



INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Italy

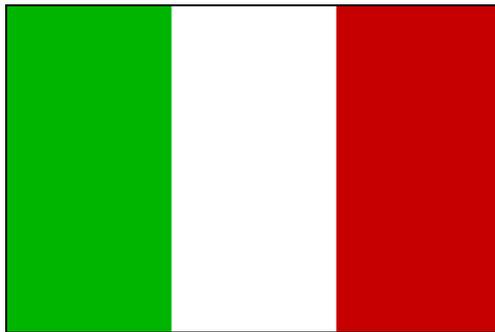


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1. Youth participation in Italy

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

The concept of youth participation isn't still defined in a legislative statement of the Italian legal system. The Italian institutions totally agree and usually adopt the definitions of these concepts used in the European official acts and documents and in a special way in the Lisbon Treaty. In fact, this system suggests the approach used in the Italian youth policies.

Broadly speaking, art. 2 of the Italian Constitution "recognizes and guarantees the inviolable rights of the person, as an individual and in the social groups where human personality is expressed. The Republic expects that the fundamental duties of political, economic and social solidarity be fulfilled"; art. 3 recognizes the principle of equality of all citizens and the task of the State to remove all the "obstacles of an economic or social nature which constrain the freedom and equality of citizens thereby impeding the full development of the human person and the effective participation of all workers in the political, economic and social organisation of the country".

These articles protect those rights that the individual exercises in all his social relations in the different social groups cited by the Constitution (family, political parties, organizations, etc.). Young people and children part of the sovereign people are entitled of all inviolable rights and freedoms recognized by the Constitution, among the others the right to assemble peacefully (art.17) and to form associations freely (art.18).

From 1977 nowadays different laws rule the application of the principle of the participated planning (programmazione partecipata) that provides the active involvement of local communities in the definition of local social policies. Among the other also children and young people may be involved in the initiatives that directly interest them when it is required to identify their needs and plan consequently the adequate interventions.

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

Participation is promoted at all levels (local, regional and national) through different means such as: regional youth parliaments, youth councils where young people can be actively involved in the democratic institution and in the social life; youth events, youth consultations

Municipalities, provinces and regions 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.

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

- 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:

Usually these measures are targeted to all young people, without being addressed to specific group.

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Italy

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

- Is voting compulsory in your country? Y/N

NO

- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections?

European ¹ :	18	National:	18; 25*	Regional:	18	local	18
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*Citizens aged 25 and over are entitled to vote for the Senate.

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

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

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 (only for the Chamber of Deputies)*;
- in European elections.

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

On the 15th of April 2011 the Italian Government approved a draft law presented by the Minister of Youth aiming at promoting the youth participation to economic, social, cultural and political life. This draft law, that started its path through Parliament for discussion and approval, states the equality between the passive and active electorate, giving young people aged 25 and more the opportunity to be a candidate in the elections for the Senate.

¹ 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 with the right to vote	65,14%	63,93%	66,44%	80,51%	78,85%	82,32%
13 – 30 year olds**						

*Source: Ministry of Home Affairs

** Data per age group of voters in the European elections and in national elections are not available from the statistical office of the Ministry of Home Affairs

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 25-29		All MP	
Women	4	0,63%	133	21,11%
Men	0	_____	497	78,89 %
Total	4	0,63%	630	100 %
	MP 30-39		All MP	
Women	20	3,17%	133	21,11%
Men	30	4,76%	497	78,89 %
Total	50	7,93%	630	100 %

*Source: Chamber of Deputies, 04/03/11. The age groups considered are 25-29 and 30-39.

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 organizations (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	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
13 – 30 year olds	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

*Data declared by political parties are not indicated as they lack institutional reliability.

Some information about youth participation in civil society may come from the results of some data collected by ISTAT in the Survey “Daily life – year 2009.

