

InterNational Network

Re-active Youth
for a new era
of Europe



Consultation Framework



Co-funded by
the European Union

InterNational Network

Re-active Youth
for a new era
of Europe

Consultation Framework

Project title:

InterNational Network: Re-active Youth for a new era of Europe

Type of Action: ERASMUS-FPA-OG

(ERASMUS Operating Grants Framework Partnerships) N°: 101121806

Type of project: ERASMUS-YOUTH-2023-CSC-OG-SGA

Project number: 101121919

Project Coordinator:

Somos Europa

Project partners:



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

INDEX



Interactive Index

1. Introduction

2. Objectives

3. Methodology

4. Target groups

5. Expected results

6. Phases

7. Available resources

8. Planning

Annexes

Introduction

This document is part of a broader project that aims to identify the reasons why young people have little engagement in politics. Furthermore, it seeks to outline strategies for stakeholders to effectively reverse this trend. This consultation framework has been designed to facilitate an open, inclusive, and transparent consultation process in which all stakeholders can actively participate. In this document, we present a structured approach to how we conducted effective consultations, which allowed us to gather and analyse different perspectives on youth participation in the countries studied.

Consultation plays a key role in shaping policy development, project implementation, and strategic decision-making in a variety of settings, whether within the public or private sector. By adopting this consultation framework, our objective is to foster cooperation between decision-makers and stakeholders, from citizens and communities to experts, organisations, and other relevant entities. This framework is geared towards ensuring that every voice is heard and taken into account in the decision-making process, and promoting transparency and accountability throughout the stages of the study. We also aim to facilitate the identification of innovative and sustainable solutions to the complex challenges we face today.

In this paper, we will explore the basic principles of the consultation framework, the key stages of the consultation process, the best practices for active stakeholder engagement, and methodologies to ensure meaningful feedback. We will also present the tools and methods we have used to effectively gather and analyse data, as well as to communicate consultation results clearly and concisely.

Objectives

This section focuses on outlining a set of specific objectives for this document within the context of youth participation in politics. Throughout this section, several objectives are presented, aiming to empower and mobilise young people by providing them with the necessary tools to exert influence on shaping the political landscape and contributing to the social and democratic development of society.

These objectives include:

- Exploring the factors that impact young people's civic engagement and investigating how their participation experiences vary and interconnect across different countries.
- Contributing to the academic and policy debates concerning the role of young people in European democracy and emphasising the importance of implementing inclusive and effective policies that encourage their active involvement in political decision-making.
- Examining how the active political participation of young people can influence the formulation of policies that are more attuned to their sensitivities and needs.

- Promoting equal opportunities and representation within democratic institutions.
- Disseminating the findings of this study to the different groups of interest and collecting their feedback to assess the impact and extent of this research.
- Arranging specific training sessions for the different groups mentioned in this project.

Methodology

It is essential to establish an appropriate methodology that encompasses and guides each stage of the process. Each step contributes to the research journey, allowing us to approach the intricacies of the issue under investigation.

For this reason, we have developed a comprehensive methodology in order to effectively address the subject of our project. To ensure the research resonates with the authentic essence of the matter at hand, an array of tools and techniques has been employed to gather data and resources.

Given the unique nature of the research, which focuses on young people's participation as active and digital citizens, ensuring the calibre of content and acquired data holds paramount importance. This will ensure accurate outcomes that can be harnessed for future research and endeavours.

A pivotal aspect to consider is the European scope of this research, encompassing fourteen specific countries. This aspect has been intricately woven into the presented methodological framework. Furthermore, all data and information collected during the survey phase will originate from these fourteen countries and the broader European Union.

In order to obtain an adequate and representative sample from the target groups identified in this study, cutting-edge technologies will be used to collect and obtain data. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will be of great help in sourcing both qualitative and quantitative data, especially due to the geographical dispersion of actors and target groups involved in the research. A rigorous research process will be applied to all intellectual outputs associated with this endeavour. Through this investigative approach, the aim is to bolster the stated objectives with a robust foundation of data, analysis, and contextual understanding. Each proposed objective will be underpinned by a documented evidentiary base, facilitating the development of effective and pertinent strategies to enhance youth political participation.

