

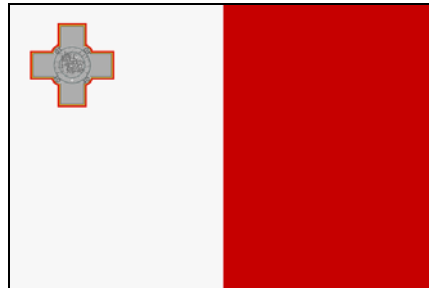


YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

MALTA



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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Table of contents

1 Please explain the context of youth participation in your country	3
2. Structures of participation at the local regional or national level.....	3
3 Participation in representative democracy	4
4 Explain the existing support measures, of national, regional or local scope, to promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms	5
5 The vote	5
6. The elections	6
7. List actions, programmes, and financial or social support that promote the participation in the system of representative democracy, in particular to young people	7
8 Learning to participate	7
9. Describe other, informal ways young people choose to participate in your country	8

1 Please explain the context of youth participation in your country

Youth are quite active and participative in various structures in our country. The National Youth Policy Document (2004) article 12 highlights participation of youths in all spheres of society. In the field of participation, the State follows a policy that:

- affirms the importance of an easily-accessible, adequate and relevant information programme as a fundamental requirement for the eventual effective participation of young people in community life.
- recognises that young people's competent influence should be assessed and achieved through dialogue and equitable representation.
- acknowledges that schools, youth organisations, the National Youth Council, local councils and other non-associated groups are the domains that should provide an ideal opportunity for nurturing participation skills and their implementation;
- involves young people in regular meetings and initiatives both at the local, regional and international level.

2. Structures of participation at the local regional or national level

2.1 Youth councils

2.1.1 National youth councils

In Malta we have the National Youth Council which represents youth organisations in Malta. National Youth Council 36, Old Mint Street, Valletta VLT 12, Malta Tel: (+356) 21245375 Fax: (+356) 21245376 info@knz.org.mt - www.knz.org.mt

2.1.2 Regional youth councils

Do not exist.

2.1.3 Local youth councils

- Local Youth Councils – This is project which is being implemented for the third year and encourages young people from the local community to form a youth council to make proposals and suggestions to the Government local council to improve its service to young people.
- Student Councils do exist in schools and Colleges
- Additionally, there are youth committees in various localities including youth who involve themselves in local youth organisations and band clubs.

2.2 Youth parliaments on national, regional and local level (if applicable)

The National Youth Parliament (official name)

The National Youth Council organises the National Youth Parliament, and this year has been the fourth annual event. Youth between the ages of 13-17 and from 19-35 apply to take part. They choose the theme for discussion themselves according to national priorities, issue policy papers and discuss them at the house of representatives. There is no limited number of how many people can apply for this experience. Every young person who applies will be given the opportunity to participate. Participation of youth usually comes from secondary schools and youth organisations. The event usually takes place in September and youth are prepared for the event by participating in a weekend seminar, preparation meetings, day seminars and visits to the House of Representatives. On the day youth, vote on resolutions and propose amendments.

3 Participation in representative democracy

3.1 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a political party or political youth organisations, if possible by gender

No data is available except that the following are the political youth branches that exist.

- ADZ youths Alternattiva Demokratika Zghazagh
- FZL- Forum Zghazagh Laburista
- MZPN- Membri Zghazajgh Partit Nazzjonalista
- MZPN – Gozo Branch

3.2 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a trade union

No data is available except that the following are the union youth branches that exist.

- CMTU – Confederation of Malta Trade Union
- GWU Youths (General Workers Union)
- UHM Youths (Union Haddiema Maghqudin)

3.3 Percentage of young people (in total and by gender) who are members of a youth non-governmental organisation, which are not trade unions, political parties or political youth organisations. If possible give information about the type of organisations.

NA

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

No answer available

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

The government provides financial support to the National Youth Council. Support is also given through the Youth Support Programme to youth organisations who devise projects and initiatives.

4.2 Which financial actions on national level aimed at certain specific groups of young people exist?

No answers available

5 The vote

5.1 Is voting obligatory?

The voting in Malta is not obligatory although Maltese citizens are very interested in politics and there is a high turnout of voting in our country. Citizens have the opportunity to vote during General Elections to elect government representatives, Local Council elections to elect Local Councillors and during MEP (European Parliament elections). We also have the opportunity to vote during referendums when the need arises.

5.2 Age of the right to vote

The voting age in Malta is at eighteen years of age in all elections mentioned in 5.1

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

General Elections:-

- Male and Female aged 18 and upwards
- Maltese Citizens
- Resident in Malta and has during the eighteen months preceding his registration been a resident for a continuous period of 6 months or for periods amounting in the aggregate to six months

Local Councils:-

- Every citizen of Malta whose name appears in the last published Electoral Register and who has not been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of Local Councils.
- Every person who is a national of a Member State of the EU whose name appears in the last published EU Electoral Register and who has not been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of Local Councils.

MEP elections:

- Every person whose name appears in the Electoral Register last published before the date fixed for the election
- every person whose name appears in the EU Electoral Register

5.4 Requirements for being entitled as a candidate in national, regional or local elections (age, nationality , etc.)

From eighteen years of age upwards.

6. The elections

6.1 Indicators of participation related to the election of the European Parliament

6.1.1 In the election of the European Parliament, the number and percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote (in total and by gender)

NA

6.1.2 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population voting

NA

6.2 National indicators of participation in the polls

6.2.1 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote (in total, by gender and by age groups)

18-21 - 29 %

22-25 - 32 %

26-30 - 39 %

female 48 % male 52 %

6.2.2 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population who has voted.

No data available

6.3 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

No data available

6.3.1 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote

No data available

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

No data available

6.4 Number of young people elected (under the age of 30) at the national, regional and local level: overall and by gender (please specify the age range)

No data available

7. 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?

The Youth in Action Programme

The Youth Support Programme - This a local funding programme available for small youth organisations that want to embark on small and short term initiatives.

Political parties also support candidates in terms of exposure.

8 Learning to participate

8.1 Existing actions and mechanisms within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate (citizens' education). Related guidelines and teacher training programmes aiming at integrating citizen's education into the curriculum.

In our schools there are students' councils and representatives that promote participation and democracy. There is also the Personal and Social Development Curriculum which also covers active - citizenship.

8.2 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? Give examples of good practise.

No data available

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

NO

9. Describe other, informal ways young people choose to participate in your country.

In NGOS and church groups.