

Foundations of Participation

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Background

Research Group Youth & Europe:

- Theoretical framework
- Practical use

Topics

- ⇒ Concepts fostering active Citizenship among youth
- ⇒ Youth identity and values in Europe
- ⇒ Intercultural learning for democracy & Tolerance
- ⇒ Strategies for Youth policy in Europe

Aim

Direct participation and involvement of young people

Civic Identity of Young People

- Definition of politics – complex and unclear itself
- Politics & Young people – ambiguous relationship
- Missing sense of coherence between policy and politics -
Social, cultural and geographic affiliations more relevant

Result

**Young people's feeling towards Politics:
Scepticism and lack of knowledge**

Requirements and Approaches

Attitude => Action => Accountability

Level 1: Listening

Level 2: Facilitating

Level 3: Consideration

Level 4: Involvement

An ideal youth participation model will find instruments and processes at all levels.

Quality criteria

Principles of effective youth participation

1. **Choise of involvement**
2. **Age/Youth-Appropriate Activities**
3. **Adequate ressources**
4. **Sucessful communication**
5. **Empowerment**
6. **Review & Reflection**

Range of Youth Participation

- 1. Open activities**
 - 2. Project orientated participation**
 - 3. Direct contact/structured dialog with politicians**
 - 4. Youth consultation in adult bodies**
 - 5. Representative participation**
- ⇒ Mutual impact of format and the intended aim**

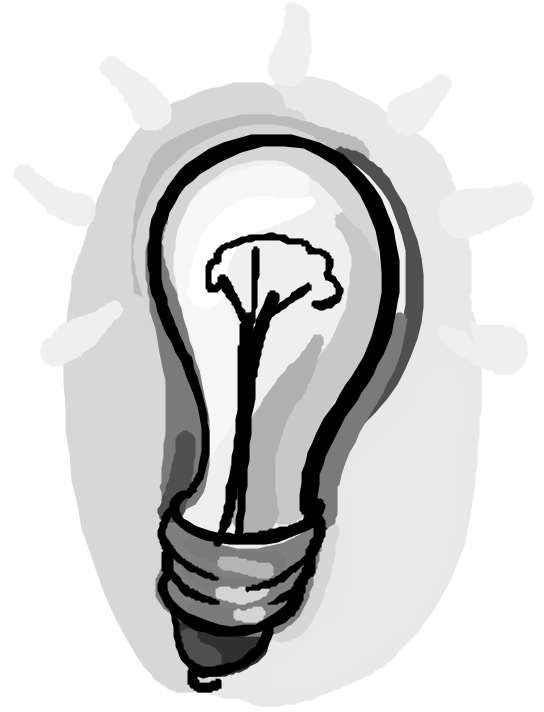
Rationale of Youth Participation

Impact through

- Representation/ Advocacy
 - > overtaking young people's case
- Information/ Consultation
 - > get young people's views in
- Integration/ Co-determination
 - > get young people actively involved

Conclusions...

**Stable and sustainable youth
participation needs
the general willingness to get young people
involved as well as adequate structures and
processes**



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