

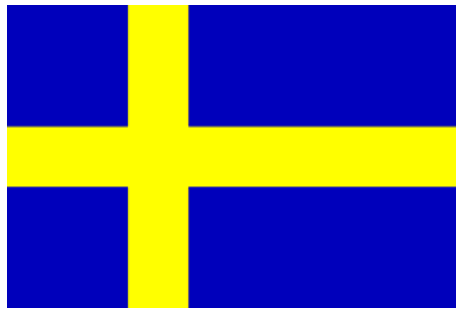


YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

SWEDEN



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

A number of Swedish municipalities have structures for young people's participation and influence as well as dialogue between young people and decision makers in the municipalities. There are however only a few, if any, permanent representative youth parliaments at local level. Please see answer 1.2.1 for a description of and link to a list over local structures for youth involvement in local democracy.

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

N/A

1.1.3 National youth parliaments

N/A

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

A number of Swedish municipalities (there are 290 in total) have structures for young people's participation and influence as well as dialog between young people and decision makers in the municipalities. How these structures are organised and which themes they focus on varies from municipality to municipality. The forums might be named e.g. youth councils, youth forums, youth delegations or youth parliaments. Some of them promote their own questions, others have an advisory function to politicians and civil servants, some function as a formal referral body and some might have all or several of these functions. They are important arenas for those that still do not have the right to vote, and they have become a more frequent used platform for youth involvement at local level. They can however not be an alternative to, or compensate the lack of, youth participation in formal decision making processes at local level. In a poll from 2006 51 % of the municipalities of Sweden responded that they had a forum for youth influence and participation (Source: Ung idag 2007, the Swedish National Board for Youth Affairs).

Youth Councils of Sweden (*Sveriges Ungdomsråd*) is an umbrella organisation for local youth councils. The organisation is both a network that acts as intermediary between local youth councils that are members of the organisation and it works with strategies to develop the skills of its members.

Contact details: Box 510, 351 06 Växjö. Tel +46 (0)73-390 25 51.

E-mail: kontakt@sverigesungdomsrad.se.

Website: <http://www.sverigesungdomsrad.se>

For a list of local structures for participation and influence please refer to the list of members of Youth Councils of Sweden at <http://forum.ungdomstorget.se>.

There are two national pupil councils:

The Swedish student council association (*Sveriges elevråd – SVEA*) is an umbrella organisation for about 450 local pupil councils.

Contact details: Ölandsgatan 49 A, 116 63 Stockholm. Tel +46 (0)8 562 788 00.

E-mail: info@svea.org. Website: <http://www.svea.org>.

The Swedish Organisation for Pupils (*Sveriges Elevråds Centralorganisation – SECO*) organises local pupil councils.

Contact details: Malmgårdsvägen 63, 116 38 Stockholm. Tel +46 (0)8 644 45 00.

E-mail: info@sverigeselevrad.se. Website: <http://www.elevorg.se>.

1.2.2 Regional youth councils

N/I

1.2.3 National youth councils

The National Council of Swedish Youth Organisations – LSU (*Landsrådet för Sveriges Ungdomsorganisationer*), is a coordinating body for almost 100 Swedish youth organisations. It aims at constituting a forum for matters of common interest in youth organisations and providing a network for national as well as international organisations dealing with youth cooperation.

Contact details: Gammelgårdsvägen 38-42, 112 64 Stockholm. Tel +46 8 672 6670

E-mail: info@lsu.se. Website: <http://www.lsu.se>.

Youth Councils of Sweden (*Sveriges Ungdomsråd*) is an umbrella organisation for local youth councils. The organisation is both a network that acts as intermediary between local youth councils that are members of the organisation and it works with strategies to develop the skills of its members.

Contact details: Box 510, 351 06 Växjö. Tel +46 (0)73-390 25 51.

E-mail: kontakt@sverigesungdomsrad.se.

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Contact details: Malmgårdsvägen 63, 116 38 Stockholm. Tel +46 (0)8 644 45 00.

E-mail: info@sverigeselevrad.se. Website: <http://www.elevorg.se>.

The Youth Parliament URIX (*URIX åsiktsfestival*) is an annual national gathering of approximately 1000 young people between 13 and 18. URIX is organised and financed by a foundation based on four major youth organisations.

Contact details: c/o Kvinnoforum, Karlbergsvägen 77, 113 35 Stockholm.

Tel +46 (0)8 522 300 40.

E-mail: info@urix.se. Website: <http://www.urix.se>.

A parallel to URIX is the Youth Parliament of the Environment (*Ungdomens miljöriksdag*). The parliament is founded and mainly financed by one of the large environmental movements in Sweden. The aim is to be a resource for schools in issues concerning environmental and sustainable development.

Contact details: Garvargatan 9c, 112 21 Stockholm. Tel +46 (0)8 789 29 02.

E-mail: info@umr.se. Website: <http://www.umr.se>.

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

4% of all young people aged 16 to 25 are members of a political party (statistics from 2004/2005).

(Source: Ung idag 2007. The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>)

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

3% of all women and 5% of all men aged 16-25 are members of a political party (statistics from 2004/2005).