Target groups

In addition to delineating the methodology, it is crucial to specify the target groups that will be involved in the research and to whom the various data collection activities will be directed.

- **Young people:**

This group comprises individuals aged between 16 and 30. Extending the survey age to 16 was deemed pertinent, considering that they will soon become integral components of their countries' political systems, engaging actively in their respective societies. As their opinions and perceptions on the topic of the study will be essential to work on improving their active participation in society, their contribution to the research bears considerable weight. This is vital for guiding any prospective actions arising from the research outcomes.

It is imperative to acknowledge the digital reality of this demographic, as they are inherently intertwined with digital platforms and social networks. Therefore, the proposed methodology has taken this factor into account in order to obtain optimal results in a representative sample.

- **Youth workers:**

Today, youth work is acknowledged by various international organisations, including the Council of Europe, which emphasises in its Youth Sector Strategy 2030 that it serves as a fundamental tool for fostering a society involving young people.

To reference this increasingly recognized professional domain, the definition provided by the Council of Europe is taken into consideration:

"Youth work is a broad term encompassing a variety of activities with social, cultural, educational, environmental, and/or political dimensions. These activities are carried out by, with, and for young people, either individually or in groups. Youth work involves both paid youth workers and volunteers, and it is founded on non-formal and informal learning processes centred around young people. Voluntary participation is at the core of youth work. It is a foremost social practice that engages with young individuals and the societies they inhabit, facilitating their active involvement, inclusion in communities, and participation in decision-making."

- **Youth organisations:**

Youth organisations are vital in offering young individuals alternative avenues for their leisure and professional growth. Additionally, they hold a significant societal role in expanding opportunities for the youth. Over the past decades, the count of these organisations has surged across Europe, often propelled by initiatives like Erasmus+. Their societal impact is evident, as they furnish enhanced prospects to all participants. Given this, they are considered a focal point of this research, presenting a potent avenue to connect with young people.

These organisations are directly engaged in youth work, a propitious platform for implementing diverse actions that equip young individuals with tools and mechanisms to enhance their political engagement. In terms of research, this group will be subject to varied research techniques aimed at gathering comprehensive insights into their influence on young people and the practices they presently undertake in their daily activities, aligned with the project's theme.

- **Partner youth organisations:**

These organisations encompass all those engaged in the research and are integral members of the International Europe network. Their collaboration has been pivotal in shaping this project, and their role in its future, including dissemination and result delivery, is of utmost importance.

- **Policy makers:**

The project within which the research is situated regards policy makers as central figures in contemporary societies. This is due to their pivotal role in formulating policies for young people and enhancing overall societal participation.

In the scope of this research, a policy-maker is defined as an individual within the leadership of a public institution with the authority to execute public policies. Apart from the European Parliament, this category encompasses representatives from chambers that reflect a country's population. Conversely, individuals engaged in public service through political roles are deemed politically accountable.

- **General public:**

The target group 'general public' pertains to the overall population, encompassing all individuals within society without specific limitations or prerequisites. This group comprises people of various ages, genders, occupations, ethnicities, cultures, and beliefs. It is vital to encompass this group, as they constitute the primary audience for dissemination efforts.

Expected results

In this section, we will delve into the anticipated results arising directly from our efforts, while considering the overarching impact of the consultative framework's design. The consultative framework serves as a conduit through which an array of voices, perspectives, and inputs converge to enhance our objectives and trajectories. Its scope extends beyond mere surface-level consultation, delving into the very essence of shaping and presenting outcomes. Each suggestion, discussion, and contribution stemming from this consultative framework will directly shape and guide the development and realisation of the expected outcomes, which are projected to be highly diverse.

- To find out the opinion of the target groups:

To attain an in-depth understanding of young people's active participation, the study aims to glean insights from three pivotal groups: young people, youth workers, and policy makers. It seeks to fathom the incentives, interests, and barriers shaping young people's societal engagement, along with strategies to bolster their role in decision-making. With this knowledge, our objective is to promote a more inclusive democracy and empower young people as key actors in the development of society.

