



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

LATVIA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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Table of contents

1 Structures of participation at the local regional or national level.....	3
2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of institutions allowing for participation in representative democracy	3
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	5
4 The vote	5
5 The elections	6
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.	8
7 Learning to participate	8

1 Structures of participation at the local regional or national level

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

Rīgas skolēnu dome, contact person – Madara Smite. The role is to represent all Riga's schools and their pupils' councils, consult them and cooperate with Riga city council. It represents all pupils from Riga City. There are Youth Parliaments in Cesis, Rezekne, Aluksne, Liepāja.

Cesu jaunatnes Dome, the contact person is Alise Freimane (Cēsis State Gymnasium).

Liepājas Skolēnu Dome – www.jauns.lv

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

No clearly defined regional youth Parliaments

1.1.3 National youth parliaments (names + contact person + role + number of people this represents)

No National Youth Parliaments

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

There are different forms of youth councils or youth committees. Some of them are simply called “youth council”; others are called “student councils” or “pupil councils”. You may find other councils representing particular groups of young people. Students' Councils are established in at least 28 higher education institutions,

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

There are local pupil councils in almost every secondary school and student councils in most higher education institutions in Latvia. No information about regional youth councils.

1.2.3 National youth councils

Latvian Youth Council: www.ljp.lv; ljp@ljp.lv Kalpaka bulvāris 10-18, Rīga, LV-1050;

President: Eva Ikstena

Student Union of Latvia www.lsa.org.lv (Baznīcas iela 5-20, Rīga; lsa@lanet.lv)

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

Data not complete. At least 0.15% form global population are young people from 13 to 30 who are members of a political party's youth organisation. There is no information if they are also members of that specific political party.

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

Data not available.

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

Data not complete. Existing data show that about 1% of global population age 13 to 30 are members of a trade union.

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

No statistical data available. According to survey data about 5% of youth are engaged in youth organisations.

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

There are about 70 youth organisations in Latvia. They cover various fields of activities – environment, culture, sports, leisure time, democratic movements, religion, health, education, etc. In many cases, youth organisations have several priorities. No statistical data on certain types of youth organisations available.

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

Statistical data not available. Survey data (2005) show that at age 13-18 girls are more active than boys.

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.

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

Ministry for Children and Family Affairs provide project based funding for organisational development to promote the participation of young people. Some municipalities (for example, Liepaja, Cesis and others) provide funding for youth projects.

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

Some municipalities (for example, Liepaja, Cesis and others provide funding for youth projects. (8 lines)

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

Youth divisions of different political parties receive financial support for most of their activities, but there is no concrete information on amounts and specific activities which were supported. No information on youth NGOs and received financial support.

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

On the local level the short term support might be offered by local municipality or project funding.

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

No special actions for certain groups such as young emigrants or young men. There are project based special actions for disadvantaged youth groups, groups at risk of social exclusion.

4 The vote

4.1 Is voting obligatory?

Yes.

4.2 Age of the right to vote

18.

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

All citizens of Latvia aged 18 and over are entitled to vote in all types of elections (on national, regional and local level), except those who are imprisoned or certifiably insane

4.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

21 on national level and 18 on local government level.

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

All citizens of Latvia aged 21 on national level and 18 on local government level and over, except those who are imprisoned, who are in criminal charge or under criminal penalty, or who have been in Communist party after year 1991.

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

Data not 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

Statistical data not 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.

Data not available.

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

Data 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

Data 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

Data not available.

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

Data 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

Data not 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

Data 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

Data 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

Data not available.

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

Data not available.

5.5 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

Data not available.

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

Data not available.

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

Data not available.

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

2 young men were elected

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

There are elections of local governments; no regional and local elections. 217 young people were elected, there is no data disaggregated by gender

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

See 5.7.

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.

There are no such actions, programmes or support at national or regional level. Political parties have youth sections, but no data on support are publically available.

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

No information. No transparent instruments.

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

No planned actions at specific groups of young people.

7 Learning to participate

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

Within the formal education, curriculum in Civics includes understanding democratic participation. No special actions.

7.1.1 What are the mechanisms of citizens' education in formal education?

Citizen's education plays a significant role in the formal curriculum in the educational system. It is based on the professional standard of the teacher training programme in civics (adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science in 2002), and includes the following tasks: to develop individual social science concept; to realise the programme of civics, in accordance to the age group, to evaluate the student success, to promote student success and student participation, to improve students' skills in risk evaluation, to promote democratic relations, attitudes and skills for the participation in the processes of civic society, to use ICT in teaching and learning, etc.

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

Education Development centre (EDU) represents Latvia in CIVITAS: International Civic Education Exchange Program. CIVITAS in Latvia disseminate the programs and teaching/learning materials developed by *US Department of Education Center for Civic Education (CCE)* in civic education. This is a network program which involves countries throughout the world and provides leaders in civic education with the opportunities to learn from and assist each other in improving education for democracy in their countries. The program addresses full range of civic education activities from the development of educational policy, standards, curriculum frameworks and materials to teacher education, classroom implementation, research and evaluation.

CIVITAS project in 2007-8 is "Strengthening civic education and level of public participation in Latvia through the use of programs "Foundation of Democracy", Project 'Citizen' and "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution". The aim of the project is to promote professional awareness of the teachers and other civic educators about the importance of citizenship education and to develop their capacity to contribute to further development and strengthening of the democratic society and processes of integration in Latvia. Action project „Citizen”: The action project „Citizen” is a way of learning the world and a teaching/learning method with the help of which students of different age groups participate in researching and solving the problems of the local community. The EDC in cooperation with the International Civic Education Exchange program CIVITAS teaches the methods used in the project "Citizen" and provides consultations.

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?

The list of most interesting events outside formal education:

1. The seminar of the cooperation schools of the Education Development centre (EDC) was devoted to the presentation of the results of the action project "Citizen" implemented in academic year 2007/2008. Participants - students and their teachers from 12 schools from all over Latvia as well as specialists on civic education from Latvia and USA
2. Naturalisation Board has organised a project for youth activities "Citizenship – my responsibility, rights and opportunities", which has been supported by the Society Integration Fund. Youth from all Latvia participated.
3. British Council together with the Ministry of Education and Science have organised informal learning within the project programme "Dream + Team", which took place in Liepaja and was aimed at development of leadership skills of youth.
4. Some political parties organise and support informal education of young leaders – for example, *Tautas partija* organizes "*the school of young leaders*", which take place in several cities and towns (5).

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

Some political parties organise and support informal education of young leaders – for example, *Tautas partija* organizes "*the school of young leaders*", where the principles of democracy are discussed, organisation of Parliamentary democracy, etc.

The organisation of Women entrepreneurs have organised training for young disadvantageous women on small business development.