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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

The Netherlands



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1. Youth participation in the Netherlands

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country at 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?

There is no Youth Policy Act in the Netherlands. Rather, the responsibilities for preventive youth policy (which includes participation) are laid down in various sections of the Social Support Act. This Act aims to create better conditions for all citizens to fully participate in society. Participation policy also aims at enabling young people to develop into independent and socially committed citizens to enable them to function effectively at school, work and in society in general. In practice, the child's right to participate has been realized in several areas, such as education and youth care.

In The Netherlands, youth participation is getting more and more attention due to the growing positive approach to youth policy. Positive youth policy focuses on all children and youth, not just on the 15 per cent of them with serious problems. The focus of positive youth policy is not on preventing and detecting problems. Rather, it puts all children and youngsters at the centre of the support.

Municipalities should have achieved some form of youth participation before the end of 2011, according to the framework 'Opportunities for all children' from the former Dutch ministry for Youth and Families. It states that youngsters aged 13 – 25 - should be able to participate in local civil society and have a say in local policy issues that concern them. How and to what extent is determined by the municipalities and preferably in collaboration with the youngsters themselves. A national binding framework for these youth policy plans does not exist. However, a variety of local initiatives is supported by local municipalities, ranging from local youth councils to young ambassadors, youth mayors and other youth participation projectsⁱ.

The Dutch policy is linked to the Renewed Framework of the European Youth Strategy of the European Union that was adopted in November 2009. Furthermore, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by the Dutch government. As of 1 April 2011 a Dutch Children's Ombudsman will be installed. With the introduction of the Children's Ombudsman, the Netherlands has a national institution which independently monitors the position of children and adolescents. The Children's Ombudsman ensures that public and private organizations respect children's rights. Its instruments are information, advice, monitoring and research. On February 15, 2011, the Dutch Parliament appointed Marc Dullaert as the Netherlands first Children's Ombudsmanⁱⁱ.

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

In the Netherlands, there is no specific definition of youth participation. Participation is a generic term. On the one hand, participation can be described as young people's opportunities to influence decision making structures. On the other hand, it also relates to young people's opportunities to take initiatives to be actively involved in society. Participation is to be regarded as a process, not as a goal in itself. It is a vision about the way young people are enabled to become agents of their own life. Providing information to and by young people can contribute to their participationⁱⁱⁱ.

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

National level

Within the political field, the political youth organizations receive funding from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom relations. Concerning NGO participation, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and other departments, local governments and organizations subsidizes the Dutch National Youth Council. For more information about the National Youth Council, please look at paragraph

3.2.1. All other youth organizations that receive funding, receive this decentralised, from the province or municipality.

Regional level

Most provinces in the Netherlands have a budget for youth participation projects. For example, in the province of Groningen there is a budget for youth participation. With this budget the province wants to encourage youth participation activities for and by young people. The budget also aims at providing information to young people. The funding is for organizations that focus on young people between 12 and 25 years of age, in particular young people in (pre) vocational education^{iv}.

The province of Gelderland is funding a number of youth volunteer organizations to stimulate the involvement and interest of young people in society. Scouting, Rural Youth Gelderland, and Youth work Bureau Lava organize activities for youngsters on a weekly basis. Developing social skills and independence are central in these activities. Young people learn to take initiatives and are encouraged to participate in social work and voluntary work. They also discuss current issues such as alcohol abuse^v.

Local level

Municipalities have their own incentive programmes including small, easy-access, subsidies for young people to organize activities in their neighbourhood.

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

Participation of ethnic minorities

Relatively few young people from ethnic minorities or with disadvantaged backgrounds are involved in organised sport activities. The Dutch government has therefore introduced a new programme especially targeted at stimulating sport activities by migrant young people called 'Participation of migrant youth through sports' ('Meedoen allochtone jeugd door sport').

Participation of young people with disabilities

Organizations and individuals who work with young people with disabilities can apply for subsidy for participation projects. The activities are aimed at:

- improving regional cooperation with the Institute for implementing employee insurance (Uitvoeringinstituut Werknemers Verzekeringen, UWV), employers and agencies involved in employment authorization, and welfare or education;
- improving the guidance of young people into the labor market;
- development or renewal of methodology;
- broadening knowledge and expertise on areas concerning young people^{vi}.