- To learn about new methods to promote and raise awareness of active participation among young people:

To explore and analyse innovative and effective strategies for promoting and enhancing young people's active participation. The aim is to unearth forward-thinking approaches capable of inspiring and involving young individuals in civic, political, and communal endeavours. Additionally, the study aims to comprehend how these initiatives can instil a heightened sense of belonging, empowerment, and dedication to society. It will also evaluate the impact of these strategies on cultivating an engaged and responsible citizenry, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the formulation of policies and programs that foster meaningful involvement of young individuals in decision-making processes and contribute to the establishment of a more inclusive and democratic future.

Phases

Phases of the research:

- **Pre-research:** In this initial stage, meticulous research planning is undertaken. This encompasses the delineation of precise objectives, research inquiries, the study's extent, and optimal methods and approaches for data collection and analysis. Additionally, a literature review and analysis of prior studies concerning the topic are conducted to establish a robust theoretical framework and prevent redundancy of effort. Furthermore, target groups, including young people, youth workers, and policy makers, will be identified and characterised. A strategy for securing their active engagement and cooperation in the research will also be devised.
- **Research:** In this stage, data collection is carried out according to the methodological blueprint outlined in the pre-research stage. Diverse data collection techniques, including surveys, focus groups, and documentary analysis, are employed to acquire a comprehensive and intricate understanding of the subject at hand. The obtained data is meticulously analysed and processed to yield substantive conclusions and insights.
- **Post-research:** Once the research phase is complete, the results obtained are analysed and evaluated. The findings are verified and the practical implications of the research are identified. This stage involves data processing, result interpretation, and the derivation of conclusions and recommendations grounded

in the accumulated evidence. It is during this stage that the ultimate research findings are attained, documented within the research report.

- **Presenting the results to different audiences:** At this stage, the results and findings of the research are shared with the different target groups involved in the study, i.e. young people, youth workers, policy makers and others. This dissemination can encompass diverse formats such as reports, presentations, workshops, or seminars, tailored to suit the specific preferences of each group. Ensuring clarity and accessibility in communication is essential, enabling comprehensible comprehension and fostering discussions regarding the research's implications.
- **Training of different target groups:** This phase encompasses capacity building and training for the designated groups, with a special focus on youth workers. The aim is to familiarise them with the research discoveries and the strategies pinpointed to enhance and heighten young people's active involvement. The training could encompass workshops, awareness-raising sessions, or professional development programs, aimed at augmenting skills and expertise in the realm of youth participation. The primary goal of this training is to stimulate the integration of research recommendations into their specific work domains and to facilitate the assimilation of proficient practices for boosting young people's active engagement.

Available resources

This section examines a fundamental aspect of project success: the available resources. It provides a detailed analysis of the resources at our disposal, which will play a crucial role in achieving the outlined objectives. These resources are vital elements that will support the actions and strategies mentioned above.

The variety of resources available forms the infrastructure on which we will build the different phases of this work. Throughout this section, we will not only identify tangible resources but also assess their suitability and adequacy to meet the project's needs. The optimal use of these resources is essential to ensure a smooth and successful implementation and to maximise the achievement of the expected results.

In this context, we will examine in detail how each available resource directly contributes to the achievement of our objectives. This is not just an enumeration, but a comprehensive analysis that demonstrates the importance of each resource in our process. By fully knowing and understanding the resources at our disposal, we will be better prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities along the way.

- **Google Forms:** Google Forms is an efficient and versatile tool for organised data collection. It allows you to create custom questionnaires and surveys that can be easily shared with participants. Forms provide diverse question types like multiple choice, checkboxes, short answers, and paragraphs. They also allow you to add images and videos to enhance the user experience. Collected responses can be conveniently exported and analysed.

