

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

# INFORMATION SHEET

## PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### Germany



Last updated: February 2011  
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# 1. Youth participation in Germany

*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?*

Young people's participation has a long tradition in the Federal Republic of Germany and has a sound legal basis. The relevant standards of the Child and Youth Service Act (Social Code Volume Eight, SGB VIII), of family law and of the requirements stipulated by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was also ratified by Germany, provide the framework for the manifold possibilities for participation of the young generation.

The Social Code Volume Eight (SGB VIII), Child & Youth Services, Chapter 1, § 8 states that children and young people are to be involved in all decisions of statutory youth services concerning them in accordance with personal maturity and development.

In regard to the participation of children and young people at the local level more detailed regulations can be found in communal constitutions implementing SGB VIII.

Besides the regulations of SGB VIII laws like i.e. the German Federal Building Code (*Baugesetzbuch*) prescribe to consider the needs of children and young people. Moreover school laws and work constitution acts foresee the participation of young people in fields affecting them.

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

Youth participation is the generic term for the participation of children and young persons in matters that concern them or their environment directly.

Examples of local participation instruments are:

- setup of local youth councils or youth committees;
- petition, hearing, speaking and proposal rights;
- children's offices as contact points for the specific interests of children and youth;
- children's lawyers.

Participation forms part of a sustainable policy for young people in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Federal Government regards young people's participation and involvement in decision-making processes as fundamental elements in society and politics, and a primary instrument to foster democratic beliefs. Therefore, the Federal Government's youth policy encourages participation and social commitment; that is one of its top priorities.

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

The "participation scene" in Germany is extremely diverse and characterised by a wide range of participation possibilities which include representative participation such as children's and young people's councils, student representatives and open forms such as neighbourhood meetings, office hours and meetings of the municipal council with young people, youth forums, and project-related participation such as workshops and decision-making processes.

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups? (please tick)

X  females

X  males

X  migrants

X  young people with fewer opportunities

X  young people in specific regions

minorities (which):

X  certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which): i.e. initiatives in relation to the election with 16 in the federal states (Länder) of Meckelnburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westfalia, Saxony-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein

other:

## 2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Germany

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?

European <sup>1</sup> :		National:		Regional:		local	
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18 years

*Comment:* The voting age for local elections in the federal states (*Länder*) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westfalia, Saxony-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein is 16 years.

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

### National and regional elections

Every German has the right to vote, if they are 18 years of age or older and if they have been resident in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least three months, or are a soldier, civil servant or public service worker had been sent abroad by the employer (including family members); or they live in an EU state;

### Local elections

Every German has the right to vote, if they are 16\*/18 years of age or older and if they have been resident in the Federal Republic of Germany for at least three months, or are a soldier, civil servant or public service worker had been sent abroad by the employer (including family members); or they live in an EU state;

\*The voting age for local elections in the federal states (*Länder*) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westfalia, Saxony-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein is 16 years.

### European elections

Every EU citizens has the right to vote, if they are 16\*/18 years of age or older and if Germany is their country of residence and they are registered in the electoral roll.

\*The voting age for local elections in the federal states (*Länder*) of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westfalia, Saxony-Anhalt and Schleswig-Holstein is 16 years.

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

### National and regional elections

Eligible is, who has the right to vote.

*Comment:* For elections to the federal parliament of Hessen candidates have to be 21 years and older.

### Local elections

Eligible is, who has the right to vote.

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<sup>1</sup> If applicable

## 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

	Participation in European elections in % of people with the right to vote			Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population						
13 – 30 year olds						
16 – 19 year olds <sup>2</sup>						
20 – 24 year olds						
25 – 30 year olds						

In 2010 there were no elections held in Germany. Therefore there is no data available for the year 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.

	MP ≥ 30		All MP	
		%		%
Women		%		%
Men		%		%
Total	12	1,9 %	622	100 %

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<sup>2</sup> If applicable

### 3. Youth participation in civil society

#### 3.1. Membership in NGOs

Please give the percentage of young people aged 13 to 30 (if possible in total and gender) who are members in non-governmental organisations (including political and youth NGOs) and if possible for youth NGOs. Please provide the same data for political parties as well. For comparison, please provide the same data for the whole population.