Youth living in poverty

Businesses, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions can receive funds to combat local poverty. The activities should focus on one of the following themes:

- promoting the participation of children from poor families;
- promoting the use of provisions;
- involvement of people with fewer opportunities to participate in Dutch society.

For example, requesting a grant for meetings and events, information campaigns, training for volunteers or establishing a cooperation agreement^{vii}.

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in the Netherlands

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: 18		National: 18		Regional: 18		Local: 18	
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- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

In the Netherlands, there are elections for the European Parliament, the national Parliament, provincial and municipal councils, and in some bigger cities (like Amsterdam) for neighbourhood councils. Basically, everyone who has reached the age of 18 and has been living in the Netherlands for more than 5 years is entitled to vote in municipal elections. This includes foreigners who are staying in the Netherlands legally for at least 5 years. Dutch citizens who have been living abroad don't have the right to vote in the local elections (municipalities). In regional and national elections, only Dutch citizens are entitled to vote.

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

All persons from eighteen years on, and having resided in the Netherlands legally for more than 5 years can be a candidate, with the exception of municipal elections, where persons younger than 18 can be elected but may not take office until they have reached the age of 18. Candidates at the national elections (state) are chosen from party lists resulting in proportional representation^{viii}.

2.1. Participation in elections

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote under 30 years of age) at the European (for EU-countries only) and the 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.

National election (2009)

Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote			
	Total	Female	Male
% of total population	80	82	79
18-25 years	71	-	-
25- 30 years	68	-	-

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.

In total there are 225 members of parliament at the national level (Lower House and Senate). At the national level, there are a 10 young people who are a member of the Lower Chamber of Dutch Parliament: Farshad Bashir, male, 22 years old, Social Party – Jesse Klaver, male, 24 years old, GreenLeft – Manja Smits, female, 25 years old, Social Party – Niels van den Berge, male, 26 years old, GreenLeft – Léon Jong, male, 28 years old, People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy – Klaas Dijkhoff, male, 29 years old, Labour Party – Johan Driessen, male, 29 years old, People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy – Tofik Dibi, male, 30, GreenLeft – Nine Kooiman, female, 30, Social Party – Sander Rouwe, male, 30, Christian Democratic Appeal.

Total members of national parliament	Total under 30 years	Male under 30 years	Female under 30 years
150	10	8	2

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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 of 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.

Percentage of young people who are member of a youth NGO

- 39 % of all youngsters from 18 to 25 years old are members of a specific sports-, hobby- or other leisure time organization;
- 15 % of all youngsters are a member of an organization relating to their church;
- 13 % of a charity organization;
- 12% of a students' organization;
- 6 % of a neighbourhood organization.

In addition, there are also many young people that are active in non-formal structures at the local level or in open networks that are created for specific projects or short term actions. We do not dispose of data with regard to the number of young people involved^x.

Number of young people who are member of political youth organization

At the national level, there are 14 political youth organizations. Some are independent organizations, others are a youth department of a political party. The largest of the 14 political youth organizations is the Youth Reformed Party with 12.330 members, followed by the Young Socialists with 3.039 members. Members of the other political youth organizations range between 2.500 and 180. Nearly all of the political youth organizations are members of the National Youth Council. This Council will be discussed in greater detail in the paragraph dealing with Dutch Policy.

Political participation

Name Political Youth Organization	Parent party	Members /comment
SGP Youth Political	Dutch Orthodox Reformed Party	12.330
PerspectieF	Christian Union	2203
Young Democrats	Democrats '66	1730
RED, young within SP	Socialist Party	3039
Youth Organization Freedom Democracy	People's Party for Freedom and Democracy	1391 Oldest youth organization, founded in 1948
Christian Democratic Youth Appeal	Christian Democratic Appeal	1300
Young Socialist within PvdA	Labour Party	1305
DWARS	Green Left	1047
Young Fortuynists	Pim Fortuyn List	180
Communitistic Youth Movement	New Communitistic Party	unknown Re-established in 2003
Young Right	New Right	unknown
YOUNG	Onafhankelijk.nl	unknown
Young New Limburg	Party New Limburg	unknown Only active in province of Limburg
PINK!	Party for the Animals	unknown

Source: Youth Partnership (2007)

A Dutch Political Youth Organization can receive funding from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, when its parent party is being represented in the Second Chamber (Dutch House of Representatives). The funding is provided to the parent party, (which is obliged to pay a fixed part to the youth organization, based on the number of members of the youth organization. The Ministry restricts the funding for young people until the age of 28. The Youth organizations have different age criteria: for instance, the Young Socialists accept people up to the age of 27, while a lot of the members of the Reformed Party are older than 28 years.

