

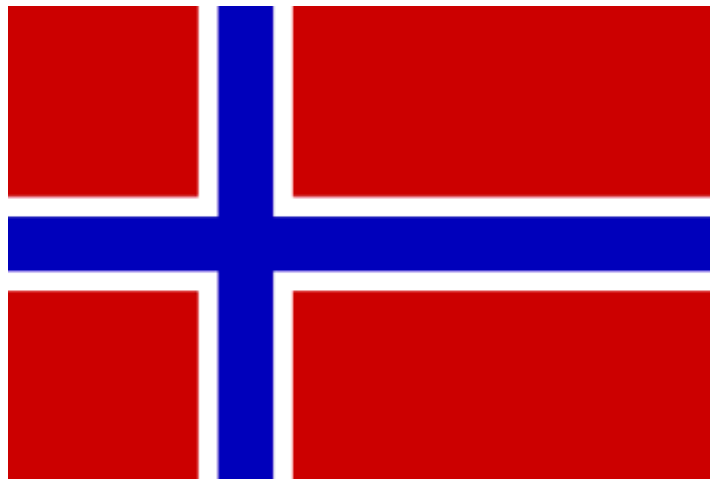


YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

NORWAY



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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

Approximately 300 to 350 of the 431 municipalities in Norway have established youth councils or other models/mechanisms of youth participation at the municipal level. The level of activity and the way members are recruited vary substantially among the different youth bodies. In some cases the youth council/parliament is a permanent structure with regular meetings and democratically elected delegates. The role of the local parliament/youth council is to be consulted and express their opinions on matters of specific interest to young people, and represent those who do not have the right to vote.

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

There are at present (2008) youth parliaments in seven of the nineteen counties:

Ungdommens Fylkesting i Hedmark, www.ungting.no

Ungdommens Fylkesting i Hordaland, ungkultur.igest.no/fylkesting.html

Ungdommens Fylkesting i Oppland, Per Werner Strandmoen

Ungdommens Fylkesting i Sogn og Fjordane, Aud Jonstad Bårdsen

Ungdommens Fylkesting og Ungdomspanelet i Møre og Romsdal, www.ungdoms.net

Ungdommens Fylkesting i Nordland, www.nfk.no/ung

Ungdommens bystyre i Oslo, <http://www.ung-makt.no/art/?id=37>

The role of the regional youth parliaments is to represent those who are too young to vote in matters concerning them.

1.1.3 National youth parliaments

There exists no youth parliament on a national level.

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

At www.ung-makt.no there is an overview of all the youth councils and contact persons.

See also 1.1.1.

At all schools there have to be a pupils or student council representing the pupils and students – see www.elev.no

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

There are at present 12 functioning regional youth councils in Norway. These councils are umbrella organisations for regional youth organisations. They are consulted on youth-related matters at a regional level. See www.lnu.no for an overview of the councils.

In addition there are pupils and student councils in all the 19 counties – see www.elev.no.

1.2.3 National youth councils

LNU (The Norwegian Children and Youth Council) represents more than 70 nationwide non-governmental organisations. See www.lnu.no for more information.

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

10% of youth aged 13 – 19 are active in political parties (Source: Young in Norway 2002)

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

Percentage of youth that are active in political parties (Source: Young in Norway 2002):

| Male | Female |
|------|--------|
| 9.7 | 10.2 |

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

N/A

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

61% of youth aged 13 – 19 are engaged in youth organisations (Source: Young in Norway 2002).

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

Participation in voluntary youth organisations working in these areas:

(Source: Young in Norway 2002):

| Organisations | % |
|--|----|
| Recreational | 14 |
| Cultural | 14 |
| Religious | 5 |
| Political, humanitarian and environment protection | 7 |
| Other non-sports | 11 |
| Sports | 40 |

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

| | |
|--------|----|
| Male | 64 |
| Female | 58 |

Source: Young in Norway 2002

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

See 2.3.1

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

Participation in voluntary non-governmental organisations is very common in Norway. Youth participation in non-governmental youth organisations is considered important for developing democratic skills and for representing young people's interests. In order to promote the active participation of children and youth in organisational life, the government pursues a range of different support policies. This ranges from tax deduction schemes for NGOs, regular and close dialogue with the youth organisations and with the Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) and through governmental funding schemes. The Ministry of Children and Equality provides approximately EUR 11 million (2008) in annual administrative funding for non-governmental youth organisations. Through the Ministry of Culture approximately EUR

13 million annually to non-governmental child and youth activities at local level, distributed by the Norwegian Children and Youth Council.