- **Classrooms:** Classrooms within a faculty or educational institution are spaces where we can conduct activities like face-to-face focus groups or interviews involving multiple participants. In a context where we cannot bring individuals together, these spaces can be replaced by digital platforms such as Google Classroom or other online learning platforms that offer a variety of resources to facilitate the consultation process. Surveyors can share materials, communicate with participants, and monitor the progress of the activity.
- **Google Meet:** Google Meet is an online communication tool that enables video calls and virtual meetings. It is particularly useful for real-time interaction among work teams, study groups, or collaborative meetings. With Google Meet, participants can communicate via video, audio, or chat, and share screens for presentations or demonstrations. It also offers the ability to record meetings for later review.
- **Forums:** Forums serve as platforms for sharing the achievements and progress of this work. These encompass substantial events such as symposia and congresses, which unite individuals with similar interests and commitments, fostering a desire to delve deeper into the project's details.

Planning

- **Pre-research:**

In our research on youth political participation, we designed a carefully planned pre-research phase to establish a strong basis for our study. This initial stage allowed us to outline the project's objectives and scope, while also gaining a thorough understanding of the context and the needs of young people.

- **Definition of objectives and research questions:**

First, we established well-defined research objectives, focusing on understanding young people's political participation across diverse countries. We formulated specific questions about motivations, barriers, and experiences associated with political participation to guide our study.

- **Data collection methodology:**

To ensure a comprehensive and detailed perspective, we utilised a combination of data collection methods. We designed focus groups involving young individuals to directly gather their perspectives and opinions. Additionally, we created surveys for young people, youth workers, organisations working with young people, and policy makers, aiming to collect a blend of quantitative and qualitative data.

- **Participants and samples:**

In the pre-research phase, we thoughtfully chose participants to ensure fair and varied representation. We encompassed young individuals from diverse socio-economic and

cultural backgrounds, alongside a spectrum of experienced youth workers and policy makers in the youth domain.

- **Literature search and literature review:**

We thoroughly reviewed the existing literature on youth political participation. This review has provided us with a solid theoretical base and has also allowed us to identify gaps in knowledge that we can address in our study.

- **Informed consent and ethics:**

We have ensured that all participants involved in our research work have provided informed consent to participate. In addition, we have adhered to stringent ethical guidelines to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of collected data.

The pre-research phase has laid a sturdy groundwork for our study on youth political participation.

- **Research and post-research:**

In the research phase, we implemented a rigorous methodology to collect data, analyse it, and arrive at meaningful conclusions. Below, we outline our approach for this key stage.

- **Data collection:**

We conducted focus groups, providing a space for dialogue and reflection with young people from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. We also administered surveys to young people, youth workers, and policy makers to gather quantitative data about their perceptions and experiences of political participation.

- **Interpretation and conclusions:**

Based on the analysis results, we have drawn meaningful interpretations and conclusions regarding young people's political participation in the 14 studied countries. We have identified key factors that encourage or discourage their participation, as well as recommendations for enhancing their involvement in political decision-making.

- **Results report:**

We have produced a detailed report presenting the findings and conclusions of our research. This report includes graphs, tables, and narratives that effectively convey the obtained results.

The research phase has been a rigorous and enriching process that has provided us with a comprehensive and detailed picture of youth political participation in the fourteen studied countries.

- **Presentation of the results to the different groups:**

In this phase, we have focused on presenting the results of our study on youth political participation in fourteen countries to the different stakeholders. Our aim was to ensure

wide and meaningful dissemination of the findings and to encourage dialogue and feedback with each stakeholder group. Below we describe in detail how we carried out this phase:

- **Design of presentation sessions:**

We arranged suitable presentation sessions for each group, considering their requirements and preferences. For young people, we held interactive and dynamic sessions to stimulate their active participation. For youth workers and policy makers, we organised formal presentations supplemented with visual and graphic aids to enhance results comprehension.

- **Adaptation of language and format:**

We have strived to tailor the presentation's language and format to each group, sidestepping unnecessary technicalities and employing clear, accessible language. Additionally, we opted for visual and multimedia resources to enhance the presentation's appeal and enrich its content.

- **Focus on interaction and dialogue:**

During the presentation sessions, we encouraged interaction and dialogue with the participants. We prompted young people to share their viewpoints and perspectives on the findings, and we offered youth workers and policy makers the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

- **Generation of feedback spaces:**

We have taken the time to obtain feedback from the various stakeholders, either during the presentation or through subsequent surveys. This input has allowed us to identify areas for improvement and adjust our implementation strategies.

