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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report discusses the results of a context analysis about investigating the actual involvement of youth in politics and democratic participation, identifying needs and gaps to address with a capacity-building programme addressed to young people.

The context analysis is based on a desk research, an online survey in seven languages (Italian, English, German, Greek, Slovakian, Polish and Finnish), interviews and focus groups with public officials and representatives from youth organisations and associations. The report combines and complements six national reports covering the same scope for Germany, Greece, Slovakia, Poland, Finland and Italy.

All the respondents to the national surveys seem to agree with the claim that there is a difference between what all authorities think about developing services and instead what do young people perceive.

In Poland, a lot of people pointed out that there is this discrepancy, because officials are not fully aware of what is attractive to young people. There were also a few responses indicating that reliable consultations are rarely conducted and the activities offered are not supported by the needs of young people.

In Slovakia, the gap between what public officials believe they can do and what is perceived by young people is attributed to the fact, that *public officials' actions are rather technocratic (grants, investments in buildings) while the youth needs representation and particular policies implementation.*

Even in Italy, public bodies do not use languages and channels of communication that are accessible to young people. There is no will to do research on the real needs of the younger generations regarding their relationship with public administration and politics; there is no co-planning that includes young people, but almost always a "top-down" planning that does not take into account the potential, requirements, skills, etc., of young people.

The analysis demonstrates a common interest across partner countries for skills and knowledge about decision-making and a shared curiosity for service design.

In Italy, young people show that they want to be active in their city, by " taking part in city councils as well" or "participating in events, projects that help the community and raise their awareness " and by " helping those who are more vulnerable in our society."

In Germany, participants were asked if they were involved in or informed about the political decision-making processes in their city and how they got informed about it. Many of the participants from the city of Erfurt answered that social media (Instagram and Facebook) were the most frequently used sources of information, while in Berlin and Wiesbaden the media (Instagram, Facebook, television, social workers facilitators and government websites) were the most frequently used.

In Italy as well, the channels most used by young people to get information about what is happening in the world are TV (82.4%), websites (73.5%) and Instagram (67.6%).

Although participants (from Berlin, Erfurt and Wiesbaden) acknowledge that the German system of youth education and opportunities is good overall, they would like to have more say in areas such as the LGBTQ+ community and immigrant integration.

Immigration (58.8%) and racism (55.9%) are also two of the most important social/political issues that Italy is facing nowadays (aside from Covid-19 pandemic) according to young respondents.

To the question “Do you know of any initiatives to develop youth participation skills?” the results underline that a plethora of initiatives focused on the younger generations exists.

However, there were only a few examples of governmental programmes for youth. Moreover, the difficulties that hinder the development of these initiatives are mainly the lack of funding and motivation of the target group.

As a response to the lack of adequate training offers, the surveys highlight a list of success factors for designing capacity building programme to foster young people skills in service design, among which:

measurable and well-evaluated impact indicators, inclusion of young people in the vote itself, and people from the field to meet and convince public officials of the need for change, monitoring and evaluation of the programme, appealing and tailored communication to reach out to the target trainees, participatory and collaborative atmosphere ensuring mutual respect and ownership by participants.

The research results underline that the YSD project fills a gap that is evident from the existing initiatives as well as from the preferences of young people.

By focusing on youth active participation in local decision-making and in service design, the YSD project contributes to provide a much-needed opportunity for both adults and young people alike to enhance their cooperation and mutual understanding and to improve the quality of life in local communities.

The implementation of the activities of the project, including the training programme, will ideally take into account the key success factors that were identified in this report to create a learning environment that allows the participants not only to participate but also to take ownership of their learning process.

1. YOUTH ACTIVATION STATE OF ART

1.1 PROFILE OF THE REGION / COUNTRY

FINLAND

Finland is a country located in the Northern part of Europe, between Sweden and Russia. Even though Finland is geographically almost the same size as Italy, the population of the whole country is only 5,5 million people. From the population, approximately 1,52 million live in the capital area of Helsinki. The official religion is the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Finland has two official languages: Finnish and Swedish. Even though it is not an official language, English is an important language as well and most Finnish people speak and understand English pretty well - one part of it being the fact that the foreign TV-series/films are not usually dubbed in Finnish but they just have Finnish subtitles. Finland is quite well known for its education system, and 38% of Finland's population has a university or college degree. Compulsory education was extended in 2021, and now all students must gain an upper secondary education, and the minimum age for leaving school is 18.

GERMANY

Germany is divided into different states, and our activities will take place in Hessen (with the capital Wiesbaden) and Berlin. Youth activation and political involvement is a part of several NGO's agendas in Germany. There are for example several movements demanding to lower the age limit for voting to 16. However, the young people involved in active citizenship seem to be a minority that can probably be related to the hierarchies in communal and nationwide political structures and the lack of inclusion of minorities from unstable backgrounds, such as migrants, youth living without their families or in unfortunate relationships, uneducated classes, etc.

GREECE

In Greece, there are no tools or enough actions aimed at strengthening the tendency of young people to become active citizens or to participate in decision-making at the local level. Although there are many youth organizations, only a few seem to be active in policy matters. On the other hand, the majority of local authorities do not involve young people in any of their activities. With the YSD project, IRTEA aim to fill this gap and turn the interest the project team discovered into reality. Furthermore, it is deemed necessary to change and renew the decisions taken by the local government at national level. Most of the young people IRTEA spoke to about our project, expressed their desire for a change to a more sustainable society, with equal opportunities and a greater focus on education. In conclusion, through their bad experience, both by seeing the planet reach its limits, and with the COVID-19 crisis they are experiencing, most young people have acquired the maturity and desire to work with local agencies and to control and contribute to the decisions that concern them.

ITALY

Introduction

- The Italian socio-economic context has deeply changed since the end of the 20th century; the followings are the most relevant aspects:

> **declining demographics**, with fewer births and an increasing ratio of seniors to minors. In 2021, the child population represent just 15.6% of total residents;

> Children **under the age of 18** have become by far the **poorest segment of the population**.

> The **increase** in the **number of foreign children**;

> The **growth** of the **NEET** population. The youth NEET rate (Not in Education, Employment or Training) has not decreased significantly in any region since 2005, suggesting that Target 8.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely a substantial reduction in the proportion of NEET youth by 2020, has been missed [*from YPI Report 2021*].

- For Italy, making young people protagonists is no longer just an option. Compared to the average of their peers in the rest of the European Union, young Italians seem to have **more hope** (47.5% of the sample compared to 42% among EU youth) **and trust** (25.8% compared to 22%). Also **anger**: 19.6% versus an EU average of 14%. [*Processed by OpenPolis - Con i Bambini on Eurobarometer data*]

> Positive and negative feelings which, however, seem to show a capacity and willingness to react, with a potential that is perhaps still unexpressed. In fact, 15% of young people in the EU perceive their own usefulness and availability in the present situation, compared with 6.3% of the Italian sample.

In the current situation, making the most of the youngest energies in Italy is the only way to lay the foundations for reconstruction after the Covid-19 pandemic. [*Openpolis – Con i Bambini Report on Youth and Community - Youth participation and educational pacts, between school and territory*]

History

- Since the 1970s, in other European countries, young people became the target of nationally structured public policies, but in Italy the situation was different.

Local authorities, Municipalities and Provinces, in collaboration with the non-profit sector, promote community experiences, services for young people and other policies. However, there is a lack of coordination at the central level.

Since the 80s and 90s, the national legislator has started dealing with the "youth issue", and it has done so in the wake of a public debate focused mainly on the emergencies of the period (Bazzanella, 2010¹), in particular drugs and crime.

However, among the national laws of the same decade, Law no. 285/ 1997 is very important. This law, entitled "Provisions for the promotion of rights and opportunities for children and adolescents" establishes the National Fund for Children and Adolescents.

¹ [Eurogiovani_2010.1283249919.pdf \(provincia.tn.it\)](https://www.provincia.tn.it/Portals/0/Eurogiovani_2010.1283249919.pdf)

- Great attention is paid to recreational and educational leisure services. The promotion of educational activities should also be encouraged outside institutions; the fight against educational poverty is fought also in the places where girls and boys spend their free time.

Need to meet and team up

-13.5% of young people aged between 14-17 year old reported themselves as being little or not satisfied with their leisure time (Istat Data - 2019).

> A fact that involves, among other things, the **need to develop youth policies** in the territory. Initiatives able to produce moments of gathering and interaction for girls and boys.

- In all surveys aimed at monitoring the needs of young people, one of the first points raised by girls and boys is precisely the demand for places of gathering and socialization, centers for young people where they can play sports and participate in cultural activities and events.

- *When we asked the young people what they needed to improve their neighborhoods, they mostly asked for places to gather (sports fields, green parks) and public transportation to reach a movie theater or a friend in another part of town.* [Supervisory Authority for Childhood and Adolescence, Report to Parliament 2019]

Impact of the digital media

- Over the years, the rate of children and young people who, in their free time, see their friends on a daily basis has declined sharply. It is likely that the spread of new technologies has had a decisive impact on this. If, even just a few years ago, meeting up physically was almost the only way to spend time with friends, today many activities, including games, take place online.

- Given the even more widespread availability of PCs, tablets, and smartphones among high school students, the percentage of those who report having a social profile or being part of a community they join on a daily basis rises to 86%².

- The digitalization of society gives lawmakers new tools to communicate with and query a broader and diverse range of people about policy, including social media tools. These **new forms of participation** offer great opportunities for more inclusive politics, especially considering that many young people prefer alternative forms of participation to those of a more conventional nature like voting in elections. [YPI Report 2021]

- Digital literacy and citizenship education training, which together equip young people with the skills and competences to navigate this new digital society, must be supported and made accessible to all, especially to youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. [YPI Report 2021]

Youth active citizenship

² National Documentation Center for Childhood and Adolescence, Essere ragazze e ragazzi nelle città riservatarie della Legge 285/97: la voce dei protagonisti (2019)

- It is crucial that decision makers acknowledge **the proactive role of young people** in the design of services. The latter should be identified not as mere passive users of a service, but as conscious agents who are fully protagonists of a space that is functional to them.
- High school students demand for independence and the possibility of self-management of places. This preference emerges explicitly among those who ask to ensure places without any prearranged activity, but only activities decided and managed by the students. [OpenPolis- Con I Bambini Report, Giovani al Centro]
- **37%** of young Italians think they have a say in important decisions at the local level (EU average: 44%) [Eurobarometer data]
- **4.4%** of young people aged between 18-19 years old have attended meetings in green, civil rights and peace organizations. More than twice the population average.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to maintain social distancing reduced not only the spaces for socializing, but also those for participation in public affairs. The emergency has affected those aspects that directly concern the education of young people as aware and active citizens: places of gathering, associations, volunteer work and participation in public life.
- Recently, *the Fridays for Future*, the mobilization of thousands of young people to raise awareness of governments and public opinion on the consequences of climate change, have returned in many Italian cities. Demonstrations that reaffirm the commitment and involvement of the younger generations on political and social issues of great importance for the coming years. While important, the rallies are only a small part of youth participation in public life and priority issues for our societies.
 - > The age group between 18-19 y.o. is the one that most often carries out free activities in volunteering associations. [ISTAT data].
 - > Above all, in associations for the environment, civil rights and peace, there is a greater commitment on the part of young people than the rest of the population. On average, 1.7% of total respondents said they were active on this issue. This figure rises to 2.6% in the 20-24 age group, 2.7% between 14 - 17 y.o. and even above 4% among young people aged 18-19 years old. [Elaboration Openpolis - Con I Bambini on ISTAT data].
 - > On the other hand, youth participation in cultural and recreational associations is lower than average. The generations most involved in these fields are, in fact, above all the over 55.
- The school has a fundamental role in education but also in social and civic training of children and young people. In fact, it is only through schools that it is possible to reach the totality of students, regardless of social status or family of origin. This is the only way to prevent active participation in public life from remaining the prerogative of a small minority. The data show how **participation in volunteer activities or civic associations is currently closely linked to educational and social status**.

Reversing this trend is a challenge that therefore concerns both the effectiveness of any process of change and the real democratic nature of the public debate itself.

POLAND

The administrative area of Poland is 312,696 km², which gives it 69th place in the world and 9th in Europe. With a population of 38,179,800 (March 2021), it ranks 38th in the world and 5th in the European Union in terms of population. Poland is divided into 16 voivodeships.

Lublin is a city in lubelskie voivodeship, which has 2,095,258 inhabitants- taking the 9th place in the country. Compared to 2020 from 2019 - the number fell by 13 thousand. The exception was the Lublin (as a capital of voivodeships). Within 15 years, the population of the voivodeship decreased by 149,370. The high decrease in the population results from both the negative birth rate and significant emigration, young adults leave for work.

Population structure of the Lubelskie voivodeship by age in 2020:

- children up to 14 years of age -14.7% of the total population
- adult population from 15 to 64 years - 66.4%,
- people aged 65 and more - 18.9%.

SLOVAKIA

With an area of 9 454 km², the Banská Bystrica Region is the largest region with a share of 19.3% of the total area of Slovakia. It lies in the southern part of central Slovakia, bordering the Republic of Hungary in the south. With 643 102 inhabitants as of 31 December 2020, the Banská Bystrica Region accounted for 11.8 % of the Slovak population. The region's population density of 68 inhabitants per km² was the lowest of all regions. Since 1997, there has been an overall loss of population as the region is also losing population through migration. There are 24 towns in this county. The centre of the Banská Bystrica Region is the city of Banská Bystrica, which is also the largest city in the region. Other important towns are Zvolen and Lučenec. Banská Bystrica Region has two public universities, two private universities and a faculty of a state university. There are 20 institutions of secondary education (secondary schools, grammar schools, vocational secondary schools, etc.) and several art schools. The region is characterized by extend tourism due to its location in the Tatra mountains and existence of many national parks, but at the same time they face problems with long-term unemployment, poor transport accessibility, frozen finances and the social situation of the Roma community.