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

See 3

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

Youth organisations receive financial support over the fiscal budget. See 3

3.3 Planned initiatives in the short term to support youth participation on the local level?

N/A

3.4 Existing or planned actions aim at certain specific groups of young people?

Several ministries have special programmes targeting the immigrant population: Among them is the Ministry of Children and Equality which has a special grant scheme that supports projects aiming at integrating young people with an immigrant background into non-governmental youth organisations. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has special programmes supporting the inclusion of young immigrants into the labour market. This ministry also provides administrative funding to some non-governmental organisations which primarily bring together young immigrants. The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion also has programmes targeting the young unemployed. The Ministry of Children and Equality has a programme targeting poor families with children.

In addition to these efforts at the national level, Norwegian municipalities – which enjoy a high level of self-determination – have programmes supporting young immigrants, young unemployed people and young people with physical and mental disabilities.

4 The vote

4.1 Is voting obligatory?

No

4.2 Age of the right to vote

18

4.3 Entitlement to vote in local, regional and national elections.

All Norwegian citizens above the age of 18 are eligible to vote in elections at local, regional and national levels. People who have had a permanent residence in Norway for 3 years, but do not have Norwegian nationality are allowed to vote in local and regional elections.

4.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

18

4.5 Entitlement to be a candidate in local, regional or national elections.

All Norwegian citizens above the age of 18 are eligible to stand as candidates in elections at local, regional and national level. People who are permanent residents of Norway (a minimum of 3 years) but do not have Norwegian nationality are allowed to stand as candidates in local and regional elections.

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

See 5.4.2 and 5.4.3

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

All people with residence in Norway and entitled to vote are automatically registered.

5.3 Indicators of participation related to European polls

Questionnaire on Participation – Norway

These indicators are related to the election of the European parliament. You want to proceed with section 6.4 if the country of your review is not a member state of the European Union.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

100% See 5.2.

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

Participation in the national election of 2005 by age group (%):

| 18-21 | 22-25 | 26-29 |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 55.3 | 63.1 | 68.1 |

Questionnaire on Participation – Norway

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*

Participation in the national election of 2005 by age groups and gender (%):

| | 18-21 | 22-25 | 26-29 |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| Male | 54.6 | 63.7 | 65 |
| Female | 56.1 | 62.4 | 71.3 |

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*

N/A

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

In 2007 the percentage of young voters was 20.04.

5.5 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

N/A

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*

N/A

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

19.34

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

11 persons under the age of 30 are members of parliament (Periode 2005-09), 5 women and 6 men. The Parliament has 169 members.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

Most upper secondary schools hold mock elections a couple of weeks before general elections to encourage young people to become familiar with the political system and develop an interest in politics. These mock elections have become an important indicator of new political trends, and young politicians and candidates in elections travel across the country to attend political debates at schools. These mock elections are supported by the government. The Norwegian Children and Youth Council (LNU) together with several other non-governmental organisations typically organise campaigns aimed at encouraging young people to participate in elections. Such campaigns sometimes receive funding from the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

All political parties represented in the Storting (Parliament) have young candidates on their lists, and run training programmes to empower their young political candidates standing for election.

6.1 Instruments used to monitor the results of this support.

The results of national mock elections at upper secondary schools (see pt. 6 above) are published in the national newspapers.

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

N/A

7 Learning to participate

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

There are elected student councils that represent the pupils in matters affecting them. Members of youth councils are elected by students during school hours.

7.1.1 Mechanisms of citizens' education in formal education?

The day to day participation of the students in the teaching situation and the recognition of the student's opinion in matters concerning them is regarded as the best way of learning about democracy.

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

N/A

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?

Participation in voluntary organisations is generally considered important for developing democratic competence among youth. The government encourages learning through study circles. The Association for Non-formal Education in Norway, named Populus (www.populus.no), has more than 70 non-governmental associations as members, many of which cater specifically to young people. Another association for non-formal learning on nature and the environment (www.naturogmiljo.no) has about 20 member organisations, several of which are child and youth organisations. The aims of these two umbrella associations are to promote non-formal education within their member organisations, and to distribute government funds to support such education.

7.3 Existing or planned actions aim at certain specific groups of young people?

N/A