- **Wide dissemination and participation in relevant events:**

In addition to the individual presentations, we have sought opportunities to disseminate the results at relevant events and meetings involving key figures in the political and youth fields. This has allowed us to reach a broader audience and enrich the debate on youth political participation.

The presentation phase of the results was essential to ensure that various stakeholders grasped the findings of our study. We valued each group's input and used their feedback to strengthen our future strategies and actions.

- **Training for different groups:**

In this phase, we have focused on providing training and capacity building to the different groups involved in our study. Our aim has been to empower young people, youth workers,

and policy makers with tools and knowledge that enable them to understand and address the challenges related to youth political participation. Below, we detail how we have executed this stage:

- **Design of training programmes:**

We have designed tailored training programmes for each group to meet their specific needs. For young people, our focus has been on leadership, effective communication, and civic engagement. For youth workers, we have provided training in participatory approaches and strategies to involve young people in decision-making. For policy-makers, we have provided training on the importance of listening and responding to young people's voices in policy-making.

- **Participatory methods:**

We have employed participatory methodologies and active learning practices in our training sessions. These methodologies have allowed participants to interact, share experiences, and apply the concepts learned to real situations.

- **Focus on inclusion and diversity:**

We have emphasised the importance of inclusion and diversity in our training, promoting respect and appreciation for participants' different perspectives and experiences. We have created a safe and open environment for the exchange of ideas and opinions.

- **Evaluation and monitoring:**

We have evaluated the impact of our training through surveys and feedback evaluations. This process has allowed us to measure the effectiveness of our programmes and make adjustments when needed.

The training phase has been pivotal in enhancing the capabilities of young people, youth workers, and policy makers in the realm of political participation. We firmly believe that training is a powerful tool for promoting civic participation and empowering young people as change agents in their communities and societies.

Annexes

Surveys

Re-active - Youth Workers Survey

This survey is part of a European project funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ programme. Somos Europa is the organisation in charge of coordinating this project.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gain insights into how youth workers engage young people in active participation within society. It will take less than five minutes to complete and can greatly contribute to enhancing mechanisms for the involvement of European youth.

All provided information will remain anonymous and will be used for academic purposes only, aimed at advancing research on the active engagement of young people in Europe.

We sincerely appreciate your collaboration.

Somos Europa team.

Youth worker profile

Country:

City:

Type of youth worker:

☐ Employee ☐ Volunteer ☐ Another

Scope of action:

☐ Local ☐ Regional ☐ National ☐ All of the above

Topics covered:

Resources you have at your disposal to carry out your activities:

Vision of youth participation in society

	Very low 1	2	3	4	Very high 5
How would you assess the level of young people's participation in your field of work?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
How would you rate the level of awareness among young people about the significance of democracy?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
How would you assess the level of awareness among young people about the opportunities provided by the European Union for their growth as engaged citizens?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
How would you evaluate the level of familiarity among young people with available participation methods?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What do you believe could be effective ways to motivate young people to engage in societal participation?

Several studies claim that young people do not have high rates of participation in society. In your opinion, what do you consider to be the primary factors contributing to this trend?

- ☐ Disengagement from political processes
- ☐ Limited understanding of available avenues for participation
- ☐ Insufficient familiarity with the political structure of their country
- ☐ Pessimistic perception of the political landscape

Within your role as a youth worker, do you engage in any activities that pertain to active citizenship or the political involvement of young individuals?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

In your activity as a youth worker, do you undertake any initiatives that address matters concerning active citizenship or the political engagement of young individuals?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Examples of good practice

In this section we kindly request that you share any practices you have implemented or are currently implementing in your daily work that relate to this subject. Below, you'll find designated areas where you can provide details about these practices.

Title of the good practice:

Frequency:

- ☐ Regular activity (more than 2 times a month)
☐ Occasional activity
☐ Annual activity (event held once a year)

Type of activity:

- ☐ Workshop
☐ Talk
☐ Local activity
☐ Educational activity
☐ Dissemination activity

Objectives:

Results:

Target audience:

Method of implementation:

Implementation time:

Resources needed:

Link to the activity:

Graphical evidence (attach link):

Participation in the project

If you're interested in receiving additional information about the project or taking part in the activities we coordinate, please provide us with your contact details so that we can keep you updated.

