



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“PARTICIPATION”

ITALY



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1 Please explain the context of youth participation in your country (legislation, structures)

The participation systems adopted in Italy until now may be summarized as followed:

- School is one of the channels of participation: students are involved in various ways, such as class representatives from an early age (ten/eleven years old). At national level there is also a National Forum of the Students' Associations, created in 2002 by the Minister for Education. It aims at favoring the dialogue between the Ministry and the students' associations, representing needs and formulating proposals, providing advice about initiatives adopted by the Minister.
- The National Council of University Students is an advisory body, representing the students who attend. It offers advice and proposals to the Minister of Education, University and Research and elects eight students' representatives in the National University Council.
- In December 2006 the Ministry of Youth Policies and the Ministry of Home Affairs established together a Youth Consultation for Religious and Cultural Pluralism. The purpose of this Consultation is to encourage young people to play a leading role in building up models of dialogue and tolerance between Italy's different religions, faiths and cultures.
- Youth Councils (more than 470) exist in many Italian Municipalities and in some Regions with the aim to promote the dialogue among young people and represent their needs, proposals and opinions to the administrative and political authorities.
- The Youth National Forum (Forum Nazionale dei Giovani - www.forumnazionalegiovani.com) is the most representative national platform of the Italian youth organizations, representing more than 3,5 million of young people. From 2005 (Law 30 December 2004, no. 311) some of the interventions of the Youth National Forum are supported by the national Government through the National Fund for Youth Policies. Other forms of dialogue between young people and policy makers will be developed, increasing their consultation with surveys, on line forums, round tables and debates.

The new website of the Ministry of Youth (www.gioventu.it) have an online forum open to all young people invited to express their ideas on a specific topic (this month the topic was on the use of drugs such as ecstasy) or propose other focus of discussion for the

future. Moreover in this website, an online radio (Radio gioventù) every Wednesday afternoon broadcasts a programme to tell about positive young people's experience, inform on the activities, projects and public competitions of the Ministry of Youth and interview the Minister of Youth and the testimonials of social campaigns.

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

2.1 Youth councils

2.1.1 National youth councils

See answer to point 1.

2.1.2 Regional youth councils

Regional youth councils are 7 and they are located in the following Regions:

- Basilicata (<http://www.basilicata.net.it/>)
- Campania (<http://www.regione.campania.it/>)
- Emilia Romagna (<http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/>)
- Piemonte
(http://www.consiglioregionale.piemonte.it/organismi/org_cons/cons_giovani/index.htm)
- Toscana (<http://www.regione.toscana.it/>)
- Valle D' Aosta (<http://www.regione.vda.it/>)
- Veneto (<http://www.regione.veneto.it/channels>).

2.1.3 Local youth councils

Municipalities promote the establishment of Youth Councils (Consulte giovanili), with consultancy functions. Local youth councils are 471 and are located in different municipalities in all the country.

2.2 Youth parliaments:

There isn't any National Youth Parliament.

- Regional Youth Parliament of Puglia

The Parliament is composed of 31 young people representing the regional community and is divided in 3 commissions dealing respectively with: environment

and quality of life; school, training and job; active citizenship, sports, leisure time, art and culture.

The President is Mr Fallacara Francesco.

Phone +39.0832.30.95.92; Fax. +39.080.21.40.935)

(website <http://www.parlamentogiovanipuglia.org>).

- Regional Student Parliament of Liguria

It is composed of 30 students (50% girls and 50% boys) elected by the students of secondary high schools in Liguria and has representative and counsellor functions. The President elected by the members of Parliament is in charge for a period of five years. The Parliament meets at least three times a year and is divided in three commissions dealing with education, regional youth policies, training and employment, culture, sports and tourism.

Cabinet of the President:

Daniela Banfi

Phone: +39.010.548.5714; Fax: +39.010.537.3882

E-mail: gabinetto@regione.liguria.it

(website: <http://www.regione.liguria.it/>)

- Regional Student Parliament of Toscana

It is composed of 60 students of whom 50 are elected by the students of the secondary high schools and 10 are reserved to the Presidents of the Student's Councils.

Phone: +39.055.2387333 fax +39.055.2387379

E-mail: c.dolci@consiglio.regione.toscana.it

Website : <http://www.consiglio.regione.toscana.it/Istituzione/Parlamento-degli-Studenti/default.asp>

- Regional Student Parliament of Abruzzo

It is composed of students elected among the students of the secondary high schools that remain in charge for two years.

