

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



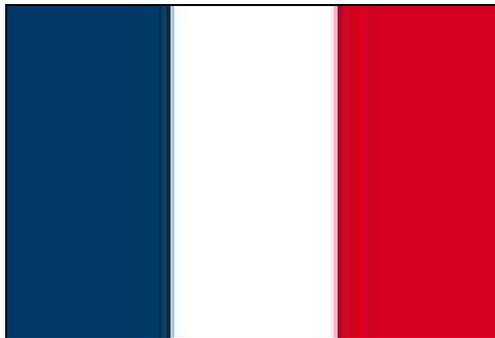
European Union
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

FRANCE



Last updated: February 2011

By:

Myriam GARGASSON
(MENJVA – DJEPVA)
Renaud FOIRIEN
(MENJVA – MEOS)

Solange FOURCOUX
(MENJVA – DJEPVA - EKCYP Correspondant)

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Youth participation in France _____ | 2 |
| 2. Youth participation in representative democracy in France _____ | 4 |
| 2.1. Participation in elections _____ | 5 |
| 2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies _____ | 6 |
| 3. Youth participation in civil society _____ | 7 |
| 3.1 Membership in NGOs _____ | 7 |
| 3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level _____ | 7 |
| 4. Learning to participate _____ | 9 |
| 4.1 The formal education system _____ | 9 |
| 4.2 Non formal education _____ | 9 |
| 5. Youth information in France _____ | 10 |
| 5.1 The structure of youth information _____ | 10 |
| 5.2. The youth information services _____ | 11 |
| 5.3. Topics of youth information _____ | 13 |
| 5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information _____ | 13 |
| 6. Informal ways of young people's participation _____ | 14 |
| 7. Sources of information _____ | 15 |

1. Youth participation in France

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society?

First of all, in order to understand youth policies in France, it is necessary to take into account the French administrative and political organisations.

In France, the ministry in charge of youth has national, regional and departmental services.

There are also local authorities: regions (26), departments (100) and municipalities (36 780).

Since 1982 and the beginning of the decentralisation process, all these fully fledged authorities can choose to set up a youth policy. These authorities are free to run their youth programs as they want in the scope of the respect of minor welfare regulations.

France ratified the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child on 1990. Its principles influence youth policies.

The French Code of social action and families mentions that “the educational project of centres of children and young people provide the terms of participation of minors”.

There is not any other recommendation which defines rules or principles concerning how youth participation should be establish. Therefore, administrative authorities, local authorities and associations are free to decide if they want to set up actions or policies for youth participation.

- If so: how is the concept of youth participation defined?

The concept of youth participation is not precisely defined. So, administrative authorities, local authorities and associations have sometimes not exactly the same definition.

The ministry in charge of youth considers this concept with a broad approach. The definition takes into account the fact that youth participation has changed and takes different shapes Therefore, youth participation does not only mean participation to the decision making with a political or an administrative authority. So, youth participation means all kinds of participation which allow youth to take part in administrative or political decisions or to organize actions which contributed to make a better society.

- What are the measures envisaged to promote different forms of participation on local, regional and national level?

In France, for nearly 15 years, lots of authorities (ministries, municipalities, departments, regions) settled down to promote youth participation through the organisation of youth councils.

Since 1991, an association, the National association of the children's and youth councils (called ANACEJ), has been created in order to help the creation, the development and the promotion of youth councils. The ministry in charge of youth financially supports this association.

In 1998, the National youth council (called CNJ) was founded. It was used to give recommendations to the minister for youth. Its proposals were also sent to all members of Parliament and of the Government. Its operation is currently suspended. A reflexion on its reorganization is underway.

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups? (Please tick) **NO**

Females

Males

Migrants

Young people with fewer opportunities

Young people in specific regions

Minorities (which):

Certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which):

Other:

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in France

Please describe the rules of representative democracy related to young people answering the questions below:

- Is voting compulsory in your country? **No**

- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections? **18 years old**

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| European ¹ : 18 | National: 18 | Regional: 18 | Local 18 |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|

- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

Local and European elections:

- Civil rights,
- Legal minimum age: 18 years old,
- French citizenship, and for residents in France, citizenship from one of the EU State,
- Enrolled on the local voting list.

