

# ***ESTONIA***



**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



c/o Council of Europe :: Directorate of Youth and Sport :: F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France  
Fax: (33) 3 88 412 778 :: E-mail: youth-partnership@coe.int :: [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)

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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

None

### 1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

None

### 1.1.3 National youth parliaments

There are no permanently active youth parliaments in Estonia.

There are some three project-based annual events which bring together young people on the issues of social and political significance:

- National session of European Youth Forum, organised by Active Estonian Youth (TEN)
- '101 children at Toompea', organised jointly by Estonian Union for Child Welfare and Estonian Student Council Union (on top of Toompea hill, Estonian Parliament Riigikogu is located).
- 'Youth Parliament', organised by youth organisation ELO (Eriti Lahe Olemine / Specially Cool Being) jointly with Scouts, Guides, Estonia 4H, EYMCA and EYWCA Estonia.

## 1.2 Youth councils

### 1.2.1 Local youth councils

Youth councils organised around local government units (in towns and boroughs):

- Tallinn Youth Council
- Keila Youth Council
- Kernu borough Youth council
- Nissi borough Youth council
- Viimsi borough Youth council
- Narva Youth Council
- Jõhvi borough Youth Council

- Imavere borough Youth Council
- Haapsalu Youth Council
- Taebala borough Youth Council
- Rakvere Youth Council
- Pärnu Youth Council
- Kuressaare Youth Council
- Tartu Youth Council
- Vara borough Youth Council
- Suure-Jaani borough Youth Council
- Viljandi Youth Council
- Karksi-Nuia borough Youth Council
- Pärsti borough Youth Council
- Rõuge borough Youth Council

### *1.2.2 Regional youth councils*

Youth councils organised around county governments:

- Harjumaa Youth Council
- Hiiumaa Youth Council
- Ida-Virumaa Youth Council
- Järvamaa Youth Council
- Jõgevamaa Youth Council
- Läänemaa Youth Council
- Lääne-Virumaa Youth Council
- Pärnumaa Youth Council
- Põlvamaa Youth Council
- Raplammaa Youth Council
- Tartumaa Youth Council
- Valgamaa Youth Council
- Viljandimaa Youth Council
- Võrumaa Youth Council

### 1.2.3 National youth councils

- Eesti Õpilasesinduste Liit / Estonian Student Council Union (umbrella organisation of high and vocational school students)
- Eesti Noorteühenduste Liit / Estonian National Youth Council (umbrella organisation of youth organisations)
- Eesti Üliõpilaskondade Liit / Federation of Estonian Student Unions (umbrella organisation of college/university students)

## **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**

In December 2004, 4% of 15-25 year olds in Estonia reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for a political party and 6% reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for youth organisation of a political party.

In October 2007, 9% of pupils aged 15-19 in Tallinn (the capital) reported either membership/participation, leadership or volunteering in youth organisation of a political party and 7% pupils aged 15-19 in Tallinn (the capital) reported either membership/participation, leadership or volunteering in a political party.

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

No information available

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

No information available

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

In December 2004, 15% of 15-25 year olds in Estonia reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for a youth organisation.

*2.3.1 Identify if the category of young people who were members of a youth organisation was made up from a youth organisation with varied general activities, a sports organisation, a cultural organisation or others*

In December 2004, 15% of 15-25 year olds in Estonia reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for a youth organisation.

In December 2004, 26% of 15-25 year olds in Estonia reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for a cultural organisation.

In December 2004, 41% of 15-25 year olds in Estonia reported either membership, participation in events or volunteering for a sports club.

These can not be the same people as there are large differences in participation rates.

*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 If the category of members of a youth organisation was 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**

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

The main mechanism of participation is via various youth councils. These can be youth councils, high-school and college student councils, councils of representatives of youth organisations. The youth councils are consulted on the issues which directly touch aspects of

young people living in society. The councils can comment on and partake in discussions on local socio-political issues.