The President is Mr Marco Cozzi.

Phone: +39.0862.644740.

(website: http://consiglio.regione.abruzzo.it/parlamento_studenti/)

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

All major Italian political created their youth organisations. Data about their members do exist, but are seldom made available.

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

An assessment of the amount of young people belonging to the Trade Unions is by no means an easy task. The main organisations in Italy do not represent a direct source of data, because the age variable is seldom considered in the Unions' statistics concerning conventional workers. Participation by young unemployed and a-typical workers, on the other hand, is at the same time weak and ill-represented.

1 Confederazione Italiana Generale del Lavoro (CGIL): over 5,5 million members, does not keep records referring to age. In 1998, CGIL promoted the creation of Nuove IDentità del Lavoro (Nidil), devoted to atypical workers, which are mainly young people, established in 1998.

<http://www.cgil.it/>

2. Confederazione Italiana Sindacati Lavoratori (CISL):

CISL is locally structured, as a Confederation of the above mentioned branch unions, at territorial (district: such as, for instance, Milan, Rome, Palermo, Florence...) and regional levels (21 regions, in the country: such as Lombardy, Latium, Sicily, Tuscany.; and the Pensioners' Union members abroad).

There are over 4,4 million members in 2008 and more than 47,000 members in the section "young people-unemployed" in 2006.

In 2008 the CISL created its own youth association (giovanicisl@cisl.it).

<http://www.cisl.it/>

3. Unione italiana del lavoro (UIL) over 1,9 million members, has a youth section active in 6 out of 20 Regions, mostly in the South, but does not publish the number of members.

<http://www.uil.it/>

4. Unione Generale del Lavoro (UGL) has its own Youth coordination that gathers all young worker members under 35 years of UGL, together with unemployed young people interested in participating.

<http://www.ugl.it/UGLGiovani/>

A sample survey carried out in 2007 by Istituto ricerche economiche e sociali (IRES; www.ires.it) on 1.600 workers, of whom 62,2% are young, shows that young people (17-24 years old) are the less representative group in trade unions (only 22,9% of the interviewed are members of a trade union), meanwhile older people (25-40 years old) are much more represented, as 44,7% of them are members of a trade union.

The young people interviewed reveal that they are not members of a trade union mainly because they are afraid of retaliations from their employers.

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.

AGE GROUPS	Meeting in environmental associations, etc.	Meeting in cultural associations, etc	Unpaid activity for volunteer associations	Unpaid activity for non volunteer associations
MALE				
14-17	1,8	8,9	7,9	3,1
18-19	2,3	9,0	11,6	2,8
20-24	2,7	10,2	9,1	4,7
25-34	2,0	10,7	8,7	3,3
FEMALE				
14-17	4,0	11,4	10,5	3,8
18-19	2,4	7,4	12,1	4,6
20-24	3,0	9,3	12,6	4,6
25-34	1,7	8,5	10,2	3,1
MALE + FEMALE				
14-17	2,8	10,0	9,1	3,4

18-19	2,4	8,2	11,9	3,7
20-24	2,9	9,7	10,9	4,7
25-34	1,9	9,6	9,4	3,2

Source: Istat - Survey "Daily life – year 2007"
(http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20090312_00/).

The most part of political, cultural and social youth associations with a national dimension belong to the National Youth Forum. The Forum Nazionale dei Giovani is the only National Youth Platform in Italy. It gathers over 60 National Youth Organizations with the aim of providing a space of dialogue and sharing of experience in order to help the process of building National Youth Policies in Italy and ensure the participation of young people to the decision-making processes at different levels.

4 Explain the existing support measures, 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

National level

Law No 248 of 4 August 2006 enacting "Urgent measures for economic recovery" instituted the National Fund for Youth Policies to promote culture, vocational training and social integration and support the access to credit. The initial capital endowment of this Fund has been integrated for the three-year period 2007-2009 under the law n. 296 of 27 December 2006 (Financial Law) as follows:

- 130,000,000.00 € per year (for year 2008 55,000,000.00 will finance national actions, meanwhile 75,000,000.00 will finance regional and local projects – see point "Regional level").