Regional and National elections:

- Civil rights,
- Legal minimum age: 18 years old,
- French citizenship,
- Enrolled on the voting list.

- What are the legal requirements for being a candidate in elections?

Local elections:

- Civil and political rights,
- Legal minimum age: 18 years old,
- French citizenship; and for residents in France, citizenship from one of the EU State,
- Enrolled on the local voting list.

Regional elections:

- Civil and political rights,
- Legal minimum age: 18 years old,
- French citizenship,
- Enrolled on the voting list.

¹ If applicable

National elections:

- Civil and political rights,
- Legal minimum age: 23 years old,
- French citizenship,
- Enrolled on the voting list.

European elections:

- Civil and political rights,
- Legal minimum age: 23 years old,
- French citizenship; and for residents in France, citizenship from one of the EU State,
- Enrolled on the voting list.

2.1. Participation in elections

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years old) on European (for EU-countries only) and national level... If detailed data on young people is not available please provide the general turnout of all voters and describe the young voter's participation

Percentage of voters – national and presidential 2007 elections -

| AGE | Percentage of voters : -both rounds (presidential & national elections) | Percentage of abstention : -both rounds (presidential & national° elections) | Percentage abstention : one round | Percentage abstention National election | Percentage of abstention in Presidential election |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 18-24 years | 30,9 | 12,3 | 56,8 | 51,8 | 12,9 |
| 25-29 years | 29,6 | 12,7 | 57,7 | 50,4 | 13,4 |
| 30-34 years | 37,4 | 10,4 | 52,2 | 42,7 | 11,0 |
| 35-39 years | 45,9 | 8,8 | 45,3 | 35,5 | 9,0 |
| 40-44 years | 51,7 | 7,9 | 40,4 | 29,2 | 8,3 |
| 45-49 years | 53,0 | 6,7 | 40,3 | 27,2 | 7,1 |
| 50-54 years | 57,7 | 5,5 | 36,8 | 23,4 | 6,2 |
| 55-59 years | 60,9 | 5,3 | 33,9 | 21,4 | 5,9 |
| 60-64 years | 64,0 | 4,9 | 31,1 | 17,8 | 5,7 |
| 65-69 years | 65,5 | 5,2 | 29,3 | 18,6 | 5,7 |
| 70-74 years | 64,1 | 7,0 | 28,9 | 20,1 | 8,4 |
| 75-79 years | 60,8 | 11,0 | 28,2 | 23,2 | 11,9 |
| 80 years and over | 58,9 | 17,1 | 24,0 | 29,1 | 18,2 |

Survey : « Insee, enquête participation électorale 2007. »

-Good participation since 2008 of young educated voters.

- Important youth engagement in politics when high study level, on the contrary, young JAMO tend to be excluded. (INJEP: Youth Observatory– November 2010)

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

Please provide the number (in total and by gender) of young people under the age of 30 who are members of the national parliament. Please provide the total number of parliamentarians on national level.

Comparison between the ages of the members of Parliament (of the low house of the French Parliament) and the French population (minors excluded) – April 2007

| | National assembly | | Population | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| - 18 years old | | | | |
| 18/30 | 0 | 0 % | - 124 | 21,5 % |
| 31/40 | 16 | 2,8 % | - 89 | 18,3 % |
| 41/50 | 97 | 16,8 % | - 8 | 18,2 % |
| 51/60 | 263 | 45,6 % | + 166 | 16,8 % |
| 61/70 | 167 | 28,9 % | + 104 | 10,9 % |
| + 71 | 34 | 5,9 % | - 50 | 14,6 % |

Centre d'Analyse Stratégique – N°4 – Avril 2007 – <http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/>

If we compare the figures, we can see that:

- In 1981, 38,1 % of the members of Parliament were under 45 years
- In 2007, only 13,2 % of the members of Parliament were under 45 years.

