**Youth Partnership** 

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



# **INFORMATION SHEET**

# PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## POLAND



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## 1. Youth participation in Poland \_\_\_\_\_

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? **Yes** 

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

Concept of youth participation is rarely used in the national documents, more often the concept of active citizenship is being used (*aktywne obywatelstwo młodzieży*) or citizen participation (*partycypacja obywatelska*<sup>1</sup>).

In the Polish Youth Strategy for the years 2003-2012, prepared by the Ministry of National Education and Sport and adopted by the Council of Ministers on 19 August 2003, the concept of youth participation in public life has been used (*Uczestnictwo młodzieży w życiu publicznym*). In the strategy, the participation is defined as "possibility of expressing opinions, making decision in matters which concern them or the society in which they live in". Participation implies participating in the decision making process on various levels of social and state management, particularly including local communities. Participation is also understood as an own activity of young people, not organized by the state but by youth groups as such ("The state should play an aiding role for youth groups, allowing them for their own activity – the state should be an animator of actions, and not their organizer."), therefore the strategy aims at supporting youth organizations which are the main space for young people to act as well as any other less formal activity of young people.

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

In the Polish Youth Strategy for the years 2003-2012, to realize the priority of CREATING CHANCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OWN ACTIVITY OF THE YOUNG GENERATION, the following methods of realizing the priority (concerning participation of young people) has been chosen:

1) defining the role of youth organizations in the educational system,

- Preparing legal grounds for the functioning of a national youth council
- Preparing legal regulations supporting the functioning of youth organizations and informal groups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: <u>http://www.pozytek.gov.pl/files/pozytek/SWRSO/SWRSO%202009-2015.pdf</u> (in Polish, access 06.12.2011)

- Developing a system of cooperation between non-governmental organizations, selfgovernments, schools or educational and youth centres and institutions,
- Developing a concept of support for helping youth organizations to maintain their facilities

2) supporting youth participation in public and social life, by creating the conditions for the functioning of youth representations on different state administrative levels, and supporting pupils' self-governments and other forms of active education for co-creating a civil society,

- Preparing legal grounds for the functioning of youth representations on a national,
- regional and local level
- Preparing a program of actions supporting educating towards a civil society
- Undertaking measures aimed at defining the issues of supporting youth participation in public and social life as a separate state commissioned project
- Creating conditions for realizing activities by community self-governments aimed at promoting the idea of local selfgovernment among youth

3) development of youth voluntary service,

- Creating a database on Polish and international youth voluntary service
- Popularizing international forms of youth voluntary service.

In the report *Młodzi 2011* (Youth 2011<sup>2</sup>), three recommendations concerning youth participation has been proposed:

31. Creating mechanisms of participation and consultation in preparation of public decisions, corresponding with participative democracy (on the local scale, connected with participation budget), using modern communication technologies (nets), constructing open government model – to make young generation step from being observers to actors

32. Creating new conditions for civil society actions and work of its institutions (including various forms of NGOs), supporting the NGOs through a long-term project of financial support from the state budget.

33. Creation of the young people representation organizations on different levels and in different areas, giving them feasible tasks and supporting governmental coordination of actions for young generation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: <u>http://kprm.gov.pl/Mlodzi\_2011\_alfa.pdf</u>, access 2.12.2011

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

- □ females
- $\square$  males
- □ migrants
- $\hfill\square X$  young people with fewer opportunities
- □ young people in specific regions
- □ minorities (which):
- □ certain age groups within the age range 13-30(which):
- □X other: young people with disabilities

## 2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Poland \_\_\_\_\_

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?

\*\*National, local (regions, voivodeship councils - powiaty, sejmiki województw): To be a citizen of Poland and having completed 18 years. Not being disqualified or suspended from the right to vote for penal-law reasons.

European, local (community or city council, president of the community or city): as above, but also persons who are citizens of EU and residing in Poland with a right to vote.