	NGOs, including political NGOs and youth NGOs			Youth NGOs			Political parties		
	Total	female	male	Total	female	male	Total	female	male
% of total population									
13 – 30 year olds									
16 – 19 year olds									
20 – 24 year olds									
25 – 30 year olds									

The data provided by the youth and political NGOs does not correspond to the available categories mentioned above. Therefore the following information cannot be filled into the chart.

German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR)  
6000000 young people, age: 14-27 years, [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)

German Olympic Sports Confederation (Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund, DOSB)  
9143231 young people, age: 15-26 years, [www.dosb.de](http://www.dosb.de)

Political NGOs (political parties, except the Green Party)  
180340 young people, age: 14-35 years  
[www.junge-union.de](http://www.junge-union.de)  
[www.iusos.de](http://www.iusos.de)  
[www.julis.de](http://www.julis.de)

Political NGO (the Green Party)  
8500 young people, age: 0-28 years, [www.gruene-jugend.de](http://www.gruene-jugend.de)

Political NGO (Young Left /Young Democrats → no belonging to a specific political party)  
5172 young people, age: 14-30 years, [www.jdil.org](http://www.jdil.org)

Youth organisation of the Federation of German Trade Unions (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund-Jugend, DGB) , 466700 young people, age: -27 years, [www.dgb-jugend.de](http://www.dgb-jugend.de)

*Comment:*

The data was provided by the particular organizations. As it covers several age groups and as the data for the whole German population will not be available before May 2010, it is not possible to give the percentage related to the total population.

### 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*

#### **National youth councils**

The **German Federal Youth Council** (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR) was founded in 1949 as a working group of youth organisations and regional youth councils active throughout Germany. Its current membership includes 24 youth organisations, 16 regional youth councils and 5 affiliated organisations. The 5 affiliated organisations have an advisory vote. The youth organisations united in the DBJR are diverse in both aims and orientation. The variety of member organisations spans from religiously oriented associations, scouts, ecological, cultural and humanitarian organisations to worker's youth federations.

In its work the DBJR focuses on **three priorities**:

- to represent youth interests and common aims of its member organisations - to public, to parliament and to government;
- to ensure an ongoing information flow between its member organisations and to enable them to achieve common positions on youth policy;
- to cooperate with youth organisations and national youth councils outside Germany.

>> Contact: info[at]dbjr.de, [www.dbjr.de](http://www.dbjr.de)

Due to historical reasons the party political youth organisations are not members of the DBJR. They form their own council: the **Council of Political Youth Organisations** (Ring Politischer Jugend, RPJ). The RPJ was founded in 1950 and is a working group of the youth organisations of the five most important political parties in Germany. Its current membership encompasses five organisations.

>> Contact: The management and secretary of the RPJ changes regularly. In 2010 it rested with the Young Democratic Socialists, [jusos@spd.de](mailto:jusos@spd.de), [www.jusos.de](http://www.jusos.de) In 2011 the Young Liberals are presiding the RPJ, [info@julius.de](mailto:info@julius.de), [www.julius.de](http://www.julius.de)

The DBJR does either not represent German youth sports organisations on federal level. They are united in the **German Sports Youth** (Deutsche Sportjugend, dsj) which was founded in 1950 and represents the members of the 16 Länder Sports Youth (Landessportjugenden), 53 Youth Organisations of the Sports Associations (Jugendorganisationen der Spitzenverbände) and 10 Youth Organisations of the Associations with Special Tasks (Jugendorganisationen von Verbänden mit besonderen Aufgabenstellungen).

>> Contact: info[at]dsj.de, [www.dsj.de](http://www.dsj.de)

For the representation of German youth organisations on the multilateral level (i.e. in the European Youth Forum or at the UN) the German Federal Youth Council, the Council of Political Youth Organisations and the German Sports Youth form the **German National Committee for international Youth Work** (Deutsches Nationalkomitee für internationale Jugendarbeit, DNK).