Name:

Surname:

Country:

Email:

Organisation:

Good practices - Active citizenship

This form is an integral component of a European project that seeks to enhance the participation of young people in society through active and digital citizenship. In this context, we are gathering valuable insights regarding successful practices that have been executed by organisations similar to yours.

Your contribution would be highly appreciated, as we aim to gather good practices associated with the active engagement of young individuals.

Thank you in advance for your input.

The Somos Europa Team

Name of the organisation:

City where it operates:

Country:

Target groups it engages with:

Contact person:

Contact email:

Example of good practice

We would like to have an overview of the practices implemented within your organisation that pertain to active citizenship or the engagement of youth in local society.

Title of the good practice:

Frequency:

- ☐ Regular activity (more than 2 times a month)
- ☐ Occasional activity
- ☐ Annual activity (event held once a year)

Type of activity:

- ☐ Workshop
- ☐ Talk
- ☐ Local activity
- ☐ Educational activity
- ☐ Dissemination activity

Objectives: _____

Results: _____

Target audience: _____

Method of implementation: _____

Implementation time: _____

Resources needed: _____

Link to the activity: _____

Graphical evidence (attach link): _____

EUROPE Re-active - Youth Participation Survey

This survey is a component of a European project funded by the European Commission via the Erasmus+ programme. Somos Europa is the organisation in charge of coordinating this project.

The objective of this questionnaire is to gain deeper insights into the ways in which young individuals engage and actively participate within their societies. It should take no more than five minutes to complete and could significantly contribute to the enhancement of mechanisms related to youth participation across Europe.

All provided information will remain anonymous and will be used for academic purposes only, aimed at advancing research on the active engagement of young people in Europe.

We sincerely appreciate your collaboration.

Somos Europa team.

Personal information

Age:

Country:

Education level:

- ☐ Primary school education
- ☐ High school education
- ☐ Vocational Training
- ☐ University education

How many people live in your town or city?

- ☐ Under 5,000
- ☐ Between 5,000 and 10,000
- ☐ Between 10,000 and 20,000
- ☐ Over 20,000
- ☐ Over 100,000
- ☐ Over 500,000
- ☐ Over 1,000,000

Are you a member of any associations or social movements in your area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, to what type of collective: _____

Do you belong to a political party?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, are you active within the political party to which you belong?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Basic knowledge of political participation

Have you had access to any training related to the political system in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Are you familiar with the political system in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you know how the electoral system works in your country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you know what “active citizenship” is?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Are you familiar with the concept of “digital citizenship”?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Are you acquainted with all the institutions that represent your interests?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

What is your view of policy makers?

Which political institution do you feel closest to?

- ☐ Town Hall
- ☐ Regional institutions
- ☐ National or state institutions
- ☐ European institutions

Do you think politicians take young people into consideration?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

How do you believe politicians should engage with young people?

How to participate in society?

Do you consider that young people are actively involved in society?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

If yes, how do they get involved?

Are you aware of any methods through which you can engage in active participation within society?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

If yes, tell us how:

Do you view young people as active participants in society?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Do you believe that young people have mechanisms to actively participate in society?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Elaborate on your previous answer:

Do you think that digital participation mechanisms could improve youth participation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

What digital mechanisms do you think could help improve youth participation?

Mention any practice or mechanism that you think could be useful for young people to be able to get actively involved in society.

Thank you very much for taking the time to participate in this survey. If you would like, you can provide any additional comments or suggestions.

Focus groups

Structured focus group with young people

Dimensions to be explored:

- Active participation in society
- Active citizenship and digital citizenship
- Governance and political institutions
- Modes of active youth participation
- New methods of youth participation

Opening question: In your view, what does an active citizen mean?

Questions - Dimension 1: Active citizenship and digital citizenship

Concept of active citizenship:

In contemporary society, citizens can be viewed as individuals with distinct rights and responsibilities. In this context, each person exercises their citizenship, which can be defined as the “condition that acknowledges an individual’s array of political and social rights, enabling them to participate in the affairs of a country’s politics” (Lizcano, 2012).

