

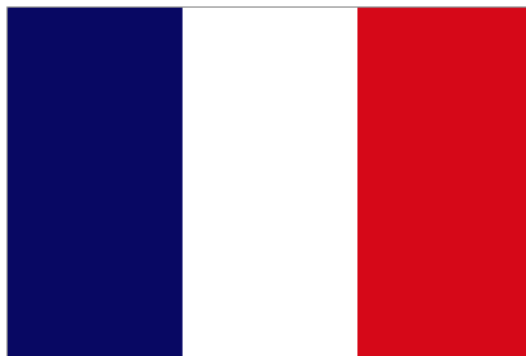


YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

FRANCE



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Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Please explain the context of youth participation in your country

There is no legislation in France about youth participation but many forms of youth participation have been developed by the government, the local authorities and the NGOs.

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

2.1 Youth councils

2.1.1 National youth councils

There are different types of national youth councils:

- The **National Youth Council (CNJ)**, headed by the High Commissioner for Youth, is made up of about 180 members from departmental youth councils and national trade-unions, political and associative structures. It is seized with questions relating to policies in favour of young people or of interest to them.
- The **national Council for high school life (CNVL)** is referred to by the Minister of Education and deals with school work, social, cultural and sport issues in high schools.

Furthermore, each department has a **Departmental Council for Youth, Sports and Associative life (CDJSVA)** working with the regional state representative. It is made up of public decision makers, associative partners, trade unions and other institutions playing a role in youth policies implemented by the State. It includes representatives of young people who take part in public life, aged from 16 to 25. Young people give their opinion and make proposals on issues related to the young people of their department. The regional state representative consults them on specific matters. They contribute to the development of the State territorial projects at the regional level.

2.1.2 Regional youth councils

There are **9 regional youth councils** in France in the following regions: Limousin, Ile de France, Franche-Comté, Midi-Pyrénées, PACA, Picardie, Bretagne, Pays de Loire and Lorraine.

Furthermore, **at the regional level** the Education Authority Councils for High School life are regional permanent structures headed by the regional representative of the National Education Authority. **There are 30 in France.** It gives opinions on matters related to school life and school work in high schools. Twenty high school students, who are also members of councils for high school life, are nominated within this council which gathers at most 40 persons (the other members are regional representatives of educative, political, economic or associative institutions nominated by the rector).

2.1.3 Local youth councils

There are about **200** local youth councils in France as well as **34** departmental youth councils.

Furthermore, **at the local level** and in every high school, there are 2625 Councils for high school life. In the same way as the above mentioned regional councils for High School life, the local councils are permanent institutions of representative democracy. They usually submit proposals on scholarship organisation, school projects, internal rules, organisation of school time, information concerning orientation, health, hygiene and security, organisation of sports and cultural activities and after school activities, training for students' representatives and use of high school funds. Ten high school students are elected by each council and make up half of the 20 members (the other members are the establishments' representatives, students' parents, associations related to high school students). The members of each councils are elected by the students of each school

2.2 Youth parliaments

National, regional and local youth parliaments

There is no youth parliament in France but youth councils that play that role. They are set up by the government at national, regional, departmental and city levels.

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

One per cent of young people are members of a political party (*source : Anne Muxel, "Que représente le vote des jeunes", INJEP en Direct, Février 200)*

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

Two per cent of young people aged 18/ 30 years old are members of a trade union (*sources Alternatives économiques May 2006)*

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.

Thirty seven per cent of young people aged 15 /29 years old are members of an association (*source : INSEE Première n ° 920 September 2007)*

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

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

There is no fund in France dedicated directly to young people in order to encourage their participation apart from the support programs for young people initiatives which are a different matter altogether.

The government covers all operating costs of the national youth councils. Each local authority covers all the operating costs of the participation structures they develop. The operating costs of high school participation structures are covered by the government via the budget for national education.

The High commission for Youth, people Education and associative life in charge of young people develops an incentive policy in order to foster the implementation by cities of participation institutions (local councils at the district level for example). The decentralised departments of the High commission for youth are in charge of implementing and supporting this institution on the financial and methodological levels (advice, information, and training).

