



e-DEVOY

e-Democracy: Empowering European Youth Voices

Project Number: 2024-1-EL02-KA154-YOU-000239964

Youth participation events without mobilities

**Digital Democracy Local Dialogue for
Amplifying Youth Participation in EU
Policy Shaping in Greece**

www.e-devoy.eu



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UNDERSTANDING DIGITAL DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

Digital democracy refers to the use of digital technologies and online platforms to strengthen democratic participation, improve communication between citizens and institutions, and create new opportunities for engagement in public decision-making. As societies become increasingly connected through technology, democratic participation is no longer limited to traditional methods such as voting or attending public meetings. Young people can now participate in consultations, discussions, campaigns, and policy debates through digital tools that allow them to express their views and contribute to shaping public policies at local, national, and European levels.



KEY ELEMENTS OF DIGITAL DEMOCRACY

- Online citizen consultations
- Digital participation platforms
- E-petitions and civic initiatives
- Open government and transparency tools
- Social media engagement in policymaking
- Digital communication between citizens and institutions
- Inclusive access to democratic participation



WHY YOUTH PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Young people represent an important part of European society and are directly affected by many policy decisions related to education, employment, digital transformation, climate change, social inclusion, and human rights. Despite this, youth participation in democratic processes often remains lower than desired. Encouraging young people to engage actively in policymaking helps ensure that their perspectives are represented and that future policies better address their needs and aspirations. Participation also strengthens democratic legitimacy and promotes civic responsibility.



BENEFITS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN EU POLICY SHAPING

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- Stronger representation of youth interests
 - Increased democratic legitimacy
 - Better-informed policy decisions
 - Enhanced civic responsibility
- Greater trust in institutions
 - Improved social inclusion
 - Development of leadership skills



DIGITAL TOOLS FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Digital technologies have created innovative ways for citizens to engage with democratic processes. Platforms developed by European institutions, local authorities, and civil society organizations allow young people to submit proposals, participate in consultations, join public discussions, and provide feedback on policies. These tools reduce geographical barriers and create more accessible opportunities for participation, especially for young people who may not traditionally engage in political processes.



POPULAR DIGITAL PARTICIPATION TOOLS

- EU Youth Portal
- European Youth Dialogue Platform
- Online consultation platforms
- Participatory budgeting tools
- Social media campaigns
- Digital surveys and polls
- Community engagement applications



CHALLENGES TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Although digital participation creates many opportunities, several challenges remain. Many young people are unaware of existing participation mechanisms or do not believe that their contributions can influence decision-making. Others may face barriers related to digital literacy, access to technology, or limited knowledge of political processes. Addressing these challenges requires targeted educational initiatives and greater efforts to make participation more meaningful and accessible.

SKILLS NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION

- Critical thinking
- Digital literacy
- Communication skills
- Media literacy
- Civic awareness
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Problem-solving abilities





BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN YOUTH AND POLICYMAKERS

One of the most important objectives of digital democracy initiatives is to strengthen communication between young people and decision-makers. Constructive dialogue allows policymakers to better understand youth concerns while giving young people valuable insight into how public decisions are made. By creating spaces for discussion and cooperation, democratic institutions can become more responsive, transparent, and inclusive.

TOWARDS A MORE PARTICIPATORY EUROPE

- Empowering young voices in policymaking
- Promoting democratic values and active citizenship
- Encouraging inclusive participation
- Strengthening trust in democratic institutions
- Supporting innovation in civic engagement
- Building sustainable participation mechanisms
- Creating a stronger democratic future for Europe



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