1.2 PROFILE OF THE LOCAL AREA

FINLAND

The second biggest city of Finland, excluding the capital area cities, is the city of Tampere in Pirkanmaa - also being the most populous inland city in the Nordic countries. Tampere is located 160km from Helsinki to the west. Tampere is a very popular place for students, and the number of young adults is clearly higher than in other municipalities in the region. There are three big institutions for education: University of Tampere, Tampere University of Technology and Tampere University of Applied sciences. Tampere is a lively area with a lot of activism and cultural events. The municipality of Tampere has a separate youth service branch focusing on preventing marginalization and social exclusion and promoting youth participation in different ways. They also arrange services for young people healthcare, such as youth clinic providing birth control

advice. The municipality also arranges youth hobbies and culture and offers support for life planning and control and health issues.

GERMANY

The city of Wiesbaden offers several ways for youths for active citizenship. There is a Youth Parliament, consisting of 31 youth members and an elected board. The Youth Parliament is the only organized group of youths that is allowed to directly file petitions to the city council assembly. The “Stadtjugendring” which is in close contact with the municipality and which is a service organization for a network of more than 20 youth organizations in Wiesbaden guides the Youth Parliament. These youth organizations rely on voluntary work of their youth members and have different focus areas, such as sports, nature etc. Furthermore, there is a council of students in the city that is also engaged in community issues.

What is missing is low-threshold offers to young people who are not members of any of such networks. Therefore, Youth Centers exist in every part of the city, where youth can spend their free time without having to be official members of any organization.

GREECE

From the findings of the research conducted so far, it seems that in Greece and specifically in Attica, there is almost zero guidance for young people on how to become active citizens or to participate in local decision-making. In particular, local agencies, young people and schools observed relative inactivity. This seems to be mainly due to the lack of information and mobilization of young people, as to all those to whom the project was presented showed great interest and wanted to get involved. This is the general picture of the Attica region. In the area of Salamina, as will be mentioned below, we contacted the Youth Council, which started operating in 2021 and was an initiative of the current mayor of the area. The members of the council are students of local schools and young people up to 30 years old. This initiative had a huge response and impact on young people in the area.

ITALY

Lombardy Region and the Province of Monza e Brianza

- Young people under 35 in Lombardy Region are 2.107.329 equal to 20.9% of the total population.
- Lombardy is home to almost 15% of the young people that are in Italy.
- The percentage of Municipalities where there is no office dedicated exclusively to policies for and with young people is very high. The competencies of policies for and with young people are, in the majority of Municipalities (57%), associated with those related to social services. The other departments that deal with activities and policies for and with young people are education/education and culture, in the 27% and 24% of Municipalities respectively.
- Administrations are constantly looking for tools that can interact with the world of youth in order to detect local needs. However, the relationship with local institutions is complex, being affected by the informal ways of organization that young people usually prefer. It is therefore important to look for ways to co-design interventions; a need that also emerged from the Round Tables CCB has organized.

> Almost a little more than 13% of Lombardy's Municipalities have implemented one or more forms of permanent youth consultation. Among the forms of permanent consultation set up by about 14% of Lombardy's municipalities, the youth council is the most widely adopted type (34%), followed by the municipal youth council (32%) and the Youth Policy Board (8.5%).

> The relationship between the activation of forms of youth consultation and the activation of projects and services for young people is positive. It can be noted that the majority of municipalities that have activated forms of consultation also provide services for young people and/or have activated specifically dedicated projects.

- "Active citizenship" and "Gathering" are the **areas of intervention** on which the projects delivered by Lombardy's Municipalities focus.

- About 34% of Lombardy's Municipalities reported the implementation of at least one project aimed at young people.

- The **target group** of the projects is mainly young people aged between 14-18 years old. The 19-24 age group and then the 25-30 age group follow this. Nowadays, Municipalities are focusing their attention on the underage age group, even if a certain decrease in projects for younger children and an increase in activities aimed at 19-24 year-old young people has reduced the difference between the two groups. [Source: ANCI Lab].

- In 2021, in the Province of Monza and Brianza, there were 39% of public and private bodies/institutions that carry out activities on the territory specifically intended for young people. Bodies recognized by religious denominations are most frequently in Municipalities. Almost all of the organizations that operate in the Municipalities and carry out activities specifically aimed at young people have established relationships with the local administration, in fact, third parties are involved not only in the provision of services but also in co-design.

Ambito di Desio (from the Round Tables)

The field of youth policies throughout the area of reference for the project is peculiar and depends on each single context; it is also tricky to say that young people can be a consistent group throughout the territory involved (with different Municipalities) because they are different protagonists.

There is the need for an action that settles into the society of a neighborhood, or a Municipality, with a long-term strategy. That is even more important after a crisis like the one that followed the Covid emergency.

POLAND

Next year Lublin will be European Youth Capital.

Lublin, called the capital of eastern Poland, is the largest and most dynamically developing city on the right side of the Vistula River. As the capital of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, it plays the role of the administrative, economic and cultural centre of the region.

Lublin is a city of culture. Renowned international art events, theatre, music and contemporary art festivals take place here. Theatres, galleries and student clubs operating in the city also ensure the high level of the cultural offer. Organized concerts, performances, happenings, festivals and exhibitions enliven the streets of Lublin.

Lublin has 9 higher education institutions, where students from over 92 countries study. Lublin attracts international students and those from the region. In terms of the number of students, Lublin is one of the leading academic centres in Poland and the largest one in the eastern part of the country. In total, there are over 60,000 students in Lublin - about 18% of the city's population.

There are several organisations in Lublin, in which activities can join young people as volunteers or take advantage of the programs of workshops, training, and various forms of creative leisure.

SLOVAKIA

Lučenec is a typical small town located on the south of central Slovakia. Population is 28.000 inhabitants, from those approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ is youth.

Typical infrastructure is present: 11 elementary schools and 8 high schools (no university), parks, an hospital, but everything is disorganized - there are no uniting platforms.

The Municipality registers terrible trends in education (12% of all population with only elementary school, 14% even without it) which are being copied by young people as well.

A good network of smaller NGOs is active in the Municipality; however, that is not enough to overcome systemic / structural problems.

Problems with segregated communities in terrible conditions: low inclusion of Roma kids at schools/other activities and the the largest community at the town borders is called "Rapovská križovatka" (170 people, 70 of those children).

Heľpa is a village in central Slovakia, situated in the Low Tatras Mountains in the Brezno district, Banskobystrický region. The area covers 41,703 km², population is 2,729 (2013), from those approx. 700 are children and young people. Population density is 65.4 inhabitants per km². The village has 1 elementary school, 1 kindergarten and 1 Art and Music school, as the village is famous for its folk culture, many folklore ensembles and a regular folklore festival, which attracts artistic groups from all over Europe. Most of the population works in forestry, agriculture and the surrounding industrial enterprises. Young people after finishing primary school go to secondary schools in larger neighbouring towns. Children and young people have a positive perception that their community is linked to traditions and folklore and, in general are keen to participate in these activities.

1.3 OVERALL SITUATION AND TRENDS FROM ROUND TABLES

FINLAND

In the two round table meetings, the project team arranged a meeting with the project coordinator from the Green Youth (Ms. Saara Loukola), the youth worker (Ms. Iina Vahteri), the leading coordinator of the youth services in the city of Tampere (Päivi Niskanen) and the youth worker from city of Tampere (Teemu Niskanen.) The first round table meeting was held online 16.9.2021 and the second meeting was held 2.11.2021 in Tampere, where the project team also got the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the main youth action center and its staff and to meet local young activists. These meetings were very valuable for us all, since the project team received information about the current trends and situations of the youth work from the viewpoint of Municipality structures to activate the youth, the local young activist scene and hands-on experience from youth and youth workers working in a local youth center. The project team discussed the current state of youth participation and policies in the area of Tampere and the possibilities for the project implementation in this specific context.

INPUT:

One common main challenge for our stakeholders and interest groups and their engagement in service design:

- The attracted stakeholders are often from quite homogenous groups; those young people, who are already active in many organizations, seem to aim to be active stakeholders in new projects as well.

- Those people who are not acting as stakeholders in any projects or actions, might remain excluded and outside from the further and additional projects.

> To reach those potential stakeholders and their full engagement to this project, we must be very considerate on **how to contact** the potential **stakeholders** and **make** different parts of **service design** (research and design, services, policy and elected leadership) **accessible** and interesting for those who typically would not be appealed in such a project.

IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDER:

The Local Youth Council

- There is a Local Youth council in the **area of Tampere** and a Youth Council for the whole **area of Pirkanmaa**.
- **Aim** is to bring out the **voice of the young people** in the local decision-making and to improve their position and the possibilities for **participation** and change making.
- It consists of 30 youth representatives and 10 backup representatives. Two of the Youth Representatives are also taking part in the meetings of City Council and they have the right to speak and vote.
- The representatives are selected every two years in local youth elections, and the **next election** is held in the **autumn 2022**.
- Green Youth Finland Youth Worker Jenna is in charge of the Local Youth Council in the City of Tampere
> active collaboration with the Local Youth Council in this project.

PLACES

Capacity Building Programme and activities with young people will be implemented in Monitoimitalo 13. It is a Cultural Centre run by youth services of City of Tampere, offering a wide range of leisure activities & facilities for youth, such as both open and guided activities, workshops, events, courses and spaces for rent.

Potential public spaces that could be regenerated through the launch of new services are:

- Youth Council of Tampere
- Youth Mental Health Services of Tampere
- Youth centres

GERMANY

Round tables involved, among others, people holding the following positions in Wiesbaden: contact person of the Youth Parliament holding a social worker position at the "Stadtjugendring"; Head of the department of education, integration, residence and social affairs; Head of the department of youth work/social work, social worker of neighborhood management in Wiesbaden-Biebrich, 2 youth workers of the youth information center of the city.

INPUTS:

- It is welcomed and supported to have low-threshold offers for youth which really give them a chance to create something on their own.
- It is suggested to contact schools and their social workers to find participants for YSD.
- It is suggested to contact the members of the Youth Parliament and ask for participation interests.
- The Youth Parliament and the “Stadtjugendring” as well as some of the member organisations have services organised by youths and elected leadership structures.
- Stakeholders are very well aware of the engagement of several groups of youths in city affairs and they support them by providing advice and localities.
- The belief in getting un-engaged youths to be active and create their own project is yet to be developed.

PLACES

The stakeholders Youth Power talked to, from certain youth organisations and from the Municipality, are ready to support the project on a local level wherever they can. The advice they got was to go to the streets and look for youths who might be motivated by talking to them directly. There was a suggestion from the Municipality to cooperate with social workers from schools.

Since Youth Power cooperate with a certain suburb where the migrant population is surpassingly high, the main aim of the social workers and youth organisations in that area is to activate young people towards a "meaningful" usage of their time. Nevertheless, in that area there are certain pain points that could be adressed such as crime, (child-) prostitution and a lack of public space for female residents.

The Capacity Building Programme targeting young people will be held in a round large room (like a circus hall) in a city center for children in a very lively multicultural suburb of Wiesbaden.

GREECE

As part of our research, the project team met with local stakeholders, mainly from the Municipality of Salamina, as their Youth Council has just started operating a while ago and the project team considered it more useful in this phase of the project.

INPUTS:

- The establishment of the council was deemed necessary for the Municipality, as young people strongly expressed their desire to organize and be able to have their needs represented.
 - The youth council operates in direct contact with the municipality and local bodies.
 - Salamina's Youth Council just started operating and it is aiming to be involved in public policy and decision-making.
 - Stakeholders in the Municipality of Salamina implement actions for the participation of young people in local decision-making (e.g. cooperation with the Youth Council)
- > The level of engagement of these stakeholders to Service Design is average to high, as they just started implemented these actions.
- The stakeholders that are involved do not yet have the expertise in this area, so it will take time for their contribution to the action to be quality assessed.

PLACES

The main set of activities is planned to be hosted at IRTEA premises and the Municipality of Salamina, Municipal Council building.

IRTEA is based in Athens, specifically at 39 Favierou Street, Metaxourgio, Athens, on a central location that will allow youth to gather and interact with other participants from neighboring Municipalities in the city of Athens.

ITALY

The first Round Table took place on November 29th 2021 using ZOOM videoconferencing platform. It involved 21 participants, among whom representatives of the Municipalities of Desio, Cesano Maderno, Nova Milanese, Limbiate, Varedo and representatives of local non-profit organizations and associations. It is worth mentioning the attendance of Ms. Alessandra Pallavicini and Ms. Marta Spadafora, who are the Heads of "Ufficio di Piano dell'Ambito Territoriale di Desio", i.e. the Coordination Body of those municipalities that are under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Desio.

The second Round Table was held on December 15, 2021 on the ZOOM platform. It involved 17 participants, among whom representatives of the Municipalities of Desio, Bovisio Masciago, Cesano Maderno, Limbiate, Muggiò, Nova Milanese, and representatives of local non-profit organizations and associations, such as Spazio Giovani, META, Consorzio Ex.it Leading organization of the hub for dedicated to young people in Desio.