1. Do you believe that young people are engaged in society?
2. Do you utilise any methods or mechanisms to actively participate in society?
3. How do you believe digital media and new technologies can enhance young people’s engagement in society?
4. Could you provide an approximate definition of what you understand digital citizenship to be?

Concept of digital citizenship:

The concept of digital citizenship, though widely recognized, remains a topic of ongoing debate. There are approaches that limit it to the educational sphere, defining it as the enhancement of technological skills to effectively exercise rights and fulfil responsibilities in the digital realm (Chen et al., 2021; Ribble and Miller, 2013), aligning with the broader context of digital literacy that has gained prominence in recent decades. Conversely, another perspective perceives digital citizenship as a set of behavioural norms concerning technology use, emphasising appropriate online conduct, digital etiquette, and digital well-being (Chen et al., 2021; Schou and Hjelholt, 2018). Alternatively, some view digital citizenship as a prerequisite for complete engagement within the online society (Mossberger, Tolbert, and McNeal, 2007).

Now that you're familiar with the concept, how do you connect it with your personal perspective?

We are interested in understanding whether you perceive or observe a digital divide:

Questions - Dimension 2: Active participation in society

We have observed how active citizenship plays a crucial role in our lives and can make a difference in society. Here are some questions related to young people's active participation.

We're interested in knowing your reasons for young people not getting involved in politics.

1. What do you think it is like for a young person to be part of a political party?
2. I would like each of you to say the first two words you associate with politics.
3. What is your perception of our democracy?
4. Have you ever voted?
5. Do you consider it important to exercise your right to vote?
6. Do you have all the necessary information for the elections?

Questions - Dimension 3: Governance and political institutions

1. Are you familiar with all the institutions where you are represented?
2. Do you feel represented? Justify your answer.
3. I will mention a slogan, and I'd like you to identify its source: "United in diversity."
4. What's your perception of the EU, and what benefits do you see it bringing to young people?
5. Do you find the methods of your participation in these institutions appropriate?

Questions - Dimension 4: Ways of active participation of young people

1. Can you name some ways in which young people can participate?
2. How do you think policy makers should engage with young people?

Questions - Dimension 5: New methods of youth participation

For the next 10 minutes, please take some time to contemplate certain suggestions that you and your surroundings might find agreeable for engaging in social participation, particularly within a political sphere.

Focus group structure with youth workers

Dimensions to be explored:

- Active participation in society
- Active citizenship and digital citizenship
- Governance and political institutions
- Modes of active participation in youth
- New methods of youth participation

Questions - Dimension 1: Active citizenship and digital citizenship

1. From your experience, do you find that young people are actively involved in society? What types of activities or social areas tend to attract their attention the most?
2. In your work with young people, how do you approach social and political debates, and what strategies do you use to encourage critical reflection and constructive dialogue on these issues?
3. How do you perceive the influence of social movements on the active participation of young people? What role do you think young people play in these movements?
4. Do you have any specific means or mechanisms to promote the active participation of young people in society? What actions or initiatives have you implemented to encourage young people to take part in their community?
5. In the current digital context, how do you think new technologies can enhance young people's participation in social and political issues? What digital tools have you successfully used to engage young people?
6. Can you give us your approach to the concept of digital citizenship and how do you work with young people to foster responsible and ethical digital citizenship?

Questions - Dimension 2: Active participation in society

1. What is your opinion on the possible reasons why young people are not as involved in politics? What obstacles or barriers do you perceive that might influence their political participation?
2. How do you value the experience of being part of a political party for a young person? What benefits and challenges do you think this political participation brings to young people?

3. We would like to do a quick exercise. Please each of you mention the first two words that come to mind when you think of politics.
4. What is your view of our current democracy, do you think it is inclusive and adequately represents all voices, including that of young people?
5. Have you ever voted in elections? If so, what motivated you to do so? If not, what factors do you think influence your decision not to exercise your right to vote?
6. From your perspective, do you consider it important for young people to exercise their right to vote? How do you promote the importance of civic and electoral participation among young people?
7. Do you have all the information necessary to help young people understand the electoral process and make informed choices in elections?