(Source: Ung idag 2007. The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>)

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

N/I

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

64% of all young people aged 16-25 are members of an organisation (not only youth organisation). 28% of all young people aged 16-25 are active members of an organisation (not only youth organisation) (statistics from 2004/2005).

(Source: Ung idag 2007. The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>)

2.3.1 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation by type of general activities.

The figures in 2.3 concern young people who report they are members and active members of an organisation, not only youth organisations. It is however probable that most of these young people are members in an organisation by young people or offering activities for young people. 60 % of all young people aged 16-25 are members of a sports organisation.

(Source: Ung idag 2007. The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se)

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

63% of all women and 65% of all men aged 16-25 are members of an organisation (not only youth organisation) (statistics from 2004/2005).

(Source: Ung idag 2007. The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), <http://www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se>)

2.3.3 Percentage by gender of young people who are members of a youth organisation by type of general activities

The figures in 2.3.2 concern young people who report they are members and active members of an organisation, not only youth organisations. It is however probable that most of these young people are members in an organisation by young people or offering activities for young people. 60 % of all young people aged 16-25 are members of a sports organisation.

(Source: Ung idag 2007: The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*), www.ungdomsstyrelsen.se)

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

To ensure that young people have real access to influence is one of the two goals of the national youth policy. It is however in the municipalities that decisions are made on many of the factors of most importance for the situation of young people. An important part of the Government's efforts to strengthen young peoples influence over their own lives and over society is therefore focused on

supporting municipalities and youth organisations/local youth associations in developing methods for local youth involvement.

The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) is responsible for producing and disseminating knowledge in the field of local youth participation. It supports municipalities in developing local youth policies, setting up local youth councils, carrying out surveys, etc. Every year the Board appoints “the Youth Municipality of the Year” (*Årets ungdomskommun*), highlighting municipalities that work actively with local youth policy, including youth participation. Furthermore, the Board supports the work of the Youth Councils of Sweden (*Sveriges Ungdomsråd*).

The National Board for Youth Affairs administers funds for supporting youth organisations and other youth structures, such as the governmental fund for youth organisations, where youth organisations receive grants enabling them to work actively with youth participation in local democracy.

The National Board for Youth Affairs is responsible for producing an annual report to the Government on the situation of young people in Sweden. The report is built on contributions from governmental agencies in a broad specter of policy areas (education, employment, culture, health, etc), and covers even the situation in the field of youth participation. Here, indicators such as membership in political parties, membership in organisations, participation in political actions, etc., are presented and analysed. The National Board for Youth Affairs delivers a report to the Government on the development within the Board’s areas of responsibility each year, in which even the status regarding young people’s participation in society is included.

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

Many municipalities work actively to develop structures for local youth participation. Around half of the Swedish municipalities have such structures.

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

It is possible for Swedish youth NGOs to receive financial support from the Swedish Government. The funding is distributed by the National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) according to open criteria defined by the Parliament (the Riksdag) and the Government. The criteria ruling the financial support are general, mainly focusing on matters of democracy. In 2007 The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) distributed 22 million Euros to the youth organisations. A majority of the Swedish municipalities distribute funds to local youth NGOs.

The National Board for Youth Affairs even provided grants for the youth policy development work of municipalities.

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term to support youth participation on the local level

The Government will, through the National Board for Youth Affairs, continue stimulating local youth participation financially (support for youth organisations and municipalities) and in terms of other support activities (dissemination of knowledge, networking, seminars, etc).

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

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds have a high priority in the Government's efforts to stimulate local youth participation.

4 The vote

4.1 Obligatory

YES ✓ NO

4.2 Age of the right to vote

Those who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day have the right to vote (see 4.3).

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

Voting rights to Parliament (*Riksdagen*) elections are reserved for all Swedish citizens who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day and who are, or have at some time been, registered residents of Sweden.

Voting rights in county council and municipal assembly elections are reserved for Swedish citizens who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day and who are registered residents of Sweden within the county or municipality. Citizens of any Member State of the European Union (Union citizens) and citizens of Iceland and Norway are also entitled to vote in county council and municipal assembly elections under the same conditions. Citizens of other states are entitled to vote if they have been registered residents of Sweden for three consecutive years on Election Day.

4.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

Those who are 18 years of age before or on Election Day might be eligible to be a candidate (see 4.5).

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

If you have the right to vote in an election you are also allowed to be a candidate. Please refer to 4.3 for more information.

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election 910 300 young people (76.6% of the age group) aged 18-29 voted.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election 1 188 500 young people aged 18-29 had the right to vote.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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.