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	1,3	7,6	5,7	2,1
18-19	2,3	9,2	10,4	3,1
20-24	2,9	11,3	10,2	4,9
25-34	2,2	9,6	9,0	3,8
FEMALE				
14-17	4,4	11,8	10,8	4,4
18-19	2,5	11,6	11,9	4,9
20-24	3,5	9,3	9,5	4,4
25-34	1,5	8,7	9,3	2,9
MALE + FEMALE				
14-17	2,8	9,7	8,2	3,2
18-19	2,4	10,4	11,1	4,0
20-24	3,2	10,3	9,9	4,7
25-34	1,8	9,2	9,1	3,4

Source: Istat - Survey “Daily life – year 2009”

(http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20110121_00/inf_10_05_la_vita_quotidiana_nel_2009.pdf).

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

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.

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.

Student regional parliaments are composed of students (usually 50% girls and 50% boys) elected by the students of secondary high schools in the specific region and have representative and counsellor functions. They are usually divided in commissions dealing with topic such as: environment and quality of life; school, training and job; active citizenship, sports, leisure time, art and culture.

The National Youth 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.

Following the invitation of the Council Resolution on the renewed framework for the European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), Italy set up a national working group with the participation of representatives of the National Youth Forum, the Agency for the Youth in Action programme and the Department of Youth. This national working group carried out three consultations on the topic of youth employment.

Regarding youth participation through new technologies see answer to question n. 5.4.

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

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
.....									

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?

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”. At national level there are yearly teacher training programmes with also modules on the above-mentioned topic.

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.

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.

Here are some examples:

Project: UExte-2010: A Scuola l’Europa! (<http://www.uexte.eu/>)

The project, carried out from October 2010 to March 2011 experimented an innovative and involving approach to bring young people near the European institutions. The project involved 9,000 students in all the country in activities of discussion on the work and the functioning of the European Union, on the European opportunities for young people and on the founding values and fundamental rights included in the Lisbon Treaty. Young people drafted resolutions’ proposals in the fields of culture and education, Environment and development, Employment and social affairs. In March 160 young people participated to the final event of the project consisting in the simulation of a European Parliament session during which three resolutions in the indicated fields were approved and then sent to the Youth Intergroup of the Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg.

The project, implemented by Eurodesk Italy national network, was funded by the Ministry of Youth, the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme together with the Management Partnership.

PiCA -Percorsi di Cittadinanza Attiva (Active citizenship paths) is an innovative training project promoted by the Minister of Youth and the Municipality of Rome to enhance young people’s social commitment through their active involvement as trainee in social, cultural and economic initiatives carried out in Rome. In case of success this pilot project would be promoted by the Minister of Youth in other Italian municipalities.

TNT –Youth Talents Festival

The project was promoted by the Department of Youth in cooperation with the Italian National Agency for Youth. It was the first big event dedicated to the Italian young people who marked

outstanding performance in the fields of art and culture, sport, research, civic society and at professional level. The event, held in Rome from 17th to 21st of November 2010, was aimed at the valorization of youth talent and it will offer them high level professional opportunities, new competences and abilities. In that occasion young people had the opportunity to discuss about the main issues of the European youth policies and the future of the youth programmes.

Project “Eurogaming - Increasing inclusiveness in youth work and volunteering”

This project is built by a partnership between 9 NGOs specialized in international youth work, disability or volunteering and 5 Public institutions from 6 countries from European Union (Belgium, Spain, Italy, Portugal, UK & Cyprus). The objectives are to increase the level of participation of young people from disadvantaged groups especially young people with disabilities in Youth in Action activities, especially EVS and to promote non-formal education among more than 250 stakeholders in youth that usually don't have the practice to use NFE or European dimension methodology in their work. On concrete level, the project will: re-adapt the NFE resource Eurogames taking into consideration the accessibility for disabled people; host 6 Seminars with the partners in each of the participating countries to promote this NFE tool to more than 250 youth stakeholders; develop 3 Training courses to train 54 youth leaders on inclusion of disabled people especially in volunteering initiatives like EVS. Additionally it will directly provide EVS opportunities to 4 young people from disadvantaged groups. To readapt the Eurogames the project will host a youth exchange that will involve 31 young people, where at least 16 will have disability and where they will give inputs for the adaptation of the resource. This will be followed by a Seminar of experts from different stakeholders in youth that will produce the final version of Eurogames2010.