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

\*\*Candidating to Sejm, to be a citizen of Poland and having completed 21 years by the day of elections. Candidating to Senate and having completed 30 years by the day of elections. One cannot candidate at the same time to Sejm and Senate. Not being disqualified or suspended from the right to vote for penal-law reasons.

### 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

	Participatio	on in Europe	an elections in %	Participation in national elections in %			
	of people with the right to vote			of people with the right to vote			
	Total	female	male	total	female	male	
% of total population	24,5%*	22%*	27%*	48.92 %** (actual data)	47,6%***	50,1%	

18 – 24 year olds	12%*	na	na	18-25 yo 47,1%***	-	-
25 – 39 year olds	20%*	na	na	26-39yo 47%***	-	-

According to the CBOS study, 18-34 years old voters less frequently participated in the elections than other age groups, http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2009/K 110 09.PDF (access 9.12.11)

\*Source: Eurobarometer,

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/pdf/eurobarometre/28\_07/eb71.3\_post\_electoral\_firstresults\_poland.pdf, access 9.12.2011

\*\*Source: National Election Committee, <u>http://wybory2011.pkw.gov.pl/att/pl/000000.html#tabs-1</u>, access 9.12.2011

\*\*\* Source: http://www.tvn24.pl/wybory2011.html, exit polls, access 14.12.2011

#### 2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

	MP ≤ 30 ye	ars old	All MP		
Women	1	10%	110	24%	
Men	9	90%	350	76%	
Total	10	4%	460	100 %	

Source: Website of the Parliament, Statistics, <u>http://www.sejm.gov.pl/poslowie/stat/stat.htm</u>, access 6.12.2011, as well as correspondence with Parliament Information Office.

### 3. Youth participation in civil society \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3.1 Membership in NGOs

Please give the <u>percentage</u> 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	13,2	12,1%	14,5				2,3%**	1,5%**	3,1%**
total population	%*	*	%*				(0,7%** *)	(0,4%** *)	(0,9%** *)
Up to 24 year olds	10,7 %*						-	-	-
25 – 34 year olds	9,7% *						-	-	-

\*member of any type of association, Czy jest Pan(i) członkiem jakichś organizacji, stowarzyszeń, partii, komitetów, rad, grup religijnych, związków lub kół? source: Diagnoza 2009, http://diagnoza.com/, access 13.12.2011),

\*\* Worked in political party or action group last 12 months; source: European Social Survey, http://ess.nsd.uib.no/ess/round5/, access 13.12.2011

\*\*\* Member of a political party, source: European Social Survey, http://ess.nsd.uib.no/ess/round5/, access 13.12.2011

#### Additional information on participation in organisations by youth:

Concerning participation in Youth NGOs: 33% of young people of high school age belong to clubs, organizations, fan clubs or religious organizations. 12% belongs to sport clubs, 10% - cultural or hobby clubs, 8% - religious organizations, 3% - public service organizations such as Red Cross, Volunteering Fire-brigades etc, 1% to scouts (*Raport Młodzież, CBOS, 2008, Opinie i Diagnozy 13*). Eurostat asked young people aged 15 to 30 years for the participation in activities of various organisations (Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations?), the answers were as following:

• A sports club 14.7 %

- A youth club, leisure-time club or any kind of youth organisation 9.4%
- A cultural organisation 10.8%
- A political organisation or a political party 2.4%
- A local organisation aimed at improving your local community and/or local environment 8.5%
- An organisation active in the domain of global climate change/global warming 1.3%
- An organisation promoting human rights or global development 3.1%
- Any other nongovernmental 6.9%<sup>3</sup>

Among the organisations' members and members of the NGOs boards, women constitute 40% and men 60%; contrastingly among external volunteers supporting NGOs, women constitute 59% (Klon / Jawor 2010, Access 13.12.2011). Additionally, people with higher education, from the cities and from higher social strata more often are volunteers according to Diagnoza 2009.