The Ministry also requires a youth organization to be independent from its parent party (while maintaining formal ties with the parent party). All the bigger national parties have their own youth organization. Young people who are members of a youth organization are mostly not members of the parent party.

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 Dutch National Youth Council (NJR) is an independent umbrella organization of national youth organizations in the Netherlands, for young people between 12 and 30 years of age. It started its work in 2001 with the financial support of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. Currently, it also receives project grants from other departments, local governments and organizations. The National Youth Council represents more than 25 national youth organizations including political youth organizations, student organizations and social organizations and is member of the European Youth Forum. The National Youth Council is responsible for:

- improving youth participation at the national and local level;
- advocating the best interests of young people and youth organizations.

The National Youth Council is leading the Dutch national working group for the Structured Dialogue within the renewed Framework of the European Youth Strategy . In this group, it closely collaborates with the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport, the Netherlands Youth Institute and the Association of Dutch Municipalities. For more information visit the website of the National Youth Council: www.njr.nl.

Regional Youth Councils

In the Netherlands, there are 2 regional (provincial) youth councils supported by the provincial governments. In some other provinces there are also regional youth councils initiated by young people themselves or by youth members of political parties. It is however not clear if these councils are still active at the present time.

Regional youth councils:

- The Provincial Youth Council in the province of Drenthe, www.jongerenraadrenthe.nl
- The Provincial Youth Council in the province of Overijssel, <http://jro.vedor.nl/>

Regional youth council (initiative of young people):

- Youth Network in the province of Limburg, www.jnl.org
- Your Zeeland is a website from the Provincial Government for young people of which the content is kept up-to-date by a youth press bureau, www.jouwzeeland.nl
- The Province of Gelderland has a regional youth council which consists of the youth members of the political parties in the province of Gelderland, www.in-spe.org

Local Youth Councils

In April 2010, the Netherlands numbered 137 local youth councils. They have been recorded at the following website: www.forumjongerenraden.nl/. This website is managed by the National Youth Council, and provides information for youth who would like to start a youth council in their own town or village.

Alternatives at the local level

Youth ambassadors

The following Dutch cities have youth ambassadors: Tilburg, Den Bosch, Zoetermeer, and The Hague. Youth Ambassadors are young people (pupils / students) between 16 and 24 years. The youth ambassadors are the contact point for young people within the municipality. The ambassadors come in contact with young people within the municipality through a website or by visiting schools.

Central to the format is that young people understand the issues that are important among youth within the community. In addition, the involvement of young people with their environment is improved. The youth ambassadors can give advice to the municipality on their own initiative or they can be asked to give advice on specific issues. Through the youth ambassadors, the municipalities can keep in touch with youngsters. This makes it easier to make choices, or to develop new policies which involve young people^{xi}.

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?

In the Netherlands, all children aged 4 to 16 are obliged to attend full-time education. Since February 2006 schools in the Netherlands are obliged to pay attention to active citizenship and social inclusion. With this Act, the government wants schools to prepare students for participation in the pluralistic society.

School student council

Some students form part of the schools' consultative councils, alongside parents and teaching staff. Every school is required by law to have a pupil's charter, stating the rights and obligations of pupils. Many schools, particularly the secondary ones, also have a pupil's council, although this is not a legal requirement. Furthermore, there are various national organizations for school children and students. For those in secondary education, the National Pupils Action Committee (LAKS) exists, while there are two major students unions too. For students in vocational training there is the Young People's organization for Vocational Education (JOB). All such organizations are being funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

Work placement as part of secondary education

Starting in the school year 2011 – 2012 secondary school's pupils will be obliged to do a 3 months community work experience. This is not a regular internship, but more or less a kind of voluntary work, as the young people don't get a salary or compensation for the work they do. The aim of this work placement for youth is to get acquainted with and contribute to the society. By doing such a placement, young people learn to participate in society, and it is important for their personal development. For instance, young people work in a home for elderly people, a hospital or at a children's farm. The work placement is part of the educational system of secondary schools and the educational curriculum. Schools are free to set their own requirements, which a certain organization has to meet in order to be a proper training location for youngsters.