>> Contact: dnk[at]dbjr.de

## Regional youth councils

Each of the 16 federal states (*Bundesländer*) has its own regional youth council (*Landesjugendring*) representing regional youth organisations and local youth councils. Their role in decision-making processes differs from federal state to federal state. The 16 regional youth councils are:

Bavarian Youth Council, [www.bjr.de](http://www.bjr.de)

Children and Youth Council of Saxony, [www.jugendinfo.net](http://www.jugendinfo.net)

Children and Youth Council of Saxony-Anhalt, [www.kjr-lsa.de](http://www.kjr-lsa.de)

Regional Youth Council of Baden-Wuerttemberg, [www.ljrbw.de](http://www.ljrbw.de)

Regional Youth Council of Berlin, [www.ljrberlin.de](http://www.ljrberlin.de)

Regional Youth Council of Brandenburg, [www.ljr-brandenburg.de](http://www.ljr-brandenburg.de)

Regional Youth Council of Hamburg, [www.ljr-hh.de](http://www.ljr-hh.de)

Regional Youth Council of Lower Saxony, [www.ljr.de](http://www.ljr.de)

Regional Youth Council of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, [www.jugend.inmv.de](http://www.jugend.inmv.de)

Regional Youth Council of North Rhine-Westfalia, [www.ljr-nrw.de](http://www.ljr-nrw.de)

Regional Youth Council of Rhineland-Palatinate, [www.ljr-rlp.de](http://www.ljr-rlp.de)

Regional Youth Council Saar, [www.landesjugendring-saar.de](http://www.landesjugendring-saar.de)

Regional Youth Council of Schleswig-Holstein, [www.ljrsh.de](http://www.ljrsh.de)

Regional Youth Council of Thuringia, [www.ljrt.de](http://www.ljrt.de)

Youth Council of Bremen, [www.bremerjugendring.de](http://www.bremerjugendring.de)

Youth Council of Hessen, [www.hessischer-jugendring.de](http://www.hessischer-jugendring.de)

## Local youth councils

There is a great number of local youth councils. Local youth councils are self-organised amalgamations of local youth associations, youth organisations and youth initiatives.\* Their aim is

- to represent children's and young people's interests towards public, politics and administration,
- to help shape and back the general framework of youth (associative) work and
- to take a stand with regard to socio-political questions and questions relevant to youth.

Youth councils represent the youth associations' demands to the committees and institutions responsible for youth issues on local level, especially in the so called Committees for Youth Services (*Jugendhilfeausschuss*) of the urban districts and the counties.

Local youth councils exist in about four of five youth administrative districts (*Jugendamtsbezirk*). This means in about 450 to 500 of the 600 youth administrative districts in Germany. To provide an example, there are currently 134 local youth councils in the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the biggest federal state according to population (<http://p25847.typo3server.info/index.php?id=stadt-undkreisjugendringe>).

A study of the German Youth Institute published in 2006 describes the structure and the functioning of as well as the future challenges for local youth councils in Germany.

Download: [http://www.dji.de/bibs/64\\_5609\\_JugendringeimVisier.pdf](http://www.dji.de/bibs/64_5609_JugendringeimVisier.pdf) (in German)

\* Due to the special role that has been given to the local youth councils in the post-war period the structure and the functions of youth councils in Bavaria differ from those in the other federal states.

- what is the degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures (please fill in the table below):

type of youth participation structure	% of local structures			% of regional structures			% of national structures		
	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information
.....									

Unfortunately this question cannot be answered because the information is not available.

## 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.*

#### **Citizenship education in formal education**

Citizenship education is firmly integrated in the German system of formal education. As it falls under the cultural authority of the German federal states, its importance as a subject varies from federal state to federal state. However, citizenship education exists as a pedagogical principle at all of Germany's varied educational facilities, at every level of education either as part of the general curriculum or as own subject under different names.

Citizen education in Germany in general aims at:

- teaching the ideas of freedom and democracy;
- bringing young people up as tolerant people who respect other people and their convictions;
- fostering the belief in international understanding;
- strengthening social commitment and political responsibility and
- enabling young people to assume their own rights and duties.

#### **Student councils**

The active participation of students in school and at university is an integral part of the formal educational system in Germany. As educational issues fall in the authority of the German federal states the laws regarding the role and the function of the student councils differ from federal state to federal state. In general the laws prescribe the students' active participation in different decision-making processes in their school/university.