#### 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:

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

#### National:

**Student Parliament** (Parlament Studentów RP) <u>http://www.psrp.org.pl</u> – represent the opinion of All students In Poland and Has a right to make proposals In the matters that concern all students, as well as to give opinion on the normative acts concerning. The proposals of normative acts are presented to Parliament by the Minister responsible for higher education. (Law on Higher Education). The representatives of the Parliament participate in the work of many public bodies such as the Council for Higher Education, the State Accreditation Commission, commissions of the Sejm and Senate, the working groups of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

**Krajowa Reprezentacja Doktorantów** <u>http://www.krd.org.pl/</u> - **National Representation** of **Doctoral Students** is a national body representing the opinion and the will of doctor al students In Poland. The body has a right to voice opinion and give proposals in the matters that concern doctoral students, as well as to give opinion on the normative acts concerning doctoral students and doctoral studies. (Law on Higher Education)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Source: <u>http://ec.europa.eu/public\_opinion/flash/fl\_319a\_en.pdf</u>, 15.12.2011

Polish Federation of Youth Organisations (PROM), http://www.prom.info.pl, established on 4 April 2011. The Federation is a representative of the organisations associated within it for issues related to the needs and postulates of young people. PROM priorities is to be involved in the e.g. development of the youth policy, popularisation of the concept of public involvement of young people, support of collaboration, exchange of information and experiences between youth organisations and youth unions and organisations acting on behalf of youth, facilitation of contact between Polish youth organisations and youth unions. Membership of the Federation is open to organisations where minimum 2/3 of members are aged under 35, also the youth town councils may participate in the activities of PROM. The Ministry of National Education has supported the process of establishing the Polish Federation of Youth Organisations from the very beginning, but it is an organisation independent of the state structures. The establishment of PROM is a step towards the European social dialogue standards, meaning assuring participation of young groups and organisation in policy work and consultation. The remaining challenge is to find ways to cooperate with non-formal youth groups and preparing activities to stimulate increased participation of individuals. www.prom.info.pl<sup>4</sup>

#### Regional:

**Youth municipal councils -** in the Law on the Local Government , you'll find the following : "The municipal council at the request of those who concerned may agree to establish a youth municipal council having a consultative nature". Youth councils may exist next to the voivodeship council, municipal/city (gmina) council, province (powiat) council, or even city district (dzielnica) council, and it is elected through democratic elections in schools. The aims of a council are to promote active citizenship among young people and participation, spreading knowledge on council work (among members and among all young people), consult the work on the main council and voice opinion all matters concerning the city or province. They can prepare proposals, publish articles in media, voice opinions in the city council sessions, meetings with mayor or counselors or through demonstration or marches<sup>5</sup>. Today there exist about 200 councils around Poland, the list of them is to be found here: <a href="http://mlodziezowerady.eu/Podzial\_na\_wojewodztwa\_57">http://mlodziezowerady.eu/Podzial\_na\_wojewodztwa\_57</a>.

#### Local:

**School councils -** according to the Law on the Education System, in each school functions a school council, to which all the pupils belong. They elect the board, which represents all the pupils

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Source: <u>http://www.prezydencja.men.gov.pl/en/youth/14-polityka-modzieowa-w-polsce</u>, Access 5.12.11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Source: <u>http://www.activitatis.pl/</u>, access 14.12.11

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of the school. The council can present opinions and proposals to the school council, pedagogic council or director, e spescially those which are connected to the rights of students (e.g. organisation of school like, possibility to publish school magazine, organize cultural, sport and other activities).

**Student council at the universities** – all the BA and MA students of a university are represented by the Student Council, they decide on redistribution on university budget to students and student organization. Students have a right to construct university organizations which can make proposals concerning students of the university to the student council and management of the university (Law on Higher Education).

