

Council of Europe
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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

ROMANIA



Last updated: 02/2011

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1. Youth participation in Romania

Overview of the participation of young people (13 – 30) in Romania at the national and regional level

- *Official national recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society*

The Special Right of Youth to participate in society is mentioned in the Youth Law (Law no. 350/2006). It states among its principles that young people have the right to participate in decisions affecting them, including the development, promotion and achievement of youth policies (Article 4, letter b). It particularly concerns the authorities and local institutions which manage public funds for youth.

Youth participation definition

Participation means to be part of the development, promotion and implementation of public policies and of the management of public funds. (Law 350/2006 art. 4)

Measures to promote different forms of participation at local, regional and national level

Law 350/2006 states consultation procedures must be organized with non-governmental youth organizations and for youth at the territorial administrative level.

Targeted specific groups?

- 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):

X other: The only category mentioned in the Romanian legislation is the one for youth organizations.

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Austria

Rules of representative democracy related to young people :

- In Romania, voting is not mandatory

The legal minimum age for voting is 18 years in any kind of election- European, national or local (according to the Romanian Constitution) .

European:	18	National:	18	Regional:	18	Local:	18
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- *Legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections*

The law requires that in addition to the minimum age, citizens must not be:

- i. Mentally impaired or alienated.
- ii. Barred.
- iii. Sentenced by a court decision to the loss of electoral rights..

- *Legal requirements for being a candidate in elections*

The Constitution establishes the following minimum age limits for those who stand for office:

23 years of age by polling day, for those who run for the Chamber of Deputies or local administration.

33 years of age by polling day, for those who run for the Senate.

35 years of age for the Presidency of Romania.

2.1. Participation in elections

The percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years of age) at European (for EU-countries only) and national level:

	Participation in European elections (2009) in % of people with the right to vote			Participation in national elections(2008) in % of people with the right to vote		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population	27, 2			39,2		
13 – 30 year olds	19,7			23,9		
16 – 19 year olds ¹	21	21	21	28	24	31
20 – 24 year olds	21	19	22	23	20	27
25 – 30 year olds	18	16	20	23	24	23

1 If applicable

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

The number, in total and by gender, of young people, under the age of 30 years, who are members of the national Parliament.

Chambre of Deputies²

	MPs under 30		All	MP
Women	2	0,5 %	37	11 %
Men	10	3,0 %	300	89 %
Total	12	3,5 %	337	100 %

² The age of Deputies at the time of the election (November 2008) was taken into consideration.

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1. Membership in NGOs

	NGOs, including political NGOs and youth NGOs			Youth NGOs			Political parties		
	Total	female	male	Total	female	male	Total	female	male
% of total population	8% ³								
13 – 30 year olds	25% ⁴						1-1,5% ⁵		
16 – 19 year olds									
20 – 24 year olds									
25 – 30 year olds									

3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Types of youth participation structures, and degree of participation, in decision making allowed by these structures:

Local Councils of children and young people which are run by Local Councils in 53 Romanian cities

Boards of pupils: 42 County Councils (in each county) and a National Council of Pupils

Degree of participation: all of them are advisory structures

³ Estimates starting from estimates made in the FDSC report, Romania 2010 Non-governmental Sector (<http://www.fdsc.ro/pagini/cercetare.php>) and in the study of the Nongovernmental sector

⁴ Acc. to data by the FDSC Report ,Romania 2010. Non-governmental sector. Including employees of NGOs

⁵ Acc. to the Eurobarometer Young Europeans, 2007 taken after *Studies in the Youth Field 2007*, Ed. Didactica si Pedagogica,2007, pg. 102

4. Learning to participate

4.1. The formal education system

Existing mechanisms, within the system of formal education, aimed at developing and learning participation.

Civic Culture discipline is taught in seventh and eighth grades in general education. The program lists among its five main objectives "stimulation of the interest of participation in social life and in the exercise of citizenship." It aims to develop skills in team work, participation in the negotiation of rights and responsibilities in the classroom and school. It presents topics such as citizen initiatives, the right of association, elections and the vote. It stimulates students' interest in community problems and ways to solve them, and how to get involved in situations requiring social action.

For high schools there is also, approved by the Minister, a civic education curriculum, but the inclusion of such subjects is up to the schools management and very few have incorporated it into their educational plans.