PLACES

Headquarters:

Villa Longoni in the city of Desio

Places to spread the Call:

- Church Youth centres
- Parks
- Outside supermarkets and shopping centers
- Libraries
- Sports

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Co-design & peer learning

Re-think and design together the indoor and outdoor spaces where young people meet each other.

Intergenerational exchange

Gamification

To spread the word about the youth activation project (s) among all the territorial actors.

INPUTS:

- Young people do not feel that they belong, in the sense that they do not perceive as their own the environment such as school, external spaces dedicated to sociality where others always define the rules of participation.
- Young people want to participate but they do not know how. There is a need for new rules of communication.
- It is important to think about the difficulties of how to recruit young people directly and not only through schools

GOOD PRACTICES:

- Many local territories are taking action on the topic of urban regeneration for and with young people, i.e. the Municipality of Cesano Maderno in collaboration with the IED and Agenda Innova 21, the Municipality of Nova Milanese with the Polytechnic of Milan and regeneration workshops created by students.
- Financial education project in Desio
- Creation of a thought-provoking group on the youth situation, assisted by an online game in Muggiò
- Hub Desio Informagiovani, counseling and youth leadership services

LIST OF IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDERS:

Permanent Consultation of Young People
 IED Milan
 Polytechnic of Milan
 Innova 21 Agenda
 Scientific High School of the Municipality of Desio
 ITIS Majorana and Liceo Vessari high schools in Cesano Maderno
 Hub Desio Informagiovani
 Library of Muggiò

POLAND

Round tables were organised in partnership with Lublin Municipality. 2 events were held in the city centre, bringing together over 20 people from different backgrounds:

- Representatives of Lublin’s Youth City Council,
- engaged school group members,
- Members of university students’ societies,
- Local Lublin Europe Direct Point and Eurodesk consultants,
- Psychologists working with young people,
- Youth workers,
- Young foreign volunteers working in Lublin,
- Representatives of youth NGOs based in Lublin,
- Chairwoman of Polish Council of Youth Organizations -PROM,
- Organisers of Economic Forum of Young Leaders,
- Lublin’s Youth City Council mentor,
- One member of Children and Youth Team working by the Lublin city office,
- Representatives of Lublin Municipality departments (Culture, Infrastructure, Internationalization, division for cooperation with the academic community, Sport and Leisure)
- Lublin 2023 team member.

INPUTS:

- Information flow between Youth City Council, City and School Councils are rather poor.
- Team for Children and Youth by City Office exists but it requires discussion on its functioning.
- There are plenty of NGOs in Lublin but there is need to activate youth to participate in their offer.
- Young people need a reliable social media page or website with all information about what the City has to offer to youth.
- Youth City Council needs more training and support, so that the public would know more about its members and could contact them as youth representatives working closely to city residents.
- There is need to organize more meetings as there is too much distance between city authorities and young people.
- Young people have no sense of real influence on what is happening in the city.

GOOD PRACTICES:

- **Participatory Budget of the City and Green Participatory Budget** > proposing projects and voting is available for all Lublin's citizens regardless their age but it is not popular among youth.
- **Lublin's Youth City Council**, its rules are being currently refreshed.
- **Students' Council of the City of Lublin** > it will be established in the upcoming months.

PROPOSED ACTIONS for Engaging Young People:

- space for young people in the City Hall.
- campaign apologizing for hating youth.
- managing social media channels in cooperation with young people to give more authenticity.
- engage people after graduation (not involved anywhere else)
- information / communication should be open and accessible
- meetings of the City's representatives with young people
- Alumni Card (student discount after 2 years from the end of school)
- More space for youth meetings > Map of place of interests.
- success story (faces of volunteers)
- registration of volunteering hours (Solidarity Corps)
- enter schools, institutions, universities (a peer must do it)
- gradually take care of the people who applied
- speak and show benefits (offer what young people can gain) - offer something - training, prizes, gadgets
- support of influencers in presenting the City and events
- Student Council

PROPOSED ACTIONS for Improving the City of Lublin:

- Exchanging of good practices with other cities
- Creating job opportunities for young people
- Creating space for young working people (there are programs aimed and teenagers, university students, volunteers, NEETs but there are no special programs for young adults that are still youth under 30 y.o.)
- Facilitation for public transport, bicycles, scooters to encourage the use of public transport.
- Free places for and designed by young people where they could meet, work, learn, attend workshops, create projects.
- Promotional campaign that it is worth staying here in Lublin after graduation
- better designed information in public spaces, simpler and in various languages (e.g. useful info about public transportation)
- cultural events also in other languages (e.g. movie screenings organized in public institutions with subtitles)

During the meeting under round table, the project team agreed that specifically areas exist where it is possible to find the need and space for services design:

Investments

- a) clean and safe space in park and on the lake area
- b) concert club- still is missing in Lublin
- c) Innovation Centers
- d) Community education (Primer of the Citizen of Lublin)
- e) labor market competences (place, special programme dedicated for the youth)

Modern infrastructure

- a) improvement of transportation in the city
- b) Bicycle paths
- c) the influence of young people on the city's aesthetics (in conjunction with workshops)

Helping children and adolescents from dysfunctional families

- a) a safe space
- b) funding
- c) fight against stereotypes
- d) periodic checks of sites and employees

Partnership

- a) investment consultations
- b) participatory budget
- c) a greater sense of agency for decision-making processes in the city

PLACES

During the Capacity Building Programme for young people Sempre a Frente Foundation intends to use the following spaces:

Youth Support Center (Lubartowska 24)

Workshop space, all educational materials, technical equipment, coffee maker.

Youth Information & Development Centre (Górna 9)

Workshop space, all educational materials, technical equipment, coffee maker.

Both spaces are well communicated with the infrastructure of the city buses and located in the center of Lublin.

Together with the different group of stakeholders, the project team identified three potential frame of cooperation:

- 1) **CITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** - activities designed by the city for young people.
- 2) **YOUTH FOR THE CITY** - projects / initiatives developed and implemented by youth / youth organizations, contribution to the preparation and implementation of the EMN program.
- 3) **YOUTH AND THE CITY** - cooperation and partnership between the Lublin City Office, youth, youth organizations and other interested parties in the design and implementation of joint activities

SLOVAKIA

Mapping the needs of children and young people in the community of the Municipalities of Hefpa and Lučenec was carried out through focus groups - group interviews with the same, predetermined structure. The project team held 3 focus groups, 2 with young active people from the region and 1 with youth workers (i.e. people who work with young people in their free time, including folklore and sports activities) in the Banská Bystrica region. The discussions were held online on 26-28 January 2022, moderation was provided by 2 internal RmS researchers. In total, 18 participants took part in the discussions young people and 9 youth workers, all 3 groups were gender and ethnically mixed.

Thematically, the focus groups were mainly devoted to the reflection on the availability of opportunities for leisure activities. The project team looked at the infrastructure offer for leisure activities but also at the interest of young people in these activities. Given the mixed ethnic environment (high representation of the Roma minority in in the region) and the often-tense relations between the majority and the minority, the project team also mapped the experience of engaging young people from different backgrounds in joint activities or use of common spaces.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Opportunity to organise / involve young people to discussion with local stakeholders, enhance their skills so they can participate in decision-making processes regarding the offer of the leisure activities and/or places used for these activities.

Local stakeholders need to be learned about advantages of involving community members to the local decision-making or planning processes, including excluded groups of young people.

Good cooperation with local government is a key. It helps if authorities "get behind" the leisure activities (e.g. Roma personalities in the case of activities for Roma children).

INPUTS:

Overall, RmS have seen a poor to no activities on offer for young people (aged 15y+), especially in the smaller towns in the south of the region.

The situation is a bit better in the more northern part of the region, which is economically stronger. Here the offer of leisure activities is greater, but concentrated again in the larger towns, which poses a barrier in terms of accessibility for young people from rural areas

Almost complete lack of centres or clubs for young people that are affordable (ideally 'free of charge' or for a nominal entry fee), safe and open for unorganised activities.

The prevailing feeling among young people is that elders/parents/teachers do not listen to young people that their opinion does not matter and therefore they are often not interested to "fight" for something.

The view that RmS need to listen to the voice of young people and their needs and preferences, was only sporadically observed among youth workers.

The prevailing practice is to do **segregated leisure activities**, i.e. especially for Roma children and young people and separately for the non-Roma population.

> Respondents talked about barriers on the side of the majority and minority. This is a mutual rejection, with respondents talking about "**unwritten**" rules about who goes where and who does not.

There are also experiences where these barriers have been broken down in the community. Music, open cultural events, opportunities for getting to know each other and through school or school activities such as theatre.

The **inadequacy** of the offer to the needs and interests of young people > With the exception of one respondent, RmS did not encounter that young people had the opportunity to discuss the offer with the local stakeholders.

Community centres, which are established in many towns and villages as a social service, are designed primarily to work with people from excluded communities.

There is only **one person responsible for the youth work** in the town, the other "authorities" are teachers and the local vicar.

The stakeholders who discussed during the field visits / round tables are open to cooperation with young people from their village / cities; they just lack the appropriate skills and methods on how to consult with youth.

Stakeholders are motivated to support children and young people to realise meaningful ideas and solutions in the field of leisure activities in the community, to support young people who are positive role models in the community, to create psychological and physical safety space in the community for children and youth.

PLACES

- Limited physical space designed/dedicated for youth - with the exception of schools, young people spend their time mostly in pubs or the shopping centre on the main square.
- There are serious barriers in inclusion of marginalized groups, we also see segregated communities

2. OVERALL SITUATION AND TRENDS FROM SURVEYS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

FINLAND

The distribution of the survey started by translating the survey from English to Finnish and by simplifying the language to enable its accessibility. The project team also added a small raffle prize for the respondents to make the survey more appealing to the young people. The survey was advertised and distributed frequently in various channels:

- 1) Instagram page of the Green Youth (direct updates and stories)
- 2) Facebook page of Green Youth and groups for youth and people working with young people or youth work
- 3) Inner communication channels (i.e., WhatsApp groups and telegram groups for people involved in our activities)
- 4) Networks and contacts (i.e., the Peace Education Institution and youth governments, the youth work section for the municipality of Tampere)
- 4) Physical events, meetings and training sessions.

In the end, the survey gathered 54 answers in total.

In Finland, as a political organization Green Youth and Students of Finland is not allowed to advertise directly to schools, so unfortunately this option had to be excluded.

GERMANY

During the survey, the project team used quantitative and qualitative methods

The survey was carried out through two different media (physical and online survey).

Taking in consideration the lack of responses on the online survey in the internal project team meeting they decided to make a round tables with youngsters in three different locations Youth Welfare Center YP Germany e.V in Berlin and, Art center and dance school Ester Ambrosino - Erfurt Tanztheater e.V. and City Wiesbaden.

Following the suggestion and advice in one of our partners' meetings of the YSD project, the implementation of the physical survey was effective and opened up some discussions regarding the youth and politics in the region.

The first meeting with youngsters was held on 20 December at the Youth Welfare Center 2 .YP Office in Lichtenberg - Berlin and 27 youngsters were gathered, which are part of YP social projects.

The second meeting was held in Erfurt at Zentralheise, the youngsters had their final year performance and gathered 150 youngsters in which 81 participants were eligible to take part of YSD survey (age + availability).

The project team also used Facebook as a possibility to reach the Youngsters across all Germany.

GREECE

IRTEA focused on two directions regarding the promotion of the survey. Initially, a social media campaign was launched, on IRTEA's accounts, which encouraged the users to fill in the questionnaire and engage to the project and reached more than 1.000 people, according to Facebook statistics. In addition, IRTEA presented the project in local activities and all of the other actions it implements, such as events and simulations involving young people.

Specifically, during this period:

- A local activity with over 30 participants (young pupils, teachers and local stakeholders) was implemented, in which the project was presented and discussed.
- A focus group with 20 participants (representatives from the Youth Council and local stakeholders) was implemented in Municipality of Salamina.
- A total of four interviews have been conducted.
- The project has been presented in four more events organized by IRTEA for its other projects. More than 150 people participated in these events.

By that, IRTEA managed to directly present the YSD project and promote the survey to more than 200 young people, youth workers and policy makers. The questionnaire collected 100 answers in total and the response rate was approximately 50%.

ITALY

Draft survey questions were drafted by CCB in close cooperation with the project's Scientific Coordinator Mr. Joshua Harvey, and shared with the Consortium for review. After a round of comments, the survey questions were finalized and the Google form in English was created by CCB. The survey was then translated into the partners' national languages and finally disseminated.

The survey was disseminated via email among stakeholders identified during the desk research, among whom school teachers, youth organizations, youth workers, and students. Additionally, the survey was disseminated through CCB's social media channels and website.

Overall, the Italian survey received 114 answers.

POLAND

As part of the research task, the project team was able to receive 113 responses. After receiving the questionnaires as part of cooperation with youth workers, the organisation's strategy related to the promotion of research and projects was created. It was based on the use of social media, but also on individual contact with city units, other non-governmental organizations and with academic and school youth. During the meetings with schools, Sempre a Frente's volunteers and employees talked with young people and youth workers, encouraging them to participate in the survey. There were 4 meetings at schools. Several meetings were held to promote research among other NGOs and universities. The intention was also to encourage as many partners in the city as possible to cooperate - for this purpose, the project team made several phone calls during which we talked about the idea of the project and the need to fill in the questionnaire. There were about 40-50 of such calls.