The student councils form associations on the local, district, regional and national level in order to represent the interests of students in education politics on the different political levels.

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

Due to the complex structure of the German educational system a broad variety and huge number of actions, guidelines, training programmes etc. on citizenship education exist. Educational facilities are for example supported by the Agencies for Civic Education (one at federal level, 16 at the level of the federal states) which provide information material, funding, toolkits, teacher training programmes or methods.

## 4.2 Non formal education

*Please describe five to ten existing examples of actions/programmes/activities at national or regional level, outside the formal education system, aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.*

Alongside school-related activities it is an important aspect of citizenship education in Germany to engage young people in a variety of pursuits funded by state and social authorities. State-sponsored activities include civil and army service, working in adult education or in cultural centres, at memorial sites etc.

In addition important areas of non-formal citizenship education exist. They focus i.e. on

- Fighting against right-wing extremism/racism,
- learning democracy,
- migration/integration,
- violence prevention/conflict resolution and
- gender mainstreaming

These non-formal activities are organised or supported by a broad variety of organisations and associations such as political parties, trade unions, foundations, religious and spiritual communities, the media, academies, independent institutions, and initiatives which pursue citizenship education out of a commitment to its ideals. As public institutions are withdrawing more and more from the field, private funding for citizenship education has noticeably increased in importance in the last few years, although it still does not replace the state-sponsored, non-partisan educational support provided by public agencies.<sup>3</sup>

The nature of the actions offered in the field of civic education is very broad and ranges from seminars and workshops to campaigns and competitions as well as to counselling and trainings.

Examples of good practice:

“VIELFALT TUT GUT. – Young People Advocating Tolerance and Democracy” – The government’s prevention programme aims at fighting against right-wing extremism, xenophobia and anti-semitism. It focuses on supporting local action plans under municipal responsibility and outstanding exemplary measures ([www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de](http://www.vielfalt-tut-gut.de)). This programme ended at the end of 2010. In 2011 it will continue as the programme: “TOLERANZ FÖRDERN – KOMPETENZ STÄRKEN”

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<sup>3</sup> The text was taken from “Citizenship Education in Germany” by Dirk Lange, in: Viola B. Georgi (Ed.): The Making of Citizens in Europe: New Perspectives on Citizenship Education, Bonn 2008, pp. 89-95.

## 5. Youth information in Germany

### 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

Youth Information services of all regions of Germany are working together in the **youth information network** (Jugendinfonetz). The aim of the network is the development of youth information on national level. The main topics at the moment are qualification, quality, participation and integration. In this context Integration means that young people should have access to youth information. It also treats the question how youth information can be an asset to more integration. The co-ordination of the network is with IJAB. IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany (IJAB) is a central specialist agency for international youth policy, international youth work and youth information which works on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), the European Commission, the IJAB member organisations and other central bodies responsible for youth work. IJAB has a coordinating role in the area of youth information on national level, also when reporting to the Council of Europe & in connection with other projects on European level. More info on the activities and members of the network: [www.jugendinfonetz.de](http://www.jugendinfonetz.de)

*- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? Yes. If yes, where?*

In the South of Germany there are about three information centres that meet about once a year to work together and to exchange experiences. Only the federal states Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg are involved in these meetings.

*- Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? If yes, name the network.*

Yes, Germany is a member of Eurodesk and ERYICA.

### 5.2. The youth information services

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

Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information centre. It is known that in Germany 16 information centres and 50 youth information services exist.

Is there an online national youth information system? Y/N. If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

Examples for national youth portals are:

[www.netzcheckers.de](http://www.netzcheckers.de) – portal run by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

[www.schekker.de](http://www.schekker.de) – portal run by the Federal Government

[www.rausvonzuhause.de](http://www.rausvonzuhause.de) – portal run by IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany

[www.fluter.de](http://www.fluter.de) – portal run the Federal Agency for Civic Education  
<http://www.dfjw.org> – portal run the German-French Youth Office  
[www.ahoj.info](http://www.ahoj.info) – portal run by the Coordinating Service for German-Czech Youth Exchange (Tandem)  
<http://www.ukgermanconnection.org> – portal run by the British Council Germany, Federal Foreign Office & German Embassy London, Foreign & Commonwealth Office London  
<http://foederalion.bundesrat.de/foederalion/index.php> – portal run by the Federal Council (Bundesrat)  
[www.mitmischen.de](http://www.mitmischen.de) – portal run by the German Federal Parliament  
<http://jetzt.sueddeutsche.de> – portal run by Süddeutsche Zeitung  
<http://www.lizzynet.de> – portal run by Lizzy Net, community for young girls and women, articles about leisure and school  
<http://www.lebensrausch.com> – portal for and by young people run by a network of different partners

*Are there any online regional youth information systems? Y/N If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.*

14 youth portals (on Länder level)

Regional YOUTH SERVERS exist in all Länder except for Hesse, Northrhine-Westfalia and Saxony. There are two in Baden-Württemberg:

Jugendnetz Baden-Württemberg: [www.jugendnetz.de](http://www.jugendnetz.de) (Baden-Württemberg)

Jugendarbeitsnetz Baden Württemberg (run by Regional Youth Council and Arbeitsgemeinschaft Jugendfreizeitstätten Baden-Württemberg): [www.jugendarbeitsnetz.de](http://www.jugendarbeitsnetz.de) (Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Landesjugendserver Bayern: [www.bjr-online.de](http://www.bjr-online.de) (Bavaria)

Landesjugendserver Berlin: [www.jugendnetz-berlin.de](http://www.jugendnetz-berlin.de)

Landesjugendserver Brandenburg: [www.jugendinfo.com](http://www.jugendinfo.com)

Landesjugendserver Bremen: [www.jugendinfo.de](http://www.jugendinfo.de)

Landesjugendserver Hamburg: <http://www.jugendserver-hamburg.de>

Landes-Jugendserver Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: [www.jugend.inmv.de](http://www.jugend.inmv.de) (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania)

Landes-Jugendserver Niedersachsen (run by Regional Youth Council): [www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de](http://www.jugendserver-niedersachsen.de) (Lower Saxony)

Landesjugendserver Rheinland-Pfalz (run by Landesfilmdienst Rheinland-Pfalz): [www.jugend.rlp.de](http://www.jugend.rlp.de) (Rhineland-Palatinate)

Landesjugendserver Saarland (run by Regional Youth Council Saar): [www.jugendserver-saar.de](http://www.jugendserver-saar.de)

Landesjugendserver Sachsen-Anhalt (run by Landesvereinigung Kulturelle Jugendbildung Sachsen-Anhalt - Jugendinfoservice Sachsen-Anhalt): [www.jugend-lsa.de](http://www.jugend-lsa.de) (Saxony-Anhalt)

Landesjugendserver Schleswig-Holstein (run by Regional Youth Council): [www.jugendserver-sh.de](http://www.jugendserver-sh.de)

Landesjugendserver Thüringen (run by Regional Youth Council): [www.yougend.com](http://www.yougend.com) (Thuringia)

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

[www.schekker.de](http://www.schekker.de) - online magazine run by the federal government, articles about politics & society

[www.yaez.de](http://www.yaez.de) - youth magazine for all pupils and apprentices between 10 and 21 years. Monthly edition and free-of-charge distribution at 5000 schools in Germany. Topics: friendship, love, music, film, media

[www.spiesser.de](http://www.spiesser.de) - pupils'/students' magazine directed at young people between 14 and 22 years, distributed nationwide, edition: 1000000 copies. Topics: school, career, money, music, leisure time, media

[www.mymercury.de](http://www.mymercury.de) - youth magazine of the supraregional newspaper *Rheinischer Merkur*. Free-of-charge distribution at 1800 schools in Germany. Edition: 300000 copies

There is an annual competition for pupils'/students' magazines organised by the national magazine SPIEGEL in cooperation with other partners

([www.spiegel.de/schulspiegel/0,1518,255612,00.html](http://www.spiegel.de/schulspiegel/0,1518,255612,00.html)). For the competition 2008/2009 there were more than 450 applications from pupils' magazines across Germany. There are also regional competitions of this kind.

