



e-DEVOY

e-Democracy: Empowering European Youth Voices

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

Youth participation events without mobilities

**Digital Engagement Local Youth Lab for
Empowering Youth in European
Decision-Making in Bulgaria**

www.e-devoy.eu



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YOUTH CONTRACT FOR EUROPE 2012



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UNDERSTANDING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Youth engagement refers to the meaningful participation of young people in social, civic, political, and community life. Across Europe, young citizens are increasingly encouraged to contribute to discussions and decisions that affect their lives. Active engagement helps young people develop confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of responsibility while strengthening democratic institutions and promoting more inclusive policymaking processes.



BENEFITS OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Promotes active citizenship
- Strengthens democratic participation
- Develops leadership skills
- Increases civic awareness
- Encourages social responsibility
- Builds confidence and self-efficacy
- Creates stronger communities



EUROPEAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The European Union makes decisions on a wide range of issues that influence the daily lives of its citizens, including education, employment, digital policies, environmental protection, and social inclusion. Understanding how decisions are made at the European level helps young people recognize opportunities to participate and influence policies. Citizens can contribute through consultations, public dialogues, youth organizations, and advocacy initiatives.

MAIN EU INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN DECISION-MAKING

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- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Council of the European Union
- European Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of the Regions
- European Ombudsman
- European Court of Justice



THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Young people bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and valuable experiences that can contribute to better policymaking. Their participation ensures that policies are responsive to current social realities and future challenges. Through youth councils, consultations, and participation platforms, young citizens can contribute recommendations and engage directly with decision-makers.



MECHANISMS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- European Youth Dialogue
- Youth councils
- Public consultations
- Erasmus+ Youth Participation Activities
- Online participation platforms
- Civil society organizations
- Community advocacy initiatives



DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AS A DEMOCRATIC TOOL

Digital engagement allows young people to participate in democratic processes regardless of location or social background. Online platforms facilitate communication, consultation, and collaboration between citizens and institutions. These tools can make participation more accessible and inclusive while helping institutions gather diverse perspectives from across Europe.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

- Digital literacy
- Communication skills
- Critical thinking
- Media literacy
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Leadership abilities
- Responsible online behavior





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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