This fund has been assigned to the Ministry of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

Law No 266/2005, as modified by the Law n. 296 of 27 December 2006, instituted the National Fund for youth communities of 5,000,000.000 per year. This fund has been

assigned to the Ministry of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

Regional and local level

Framework Programme Agreements (APQs) have been defined with the Regional governments of all Regions, including the two autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano. The different APQs aim at promoting many initiatives, such as the increase the participation of young people in public life and the facilitation of their self fulfillment as active, responsible citizens and the development of the structured dialogue; the promotion of the inter-culture dialogue, the development of cultural, creative and entrepreneurial activities and etc.

Agreements to promote local projects for young people have been defined by the Ministry of Youth with the Provincial (UPI - www.upinet.it) and Municipal Authorities (ANCI - www.anci.it).

Moreover, many projects and interventions to promote the youth participation to local life are financed to youth organizations, NGOs through regional funds.

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

Many of the actions for certain groups of young people are financed at national, regional and local level through the budget of the National Fund for the Social Policies, assigned to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies. It is not possible to indicate precisely the amount of money used for these specific target groups as this Fund is not divided for single action, this means that Ministry assigns it to the Regions that can use it for all kind of social interventions needed. In 2008 the amount assigned to the Regions was € 656,451,148.80. A part of this Fund (in 2008 € 41,182,547.56) is used by the Ministry to finance actions at national level as, for instance, pilot projects, identification and exchanges of good practises, assessment procedures, and information networks. Moreover there are other National Funds aiming at promoting the social inclusion of particular target groups of people such as migrants, disabled people and unemployed.

Young migrants.

The Fund for the Social Inclusion of Migrants, instituted by the L. n. 296/2006 and assigned to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies, finances interventions and projects aiming at promoting the inclusion and the participation of migrants and their families in the society. Actions are addressed to the general population of migrants, but some of them are specifically for young people such as, for instance: support to foreign students; valorisation of the second generations; knowledge of the Italian language, knowledge of the Italian Constitution and promotion of the intercultural dialogue.

In 2007 the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies financed projects for a total sum of €27,500,000.00.

Young disabled people

The Fund for the disabled people, instituted by the L. n. 296/2006 and assigned to the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies, finances interventions and projects aiming at promoting in all the country the implementation of the basic level of benefits relating to civil and social entitlements to be guaranteed to disabled people throughout the national territory. Initial capital endowment of this Fund is the following one: € 100,000,000.00 for year 2007, € 300,000,000.00 for year 2008, € 400,000,000.00 for year 2009. The main part of this Fund is assigned yearly to the Regions.

Many projects and actions have been promoted to improve the accessibility (to services, technologies, job and education), the support to families with disabled people and the independent life of disabled people.

Specific measures have been implemented for the education, training and integration in the labour market of the disabled people, with a particular attention to the transition from school to labour

<http://www.solidarietasociale.gov.it/SolidarietaSociale/tematiche/Inclusione/>

Young unemployed people

Young people, as all the people, that lose their job may ask, in certain cases, a monthly grant (60% of their last salary) for a maximum sum of € 886.31. Moreover there are some specific labour contracts aiming at promoting the employment of young people, such as: job insertion contract (18-29 years); apprenticeship (18-29 years; 15 years to

obtain an educational and vocational training certificate and absolve to the training duty through the school/job alternation).

Furthermore there are many national and regional laws aiming at supporting youth entrepreneurial development, business creation, strengthen existing or recently-started initiatives, provide business-support services, and promote and integrate research, innovation and training. In particular the national Law n. 185/2000 promotes the development and the creation of youth enterprises in the disadvantaged areas of the country. Young people (18-35 years old) must be the majority of the members, detain most part of the capital and be resident of one of the disadvantaged areas.

<http://www.invitalia.it>.

Law No. 247 of 24 December 2007 instituted a National Fund to support young people to make access in the labour market, to credit and create new enterprises of 150,000,000.00 for 2008.

This fund has been assigned to the Ministry of Youth by the Decree-Law No 85 of 16 May 2008, enacted as Law No. 121 of 14 July 2008.

<http://www.gioventu.it>.

5 The vote

5.1 Is voting obligatory?

No, it isn't.

5.2 Age of the right to vote

In Italy, citizens aged 18* and over are entitled to vote:

- in administrative elections (municipal, provincial and regional);
- in referendum voting;
- in parliament elections (only for the Chamber of Deputies).

Citizens aged 25 and over are entitled to vote for the Senate.

- in European elections.

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

In Italy, citizens are entitled to vote in local elections, regional elections, national and European elections. People with different nationalities who have a permanent residence

in the country are entitled to vote only on administrative elections at municipal level (but only in some cities). Italian citizens living in the EU countries can vote in the Italian Consulate Offices.