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1. Membership in NGOs

France : Types of NGOs, ages and genders - INSEE Survey 2008

| | Together | Health Social care Solidarity | Sport | Culture | Leisure | Defence civil rights | NGO Retired people* | Syndicates, Labour unions** |
|----------------------|----------|--|-------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| GENDER | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 35,6 | 3,5 | 15,4 | 5,5 | 5,0 | 2,2 | 8,3 | 8,1 |
| Women | 29,9 | 4,6 | 9,5 | 6,3 | 4,5 | 2,7 | 10,7 | 6,5 |
| Age | | | | | | | | |
| 16-24 years | 26,3 | 2,1 | 17,1 | 4,6 | 2,7 | 0,7 | | 1,9 |
| 25-39 years | 32,7 | 3,4 | 14,1 | 5,4 | 3,2 | 3,3 | | 8,6 |
| 40-59 years | 34,4 | 4,0 | 12,7 | 6,0 | 5,0 | 3,0 | | 11,8 |
| 60 -74 years | 36,9 | 6,9 | 10,7 | 8,7 | 7,9 | 2,3 | 7,3 | 2,6 |
| 75 years and over | 27,6 | 3,4 | 4,0 | 3,6 | 4,5 | 1,5 | 13,6 | 1,7 |
| Together | 32,6 | 4,1 | 12,3 | 5,9 | 4,7 | 2,5 | 9,6 | 7,3 |

*People over 59 years;

**Working, unemployed and retired people.

« Insee, SRCV-SILC 2008. »

3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Please give a picture of how young people can/do participate in formally recognized ways in civic society/policy in your country by answering to the following questions:

- which types of youth participation structures exist in your country and which group of young people these structure do represent

Youth council:

In France, there are nearly 1 600 youth councils which have been created by a local authority (municipality, department, and region). Each local authority chooses by itself the way its youth council should be organised.

So, these youth councils are very different:

- The ages of the participants (young children or teenagers or young adults)
- The specific groups: sometimes departments or regions choose to work only with school kids or school students. Municipalities often choose to work with all young people.
- The framework of the council: some of them look like a local council (elections ...). But others do not hold elections.
- The organisation of the council: youth councils can work with specialized committees which study specific issues. Others councils work with working groups in order to set up theirs projects.
- Few youth councils have their own budget but most of them have no budget ...

Youth assembly:

Some local authorities (municipality, department, and region) choose to set up a youth assembly.

There are no specific rules concerning the organisation of such an action.

Local authorities decide by themselves the organisation:

- The planning of action (one day or few months)
- The framework: meeting(s) or working group(s)
- The topic(s): some local authorities want to choose the topics which are going to be studied; others allow young people to choose the subjects they want to work on ...

- What is the degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures:

The degree of participation is not linked to the type of structures (youth council or youth assembly). It is not either linked to the type of local authorities (municipality, department, and region).

The degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures depends on the willpower of the elected representatives. Some of them really want young people to participate in the decision making. Whereas others only want to inform or consult young people and therefore want to keep the power on decision making.

4. Learning to participate

4.1 The formal education system

Please describe existing mechanisms within the system of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

Are there teacher trainings programmes at the national and/or regional level on this topic?

(See Annex 1)

4.2 Non formal education

- National level: **(See Annex 2)**

- In France, there is a national program (called “Junior associations”) which allows minors to create associations. Thanks to this program young people have the possibility to set up various types of projects (cultural, international solidarity ...). They benefit from different kinds of advises and supports. There are in France nearly 2 000 of junior associations.

- National/regional/departmental/city levels:

- In France, there are a lot of programmes which enable young people to set up a project in different kinds of fields (cultural, international solidarity ...). Youth are often accompanied by professionals. So, they can benefit from methodological, technical and financial supports.
- Some local authorities and the National Association of Youth Council plan trainings for young people who belong to a youth council. These trainings help them to understand how works a local authority and how to set up a project.

5. Youth information in France

5.1 The structure of youth information

Please describe how youth information is organised in your country answering the following questions.

- Do youth information points / centres exist? **Yes**

- Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? **Yes**

The ministry of Youth is committed to provide checked, up-to-date, and free information to all young people.

It provides a financial support to an association, the Youth documentation and information centre (called CIDJ).

This structure has different goals:

- Providing public information (this centre receives each year around 175 000 visits)
- Creating national documentation (more than 5 000 pages) which is used by all information structures (and also others organisations)-
- Coordinating the regional youth information centres (CRIJ).

- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? **Yes.**

If yes, where?

In all French regions, the ministry departments are in charged of giving or retiring the labels of the information structures. This label guarantees the quality of the work. It lays down rules concerning the structure, the professionals ...

The regional youth information centres (CRIJ) are in charged of the training for the professionals (of the youth documentation and information desks and points). They also work with them on different programmes and working tools (initiative programme, European programme, summer jobs programme, online services ...).

- Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? **Yes**

- ERYICA

- Eurodesk

5.2. The youth information services

Please provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information point/centre.

In France, there are different kinds of youth information structures:

- 1 national youth documentation and information centre (CIDJ)
- 28 regional youth documentation and information centres (CRIJ)
- 3 departmental youth documentation and information centres (CIJ). These structures are only located in Paris region
- 235 youth documentation and information desks (BIJ)
- 1 248 youth documentation and information points (PIJ)
- 16 youth documentation and information buses

Is there an online national youth information system? **Yes**

If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

<http://www.cidj.com>: This website gives information on European and national programmes, CIDJ services, events which are going to occur in Paris region ...It also gives the addresses of the regional youth documentation and information centres and the youth documentation and information desks/points in Paris suburbs. It records 4 million hits.

<http://www.infostages.com>: This website has been created by the CIDJ in order to propose to young people internships in companies.

<http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr>: This is the ministry portal. Its aims are to keep young people informed of all the public policies that may benefit them in every area of their daily lives: education, training, mobility, jobs, housing, initiatives, healthcare, leisure, culture ...

<http://www.skyrock.com/waka>: This platform has been set up by the Prime Minister. Its purpose is to give information in a friendly and interactive ways to young people.

<http://www.droitsdesjeunes.gouv.fr>: This website is especially dedicated to youth rights. Young people can ask questions to a lawyer through this site.

<http://www.filsantejeunes.com>: This website is specialized in topics concerning youth health. Young persons can use chat, newsgroup, twitter in order to get responses.

<http://www.injep.fr>: This website is not especially dedicated to young people but it gives lot of information on youth policies.

Are there any online regional youth information systems? **Yes**

If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

Online regional youth information system:

- Nord Pas-de-Calais <http://www.crij-npdc.asso.fr/>
- Picardie <http://www.reflexe-crij.org/>
- Haute-Normandie <http://www.crij-haute-normandie.org/>
- Basse-Normandie <http://www.crij-bn.org/>
- Bretagne <http://www.crij-bretagne.com/>
- Champagne Ardenne <http://www.crij-ca.fr/>
- Lorraine <http://www.crijlorraine.org/>
- Franche-Comté <http://www.jeunes-fc.com/>
- Bourgogne <http://www.ijbourgogne.com/>
- Centre <http://www.informationjeunesse-centre.fr/>
- Pays de la Loire <http://www.infos-jeunes.fr/>
- Poitou-Charentes <http://www.jeunes.poitou-charentes.fr/>
- Limousin <http://www.crijlimousin.org/>
- Auvergne <http://www.espaceinfojeunes.net/>
- Rhône-Alpes <http://www.crijrhonealpes.fr/>
- Provence-Alpes <http://www.crijpa.com/>
- Côte d'Azur <http://www.crijca.fr/>
- Languedoc-Roussillon <http://www.crij-montpellier.com/>
- Midi-Pyrénées <http://www.crij.org/>
- Aquitaine <http://www.info-jeune.net/>
- Corse <http://www.crij-corse.fr/>
- Guadeloupe <http://www.crij-guadeloupe.org/>
- Martinique There is no website in this region
- Guyana <http://www.crij-guyane.com/>
- Reunion <http://www.crij-reunion.org/>

Please describe existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information of young people in your country (e.g. magazines, folders/brochures).

National level:

The CIDJ (youth documentation and information centre) prints a national documentation (more than 5 000 pages). 6 900 structures (youth information centres/desks/points but also schools, youth training centres, youth job centres ...) buy this documentation.

Regional level:

Each regional youth documentation and information centre prints a regional documentation specialized on regional structures (schools, training centres ...). From time to time, they also print folders or brochures on specific topics (summer jobs, initiative programmes ...).