In the 2004 European parliament election 28.7% of young people aged 18-29 voted.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2004 European parliament election

- 26.5% of young people aged 18-24 voted
- 31.6% of young people aged 25-29 voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2004 European parliament election

- 30.8% of young women aged 18-29 voted
- 26.7% of young men aged 18-29 voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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/I

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

In the 2004 European parliament election

- 28.7% of young people aged 18-29 voted
- 38.4% of the total population voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election 76.6% of young people in the age group 18-29 voted.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election

- 75.6% of young people aged 18-22 voted
- 73.9% of young people aged 22-24 voted
- 78.9% of young people aged 25-29 voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election

- 77.5% of young women and 73.8% of young men aged 18-22 voted
- 76.8% of young women and 71.3% of young men aged 22-24 voted
- 81.4% of young women and 76.5% of young men aged 25-29 voted

This adds up to

- 78.9% of young women and 74.4% of young men aged 18-29 voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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/I

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election

- 76.6% of young people aged 18-29 voted
- 82.9% of the total population voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In 2006

- 69.9% of young people aged 18-29 voted in the regional election, the county council elections
- 70.4% of young people aged 18-29 voted in the local election, the municipal assembly elections

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 regional election, the county council elections

- 69.9% of young people aged 18-29 voted
- 78.8% of the total population voted

In the 2006 local election, the municipal assembly elections

- 70.4% of young people aged 18-29 voted
- 79.4% of the total population voted

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 parliament (*Riksdag*) election 16 young people aged 18-29 at the time of the election were elected: 8 women and 8 men. These 16 were 5% of the members of the Riksdag.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 regional election, the county council elections, 66 young people aged 18-29 at the time of the election were elected: 36 women and 30 men (estimates). These 66 were 4% of the members of the regional parliaments.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

In the 2006 local election, the municipal assembly elections, around 700 young people aged 18-29 at the time of the election were elected, about 50% women and 50% men (estimates). These 700 were 5% of the total number of members of the local parliaments, city councils, etc.

(Source: Statistics Sweden, www.scb.se)

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

During 2006 the national campaign School elections 2006 (*Skolval 2006*) was carried out in 1 400 schools all over the country. 405 000 pupils participated in a national election a few days before the ordinary national, regional and local parliament elections. The activity often included studies, discussions, plenary meetings with political parties, personal meeting with politicians, etc. as preparation before the election. The campaign gave young people all over Sweden a possibility to learn more about representative democracy in our country, a platform for introducing their questions and priorities to local politicians and a channel for indicating the political currents among young people.

The National Board for Youth Affairs (*Ungdomsstyrelsen*) was commissioned by the Ministry of Justice to organise the campaign in cooperation with The Youth Councils of Sweden (*Sveriges Ungdomsråd*) and the Swedish student council association (*Sveriges elevråd – SVEA*) and The Swedish National Agency for School Improvement . The partners provided a web site with suggestions on how the campaign could be organised locally, ideas and good examples on how the campaign could stimulate local youth participation, pedagogical material to be used by teachers and pupils, etc. The partners even gathered and presented the results from the school elections.

For further information, contact:

Youth Councils of Sweden (*Sveriges Ungdomsråd*)

Contact details: Box 510, 351 06 Växjö. Tel +46 (0)73-390 25 51.

E-mail: kontakt@sverigesungdomsrad.se.

Website: <http://www.sverigesungdomsrad.se>

The Swedish student council association (*Sveriges elevråd – SVEA*)

Contact details: Ölandsgatan 49 A, 116 63 Stockholm. Tel +46 (0)8 562 788 00.

E-mail: info@svea.org. Website: <http://www.svea.org>.

6.1 Instruments used to monitor the results of this support.

The National Board for Youth Affairs has been commissioned by the Government to carry out an evaluation of the School elections 2006 campaign. The results has been presented to the Government on 31st December 2007.

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

The campaign School elections 2006 was aimed at all young people in the participating schools.

7 Learning to participate

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

According to the Swedish Education Act (*Skollagen*) the curriculum, national objectives and guidelines for the public education system, promotion of active participation in different levels of society is one of the missions of the Swedish school system. Swedish schools focus on formal learning within the ordinary curriculum; they offer pupils and students both formal and informal forums for influencing teaching, budgets, physical environment, etc. They provide education in citizenship and they actively work against any form of harassment and discrimination. Even if participation and citizenship is a part of the ordinary curriculum, special efforts are made from time to time to focus on specific matters. The School election 2006 campaign (see 6) is an example of such an effort.

7.1.1 Mechanisms of citizens' education in formal education

According to the Swedish Education Act (*Skollagen*) all children and young people shall have equal access to education. Under the law, pupils are to be allowed to exercise influence over the structuring of their studies, to the extent and in the form warranted by their age and personal development. The democratic assignment is furthermore regulated in the national curriculum for the compulsory and non-compulsory school. It consists of:

- Teaching the students democracy and fundamental values.
- Schools and preschools themselves operating democratically; both staff and students participate in the development of schoolwork and the learning/teaching environment.
- The responsibility of schools and preschools to foster democratic members of society able to live and function in a democratic society. This involves working with the fundamental

value system, i.e., democratic values such as solidarity, equality between people and equal opportunities.

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

N/I

7.2 Existing actions and/or support - of national or regional scope- exist, aiming at promoting learning to participate amongst young people except from formal education

Non-formal learning to participate does to a large extent take place in Swedish youth organisations. In the youth organisations, young people will learn how to participate in the development and management of the organisation's own activities, as well as how to use the organisation as a base for the democratic dialogue with the rest of society. Government grants to Swedish youth organisations are therefore an important element of Swedish youth policy, allowing youth organisations to play an active role in the democratic upbringing of young people.

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

No