Peaceful school (Vreedzame school)

The programme the Peaceful school focuses on democratic citizenship: students acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function in Dutch democratic society. 'Functioning' means contributing to the community, feeling responsible for society, being open to differences, willing to behave in a democratic manner, forming opinions, and a critical view on information.

The Peaceful School is based on three aspects:

- * For the future of democracy and the 'democratic way of life' it is necessary to teach children the knowledge, attitudes, and skills for democratic citizenship through education.
- * As of February 2006 schools are obliged to pay attention to active citizenship and social inclusion. Citizenship is defined as 'the willingness and ability to be part of the community and contribution to this as an active agent'. Social integration is defined as 'the participation of citizens in society through social participation, participation in society and its institutions, and awareness of and involvement in Dutch culture.
- * Schools and their educational climate should organize their education in an open and respectful learning environment based on democratic values. It is not just about transferring knowledge about democracy, but also about teaching children how to behave in a democratic society.

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.

In the Netherlands, the implementation of the United Nations Convention of the rights of the child (CRC) has been clearly defined in the Dutch youth policy. Youth participation, as one of the main parts of the CRC, is associated with having a certain degree of freedom and with taking initiative. Several formal structures are being stimulated in order to improve youth participation, for instance youth councils and youth panels.

Jong Lokaal Bokaal (Young Local Cup)

On November 19, 2009, one day before the International Day for the Rights of the Child, the Jong Lokaal Bokaal is awarded for the second time. This annual award is a reward for municipalities that take young people seriously and encourage them to participate, contribute ideas, and help decide on what is important for young people.

The Jong Lokaal Bokaal was created to render good initiatives and practices in the field of youth, visible. Creating a pleasant and livable environment, in which young people play an active role, is a starting point for young people's participation, both in society and in politics and policy. Participation in making choices, and their implementation, is crucial to the success of (youth) policy.

This year, the Dutch National Youth Council, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports hands out the trophy to the winning municipality. Beforehand, an extensive selection process is conducted, in which young people themselves will help determine which are the top three municipalities. The organization of the Jong Lokaal Bokaal is carried out by the Dutch National Youth Council.

WhoZnext

WhoZnext is a government-subsidized project, by the Dutch Institute for Sport and Physical Activity, founded in 2000. The aim of WhoZnext is to ensure that young people between 12 and 18 years not only participate in sports activities, but are also actively involved in the design and implementation. It is important that young people are more active as coach, referee, manager or organizer in the field of sport and exercise.

The real work is done by the whoZnext teams. WhoZnext teams are groups of young people, supported by an adult coach, who put their (sports) ideas into action. They organize spectacular events for youths in the neighbourhood. The purpose of the event is to make other young people enthusiastic for sports and exercise and to become a whoZnexter themselves.

Look for more information on their website: <http://www.whoznext.nl/engels.html>.

UCee Station

There are several Dutch practices focusing on talent development of young people at risk. One of them is Click F1. Click F1 invests in the future of children and adolescents using art and culture, sport, and cross-media. As a network organization, Click F1 arranges partnerships between projects and, if necessary, manages them. The mission of Click F1 is 'Empowering the future'. Click F1 has developed several projects and has a department training and advice, where young people can get support in their talent development. UCee Station is one of the projects aimed at talent development which is supported by Click F1. UCee Station is a media education project and platform for young people aged 13 to 23, for secondary and vocational training schools, and for

welfare organizations. In 2007, UCee Station began in Utrecht, where young people, organizations and politics showed to be enthusiastic about the project. In 2008 a start was made in Amsterdam, and subsequently UCee Station was extended to The Hague and Rotterdam in 2009. In each city or region a network of stations is built as an underground network in a metropolis. The boroughs are called stations and each station has several platforms that represents different organizations within that borough. For example, schools, welfare services, and youth centres. Young people affiliated with the platforms make media items in which their own neighbourhoods and environment is central. In this way, the activities in the borough are made visible and form a platform for the participating parties. For more information please look at the following websites: www.clickf1.nl and www.uceestation.nl.