SLOVAKIA

RmS got 30 respondents participating in the YSD Survey, 5 as members of an organisation (16,7%). The survey was promoted offline during our first field visit in town of Helpa. A discussion in the form of the "round table" was organized both with local young people (12 participants, 11 women, 1 man) and with Municipality representatives (5 participants, 1 male (mayor), 5 women). The survey was then published and promoted also on-line, on our social sites, website as well as on the website of our member organisations and other partners. RmS also sent the survey to the elementary school in Helpa and the regional centre for youth. Feedback indicated that the questionnaires were too long, complicated and incomprehensible for teenagers. As the Banská Bystrica region was isolated from October to December due to COVID-19 restrictions and all education institutions were closed, there was no possibility to present the questionnaires at school. It must be also noted that the quantified outputs from the survey has a completely different framework in Helpa than for other involved cities. To get the necessary 100 responses from the consultation we would have to consult every 20 inhabitants of the Municipality of Helpa.

2.2 PARTICIPANTS

FINLAND

The final number of participants is 55. Most of the respondents are 18-25 years old and also almost 10% are under 18 - this is very positive, since then 63% of the respondents is approximately the same age group as the young people this project is targeting. 64,8% of the respondents identified as women, 22,2% as men and the rest as other (i.e. non-binary). 81,5% of the respondents did not represent any organization but answered as individuals. Most of those representing an organization were from different Green/Green youth organizations, but we also got responses from the student union, municipality presenter and youth work branch of the church. Most of the organizations were located in Helsinki. For 70% of the organisations their main target audience was young adults, and most of them were aiming to promote civil participation or voluntary work. For those respondents, who answered as individuals, the geographical spectre was more diverse and we received answers all over the country.

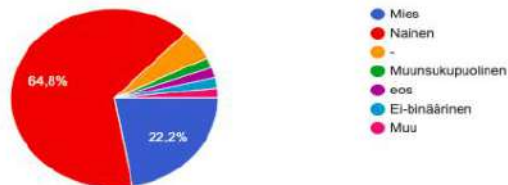
Chart 1: Gender

Chart 2: Age

Chart 3: The location of individual respondents

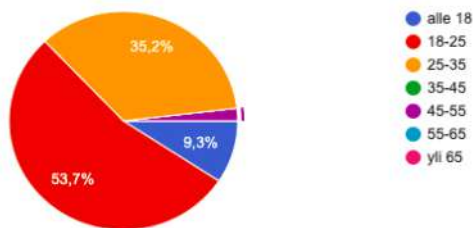
Sukupuoli

54 vastausta



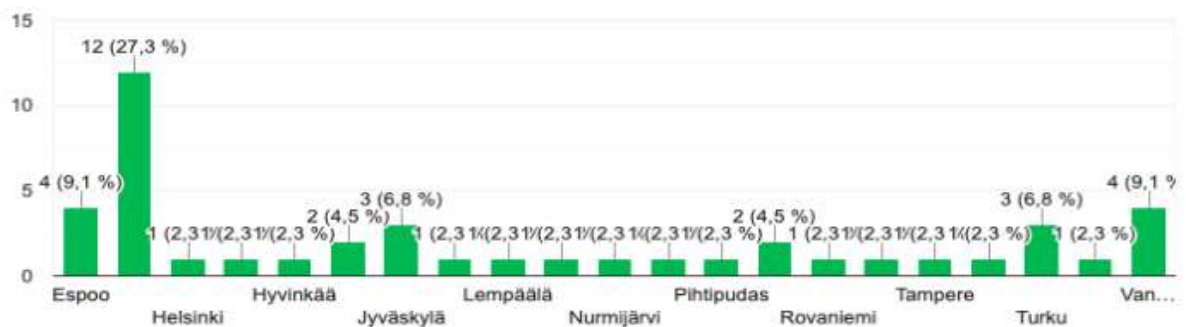
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Paikkakunta

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GERMANY

Youth Welfare Center Berlin (Federal state of Berlin) - 27 Youngsters with fewer opportunities in the age from 16 up to 22 Years old.

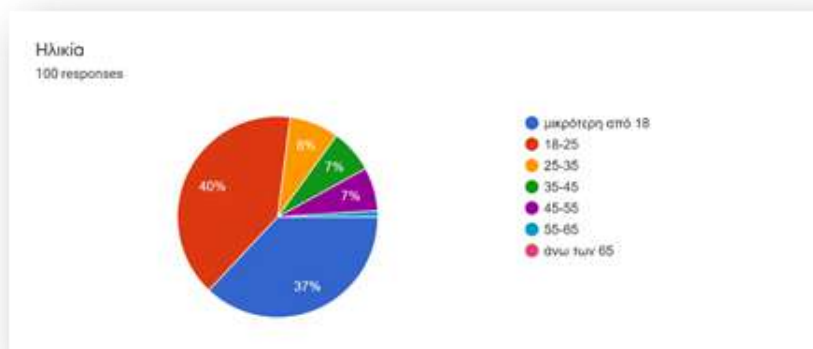
Erfurt (Federal state of Thuringia) - 81 participants in the age from 16 - 25 Years old

City of Wiesbaden (Federal state of Hesse) - 35 Participants in the age from 18-24 Years old.

Youth Power reached 3.572 people on social media.

GREECE

The responders were from all over Greece, mainly youth, up to 25 years old and a 33% of the sample belonged to the age group of 25-65. The majority of the participants were females and 30 responders were males. 16 participants out of the whole sample represented organisations, such as The European Law Students' Association - Local Group of Komotini, Student Union for Gender and Equality (Φylis AUTH), Youth council of Salamina, several schools, NGOs, etc.

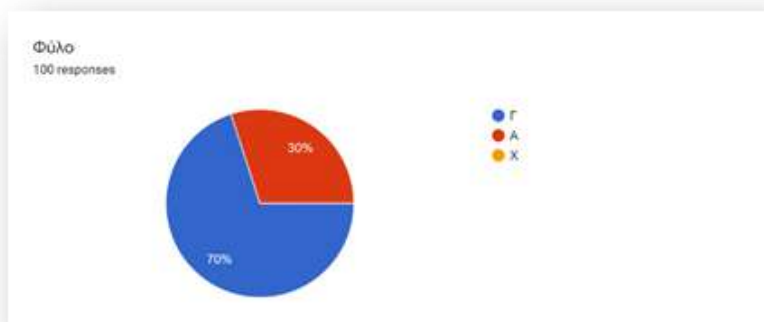


Q: Age:

Q: Sex:

Blue = Female

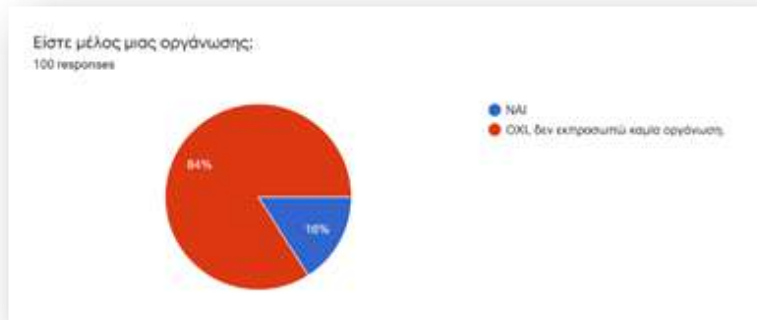
Red = Male



Q: Do you represent an organisation?

Blue = YES

Red = NO, I do not represent an organisation.



ITALY

The overall information regarding the characteristics of the survey respondents is summarized below:

Gender

Female	62 answers
Male	51 answers
X	1 answer

Age

< 18 y.o.	38 answers
18 – 25 y.o.	28 answers
25 – 35 y.o.	18 answers
35 – 45 y.o.	11 answers
45 – 55 y.o.	7 answers
55 – 65 y.o.	7 answers
> 65 y.o.	5 answers

Organisations' representatives vs. individual respondents

Individual respondent	84 answers
Organisation Representative	30 answers

Specific analytics regarding the profile of organisations responding to the survey

Scope of action of organisations

Local	13 answers
Regional	8 answers

Country	7 answers
Europe	1 answer
World	1 answer

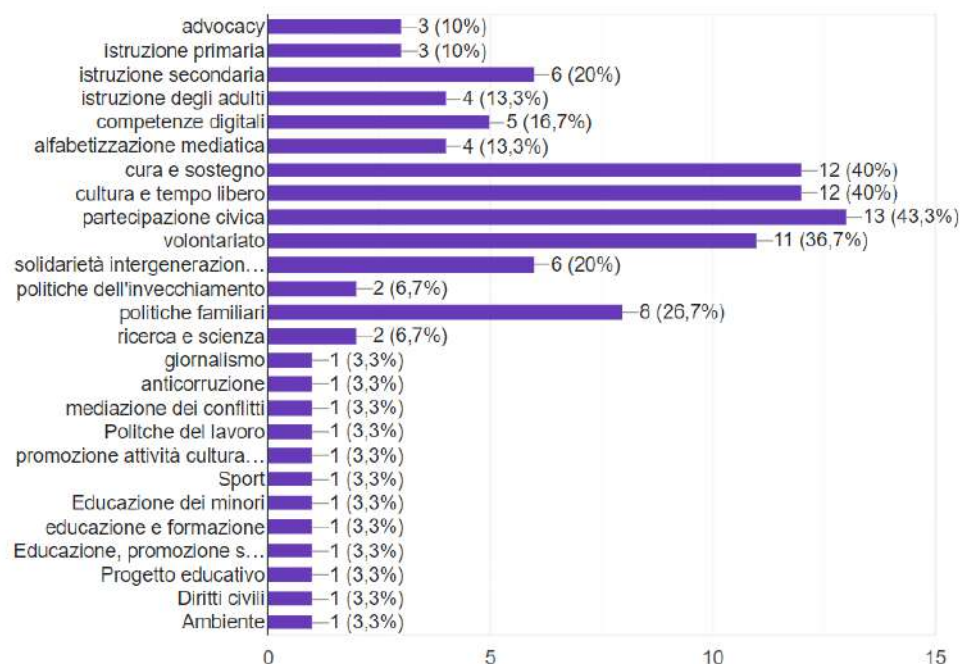
Type of organisations

30 answers

for-profit private	19 answers (63,3%)
not-for-profit private	3 answers (10%)
governmental or public organisation	0 answers
public-private partnership	0 answers
Social cooperative	1 answer (3,3%)
Sports association	1 answer (3,3%)
Movement	1 answer (3,3%)
Association	1 answer (3,3%)
High School	1 answer (3,3%)
Consortium company	1 answer (3,3%)

Field of activity of respondent organisations

30 risposte



Media literacy	13,3 %
Nursing and caring	40%
Culture and leisure	40%
Civic participation	43,3%
Volunteering	36,7%
Intergenerational Solidarity	20%

Ageing policies	6,7%
family policies	26,7%
research and science	6,7%
journalism	3,3%
Part other: Anti-corruption	3,3%
Conflict mediation	3,3%
Labour policies	3,3%
Promotion of cultural activities	3,3%
Sports	3,3%
Child Education	3,3%
Training and Education	3,3%
Civil rights	3,3%
Environment	3,3%

Main target beneficiaries of respondent organisations

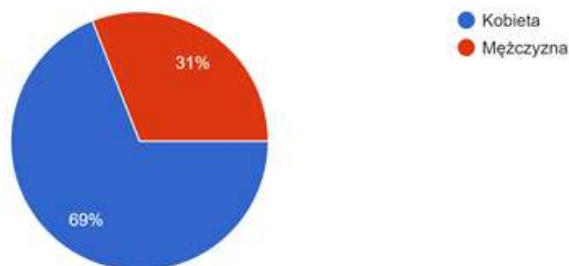
Adolescents	23,3% (7 answer)
Young adults (20 – 35 y.o.)	3,3% (1 answer)
Low-income families	3,3% (1 answer)
People with migrant background	10% (3 answers)
Political decision makers	6,7% (2 answers)
Youth and Youth workers	3,3% (1 answer)
Foster families, children of divorced or separated parents	3,3% (1 answer)
Children, young people and young adults	3,3% (1 answer)
Children from 8 y.o. to Young adults 30-35 y.o.	3,3% (1 answer)
Public administrations and citizens	3,3% (1 answer)
General public	26,7% (8 answers)
Children	10% (3 answers)

POLAND

113 respondents participated in the survey, of which 69% were women, 31% were men. 50 of the responders are connected with some Ngo.

Płeć

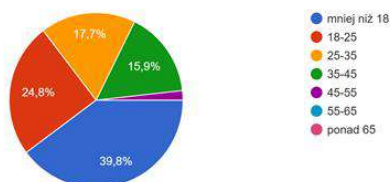
113 odpowiedzi



Responders' age:

39,8% under 18,
 24,8% between 18-25,
 17,7% between 25-35,
 15,9 % between 35-45

Ile masz lat?
 113 odpowiedzi



55, 8% responders are not connected with some organisation, 44.2% are workers or representatives of some NGO.

50 responders were answering about the question connected with their role in the ngo. They are represent various organization like Zamek Bełżyce, Fundacja Nowy Staw, Europejski Dom Spotkań, Polska Rada Organizacji Młodzieżowych, Centrum Praw Kobiet, Eurodesk Lublin, Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, Team Teatrkon and almost all school from the Lublin city.

Most of the responders are volunteers from the organisation, but there are also project coordinator (6 person), President of organisation (4 person), board member or workers.

