



YOUTH PARTICIPATION *in local life*

TOOLBOX

*Why we think that
young people
need to get involved?*

And how to start ?

*Here is the vision of
young people from
France, Germany and
Poland*

In partnership with




Supported by



L'EUROPE COMMENCE DANS VOTRE VILLE

EUROPA BEGINNT IN DEINER STADT



THE ORIGIN OF OUR INVOLVEMENT.

1 *Who are we ?*

We are young people from France, Germany and Poland aged between 15 and 30 years old. We come from various backgrounds. Some of us are really involved in local politics, some of us are involved in youth organizations, some of us were never involved in any specific actions so far. We reunited in the summer 2023 in order to share and learn about youth participation and also about what is important for young people of our generation.

Our participation in this OFAJ/DFJW project

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This tool box is part of the results of our project Social Innovation: political advocacy for young people for the project Europe starts in your city. We wanted to share with you our work and our exchanges and some tools to help you to be more aware of youth participation and of European opportunities.

3 *What we did ?*

During our project we treated a lot of different subjects that we considered as important for young people and for the future of Europe. Such as : education; work; human rights; European values and challenges; migration and refugees; gender equality; European union (history, challenges, functioning and values.

What more ?

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We also did work on the reasons why we were involved as young people, the subjects we want to be involved in and on the reasons why some of our group were not involved yet and on why and how to become more involved.

5 *European dimension*

This work was also rich because of the European dimension of our project; indeed, we did compare our visions and opportunities as French, Germans and Polish young people.

We did find differences in our communities, but also a lot of common ground, making us feel more united to work on young Europeans involvement.



WHY WE THINK THAT YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO GET INVOLVED?

As young individuals, our involvement in local politics and local Community have numerous benefits for us personally and for society as a whole. Here are a few reasons why we think it's in your interest to be an active citizen

1 *Inclusive Representation*

Your participation, along with the one of other young people, ensures a more balanced and inclusive representation in local governance bodies, reflecting demographic diversities and perspectives within the population.

Influence on Decisions that Affect You **2**

Involvement in local politics gives you the opportunity to directly influence policies and decisions that impact your daily life, especially in areas such as education, housing, employment, and other local issues

3 *Learning Essential Skills*

Participating in political activities helps you develop skills such as decision-making, communication, negotiation, and leadership, which are transferable to other areas of your life.

Individual Empowerment **4**

Political engagement fosters a sense of civic responsibility in you, encouraging active participation in building your community.

5 *Enhanced Political Understanding*

Involvement in local politics allows you to better understand how government functions and the role you can play as an active citizen.

Creation of Positive Change **6**

You have the power to make a positive impact on your community by recognizing and tackling specific local issues, thereby enhancing the quality of life for everyone.

7 *Expanding Opportunities*

Your involvement in local politics can create networking, mentoring, and professional learning opportunities that can be beneficial for your future career and engagements.

Personal Satisfaction **8**

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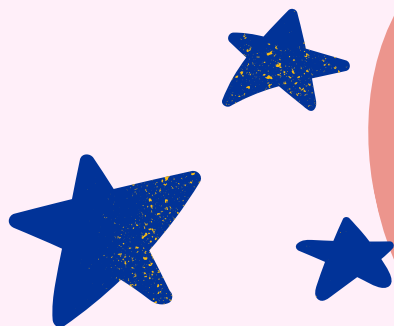
9 *Diversification of Ideas*

Your engagement, along with that of other young people, brings new perspectives and innovative ideas to political discussions, promoting diversity of ideas within local governance.

Your involvement and the one of other young people like us in local politics are crucial for building a dynamic, democratic, and equitable society, ensuring that political decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of the entire population, including younger generations.

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Convinced ? Go on next page for some tips on how to get started!



ARE YOU READY TO EMBARK ON THIS EPIC ADVENTURE?

"Hey, crew, let's get real: how can we spice up local politics, you know? Here are some cool ideas to get you motivated: "Our goal is to create an atmosphere where everyone feels heard and supported in our political adventures. With plenty of exciting opportunities, we're on track to make local politics as thrilling as your favorite hangout spot! 🌟👥"

1 *Stay Informed*

You know, keeping up with local and national news isn't just for old people, right? It gives you the scoop on what's happening in your community, and if you want to dive a bit deeper, join public meetings, forums, or debates.