Youth participation within the Youth and Family Centres (CJG)

December 2010, the Knowledge centre of the Youth and Family Centres (KCJG) and the Christian Trade Union for Youth (CNV Jong) started the project 'youth participation within the Youth and Family Centre' in five Dutch municipalities. Objectives of the project are to make youth participation part of the Youth and Family Centres, to strengthen the resilience of young people, and to increase the involvement of young people in the municipalities. The pilot phase is almost completed.

Using peer-education, young people are role-models and coaches for their peers. Inside the municipalities eight to ten young people are trained by CNV Jong and a CJG employee. These youngsters learn how to inform their peers about topics which are important to them. This way, a large proportion of young people in the municipality are reached and their skills and assertiveness are strengthened. At the same time young people are encouraged to actively participate in the local community. The youngsters are introduced to the community and specifically to the Youth and Family Centres. In addition, young people learn to stimulate and encourage their peers.

National Youth Participation Day

The National Youth Participation Day is a trade day, at which youth participation is central. Professionals and interested people are motivated, informed, and activated to bring youth participation to a higher level.

The purpose of the National Day of Youth Participation is to encourage and improve youth participation, and to give everyone involved with youth participation the opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge.

Besides the receiving and delivering of information, the participants actively come in contact with young people. Furthermore, tools are offered to stay in contact after the event, and to continue sharing experiences^{xii}.

5. Youth information in the Netherlands

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, the Youth Information Point (JIP), see also: www.jipsite.nl

At a Youth Information Point, young people between 12 and 25 years of age can get information and advice on various topics such as housing, education, work, sexuality, alcohol, drugs, health, money, rights and duties, leisure and living abroad. Young people can go to the Youth Information Points with all their questions for free and anonymous. Furthermore, parents and people working with young people can come to the Youth Information Points for information and advice on youth. In the Netherlands you can find the Youth Information Points on recognizable places, sometimes in a library, community centre, school or another organization, but also as a separate information centre.

The classification of the Youth Information Points

Because there are several Youth Information Points, a classification system is developed that is based on three types of Youth Information Points: JIP A, B or C. This classification clarifies the minimum requirements that must be met by a Youth Information Point to be called a Youth Information Point. The distinction between the three categories is related to the level of service and accessibility.

• JIP C;

This is the minimum Youth Information Point. This JIP could be in a school, library or community centre. There must be a wide range of up-to-date information and it must be accessible to all young people. A professional information worker is available for a few hours a week. Besides this, information is available and accessible through brochure stands. The minimum JIP functions are: information, education, counseling and referral.

• JIP B;

Can be stationed in a library or community centre, but can also be an independent information centre, whether or not part of an umbrella organization. There is a separate information space furnished with a wide variety of information through various media. The JIP is open for at least 2 day parts a week and has at least one professional information worker. The minimum JIP functions are: information, education, counseling, referral, consultation and practical services and expertise.

• A JIP;

Has a regional function with respect to networking, support and information exchange. The JIP is opened for a minimum of 5 day parts a week. The minimum JIP functions are the same as for a JIP B.

- Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist?

The National Association of the Youth Information Point in the Netherlands represents the interests of youth information work in the Netherlands. It supports daily youth information work, and promotes cooperation and exchange between youth information workers themselves. Any youth information worker can become a member of the association. There are also a number of supporting members. These are umbrella organizations that support and feel involved in the association who have no right to vote. The association consists of a board and members. The association is dependent on the commitment of members. The board provides the necessary conditions. Once a year there is a meeting during the annual Youth Information Day. During this day the policy for the coming year is determined and the board is selected from the members. To form a strong basis, it is important that as many youth information workers are members of the association.

The National Association of Youth Information Points assesses the Youth Information Points on 12 criteria. Only when the Youth Information Points meet these criteria, they are officially registered as a Youth Information Point and part of the National Association.

- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist?

Yes, the Youth Information Centres are organized at ten locations in the Netherlands. For addresses, please take a look at the following website: <http://www.iip.org/nl/node/393>.

The Youth Information Points are financed at local level.

- Is youth information in your country member of any European network?

The Youth Information Centres were part of the Erica Network until December 2010. Because of financial reasons due to the declining number of Youth Information Points in the Netherlands, the Youth Information Points are no longer members of the Erica Network since January 2011.

5.2. The youth information services

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

There are ten Youth Information Points in the Netherlands who are part of the National Association of the Youth Information Point (see addresses). There are more Information Points for Youth, but these don't meet the 12 criteria drawn up by the National Association. Because of this, they are not officially registered as a Youth Information Point.