Associations are also supported when they take part in activities aiming at encouraging young people participation. The ANACEJ (national association of children and youth councils) can get State financial support.

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

The actions are territorial and meant for the population of a whole district or town. However, for a few years, a particular attention has been paid to young people coming from underprivileged district.

Actions and training related to participation are regularly set up by educators in those areas.

5. The vote

5.1 Is voting obligatory?

People are free to vote or not to vote

5.2 Age of the right to vote

18 years

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

To be eligible, one must be of French nationality, over 18 and in full possession of one's civic and political rights. Moreover, the right to vote depends on one's registration on the electoral roll.

For municipal and European elections, nationals of a State member of the European Union living in France may participate, as long as they are registered on the electoral roll, in the same way as every French citizen.

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

- 18 for municipal, cantonal and regional elections,
- 23 for the presidential, legislative and European elections,
- 30 for senatorial elections..

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)

No data by age available

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

No data by age available

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)

73,9% of young people voted for the 2007 presidential election i.e. 4.933.000 young people

(This calculation was made on the basis of the abstention rate of all electors, which is 16, 1% [data from the Home Secretary] plus 10%, which represents the percentage generally assumed as being the increase of young people's abstention. This rate is applied to the part of young people in the whole electorate, which is of 15%).

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

See 6.2.1

6.3 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

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

As far as the regional elections are concerned, the turn out rate of people between 20 and 29 years of age is of 40% on average for the 2004 3 ballots (*2 ballots for the regional election and one for the European election*). (Source: *INSEE Première n° 997 December 2004*).

For the 2001 municipal elections, 47% of young people voted (source *TNS Sofres – “Le vote des jeunes”- Anne Muxel- 2002*).

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

As far as the regional elections are concerned, the percentage of young voters is 7,8%

As far as the municipal elections are concerned, the percentage of young voters is 9,5%

6.4 Number of young people elected at the national, regional and local level: overall and by gender

1 man, 1 woman in the National Assembly

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?

There is no special support to young people who are candidates in the election.

8 Learning to participate

8.1 Please list existing actions and mechanisms within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate (citizens' education).

A policy aiming at encouraging young people's engagement has been implemented by the High Commissioner for Youth. This policy relies on various tools such as the commitment guide, the organisation of commitment days etc... And particularly in school.

School encourages the learning of public spiritedness through civic education lessons, encouraging the acquisition of institutional knowledge.

In some universities trainings are available for student to help them take responsibilities within the school or associations.

The National Control Program (PNP) is the main frame for the monitoring of teachers' further training. Through the organisation of seminars at national level, it helps put some light on the main issues of education policy in order to draft more efficient training policies.

At the regional level, the teachers' training programs, particularly in middle and secondary schools, offer training periods for teachers on education, public spiritedness and health. The main issues tackled are non religious education, prevention against discriminations and sexism in school, sustainable development, education to health and sexuality etc...*(Information found on the website Eduscol – PAF – plans académiques de formation).*

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?

Several events focussed on commitment are organised in every school, university or learning centre, including the "commitment month" in April of every year.

Round tables, open days, animations and exhibitions are organised throughout the country during the whole month of April and is meant to enable young people to meet with associations or infrastructures likely to inform them on support to initiatives and different types of commitment.

The national association of children and young people councils (ANACEJ) supported by the State and the territorial authorities has to contribute to the development and the conducting of youth councils and every form of young people participation via meetings, trainings and research.

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

The sports associations' movement (CNOSF) has set up a training course for young sports managers with the support of the Ministry for Youth.

Young people associations are widely developed in underprivileged districts, they are meant for young people aged between 13 and 18. It requires from adults, associations, institutions, territorial authorities and public authorities to recognise the right of young people to take action.

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

Young people are also members or volunteers in NGOs and particularly the “mouvement de jeunesse et d’éducation populaire” (youth and popular education movements). They also are active in the development of cultural activities.