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

Financial actions are project based; there are several foundations and organisations which offer support to youth activism in Estonia.

There is also a system of annual financial support to youth organisations from state budget.

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

No special initiatives. Youth participation plans to focus on gradual development.

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

No

## **4 The vote**

### **4.1 Is voting obligatory?**

No

### **4.2 Age of the right to vote**

Voting age is 18 years at local, national and European elections.

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

In national elections, citizens are entitled to vote, with the exception of 2 categories. First, persons who have been certified incapable by court; second, people serving sentence in prison at the election day.

In local elections, all permanent residents (those who have obtained permanent or long-term residence permit), foreigners who have resided legally for at least 5 years on the territory of a given local government unit (town or borough), and citizens are entitled to vote, with the exception of the 2 abovementioned categories.

#### **4.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate**

21\* in national elections

18 in local elections

#### **4.5 Detailed description of who is entitled to be a candidate in local, regional or national elections.**

In national elections, only Estonian citizens at least 21 years of age can stand for election into Riigikogu (Estonian parliament)

In local elections, any citizen of Estonia or Europe who has registered as permanent resident in a given unit of self government not later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of August of the year of elections, can stand for election.

### **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.

Neither Statistical Office nor National Electoral Committee collects information on voters. There are no recent surveys on election turnout; exit-polls return unreliable information.

#### **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**

No information available

#### **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.*

Percentage of those who reported having been eligible to vote at European elections in 2004, among 18-25 year olds: 78%



*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*

Percentage of those who voted at European elections in 2004, among 18-25 year olds and eligible to vote: 37%

18yr – 37%

19yr – 42%

20yr – 41%

21yr – 25%

22yr – 32%

23yr – 34%

24yr – 35%

25yr – 31%

*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*

Percentage of those who voted amongst those who were eligible to vote in European elections:

Men: 37%

Women: 37%

*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*

Percentage of those who voted amongst those who were eligible to vote in European elections:

City: 39%

Suburb: 44%

Town: 35%

Village: 29%

Farmhouse: 42%

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

Total turnout: 27%

Turnout among youth 18-25 years old: 37%

#### **5.4 National indicators of participation in the polls**

*Regarding national elections, please use only the last election that has taken place.*

*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*

No information available

*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*

No information 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*

No information 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*

No information available

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

No information 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*

No information available

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

No information available

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

*Number of young women and young men (under the age of 30) who are member of the national parliament.*

Overall – 11, men – 9, women – 2

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

No regional level elected institutions

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

*These young people could be members of local parliaments, city councils etc.*

*Select those young people who hold a representative position of the equivalent of parliaments on the local level.*

No information available

**6 List 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.**

*Are there actions, programmes or is there support for young people who are interested in participating to that system? For example: Is there special support for young people who are candidates in the elections?*

National campaigns in mass media channels which aim to mobilise people to vote. Voting carries socially positive meaning.

**6.1 Are there any instruments used to monitor the results of this support?**

No

**6.2 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at specific groups of young people?**

*Examples for “specific groups”: young workers or socially disadvantaged young people.*

No

**7 Learning to participate**

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

National curriculum of civic education, which gives an overview of core democratic institutions and processes in an open society.

Developing open class climate and discussion of social and political events

*7.1.2 Please list guidelines, teacher training programmes, etc. that are related to citizens’ education but are not directly affecting the formal curriculum.*

Teachers first obtain university degree in the subject which they will teach at school and after that they pass the programme of pedagogy. As a result, teachers are ready to use various methods of teaching. Research has revealed that open class climate and discussions between teacher and pupils support pupils’ interest in social and political circumstances, events and developments. Teachers are encouraged to use methods that open discussions in the class.

**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?**

Young people can learn and practice key competencies and 'life skills' in youth organizations and in carrying out youth projects as well as in hobby education, youth centers, youth camps and in other fields of youth work. The main forms of support are financial and organizational.

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

*Examples of specific groups: young leaders or socially disadvantaged young people*

No