Project “Proposta 2010 verso l'Agenda 2020

This project, carried out by the Italian Youth Forum, was a 4 days meeting of young people conceived inside the main general Framework of European Cooperation in the youth field focused on the issues of: Employment, Social Mobility, Youth participation and active citizenship, Youth Rights, Youth Access etc. A specific attention has been given to Employment which the Council Resolution 2009 established as the overall thematic priority, according also to the main guidelines of the trio-presidency of EU. Proposta 2010-verso l'Agenda 2020 involved around 100 young people working on concrete proposals to be presented to our Government, to European Institutions and to Civil Society. The main result is a final document written, discussed and shared among participants and later on handed to the Minister of Youth in the occasion of a ceremony promoted on the 17th of March 2011 for the celebrations of the 150 years from the Unity of Italy.

Project YouMap (www.youmap.eu)

This project carried out in 2009 by associations of eight countries (in Italy by the Association Lunaria) aims to put young people in touch and support interactions among migrants living in Europe and European youngsters who live in the suburbs, using the potentiality that new technologies can offer for the youth participation, the promotion of the auto-production of information. The methodology adopted foresaw the experimentation of activities of non formal education using new technologies to stimulate the exploration of their urban context, the auto-production of information materials on that context and their on line dissemination through the web platform www.youmap.eu. The project was funded by the Youth in action Programme.

Project “Democratic opinions, informatic technologies for youth”

The project, carried out in the Municipality of Tortona, was about youth participation. The main aim was to improve the relationship between young people and local administrations (decision makers), to reinforce mutual understanding and trust in order to involve young people in taking decisions. It was also an exchange of practices at European level. The project was innovative because of the approach and methodology in involving young people (SMS and online consultations) of two different Youth Councils, one in the North of Italy (Consulta Giovani di Tortona) and the other in the South (Consulta Giovani di Tropea), together with 2 Irish youth organization from Dublin (EIRE) and Limerick (EIRE). The projects reached hundreds of youngsters. The project was funded by the Youth in action Programme

5. Youth information in Italy

5.1 The structure of youth information

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

- Do youth information points / centres exist? Yes.

In Italy, since 1981, over 1.170 Informagiovani centres have opened in all the large cities and in many smaller cities and towns as well. Their service is free and the information is reliable and varied.

- Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? Yes, in 2007 a national and regional coordination were created. The National Coordination (<http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/>), managed from ANCI (association of the municipalities), has task of coordination, monitoring, evaluation and programming of the activities.

- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? Yes. The Regional Coordination has the main task to implement activities in the Regions.

- Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)? Yes, the national coordination of the Informagiovani (<http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/>) is member of the Eryca Organisation (<http://www.eryca.org/>). Eurodesk Italy is member of the European Eurodesk network.

5.2. The youth information services

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

Is there an online national youth information system? Yes, there are different portals providing information for young people.

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

The Italian Youth Portal (www.portaledeigiovani.it), linked to the one launched by the European Commission, has been developed and promoted nationally. Here you can find also a map of the Informagiovani centers active in Italy. Many of the existing Informagiovani provide the information also through their web site.

Information and counseling activities on the "Youth in Action" Programme are performed by the Agency (www.agenziagiovani.it), together with the National EURODESK office (www.eurodesk.it). The National EURODESK office provides information also on the other youth programmes and activities promoted both by the European Union and the Council of Europe. It operates according to a network structure that counts 112 local relays present all over the country (<http://www.eurodesk.it/rete/antenne-territoriali>).

Through funds of the Youth Department the National Agency of the "Youth in Action" Programme is starting the implementation of an Italian integrated youth information system aiming at helping young people's access to initiatives promoted at European, national and local level and guaranteeing the highest effectiveness of the different existing systems.

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.

Yes, Regions have their own structure for the regional coordination of the Informagiovani, you can find their reference in this webpage:

<http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/gestionePagineStatiche.do?metodo=formPaginaStaticaPubblica&idPagina=2>

Moreover, every Region has its own portal that provides information on specific topics such as training, education, employment, mobility and European opportunities.