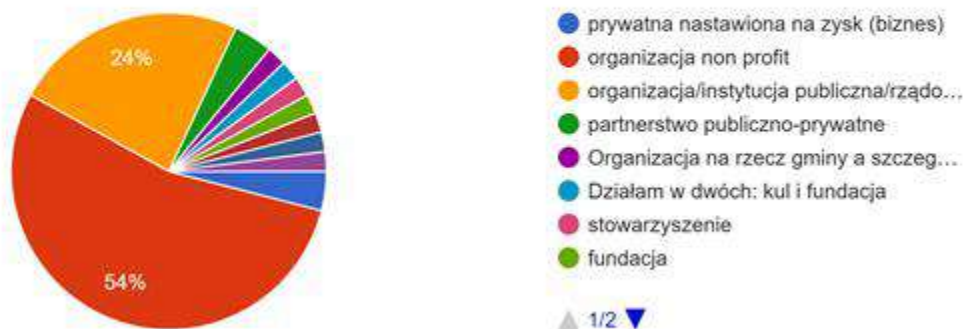
37 from 50 of respondents are directly from Lublin city. Others are from all voivodeship and some example responders from Warsaw.

Most responders are representing non-profit organisations - 54% - Public sector represents 24%.

Others specifically named their organisation legal forms like foundation or association. They are also representative of universities and schools.

Typ organizacji:

50 odpowiedzi



The responders named the scope of activities of their organisation: advocacy, primary education, supra-articular education, adult education, digital competences media education, care and support, intergenerational dialogue, senior policies, family policies research and science, journalism, Culture.

For care and support answer 40% responders, for research and science 28%.

Others option was less than 20%

34% of responders dedicated their activity to all society, for 44% of responders their organisation prepared and offered the activity for youth and children.

SLOVAKIA

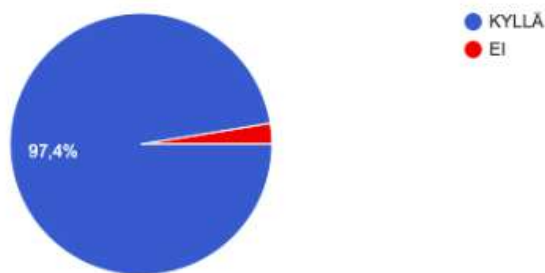
Respondents are members of 4 organisations, two of them being of whole country scope (*Association of Christian Youth Communities, OZ Domka*), one of regional scope (*Platforma Naše školstvo, o.z in Lučenec*) and one of local scope (*OZ Palikerav in Varhaňovce*). All organisations are not-for-profit, fields of activity being various combinations of advocacy, primary education, adult education, culture and leisure, civic participation, volunteering, care and support. Main target audience/ beneficiaries are teenagers (2 organisations), young adults (1) and policy makers (1). Respondents work on positions Community leader, Animator/Lecturer/Reviewer, Statutory. 25 respondents took the survey as non-members of any organisations. 76% are female. 44% are minors, 32% aged 18 – 25 and 4 % aged 25 – 35. They all live in the city of Hefpa or in the surrounding region.

ANNEX I - MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: FINLAND

The main findings are that all the respondents seem to agree with the claim that there is a difference between what all authorities think about developing services and what the citizens themselves think about it. This is apparent from both, written answer and with the answers to yes/no-question (chart).

13. Onko mielestäsi olemassa ero sen välillä, miten viranomaisten mielestä hallintoa tulisi kehittää kansalaisten, (tässä tapauksessa nuorten), hyväksi, ja miten nuoret itse näkevät hallinnon ja politiikan toteutumisen?

39 vastausta

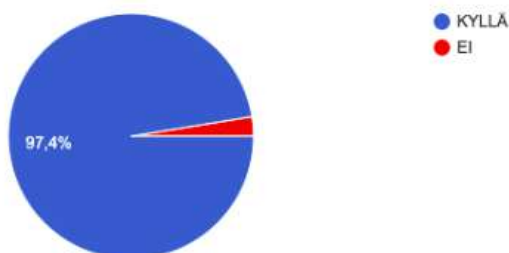


From the responses was also highlighted how the projects encouraging youth participation appear as short projects and only focus on those youth who are already active. They describe how policymakers are far away from the lived realities of young people, without understanding of their lived realities.

Most of the respondents think that there are skills and knowledge about decision-making they would like to develop (chart). From the sets for learning skills, most of the respondents consider learning the skills related to ideation and organization as most needed for them. The least answers as for the most crucial skill to develop were the skills needed in developing and testing hypotheses.

13. Onko mielestäsi olemassa ero sen välillä, miten viranomaisten mielestä hallintoa tulisi kehittää kansalaisten, (tässä tapauksessa nuorten), hyväksi, ja miten nuoret itse näkevät hallinnon ja politiikan toteutumisen?

39 vastausta



ANNEX II - MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: GERMANY

Qualitative and quantitative findings from survey

Youth Power focused on 3 main questions from the survey in the focus groups. The idea was to make focus groups more effective and to get more important information. The participants were able to have a discussion about their perceptions of policy and decision-making towards youth in their cities. Before turning to the main questions, they were asked if they were involved in or informed about the political decision-making processes in their city and how they got informed about it. Many of the participants from Erfurt answered that social media (Instagram and Facebook) were the most frequently used sources of information, while in Berlin and Wiesbaden the media (Instagram, Facebook, television, social workers facilitators and government websites) were the most frequently used. The participant profiles in Berlin were young people with social disadvantages and immigrants.

The main questions used for the approach was:

1. Do you feel that you could improve your capacities to understand all mechanisms of management and decision making in your cities?

Erfurt: Yes, but there is no direct access to officials. Most young people participate in school programmes such as Leadership in School, which is about peer decision-making. This gives them a little knowledge about students' rights.

Berlin: Participants in Berlin were more political because of their experiences and background, but they still participate minimally in youth decision-making. They feel that they are hardly able to participate in such decision-making due to the language barrier and lack of knowledge about their rights and the German system.

Wiesbaden: Youngsters in this City have a Youngster Council in the city office and on that way they can if they want to get involved in the management and the decisions making, but most of them are not active and dont have wish still to become active part.

2. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials think is correct to be done about the government and for the sake of the citizens (in our case the youth) and what the citizens (in our case the youth) believe to be true about the government and its policies?

Participants (from Berlin, Erfurt and Wiesbaden) wanted greater representation in decision-making for youth. It was said that the government is focused on the general public and they see themselves as followers. Although they acknowledge that the German system of youth education and opportunities is good on the whole, they would like to have more say in areas such as the LGBTQ+ community and immigrant integration.

3. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials believe they can do and are doing on the territory for youth activation and instead what is perceived by young people?

Erfurt: Many participants spoke about the Thuringen´state strategy on youth participation, that means, young people aged 10 to 18 had the opportunity to say their views via youth talks at school and discuss the plans of the interdisciplinary working group in charge of developing strategies for the cities. They suppose that public officials are willing to hear more the concerns and needs of the young population.

Berlin: The participants were less optimistic regarding public officials and the young population. Furthermore, by law, the youth population in Germany has the opportunity to express their voice; they still have the impression that the public officials could do more.

Wiesbaden: Yes, they believe that the gap between generations makes the difference in the youth representation and regarding that the youngsters feel that the public officials lack in addressing contemporary issues towards youth.

Survey statistics

Statistic and graphics are based on 47 answers in online Questionnaire

1. The gender statistics: (Chart 1)

Feminine - 53,8 %

Male - 46,2%

Diverse - 0 %

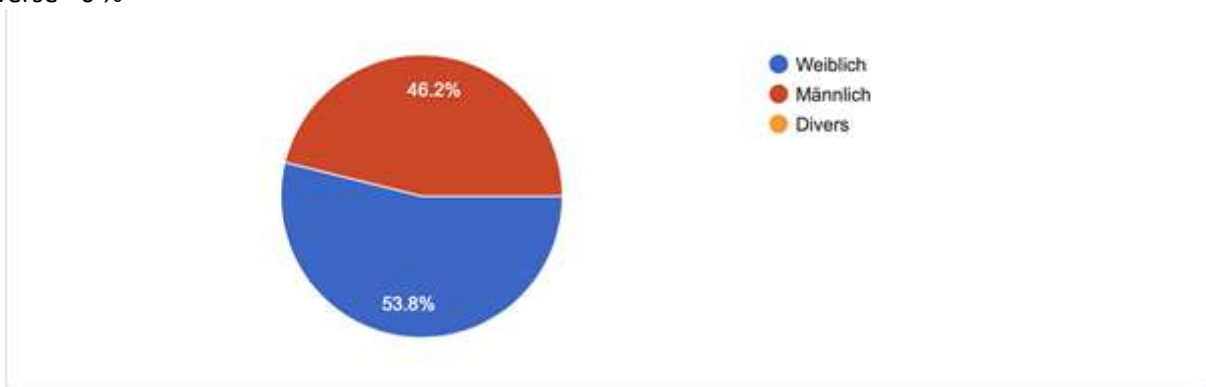


Chart 1

Age (Chart 2)

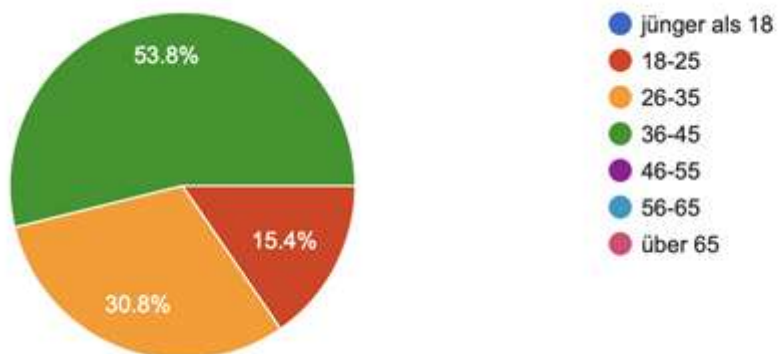
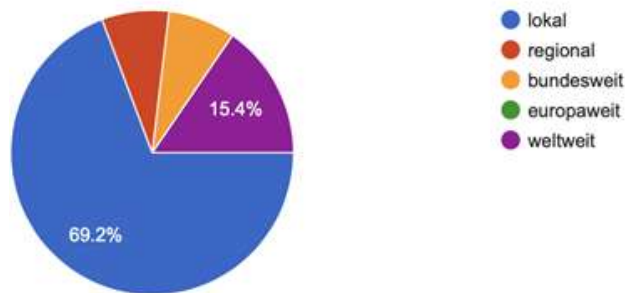


Chart 2

2. Field of activity/ work (Chart 3)



69,2 % of answered are working on Local Level
7,7% are working all over Federation of Germany
7,7 % are working Regional
15,4% are working worldwide/ global

3. Fields of action

In the statistical report, we included only the question that was answered.

Advocacy 30,8%
 secondary education 7,7%
 Adult education 23,1 %
 digital qualification 7,7 %
 Nursing and caring 15,4%
 Culture and free time 15,5%
 Citizen participation 7,7%
 Voluntary service 7,7%
 Intergenerational Solidarity 15,5%
 Family policy 7,7%
 Youth welfare 15,4%
 Urban development 7,7%
 Part other: Social Work 15,4%

4. Main target group / beneficiaries

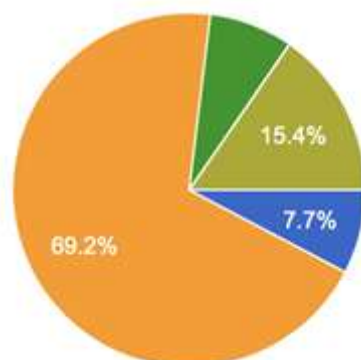


Chart 4

Teenagers / young people 69,2%
 Other 15,4%
 Young adults (20-35 years) 7,7,%
 Generality 7,7%

5. Do you know any initiatives that deal with the development of youth participation? Question had the possibility to be answered with Yes and No.

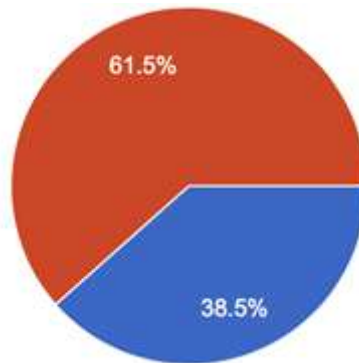


Chart 5

38,5% answered with Yes
 61,5 % answered with No

6. Who is the target audience

In this question Youth Power got the answer that 100% of people answered that they know the organisation whose main target group are the young adults (<35 years).

7. Which skills are in focus

Social 83,3%
 interpersonal 16,7%
 soft skills 16,7%
 other 16,7 %

8. Which approach is used?

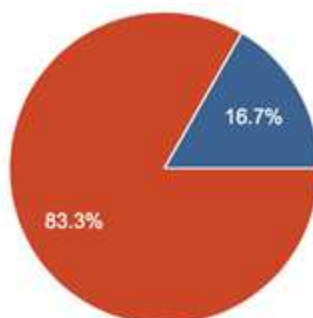


Chart 6

Informal education 83,3%

Others **16,7%**

9. What are the success factors of this initiative?

Quality / relevance of the training programs **50%**

Social skills of the trainers **33,3 %**

Supportive motivation **33,3%**

Don't know **33,3%**

10. What difficulties are hindering the further development of the initiative?

Lack of knowledge / data on the subject **16,7%**

Lack of funding **83,3%**

Lack of competent trainers **16,7%**

low motivation of the target group **16,7%**

Conflicts within the groups **16,7%**

I don't know **16,7%**

11. Open comment (comments on the special features of the initiative, references to other initiatives, etc.

Some of following feedback Youth Power got are:

“work multimedia, e.g. with podcasts, low-threshold offers”

“we need such initiatives”

“Unfortunately, subsidies have been reduced, they do a good job”

12. Do you know / do you know of other initiatives that encourage young people to participate in developing strategies and spaces for young people themselves?