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

In Italy, citizens aged 18 and over are entitled to be a candidate:

- in administrative elections (municipal, provincial and regional);
- in referendum voting;
- in parliament elections;
- in European elections.

Citizens aged 40 and over are entitled to be a candidate also for the Senate.

6. The elections

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

Data on the age group of voters in the European elections are not available from the statistical office of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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)

Information unavailable.

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

Information unavailable.

6.2 National indicators of participation in the polls

Data on the age group of voters in the national elections are not available from the statistical office of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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)

Information unavailable.

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

Information unavailable.

6.3 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls

Data on the age group of voters in the Regional and local elections are not available from the statistical office of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

Information unavailable.

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

Information unavailable.

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

National level

Age	Women	Men	Total
25-29	6	1	7
30-39	27	42	69

Source: Camera dei Deputati (<http://www.camera.it>), May 2009.

Members of Italian Parliament (only Chamber of Deputies) under 39 are 76 against 630, (12%). In the considered age groups women are 33 (more than 47%).

Regional level

None of the 21 Presidents of Region (or Autonomous Province) is under 35.

Local level

Municipal officers in charge in 2008 – function and age class 18-35		
Officer	18-35	18-35
	N.	%
MAYOR	384	1.4
DEPUTY MAYOR	543	2.0
TOWN COUNCILLOR	4,503	16.5
MEMBER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL	21,874	80.1
TOTAL	27,304	100.00

Source: Fondazione Cittalia – Anci ricerche (www.cittalia.it).

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?

- How are the results of this support monitored?
- Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at specific groups of young people

Information unavailable.

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 (citizen s'education). Please also list related guidelines and teacher training programmes aiming at integrating citizen's education into the curriculum.

At School representatives of the students are elected yearly in both Class and School councils (together with representatives of families, professors, administrators) and School executive boards.

At the province level, two students for each school are elected yearly by their colleagues in the Advisory Board.

All the decisional structures of the university system, from the Academic senate to the Administration Board (in both structures students are a minority), from Faculty Councils to Councils of Study Course, involve students, with varying degrees.

“Citizens’ education” is a subject present in the formal educational programme of Primary School and Secondary School (First degree). In particular the school subject is called “Citizenship and Constitution”.

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?

There are many projects financed at national and regional level aiming at promoting active citizenship and participation in social life amongst young people through specific actions.

For more information see answer to point 4.1.

In the end of 2008 the Ministry of Youth, the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme together with the Management Partnership funded the UExTE project, implemented in the first months of 2009 by the Eurodesk Italy national network.

Two are the main goals of the project:

- 1) To network the EU information networks Eurodesk and EuropeDirect on a specific and targeted project, where the combination of the different expertise of the two networks could be beneficial both to the project’s success and to the promotion of knowledge sharing;
- 2) Increase awareness of young people about: EU youth policies; the future of the EU; the opportunities for young people in Europe.

The project has two main settings:

- 1) An interactive meeting lasting 2 hours and involving 25 young people at time will be designed in such a way that participants , following a “knowledge path” led by facilitators, will discover what the EU is meant for their educational, professional and social life.

To achieve these goals training courses will be delivered to facilitators to make them able to lead the knowledge path.

- 2) A multimedia platform to allow cross-communication among young people participating into the 1.000 meetings organized in the 100 different venues across Italy.

The multimedia platform will be also used to give a direct chance to young people to create a network and to develop follow-up projects after they took part into the interactive meetings organized in the 100 different venues across Italy.

A web site has also been set up in order to maintain a direct communication channel with the wider public and to create (through sub web sites and intranet) a place for communication and sharing among all active actors of the projects (Eurodesk and EuropeDirect networks in Italy, facilitators, local authorities/NGOs, etc.).

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

Some of the projects financed at national and regional level aim at helping specific target groups to participate to the social life, in particular there some actions for early school leavers, ex drug addicted young people, disabled young people, young people with a precarious job and young people living in disadvantaged areas (abandoned rural areas, degraded urban suburbs).

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

The main informal ways young people participate in social life are the following ones:

- on line forums and consultations on topic of interest for young people;
- voluntary activities;
- participation to meetings and activities of cultural, political and trade unions organisations;
- participation to public events and demonstrations.

Some data and information on this topic can be found in the National survey on everyday life carried out annually by ISTAT

(http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20090312_00/)