**Doctoral students council at the universities** - all doctoral students are represented by the doctoral students council. (Law on Higher Education)

## 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.

According to the ministerial documents we have at school (on all three levels of compulsory education) the path on historic and civic education which includes the following subjects:

- history & society,
- history,
- civic education,
- economics
- ethics
- philosophy

Aims of the classes on civic education<sup>6</sup> (Knowledge about society - Wiedza o społeczeństwie) are to teach pupils:

- 1. How to gain and use information on public life and have opinion on public matters
- 2. Learn how to solve problems esp. of local communities
- 3. How to act, collaborate with others in public matters
- 4. Know the rules and procedures of democracy
- 5. Know the functioning of democracy in Poland (institutions and government)
- 6. Understand the economic processes, reflects on continuing education and future career

During the classes on civic education<sup>7</sup> pupils learn how:

1) to engage in civic initiatives – pupils should become more engaged in active participation

2) to be more socially sensitive - pupils see injustice and reacts to it.

3) to be more responsible – pupil engages In one's community and constructively reacts to conlict situation

4) to realise his/her identity and bonds – pupils realises bonds with local, national, European and global community, knows what a open-minded patriotism is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> <u>http://www.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/Reforma/4d.pdf</u>, access 10.12.11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> <u>http://www.men.gov.pl/images/stories/pdf/Reforma/4d.pdf</u>, access 10.12.11

5) to be more tolerant – pupils respects other opinions or styles of living or traditions, if they do not constitute danger to others, pupils opposes discrimination.

School should create conditions for the pupils to:

- 1. have access to different sources of information and different points of view
- 2. use acquired civic knowledge and civic competences In everyday life
- 3. plan and realize their own educational projects at school
- 4. take part in discussions and debates In class, school and beyond
- 5. work on solving chosen problems of their communities and surroundings
- 6. have real impact on school life e.g. through school pupils' council
- 7. take part In life of local community
- 8. make contacts and collaborate in non-governmental organisations and public institutions
- 9. take part in civil campaigns and actions and use different ways of civic communication
- 10. empower themselves and have feeling of agency in public life and trust to others.

Civic education should be taught using interactive methods (simulation of elections, debates, realizing education project solving real existing problem). One of the possibility is to organize the simulation of the parliamentary elections (to the national or European Parliament) at school. School should also give students possibility to actively participate in some voluntary actions or in public project at least once a year.

Students councils & pupils councils exist in each school in Poland - according to the Law in the Education System. It should be a democratic organization with a structure which reflects the students / pupils wills and needs. Although such council has no real powers, the law requires school authorities to seek its opinion on certain matters, such as deleting a student from a list of students, or school educational program.

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

To become a teacher of civic education a person can take part in special educational path of postgraduate studies on Civic education (Wiedza o społeczeństwie) which last 3 semesters and have at least 350 hours of classes. Such studies are offered by many universities to graduates of humanistic disciplines such as sociology, political studies and others.

#### 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.

**Center of Civic Education** <u>http://www.ceo.org.pl/</u> is an independent educational initiative and a public benefit organization. It spreads knowledge, competences that are needed in building civil society. In introduces to schools programmes that make learning more effective, help young people to understand society, think critically and engage in public life and in activities for others. It support teacher trainings as well as develops programmes to schools, lessons scenarios and ideas for extracurricular activities. One of the action of Center was to organise the simulation of parliamentary elections in schools (http://mlodziglosuja2011.nq.pl)

**Szkoła liderów** (School of Leaders) <u>http://www.szkola-liderow.pl/</u> The aim of the school is preparation of the public personnel: to enhance and develop the leadership competences and attitudes of people who are to shape the development of Poland, their own institutions, organizations and local communities by providing them with the appropriate competences in such areas as creation of the vision, risk taking, acting based on the long-term strategies, methods of engaging people into common activities and creating the conditions for the cooperation around the common aims and creativity.

**KORBA** (organizers: Stowarzyszenie Siemacha and Fundacja Rozwoju Społecznego DEMOS) <u>http://www.projektkorba.pl</u> - it is a project supporting development of young leaders aged 13 to 19 years old and are pupils of Middle schools and upper-middle school in Voievodoship of Silesia, Opolskie and Lower Silesia. The main components of the project is to train young leaders and then to encourage them to conduct their own projects in their local communities. The projects are fully realized by the young people and bases on their initiative and ideas.