On this question everyone answered with no. (100% NO)

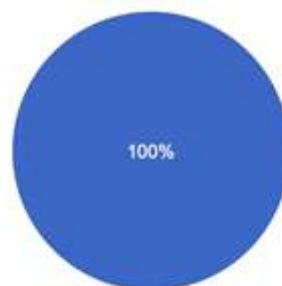


Chart 7

13. Online media and information belong to the scope?

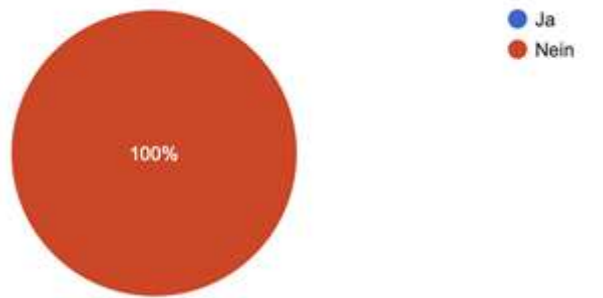


Chart 8

100% of people answered this question with No.

14. Do you think there is a gap between what politicians believe is right to strengthen civil rights and what young people think / believe of the government and its strategies?

Some of comments:

- *“Yes, but this is only discussed shortly before the elections and otherwise the topic does not receive any attention. This could also be due to the fact that the right to vote can only be exercised from the age of 18.”*
- *“Yes, I think politicians still make too much decisions without involving young people. Topic climate change, federal election”*
- *“it depends on which politicians and strategies, there are differences”*

15. Do you think there is a gap between what politicians think they can do and what they do in the field of youth activation and what young people perceive about it?

Some of comments:

- *“Adolescents generally seem to feel that they are not being properly perceived at all. For example, if you look at the topics on social media that young people are grappling with, what ideas they have for the future - I hardly believe that any young person relies on politics. (see also current emigration quotas)”*
- *“Yes, young people cannot assert themselves, there is a lack of platforms. Pseudo-participation, not really taken seriously yet.”*
- *“yes, young people do not perceive politics as a resource at all.”*

Open questions about the development of skills training for young people in relation to participation in the community.

16. What do you think is particularly important for the success of such a program?

Some of answers.

- *“Concrete and early involvement of young people in the planning, topic selection, execution, etc. Only if you are involved from the beginning will you feel that you are being taken seriously and contribute accordingly. Everything else quickly looks like statistics.”*
- *“That the young people experience self-efficacy in this context”*
- *“Include young people in decisions right from the start”*
- *“Low-threshold, respectful access, realistic - linked to the realities of life of the young people, self-efficacy: taking young people seriously in their statements and wishes, also in the implementation”*

17. If you were to carry out a competence training course for urban development for young people (16-21 years), what would be the most important content in your opinion?

Some of feedbacks:

- *“sustainability”*
- *“Getting to know the local structures and decision-making paths / decision-makers, youth participation in the content, good structured offers and appreciative trainers”*
- *“Freetime activities; how do young people perceive their surroundings? See young people as researchers for themselves”*
- *“starting from young people what they need”*
- *“Find out what skills young people already have and build on them”*

Part of Survey for individuals (not belonging to an organization)

1. Do you think that you can expand your understanding of the processes of strategic control and decision-making in your city?

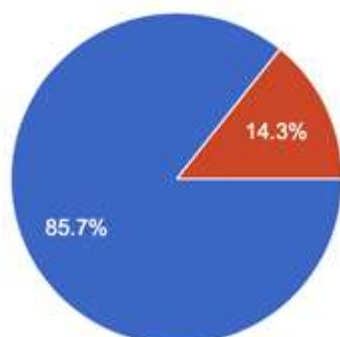


Chart 9

Yes 85,7 %

No 14,3 %

Questions by graphics answer order:

1. I have already informed myself to develop participatory skills for youth citizens
2. I have already informed/trained myself around participatory skills for youth citizens
3. I know training programmes on participatory skills for youth citizens that I could sign up to
4. The training programmes that I know offer the kind of training that I would need

4. Sources of information about politics and society

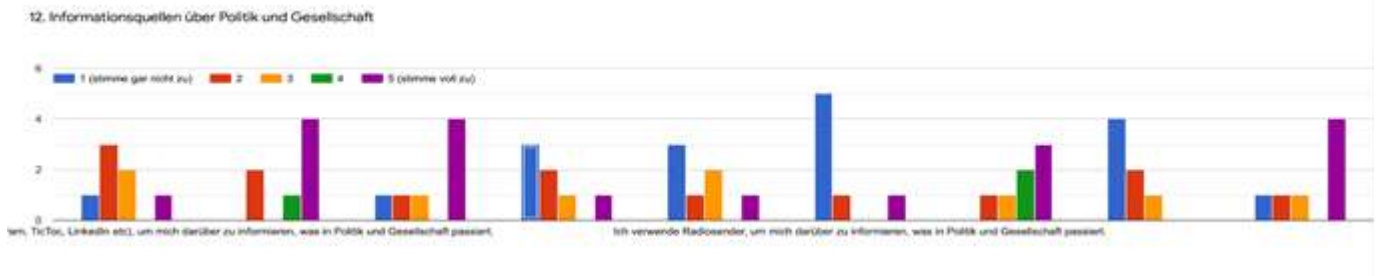


Chart 12

Questions by graphics answer order:

1. I use social media to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
2. I use the Internet to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
3. I use online media to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
4. I use the television to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
5. I use printed newspapers to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
6. I use the radio to be informed about what is going on in politics and society
7. I discuss about politics and societal issues with my family and friends
8. I comment about politics and societal issues on the Internet (social media, blogging, etc.)
9. I use several sources to inform myself about politics and society

5. Do you think there is a gap between what politicians think is right to empower citizens and what young people think of government and its strategies?

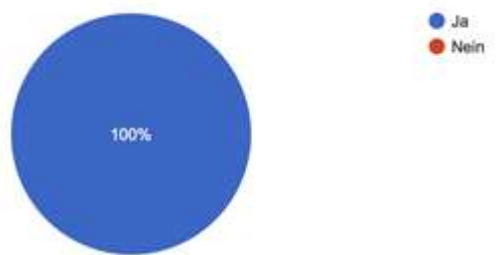


Chart 12

6. Do you think there is a gap between what politicians think they can do and what they are doing in the field of youth activation and what young people perceive about it?

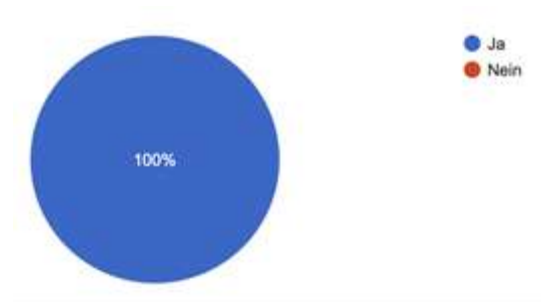
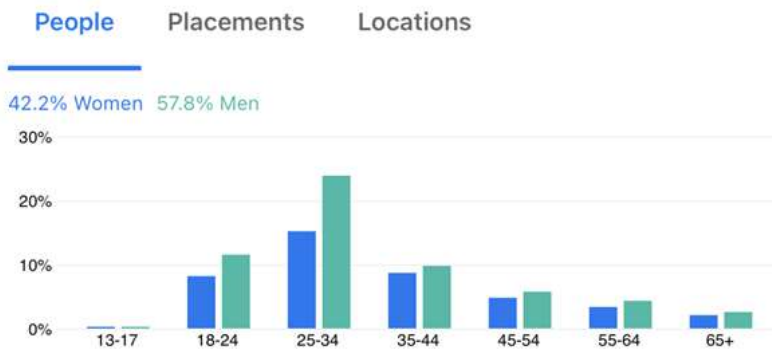


Chart 13

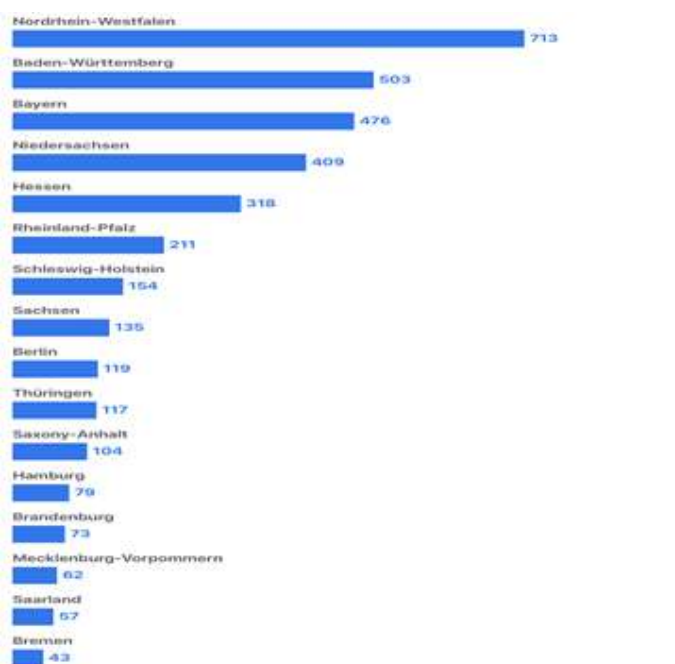
Social media statistics by reaching of survey (Facebook)

All together Facebook Add reached 3,572 people

Gender:



Location in the Federal republic of Germany and the reachment of people in each federal republic of Germany.



ANNEX III - MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: GREECE

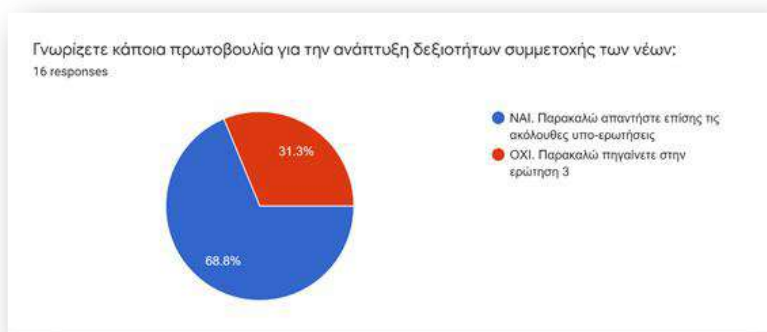
The questions were divided into those representing an organization and those who did not.

For the 16 participants who represented an organization:

Q: Do you know of any initiatives to develop youth participation skills?

Blue = YES

Red = NO



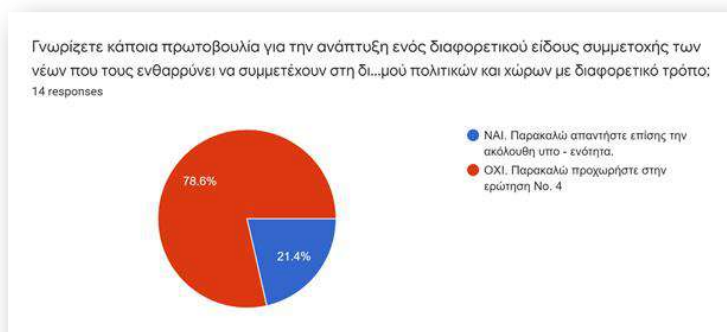
To this question, over 60% of the sample answered positively. The initiatives they mentioned are Salamina's Youth Council, Thessaloniki's Youth Council, Agora Democratic values in Europe, Wefor, Womentors and Erasmus+. As observed, the initiatives that have been mentioned and really related to the development of these skills are the youth councils, the project Agora Democratic values in Europe and Erasmus+.

Some questions about the above-mentioned initiatives followed, from which it emerged that the beneficiaries of the initiatives are young people, the skills that are developed are mainly social, the approach that has been adopted in most of them is the exchange of knowledge, the success factor is mainly the quality / relevance of the trainer, the difficulties that hinder the development of the initiatives are mainly the lack of funding and motivation of the target group.

Q: Do you know of any initiatives to develop a different kind of youth involvement that encourages them to participate in the process of designing policies and spaces in different ways?

Blue = YES

Red = NO



Those who responded positively to this question, mentioned European Youth Ambassadors – Eurocities, Europa. S., Thessaloniki’s Youth Council.

Q: If you were to design a skills program related to youth service design, what would you consider most important for the success of the program?

- To be composed - the planning and coordination team - of young people, who can thus inspire confidence in the youth for the sincerity of the purpose of the program.
- Strengthening youth initiatives
- Motivation and clear goal setting

Q: If you were to deliver a youth service design skills program, what would be the most important content for young people (16-21 years old) to learn?

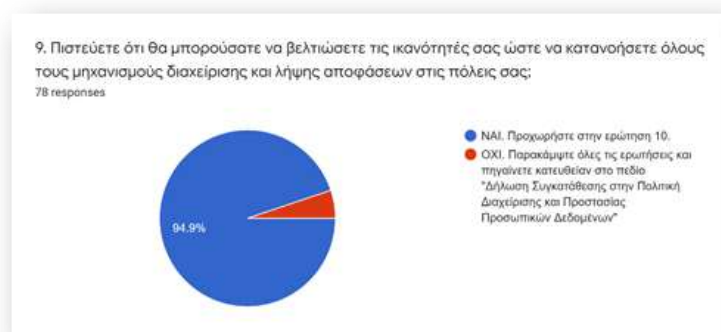
- To learn how to organize at the local level-organization and coordination of actions related to civil society
- Access to European opportunities
- principles of participation and strategic planning

For the rest of the participants who did not represent an organization:

Q: Do you think that you can improve your skills to understand all the management and decision-making mechanisms in your cities?