Teacher training programmes at the national and/or regional level on this topic:

The project: "Participation of pupils - a way of living democracy"⁶ implemented by the TEHNE Center for Development and Innovation in Education. A volume presenting the structures and methods which could be used to encourage pupils to attend has been published. Some examples of good practice are suggested. The volume is addressed especially to teachers in secondary schools.

4.2. Non formal education

Examples of actions/programmes/activities at national or regional level, outside of the formal education system, aimed at developing the education of how to participate in your country.

Preparation Stage "involvement" (public policies and civic involvement) initiated by Radu Oprea. It presents the SMART public policies method⁷

"Why should we participate in community life?" - Essay Contest organized by the CeRe Association (Resource Centre for Public Participation) and funded by Youth in Action "National Week of the youth active participation" (17 to 24 October 2010)⁸

"PhotoVoice" participate by taking photos. There were calls to participate by young Romms in Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine to influence the process of public decision making regarding the fight against social exclusion

Youth Parliament 2010 (5th edition). Organized by the Pro-Democracy Association. Annually, 100 young people, from all over the country, take part in a simulation of decision making in the Romanian Parliament. It is organized in the Parliament building in Bucharest.

"Commitment to Development" - A national campaign for consultation amongst young people. Youth consultations are organised in the 8 development regions, into which Romania's territory is divided. Organized by the Romanian Youth Council.

⁶ http://www.tehne.ro/resurse/TEHNE_participareaelevilor_2006.html

⁷ <http://www.raduoprea.ro>

⁸ <http://euparticip.wordpress.com/>

5. Youth information in Romania

5.1. The structure of youth information

Information points / centres

There are 34 youth centres conducting information programs and counselling for young people (e.g. Alba Iulia, Sibiu, Brasov) under the coordination of the National Sport and Youth Agency. (ANST).

In addition, there are several info centres initiated by local NGOs (e.g. Cluj- Napoca)

- Youth information coordination at national level : by ANST, Directorate for Youth

- There is no coordination at the regional level.

- Youth information in Romania, a member of the European network:

Eurodesk service functions under the "Youth in Action" Agency.

5.2. The youth information services

Percentage of municipalities with information centres / points for young people:

13% (34 of 268 cities in Romania)

National Online Information Systems:

www.anpcdfp.ro,

www.eurodesk.ro,

www.roni.ro

There are no online regional youth information systems.

Existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information for young people in Romania:

Information leaflets and brochures published by the European Parliament, Information Office in Romania ([www.europarl.ro / view / en / publication](http://www.europarl.ro/view/en/publication))

Information Brochure "Young people today .." ([www.europedirect.centras.ro / activities-ed.html](http://www.europedirect.centras.ro/activities-ed.html))

Youngsters and responsibility- Love wisely (www.iubestecucap.ro/.../tinerii-si-responsabilitatea-sexuala/)

Youth Information magazine -Deva (www.ziare.com/.../revista-de-informare-pentru-tineri-112781)

Commercial Magazines: Bravo, High-school Gang (Clanul liceenilor), Fan Hits & Posters, Joy, Popcorn, eGirl, CoolGirl, etc.. Information only about entertainment, music, etc..

5.3. Topics of youth information

The main contents of information delivered to young people:

- x Career guidance
- x Studies and scholarships
- x Jobs and training
- x General health matters
- x Relationships and sexuality
- Social security benefits
- Rights of young people
- Consumer rights
- x European opportunities for young people
- x Youth activities and exchanges
- Others (please explain)

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

Young people participation in the national/regional system of youth information

There are a large number of school magazines (more than 400 school magazines across the country):

scientific, literary, (store type). Annually the Ministry of Education organizes a national contest of these magazines.

6. Informal ways of young people's participation

Youth Consultation on themes launched by the EU Presidency through online questionnaires.

More active, in this regard, are students organizations, which take different actions to influence the decisions of the Ministry of Education. The project of the new education law was brought about by protest in 2010.

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

No information

7. Sources of information

FDSC Report ,*Romania 2010. Nongovernmental sector.*

Studies in the youth field 2007, Ed. Didactica si Pedagogica,2007

http://www.tehne.ro/resurse/TEHNE_participareaelevilor_2006.html

<http://www.raduoprea.ro>

<http://euparticip.wordpress.com/>