Is there an online national youth information system?

Yes, www.jipsite.nl. On this site you will find information about accommodation, working, studying, drugs, sexuality and more.

Are there any online regional youth information systems?

- JIP Apeldoorn: www.iip-apeldoorn.nl
- JIP Bergen op Zoom: www.iipbergenopzoom.nl
- JIP Delft: www.iipdelft.nl
- JIP Heemskerk: www.iipheemskerk.nl
- JIP Haarlemmermeer: www.iiphaarlemmermeer.nl
- Doc.Shop Rotterdam: www.doc-shop.nl
- JIP Rotterdam: www.iiprotterdam.nl
- JIP Venlo: www.iipvenlo.nl
- JIP-JOP bus Waddinxveen: www.iipjop.nl
- JIP Zoetermeer: www.iipzoetermeer.nl

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

www.trimbos.nl

www.soaaids.nl

www.jellinek.nl

www.rutgersnissogroep.nl

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?

Information about relationships and sexuality, career guidance, drugs, rights of young people, money, youth welfare services, living, studies, leisure time, and youth activities and exchanges.

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

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

Because the Youth Information Points are financed at the local level, there isn't an overview of participation projects within the Youth Information Points. At the local level for example there are youth councils which discuss issues concerning the design of the website or shop of the Youth Information Point.

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.

	18-25 years %	25-35 years %
Influencing politics:		
Notifying television, radio and newspaper	12	12
True a political party or organization	2	2
Participating in a meeting of the government	6	7
Contact politician or other official	2	7
Participating action group	1	2
Participating in demonstration	8	9
Discussion, action true internet, e-mail and text massage	21	22
Membership association or organization:		
Environmental and nature organization	12	18
Charitable organization	13	16
Trade Union	8	17

Bron: CBSstatline

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 consultation and care is becoming increasingly popular. Currently, there are different kinds of services on the Internet, ranging from consultation to professional therapy. Online consultation has a few advantages, for example the flexibility, its accessibility, anonymity and the savings in time and costs. The disadvantages are the lack of nonverbal information and more drop-out of participants. The Dutch government supports initiatives in the field of online assistance, but has no specific policy on this topic.

Opvoedmix.nl

As of February 9, 2011, Moroccan-Dutch parents can find more information about parenting their children on the website www.opvoedmix.nl. Initiators E-hulp.nl and Morocco Media developed the site because many parents with a Moroccan-Dutch background do not feel comfortable with regular parenting support. Parents can address questions to trained volunteers with a Moroccan background, and to professionals of Family Centres. Besides general information on pregnancy, parenting and child development, there is a forum where mothers with a Moroccan background can exchange experiences^{xiii}.

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

In 2010, over 90 percent of Dutch youth aged 16 to 25 years was active on social networks like MySpace, Twitter and Facebook. With this, Dutch youngsters belong to the top users of social media of the European Union. Young people chat, participate in a newsgroup or online discussion, and read blogs. Although e-mail is not a social network, sending and receiving e-mails remains the largest Internet activity in 2010 by Dutch Youth^{xiv}.

7. Sources of information

ⁱ www.youthpolicy.nl

ⁱⁱ www.nationaleombudsman.nl

ⁱⁱⁱ www.youthpolicy.nl

^{iv} <http://www.provinciegroningen.nl/loket/subsidies/wonen-en-welzijn/jongerenparticipatie/>

^v <http://www.gelderland.nl/smartsite.dws?id=227>

^{vi} www.overheidsloket.nl

^{vii} www.overheidsloket.nl

^{viii} <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/verkiezingen/vraag-en-antwoord/wat-is-kiesrecht-en-wie-mogen-er-stemmen-of-gekozen-worden.html>

^{ix} http://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerleden/alle_kamerleden/index.jsp

^x www.youthpolicy.nl

^{xi} <http://www.yourworldnationaal.nl/projecten/jongerenambassadeurs-2/inleiding/>

^{xii} <http://www.dagvandejongerenparticipatie.nl>

^{xiii} <http://www.nji.nl/eCache/DEF/1/16/310.html>

^{xiv} http://www.marketingfacts.nl/berichten/20110111_nederlandse_jongeren_actief_op_sociale_media