Blue = YES

Red = NO



Educational needs and preferences. Scale 1 to 5, 5 =completely agree, 1=completely disagree.

The majority of the responders would like to improve their skills mostly on the following sectors:

- I would like to develop my ability to work with data for decision making – 37 participants marked 5, 26 participants marked 4
- I would like to develop my communication and storytelling skills – 38 participants marked 5, 27 participants marked 4
- I would like to develop my ability in quality research – 37 participants marked 5, 22 participants marked 4

Information available on the development of participatory skills for young citizens. Scale 1 to 5, 5 =completely agree, 1=completely disagree. The majority of the participants marked 1 or 2 on the following arguments.

- I have already been informed about the development of participatory skills for young citizens
- I have already been informed / trained on the participatory skills of young citizens
- I know participatory skills training programs for young citizens that I could enroll in
- The training programs I know offer the kind of training I would need

In the following questions, the majority of the participants responded positively that there is a gap between what public officials think is right to do for governance and for the sake of the youth and what young citizens think is right about government and its policies & that there is a gap between what public officials think they can do and ultimately do in their territory to activate young people and, instead, what is perceived by young people.

In conclusion, it is observed that there are significant gaps in the field of information and definitely lack of trainings regarding the development of participation skills. Also, it is worth noting that most of the young people IRTEA approached were interested in the project, expressing their need to be active in this field.

ANNEX IV - MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: ITALY

Statistic and graphics are based on 114 answers in online Google Questionnaire.

Part of Survey for organizations

1. Do you know any initiatives that deal with the development of youth participation? Question had the possibility to be answered with Yes and No.

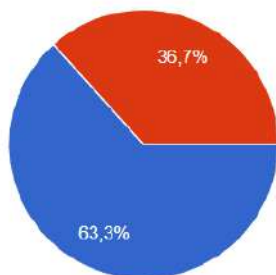


Chart 1

63,3% answered with Yes

36,7 % answered with No

1.2. Who is the target audience

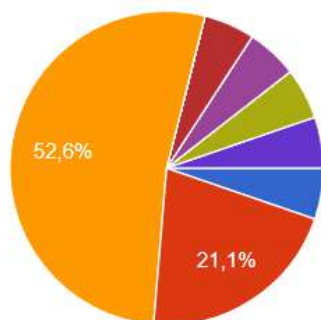


Chart 2

Young people (<35) 52,6%

Students 21,1%

People with disabilities 5,3%

NEET 5,3%

Intergenerational 5,3%

Middle and High Schools students 5,3%

General public 5,3%

1.3. Which skills are in focus?

Social	90%
interpersonal	85%
soft skills	50%
technical skills	40%
social and cultural	5%
Environmental education	5%
Political participation	5%

1.4. Which approach is used?

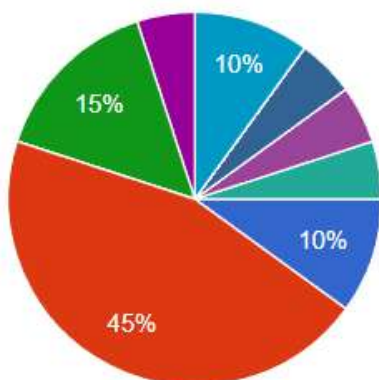


Chart 3

Informal education	45%
Formal education	15%
Intergenerational	10%
Life-long learning programmes	10%
Professional education	5%
AR and arts	5%
Participatory	5%
Encouraging the expression of the participants' skills	5%

1.5. What are the success factors of this initiative?

Quality / relevance of the training programs	65%
Professional skills of the trainers	55%
Social skills of the trainers	35%
Supportive motivation	50%
General ambiance	50%
Affordability of the training	15%
Selection process of the trainees	15%
Rewards for trainees	10%
Other (Listening)	5%

1.6. What difficulties are hindering the further development of the initiative?

Lack of knowledge / data on the subject	15%
Lack of funding	45%
Lack of competent trainers	5%
inaccessible premises	10%
the time/location/format of the training doesn't suit the target group	5%
difficulty to reach out to the target group	10%
other priorities for the target group	5%
interpersonal problems within the group	5%
I don't know	15%
Difficulty in getting support from schools	5%
Lack of follow-through after school	5%
Risk of late response to young people from the public promoting body	5%

1.7. Open comment (comments on the special features of the initiative, references to other initiatives, etc.

Some of following feedback we got are:

“Continuity and investment in the medium/long term”

“Annual turnover of school class representatives”

“Participation is a work method as well as a right for under 18s, not an initiative!”

“Unfortunately, the shortage of funds does not allow to launch a research on the needs of potential users who could benefit from educational services with new, tested and effective methodologies.”

2. Do you know / do you know of other initiatives that encourage young people to participate in developing strategies and spaces for young people themselves?

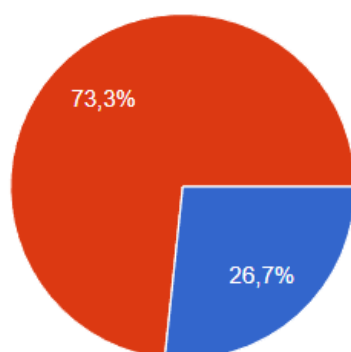


Chart 4

26,7% answered with Yes

73,3 % answered with No

2.1. What is the name of the initiative?

(9 answers)

- we are designing it
- Coprogettazione Garbagnate Milanese
- La mediazione dei conflitti tra pari
- patti civici
- La città dei giovani
- MB
- Caffè Geopolitico - <https://ilcaffegeopolitico.net/>
- Insegnamento di educazione civica
- Primopiano

2.2. Who is the target group?

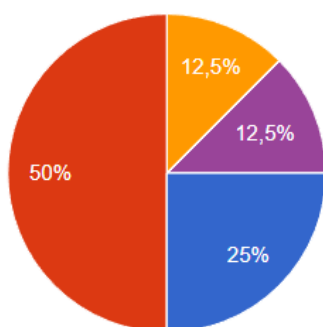


Chart 5

Young people (<35)	12,5%
Students	50%
People with disabilities	5,3%
I don't know	12,5%
General public	25%

2.3. What type of skills are developed?

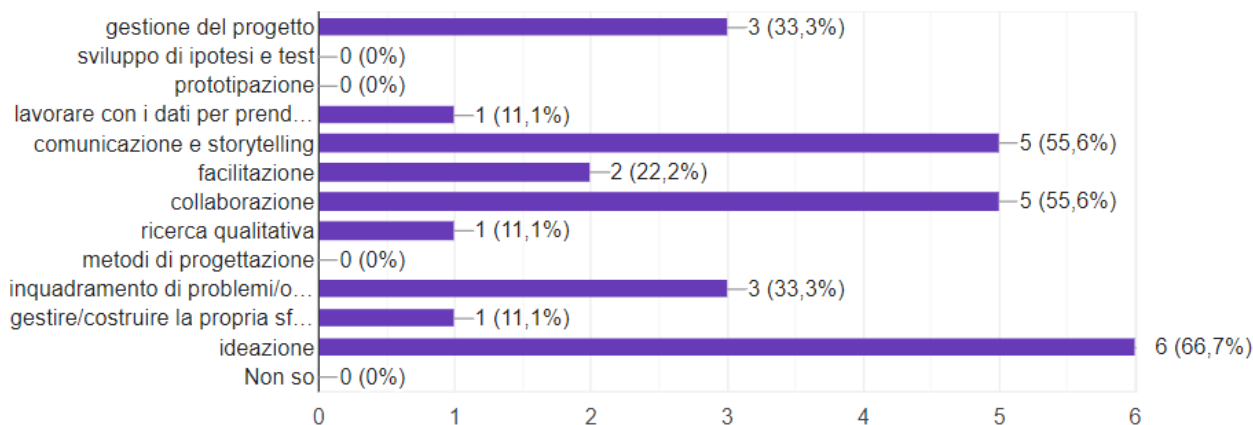


Chart 6

project management	33,3%
working with data to make decisions	11,1%
communication and storytelling	55,6%
facilitation	22,2 %
collaboration	55,6%
qualitative research	11,1 %
problem/opportunity framing	33,3%
organizing/building power	11,1 %
ideation	66,7%

2.4. Online media and information belong to the scope?

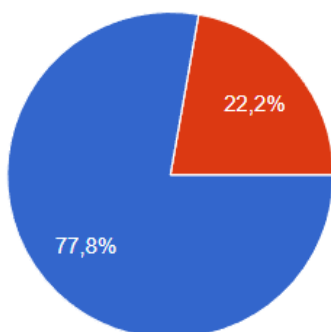


Chart 7

77,8% answered with Yes

22,2 % answered with No

2.5. What is the chosen approach:

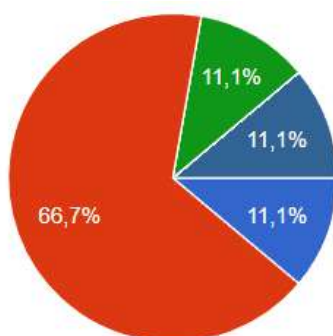


Chart 8

Non-formal education 66,7%

Formal education 11,1%

field operational, experiential, hands-on 11,1%

intergenerational 11,1%

2.6. What are the success factors of this initiative?

9 risposte

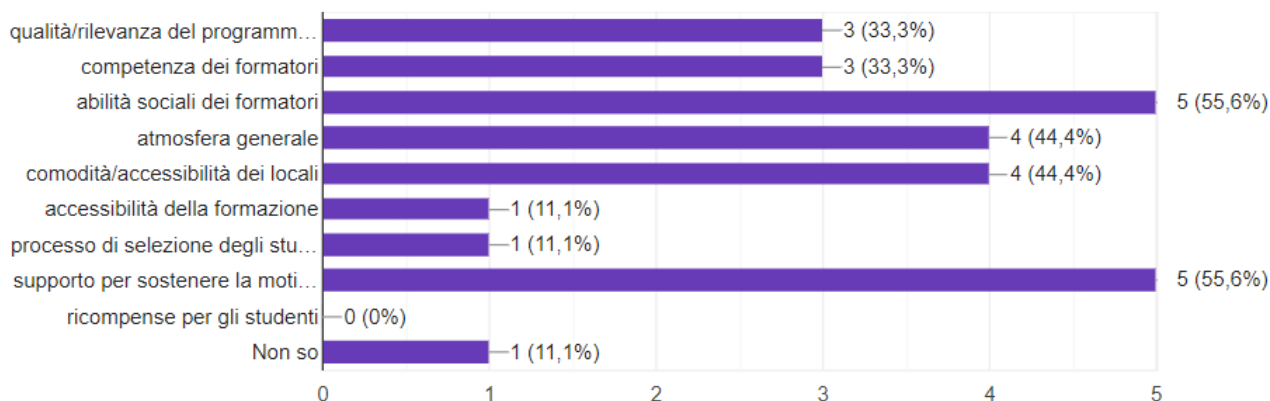


Chart 9

social skills of the trainer(s)	55,6%
support to sustain motivation	55,6%
Quality/relevance of the training programme	33,3%
Knowledge of the trainer(s)	33,3%
general atmosphere	44,4%
comfort/accessibility of the premises	44,4%

2.7. What are the difficulties hindering the further development of the initiative?

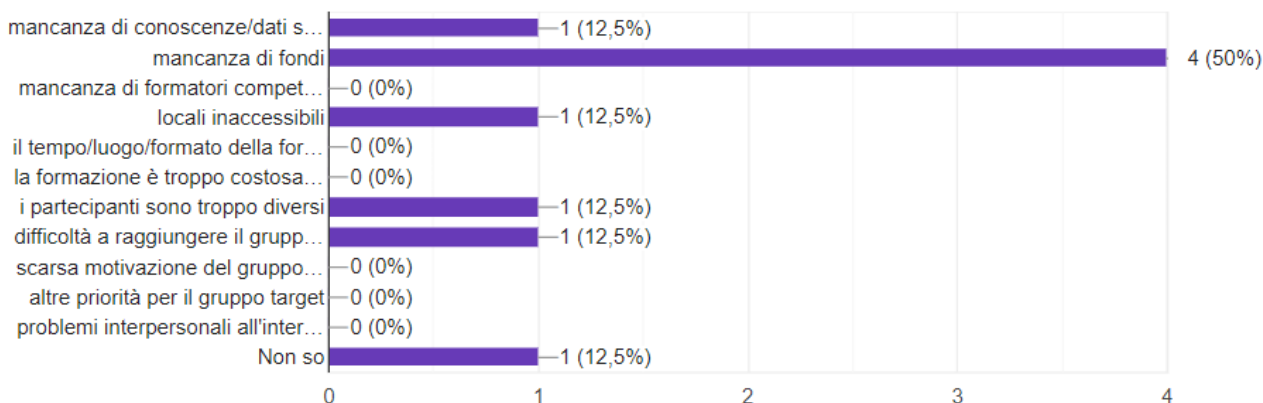


Chart 10

50% of the respondents answered “Lack of funding”

5. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials think is correct to be done about government and for the sake of the citizens (in our case the youth) and what the citizens (in our case the youth) believe to be true about the government and its policies?

All the respondents answered “YES” to this question.

6. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials believe they can do and are doing on the territory for youth activation and instead what is perceived by young people?

All the respondents answered “YES” to this question.

If you were to plan a capacity building on youth service design, what would you consider most important for the success of the programme?