**Simulation of Parliament proceedings** – this is quite common way to learn debating, argumentation and gain knowledge on legal procedures of certain institutions. For example in Lublin, in May 2011, youth discussed topics such as volunteering, liberaliszation of internal markets of EU, and energy politics of EU (<u>http://www.itvl.pl/news/symulacja-obrad-parlamentu-europejskiego</u>). Similarly, on the 1 of June (Day of Children), in Polish Parliament there is a session of Children Parliament (<u>http://edukacja.sejm.gov.pl/aktualnosci/104-xii-sesja-sejmu-dzieci-i-mlodziezy-2011-r.html</u>).

Activitatis <u>http://www.activitatis.pl</u> is an organisations that support functioning of youth councils, offering support in establishing the council as well as offering trainings. Their aim is to support young people in realizing effective initiatives in their local communities.

"KAS" (Kraków Academy of Self-governance) which deals with empowering youth leaders in the Kraków's school pupil councils <a href="http://www.mlodziez.info/static/show/id=82">http://www.mlodziez.info/static/show/id=82</a>

**Fundacja Civis Polonus** <u>http://www.civispolonus.org.pl/</u> - one domain of action is supporting adolescents in being active at the local level and learning them how to influence local public life. Recent project concentrates at strengthening youth province council in their consultative role. They organized as well competitive debates on Polish presidency in public libraries. Best students had a meeting with a president of Poland where they could present their postulates concerning youth policies.

**Inicjatywy Młodzieżowe** (Youth in Action Programme) <u>http://www.mlodziez.org.pl/akcja-1/przewodnik-po-akcji/inicjatywy-mlodziezowe</u> - one of the initiatives prepared the website supporting city youth councils <u>http://mlodziezowerady.eu</u> (by Youth Council of City Szczecin). Another initiative, called "Including" concerned participation of youth with disabilities and youth from rural areas in public life: <u>http://www.mlodziez.org.pl/dofinansowalismy/wlaczanie</u>.

## 5. Youth information in Poland \_\_\_\_\_

#### 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

Additionally, there has existed from November 2008, the first national toll-free **Helpline for Children and Youth at 116 111**, whenever they need support, care and protection. The Helpline at 116 111 is operated by qualified psychologists and pedagogical counselors prepared not only to offer advice and help in crisis situations but also to intervene in cooperation with the Polish nationwide network of institutions and organizations authorized to take such actions.

- Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist? No

Youth information is not coordinated at national governmental level. Even if in the National Youth Strategy the following, very important goal concerning youth information has been decided: building a national system of youth information compatible with "Eurodesk", the system has not been created.

Additionally, other important aims were:

- Creating a nationwide network of youth career centres conducting vocational guidance, and acting as an employment agency for youth
- Regular support for the development of a nationwide network of career centres,
- including centres for disabled youth, conducted by academic schools
- Creating an available information system on the situation on the labour market and
- effective programs for youth
- Regular extension of the accessibility to the European youth information program
- "Eurodesk"

At the national level, there exist the **Eurodesk network** coordinated at the national level with local and regional information centers: <u>http://www.eurodesk.pl/eurodesk-w-polsce</u>. Additionally, there exist **many regional and local points** of information and counseling functioning within cultural centers or within schools. Here is the list of some information centers:

- Wrocław Młodzieżowe Centrum Rozwoju i Informacji <u>http://mlodzi.wroclaw.pl</u>
- Kraków Regionalne Centrum Informacji Młodzieżowej przy Centrum Młodzieży im. Henryka Jordana, <u>http://www.rcim.krakow.pl/main/grupa.php?id\_g=50</u>

- Starogard Gdański Ośrodek Informacji Młodzieżowej przy Ognisku Pracy Pozaszkolnej. <u>http://www.oppstarogard.pl/pracownie/informacja-modzieowa/oim</u>
- Toruń <u>Centrum Informacji Młodzieży http://cimtorun.com/</u>

There exist information centers, concentrating on information and support on **European Funds** and on **labor market situation and guidance**, but these points are widely accessible, not specifically directed to youth:

- Centers on EU Funds Sieci Punktów Informacyjnych Funduszy Europejskich (not only directed to youth): <u>http://www.funduszeeuropejskie.gov.pl/dzialaniapromocyjne/PI/Strony/Ogolne\_informacje\_mapa\_wojewodztw.aspx</u>
- Local Community Information Center Gminne Centra Informacji (for graduates and unemployed looking for employment): <u>http://www.infocentrum.com.pl/</u>

In many middle and upper-middle schools exist **career guidance counselors**. Today, there are 1055 employed professional counselors in schools (there are about 15,000 middle and high schools).The aim is in the Pakiet dla młodych ("Package for youth" defined on the basis of Youth 2011 report by the Minister Boni) to have in each middle school a school counselor specialized in vocational counseling.

**Student career centers** exist also at almost every larger university and higher education institution, they are widely accessible to students and graduates (Biura Karier).

- Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? No. If yes, where?

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

#### 5.2. The youth information services

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

Data not available.

Is there an online national youth information system? **No**. If yes, please provide the links to the relevant webpage(s), state if the portal provides youth information only on a specific topic.

Other country wide internet portals with youth information:

- EURODESK <u>http://www.eurodesk.pl/</u>
- Volunteer center: <u>http://www.wolontariat.org.pl</u> (information on volunteering)
- NGO.pl information for non-governmental organizations
- Perspektywy (student information portal on education and career) <u>http://www.perspektywy.pl/</u>, and many other student portals

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.

Regional information Center in Kraków: http://www.rcim.krakow.pl

Zielona Góra: http://www.konsultacje.zgora.pl

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

Eurodeskpublications:<a href="http://www.eurodesk.pl/publikacje">http://www.eurodesk.pl/publikacje</a>,newsletter:<a href="http://www.eurodesk.pl/newsletter/subscriptions">http://www.eurodesk.pl/newsletter/subscriptions</a>newsletter:

Euro26 Magazine: http://www.euro26.pl/pl/aktualnosci/1/magazyn\_euro26\_-\_jesien\_2011

Youth in Action Programme (Młodzież w działaniu) publications: http://www.mlodziez.org.pl/publikacje

#### **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?

- □ Xcareer guidance
- Xstudies and scholarships
- □ Xjobs and training
- □ general health matters
- $\hfill\square$  relationships and sexuality
- □ social security benefits

- □ rights of young people
- □ consumer rights
- □ XEuropean opportunities for young people
- Xyouth activities and exchanges
- □ Other (please explain) volunteering, non-formal learning

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

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

There is no national system of youth information. Youth can take part in Eurodesk work, by doing and internship in the Eurodesk office or by joining a network and organizing a local Eurodesk office (<u>http://www.eurodesk.pl/node/add/ankieta-przylaczenie</u>).

## 6. Informal ways of young people's participation \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

- Structured dialogue with youth PROM is an organisation responsible for the structured dialogue in Poland, <a href="http://www.prom.info.pl/projekty/dialog-usystematyzowany/">http://www.prom.info.pl/projekty/dialog-usystematyzowany/</a>
- National consultations on the Long term Strategy for Poland's Development 2030, <u>http://zds.kprm.gov.pl/dlugookresowa-strategia-rozwoju-kraju</u> as well as consultation of the Strategy for the Development of the Human Capital <u>http://zds.kprm.gov.pl/aktualnosci/konsultacje-spoleczne-i-miedzyresortowe-strategii-</u> rozwoju-kapitalu-ludzkiego
- The cities organize occasionally consultations with young people concerning city strategies or investment which involve youth. E.g. <u>http://www.starachowicenet.pl/informator/news/strategia-rozwoju-starachowic-2011-2020-konsultacje-z-m-odzie-zdjcia</u>

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

Young people are active through the virtual communities and through Facebook, there are several petitions or postulates to which young people can join, or which they can virtually support. e.g. supporting voting through internet (<u>http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5938861754</u>). One example of a very effective action is the case of young migrants in UK who in 2006 managed to abolish double taxing on their income.

## 7. Sources of information\_\_\_\_\_

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