[www.fluter.de](http://www.fluter.de) – youth magazine of the Federal Agency for Civic Education, printed four times a year since 2001, free-of-charge, 250.000 copies per edition, distributed nationwide, directed at young people between 16 and 22 years, topics: politics, culture (society, film, literature, events)

### 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?*

career guidance, studies and scholarships, jobs and training, general health matters, relationships and sexuality, social security benefits, rights of young people, consumer rights, European opportunities for young people, youth activities and exchanges, Other: media education, participation, volunteering

### 5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

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

#### National level

There are two important organisations organised by young people themselves: Young Presse Germany (*Jugendpresse Deutschland*, [www.jugendpresse.de](http://www.jugendpresse.de)) and Resource Centre Youth Participation (*Servicestelle Jugendbeteiligung*, [www.jugendbeteiligung.info](http://www.jugendbeteiligung.info)). They provide information made by and for young people. The support of the participation of young people in information making & its dissemination is mainly up to the Regional Youth Councils and local/community youth work.

#### Regional level

Examples:

Young people volunteering in youth information points and consulting other young people in the youth information point or on fairs (peer-to-peer) about trips to foreign countries, a voluntary social service, (tip-Jugendinformation Augsburg, [www.jugendinformation-augsburg.de](http://www.jugendinformation-augsburg.de), Augsburg)

Young people are producing news as spots for mobile phones which are sent via Bluetooth, Blu3@tt@cK, [www.mobflo.de](http://www.mobflo.de), Flörsheim am Main

Youth portal for everyone who works with youth in Northrhine-Westfalia but especially for young people; on the one hand it provides information and displays the German youth work scene, on the other hand it shows the possibilities to young people how they can get involved in youth work; jfc Medienzentrum, [www.yougle.de](http://www.yougle.de)

## 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.*

According to a study on child and youth participation in municipalities conducted by the Bertelsmann Foundation young people (12 to 18 years) choose the following informal forms of participation:

- take part in (approved) manifestations;
- collect signatures;
- take actively part in discussions/debates;
- participate in a youth conference;
- take part in forbidden manifestations;
- go to the consultation hours of the local child and youth ombudsman/ombudswoman;
- take part in a social or political project.

The study was conducted in 42 cities and municipalities all over Germany and more than 12,000 young people were involved. More information: <http://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/cps/rde/xchg/SID-0A000F0A-1CDA80C0/bst/hs.xsl/16538.htm> (in German)

*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?*

Online opinion-poll "youth and politics – two contradicting extremes?": In 2009 the „Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung“ carried out an opinion poll/survey (not representative) for young people accompanying the federal elections in Germany. Young people should be given the opportunity to deal with politics, political questions and democracy as the German form of government. Through their participation, the young participants were subject and object of the survey at the same time. 3428 people mainly aged 16 to 17 participated in the poll.

[http://www.bpb.de/methodik/PTWMV0,0,0,Auswertung\\_der\\_%28nichtrepr%E4sentativen%29\\_OnlinBefragung%3A\\_Jugend\\_und\\_Politik\\_%96\\_Bundestagswahl\\_2009.html](http://www.bpb.de/methodik/PTWMV0,0,0,Auswertung_der_%28nichtrepr%E4sentativen%29_OnlinBefragung%3A_Jugend_und_Politik_%96_Bundestagswahl_2009.html)

Online opinion poll for young people between 13 and 18 years initiated by the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe. The young people were asked to answer to twelve questions concerning the topic youth and alcohol. Experts wanted to better understand why young people drink a lot of alcohol and why they are taken to hospital more and more often after consuming alcohol. Download the analysis of the poll here:

<http://www.lwl.org/ks-download/downloads/Aktionswoche2009/Aktionswoche%20Alkohol%202009%20Bericht.pdf> (in German)

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

In August 2010 the city of Magdeburg started the initiative "entfaltung findet stadt" (deployment is taking place) which is addressed to children, the youth and young adults living in Magdeburg aged 6 to 27. Via a special web tool they are invited to proclaim their wishes, vision and conceivabilities concerning the city and its environment, [www.entfalter.de](http://www.entfalter.de)

Protesting against tuition fees via facebook

Protesting against the "cask for storage and transport of radioactive material" via facebook and twitter