Some of following feedback we got are:

- *Co-design of the programme with young people*
- *Youth-friendly language and using the right engagement channels (online and offline)*
- *Hands-on approach, testing, long-term training and constant follow-up*

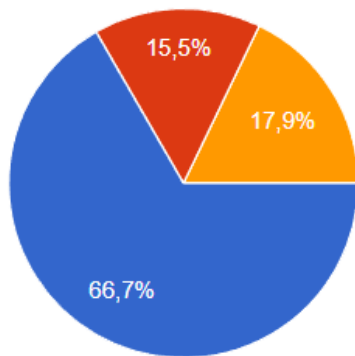
If you were to deliver a capacity building on youth service design, what would be the content that you consider most important for young people (16-21 y.o.) to learn?

Some of following feedback we got are:

- *Creation of a communication campaign to disseminate the project (before-during-after implementation).*
- *Functioning of the public administration and public decision-making processes.*
- *Understand and explore employment and equal opportunity issues.*
- *Soft skills*
- *See things from other perspectives and with different eyes.*

Part of Survey for individuals (not belonging to an organization)

9. Do you feel that you could improve your capacities to understand all mechanisms of management and decision making in your cities?

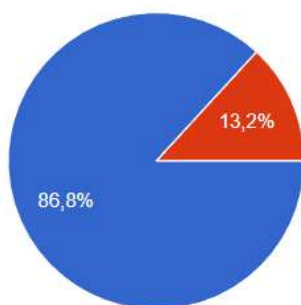


- Si. Procedi con la domanda n°10
- NO. Salta tutte le domande e vai direttamente al "Consenso alla politica di trattamento e protezione dei dati"
- YES. Procedi con la domanda n°10

Chart 11

YES	17,9%
NO	15,5%
YES	66,7%

13. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials think is correct to be done about government and for the sake of the citizens (in our case the youth) and what the citizens (in our case the youth) believe to be true about the government and its policies?



- SI
- NO

Chart 12

NO	13,2%
YES	86,8%

14. Do you think that there is a gap between what public officials believe they can do and are doing on the territory for youth activation and instead what is perceived by young people?

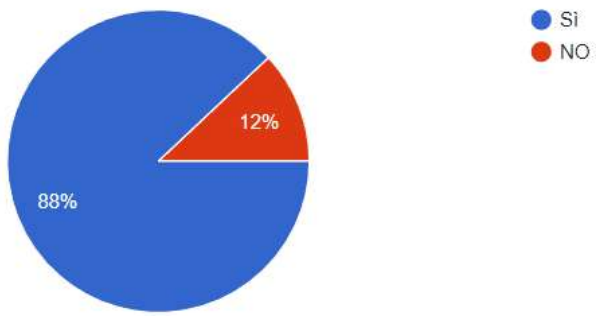


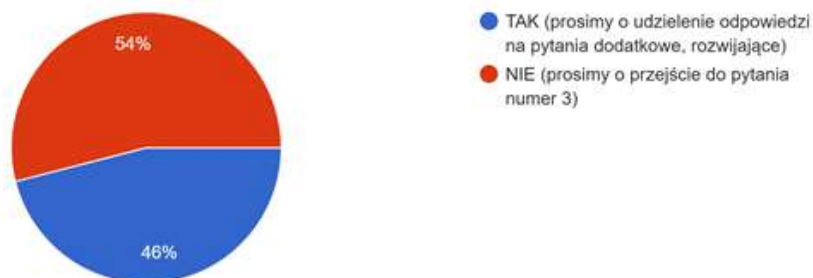
Chart 13

NO	12%
YES	88%

ANNEX V – MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: POLAND

2. Czy znasz jakieś inicjatywy/projekty wspierające rozwój kompetencji partycypacyjnych młodych ludzi? (Partycypacja to aktywny udział w wydarzeniach... dotyczących, zabieranie głosu, współdecydowanie itd.)

50 odpowiedzi



About the question: do you know any initiatives / projects supporting the development of young people's participatory competences? (Participation is active participation in events that concern us, speaking, co-decision, etc.): less than half of the respondents responded positively - 46%.

These people indicated the existence of such projects as: Erasmus +, projects of the Sempre a Freste Foundation, TEAM Teatrikon Foundation, Unia Film Festiwal, ESM2023, Economic Forum of Young Leaders, We are young - we are concerned with citizenship, Open call for projects for the Night of Culture, the Culture Volunteer program, the Media Volunteers program, internship programs implemented in the Workshops of Culture, Youth Activator, Educational and therapeutic project "Emotion", Union Dialogue, EU Dialogue

It shows that there is very high recognition of European funds which can support development participatory competences among youth people. Respondents give an example on EU Dialogue and other examples of European initiatives for youth. There were only a few examples of governmental programmes for youth.

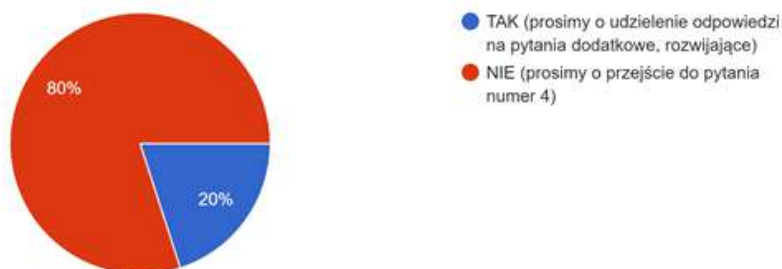
Also about the question : Do you know of any initiative that supports and encourages young people to participate in the process of designing local policies and spaces in a different way?: 80% of the answers were no, only 20 % of respondents answered yes. They also give an example of initiatives like:

Youth council
 Youth Municipal councils, etc.
 Erasmus + program, Participation projects
 Teatrikon Foundation
 EU Dialogue

It shows that there exists a huge problem of recognition of the initiatives for young people. Again, there is an example of a European programme and youth council that is legal support for youth in public area.

3. Czy znasz jakąś inicjatywę, która wspiera i zachęca młodych ludzi do udziału w procesie projektowania lokalnych polityk i przestrzeni w inny sposób?

50 odpowiedzi



For 72% responders initiatives can support and develop the cooperation skills and management competences.

When asked what factors hinder the further development of the initiative, the respondents mainly indicate financial issues - 20%, problems with the group / other priorities of young people - 20%. However, 60% of them are not able to name the factor / reason why these initiatives are not developing.

Everyone who was answering the question about the discrepancy between what actions public officials perceive as appropriate to be taken for the benefit of citizens (especially young people) indicated that there is a huge discrepancy in this aspect. A lot of people pointed out that there is a discrepancy, because officials are not fully aware of what is attractive to young people, they focus on what, in their opinion, may interest others, and what is often not related to reality. There were also a few responses indicating that reliable consultations are rarely conducted and the activities offered are not supported by the needs of young people. So it can be concluded that the respondents clearly indicate the problem of cooperation in the creation of services and initiatives for young people by the city.

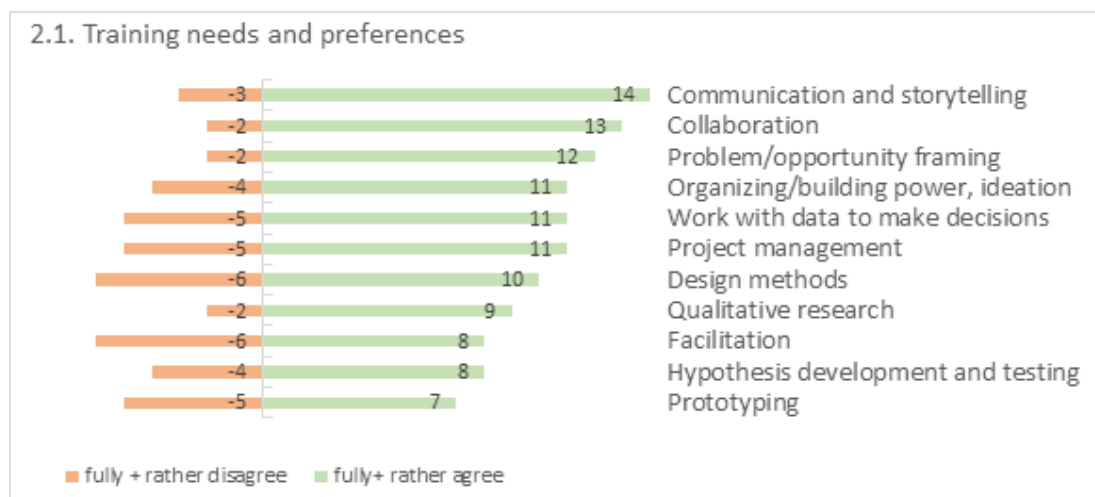
When asked about how to implement a program supporting the development of competences in designing youth services (16-21), what kind of content would you consider to be the most important for young people? the respondents answered: Economic knowledge, tolerance, empathy active listening / how to manage a group, how to be an effective entrepreneur, how (most accessible to young people) to convey knowledge about entrepreneurship, basic knowledge about online safety, about people with disabilities, about the future labour market and continuing education, the ability to argue, present one's views, analyse and select information, content that responds to their needs and other examples.

It shows that responders directly know what is the need of youth and in which direction any of the youth programme/ services design should go. In addition, they named the most important factors for a successful program that strengthens the competences of designing services for young people, which are:

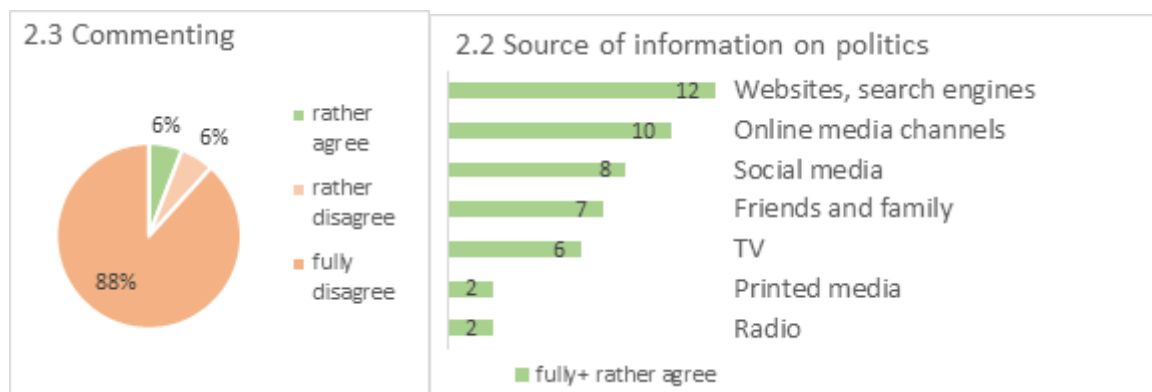
- Consultation with young people, participation of young people in meetings with decision-makers.
- Analysing the needs and expectations of young people, examining the competences that young people already have in order to diagnose in what area there are shortages and what needs to be developed
- Environmental research - participation of young people
- Good User Experience - that is, a well-planned path of how young will be to guide you through the entire process. Continuous feedback, awareness of status and agency, visual appeal.

ANNEX VI - MAIN FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY: SLOVAKIA

As for individual respondents (not members of any organisations), 68% feel they could improve their capacities to understand all mechanisms of management and decision making in their city. Chart 2.1 show their preferences.



As for availability of participation skill programmes for youth, 16% have already informed themselves and 5% got a training. 11% know a programme and can sign up. 22% say they know programmes offering training they would benefit from.



Respondents clearly prefer online sources of information on politics and society (Chart 2.2). Nevertheless, as many as 94% do not comment online on these issues (Chart 2.3).

75 % believe there is a gap between what public officials think is correct to be done for the sake of the youth and what the youth believe to be true about the policies. This number rises to 85% when considering the gap between what public officials believe they can do for youth activation and what young people perceive.

Three respondents agreed with a prospective interview. Three wish to be informed about further steps. Regarding the respondents, who are member of a civic organisations/NGO, the only initiative to develop youth participation skills respondents know is *the Slovak Youth Council* cited by one respondent. Its main

target group being described as young adults, chosen approach as non-formal education and skills developed as social, soft and technical. Success is attributed to the quality/relevance of the training programme, knowledge and social skills of the trainers, general ambience and affordability of the training. The lack of knowledge/data on the topic and the lack of funding are seen as barriers for the further development of the initiative.

Respondents do not mention any initiative to develop a different kind of youth engagement in designing policies and spaces. Only mentioned local or national study is *the Youth Strategy in the City of Lučenec 2021* (mentioned by one participant) that deals with perception and reality gaps between public officials and youth and with different levels of engagement of stakeholders in participatory democracy approaches to young people.

All respondents (4) who answered the question agree there is a gap between what public officials think is correct to be done for the sake of the youth and what the youth believe to be true about the policies. Only one respondent formulates a reason for this disparity: *the youth do not care for and do not need actions public officials take.*

Regarding the youth activation, respondents' accord is not that strong (two yes, one „yes and no“). The gap between what public officials believe they can do and what is perceived by young people is attributed to the fact, that *public officials' actions are rather technocratic (grants, investments in buildings) while the youth needs representation and particular policies implementation.*

For the success of a capacity building programme to foster young people skills in service design, respondents consider most important: *measurable and well-evaluated impact indicators, inclusion of young people in the vote itself, and people from the field and to meet and convince public officials of the need for change.* For delivering a capacity building on youth service design, the best fit content would be: *communication and leadership skills, “21 century skills“, the basics of NGOs functioning, opportunity seeking, personal portfolio building.*

Three respondents agreed with a prospective interview. Two respondents wish to be informed about further steps.