Join the Team - Youth Associations and Student Groups 2

You've probably heard of those awesome youth groups already, right? If you don't where to find them, ask your school if they have groups doing civic and political stuff. Join the party! You can also create your own youth parliament or youth comity like we did!

3 *Magic Mentorship*

Dive into mentorship programs connecting you with local political leaders for advice and experiences.

Social Media Boss Moves: 4

Utilize social media to discuss local political issues and inspire other young people to join in.

5 *Community Superhero Projects*

Become the superhero your community needs! Spread hope and good ideas by joining projects and volunteer projects.

Collaborate with Youth Organizations: 6

If you're not ready to start your own crew, work with local or national youth organizations that dig youth political participation. Hit up your city for some cool connections.

7 *Council Meeting Adventures:*

Come on, it could be fun! Attend municipal council meetings to see what's going on and drop your ideas during public comments. It's open to everyone; just need to know where to look in your city.

Throw the Party - Events and Initiatives: 8

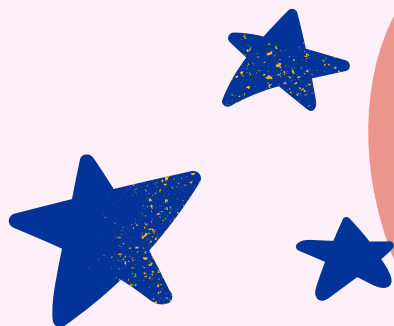
Throw parties with the city! Organize events to raise awareness on hot topics or to boost civic engagement among other young people.

9 *Hackathons and Civic Competitions:*

Become a hackathon pro! Dive into creative competitions that solve local or larger-scale problems.

Educate and Collaborate: 10

Educate your peers on local issues through workshops and collaborate with local organizations to make it fun and impactful. Get into actions reminding young people how important it is to vote and get registered. And whenever you get the chance to vote, do it!



TO GO FURTHER ... EUROPEAN VISION

How can you get involved on a European scale?

1 *European projects*

"Explore exciting opportunities in European projects !

- Numerous countries offer specific programs and funds for transnational projects, involving two or more countries. Take, for instance, initiatives like 'Europe Starts In Your City!' under the OFAJ/DFJW Program, in which we actively participated.
- OFAJ/DFJW/FGYO provides diverse program opportunities for young individuals, including French, German, and youth from partners countries. Notable programs like 'Democracy Now!' and 'Our Europe, Our Future!' are waiting for you to discover. .

Connect with OFAJ/DFJW and youth organizations overseeing such projects for participation details.

- For French participants: OFAJ <https://www.ofaj.org/>
- For German participants: DFJW <https://www.dfjw.org/>
- For participants from other languages: FGYO <https://www.fgyo.org/>

Explore numerous other programs and funds, offering a wealth of opportunities for you to discover.

- Erasmus+ Youth opens doors for young people to gain international experience, raising their voices as active European citizens with the power to influence decision-makers. Programs like Youth Participation Activities or Youth Exchanges are worth checking out. There's always a program to help you dive deeper, gain new skills, and build a European or international network."

Connect with Erasmus+ and youth organizations overseeing such projects for participation details.

<https://www.erasmusplus-jeunesse.fr/>
https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities?pk_source=website&pk_medium=link&pk_campaign=hp&pk_content=hp-highlights-oppo

- You can also participate in solidarity projects with the European Solidarity Corps program: offering volunteers missions on short or long term
- [between 2 weeks and 12 month).

<https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity/placement>

Keep in touch with us **2**

If you want to know more about our project or about our youth organizations and get more info , or join some projects feel free to contact us.

Maison de l'Europe des Landes Wipsee- France- Project Coordinator

<https://www.maisoneuropelandes-wipsee.fr/>

Jugendparlament Göttingen- Germany

<https://www.jugendparlament-goettingen.de/>

Europe4Youth -Poland

<https://europe4youth.eu/>