You can find information on the different regional, provincial and local websites in this webpage of the Italian government: http://www.governo.it/link/istituzioni_nazionali/index.html

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

A national publication is the “Quotidiano Giovani” (a youth newspaper) which is a daily newspaper offering young people a mix of local, national and international information. It’s an online newspaper, promoted by the Minister of Youth. It can be freely downloaded by readers (<http://www.quotidianogiovani.it>) and is sent by e-mail to registered people.

Printed materials are also distributed by the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme during their info-days and seminars carried out together with EURODESK at national and local level.

Moreover at local level, most of the different youth information services have their own brochures and dissemination material aiming at explaining young people offered services. Some of them have their own newsletters, mainly distributed on line through e-mails or downloaded by users from web sites.

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 X
- studies and scholarships X
- jobs and training X
- general health matters
- relationships and sexuality
- social security benefits
- rights of young people
- consumer rights
- European opportunities for young people X
- youth activities and exchanges X
- Other (please explain)

Each Informagiovani is an agency providing information and counseling in different areas: job research, training courses, organization of holidays, EU programmes of mobility, voluntary service, sports, leisure time and culture, civic service. According to the results of a sample survey carried out in 2008 by the National Coordination the main areas of interest for young people are the following ones: counseling, job, training, art (music, theatre, exchanges and travels).

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

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

At regional and national level there are many young people's organizations that participate in the provision and dissemination of information. An example is the National Youth Forum.

The website of the Ministry of Youth (www.gioventu.gov.it) have an online forum open to all young people invited to express their ideas on a specific topic 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. Young people can express their opinions and discuss on the projects and initiatives promoted by the Ministry of youth in the facebook pages linked to the web site www.gioventu.gov.it.

Young people can get information and discuss on the Youth in action programme through the website of the National Agency of the Youth in Action programme (<http://www.agenziagiovani.it>) in which there is a specific on line forum and the link with the radio yang, the online radio of the National Agency. Young people can discuss on the Youth in action programme also in facebook, in which the National agency has its own page.

Moreover, information and counseling activities on the "Youth in Action" Programme are performed by the Agency together with the National EURODESK office (<http://www.eurodesk.it>) that is in charge also for the information on other EU youth programmes. Young people can discuss on these programmes also in facebook, in which EURODESK has its own page.

EURODESK is the European network responsible for the dissemination of European Union information and for the provision of telephone enquiry services for young people and other actors in the youth field.

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.

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

- on line forums, consultations on topic of interest for young people also through social networks;
- voluntary activities;
- participation to meetings and activities of youth centres and cultural, political, trade unions organizations;
- 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/)

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?

Different institutions use Internet pages and social networks (mainly facebook) to discuss with young people and make them express their opinion on different topics such as education, employment, mobility, leisure time, health and so on.

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

Organized actions are often promoted by groups of young people, mainly using social networks, to express their ideas, opinions and in some case protests on/against different public policies such as for instance: education, employment, health, immigration and so on.

7. Sources of information

Legislation

- Italian Constitution, art. 2,3, 17 and 18
- Council Resolution on the renewed framework for the European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)

Plans and programmes

- European Commission, 'Youth in Action' Programme Guide. Brussels, 2010
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/youth-in-action-programme/doc/how_to_participate/programme_guide_10/guide_en.pdf

Publications

- National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), chapter 24 "The social participation and the religious practice", multi-scope survey "Daily life – year 2009", http://www.istat.it/dati/catalogo/20110121_00/inf_10_05_la_vita_quotidiana_nel_2009.pdf
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- Faggiano M.P. (2007), Stile di vita e partecipazione sociale giovanile. Il circolo virtuoso teoria-ricerca-teoria, Franco Angeli, Milano.
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- Public Policy and Management Institute, Mobility of young people across Europe <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/news/attachments/mobility-of-young-volunteers.pdf>

Websites:

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- <http://www.informagiovani.anci.it/>
- www.portaledeigiovani.it
- <http://www.quotidianogiovani.it>