Questions - Dimension 3: Governance and political institutions

1. Do you have comprehensive knowledge of all the institutions in which young people are represented, and could you mention some of them?
2. Do you think they feel adequately represented in these institutions? Please provide your justification for your answer. What measures do you believe could enhance the representation of young people in these bodies?
3. I mention the slogan "United in diversity." Are you aware of the institution or body to which this slogan belongs?
4. Regarding the European Union, what is your perspective on this institution in relation to young people? What aspects do you appreciate, and what benefits does the EU bring to your lives and the context in which you work?
5. From your experience, do you think that the current methods of participation in these institutions are appropriate and timely for young people? Are there other approaches that could potentially be more effective in promoting youth involvement?

Questions - Dimension 4: Modes of active participation among young people

1. Can you mention some ways in which young people can engage in society? Based on your experience, what approaches have proven most effective in engaging young people in decision-making and community action, as implemented by youth workers?
2. Considering the role of policy makers, how do you think they should interact with young people? What practices or strategies do you consider crucial for policy makers to adopt, which could benefit your work with young people or youth in general?

Questions - Dimension 5: New methods of youth participation

1. What actions or initiatives could we implement to encourage young people to actively participate in society and engage with political issues? What have been your most successful experiences in this regard?
2. How could we create safe and welcoming spaces for young people to freely express themselves, share their ideas, and contribute solutions to the social and political challenges we face?
3. In terms of digital tools and media, which platforms could we leverage to enhance youth participation and broaden our reach?
4. Do you perceive a need for closer collaboration between policy makers and young people? If so, what strategies could facilitate improved communication and mutual understanding?
5. What kind of support and resources would be necessary to implement these proposals and ensure that young people's participation in society is both active and meaningful?

Structure focus group with policy makers

Dimensions to be explored:

- Active participation in society
- Active citizenship and digital citizenship
- Governance and political institutions
- Modes of active participation in youth
- New methods of youth participation

Questions - Dimension 1: Active citizenship and digital citizenship

1. Do you consider young people to be actively involved in society? What factors do you think may influence their level of participation in social debates, politics, and social movements?
2. Do you have any specific means or mechanisms to encourage the active participation of young people in society? How do you approach listening to and addressing the concerns and requests of young individuals?
3. From your perspective, how do you consider that digital media and new technologies can improve the participation of young people in society? What measures could be implemented to take advantage of the potential of these tools in the political and social sphere?

Questions - Dimension 2: Active participation in society

1. From your perspective, what is your opinion on the reasons why young people are not as involved in politics? What factors do you think may be influencing their low political participation?
2. What do you think it is like to be part of a political party for a young person? What benefits and challenges do you think this early political participation brings?
3. Do you consider it important to exercise your right to vote as citizens and political decision-makers? What measures could we implement to encourage young people's electoral participation?

Questions - Dimension 3: Governance and political institutions

1. Are you aware of all the institutions in which young people are currently represented, and could you mention some of them?

2. From your perspective, do you feel that young people feel represented in these institutions? Please justify your answer and mention if there are any challenges that need to be addressed to improve their representation.
3. From your position, do you consider the methods by which young people can participate in these institutions to be timely and effective? What changes or improvements could be implemented to encourage more active participation of young people?

Questions - Dimension 4: Modes of active participation among young people

1. From your perspective, can you mention some ways in which young people can actively participate in society and in the political arena? What actions or initiatives do you think could encourage greater youth involvement in decision-making?
2. How do you think policy-makers should engage with young people? What measures or approaches could facilitate effective communication and constructive dialogue with young people?

Questions - Dimension 5: New methods of youth participation

1. What proposals could you implement to encourage the social participation of young people in the political sphere? What strategies or initiatives could encourage greater youth involvement in political decision-making?
2. How could you create inclusive and accessible spaces for young people to express their opinions and take an active part in the construction of public policies?
3. What measures could improve communication and dialogue between policy makers and young people, promoting a closer and more trusting relationship?



Co-funded by
the European Union