Local authorities (regions, departments, municipalities):

Local authorities often print specific youth magazines. These magazines often focus on youth daily life. From time to time, local authorities want to increase and improve youth information. Therefore, they print folders/brochures which give young people addresses, advises, information ... on different subjects (scholarship, career, mobility, initiatives, health ...).

Sometimes, cities also create websites dedicated to youth information.

5.3. Topics of youth information

In relation to the structures of youth information you mentioned above, what are the main contents of information delivered to young people?

In general, the main contents of information delivered (nearly 60 %) by the youth information centres/desks/points are:

- Studies and scholarships
- Jobs (especially summer jobs and temporary jobs) and training
- Career guidance

These structures also deliver other contents according to the needs of young people, or the characteristics of the territory (local youth policy ...):

- Mobility (European opportunities for young people ...)
- Initiatives (financial support ...)
- Public internet access points
- Information on housing
- Leisure
- General health matters
- rights of young people

According to the structures, the information can be delivered through different means (interviews, events ...).

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

How do young people participate in the national/regional system of youth information?

Local authorities often create magazines in which young people write all the papers with the help of a journalist.

From time to time, youth information structures allow young people to take part in the creation and in the spreading of information (creation of brochures, of videos ...).

State administrations or local authorities often work with youth when they conduct a prevention campaign (organisation of events ...).

6. Informal ways of young people's participation

Please describe informal ways used by young people to make their voices heard in society in your country.

Please describe alternative ways of youth participation connected to the use of online technologies answering the following questions:

- *Top down approach (e.g. online consultations): in which occasion?*

National level:

- In 2009, the minister for youth wanted to know if young people agreed with a project for a new youth policy. Therefore, a website was created in order to present the new programme and to gather the commentaries.

- On the youth ministry portal (<http://www.jeunes.gouv.fr>) young people can ask any question on different topics. The questions are often linked to their personal project.

- The platform set up by the Prime Minister (<http://www.skyrock.com/waka>) also allows youth to ask questions and express themselves.

Local level:

The local authority (a region or a department or a municipality) can choose to set up a youth online consultation. For example, a municipality can choose to elect young counsellors (for a youth council) through an online election.

- *Bottom up approach (e.g. organised actions through social networks and the internet): in which occasion?*

In France, young people use a lot internet and also mobile phones applications in various ways:

- Political events

During a period of strikes, demonstrations, youth people use websites, blogs, and social networks in order to publish papers, photos or videos to express their ideas.

They also use internet in order to share information or views if politicians express themselves on relevant subjects or if the government wants to introduce a bill in Parliament.

- Expression

In order to talk about the daily life in suburbs, some blogs or webzines are put on line.

- Defence of rights

Lots of social networks have been created to organise actions (fight against advertising, struggle for ecology ...).

- Cultural aspects

Youth use a lot internet for cultural purposes: creation of art exhibitions (online or not), raising funds for an artist

- Youth associations

Youth associations also use a lot internet for different purposes: to have information, to ask for voluntary service, to search partnerships ...

- Friendly purposes

Social networks are very often used for friendly purposes. Youth use internet to give giant outdoor or indoor parties, to organise gathering for video games...

7. Sources of information

Observatoire de la jeunesse (INJEP) : Liens à la politique – des jeunes davantage impliqués et plus protestataires.

Chiffres clés de la jeunesse (SEJVA - MEOS) 2009 - 2010

http://www.jeunesse-vie-associative.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Chiffres_cles_jeunesse_2010.pdf

Survey

- Participation in the 2007 Elections (Insee Première n°1169 de décembre 2007)

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/ffc/ipweb/ip1169/ip1169.pdf>

-Participation in national and regional elections in 2007

http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=NATSOS05526

-Participation in the Presidential elections in 2002 and 2007 (all generations)

http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=NATSOS05525

Youth participation in civil society (membership in NGO's):

Survey SRCV 2008 : Vie associative : 16 millions d'adhérents en 2008 (Insee Première n°1327 de décembre 2010)

<http://www.insee.fr/fr/ffc/ipweb/ip1327/ip1327.pdf>

Percentage of people (all ages) members in at least one non-governmental organisation

http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=NATnon05528