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Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

INFORMATION SHEET

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

SPAIN



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1. Youth participation in Spain

Give an overview on participation of young people (13 – 30) in your country on the national and regional level (in federal states) answering the following questions:

- Are there official national/regional recommendations (policies) establishing the right of young people to participate in society?

First of all, it must be stated that the concept of “youth” covers, in Spain, for most organizations competent, and according to most experts, a scope of ages between 15 and 29 years, which is the field on which data is based.

The Spanish Constitution, in its article 48, establishes the right of young people to participate in all main fields of public life of the country. But not only the right to participate is assured, also the public authorities are made responsible for enabling and fostering the participation of young people. “The public authorities shall promote conditions for free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural”.

This main law has later been implemented through more specific laws on the national and on the regional level, because both levels of power share competencies in this field of policies.

On the national level, the law that has been central in the forming up of the participation of young people in modern Spain is the Law 18/1983 by which the Council of Youth of Spain (CJE) was created. This body gives the basic support for the participation of all kinds of youth associations to facilitate and promote their role in public life.

On the regional level, this CJE is divided into regional branches, inside of each one the same structure is followed, to the local level, in order to facilitate any association, no matter its size or location, the right to full participation in social, political, economical, cultural, sport, or any other field of Spanish life.

- If so: how is the concept of youth participation defined?

The existing concept of youth participation goes along with the conception of democratic participation in modern Spain, that is, the gathering of young people to contribute to the progress of the whole of society in all fields of life, specially in those more related to social life like the pursuit of social equality, full access to rights, help of disadvantaged people and, in general, the well being of people.

- What are the measures envisaged to promote different forms of participation on local, regional and national level?

Every region should be studied case by case, in each one of the 17 autonomous communities, because the competences of youth participation are decentralized. In any case, in stronger or lesser extent, all governments have programs to support youth associations, in many cases by providing local infrastructure, as well as various opportunities for subsidy (by project, by activity, for training of young associates, for the acquisition of real estate, etc).

- Do any of the above mentioned measures target specific groups?

- Females
- Males
- Migrants
- Young people with fewer opportunities
- Young people in specific regions
- Minorities
- Certain age groups within the age range 13-30

As in the previous question, this needs to be seen case by case. It is likely that specific programs exist for some of these groups, depending on the circumstances of each territory. However, as a general trend, we believe that not enough attention is given to encourage the participation and partnership of young people with fewer opportunities, usually from impoverished social environments. We see there is a correlation between social integration and participation, which makes the profile of young highly educated, male, urban and upper classes stand out among the most mobilized, thus producing a "[Matthew effect](#)" environment of social and political participation.

2. Youth participation in representative democracy in Spain

Please describe the rules of representative democracy related to young people answering the questions below:

- Is voting compulsory in your country? NO

- What is the legal minimum age to vote in elections? 18 YEARS FOR ANY ELECTION

European ¹	18	National:	18	Regional:	18	local	18
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- What are the legal requirements for voting in local, regional, national and European elections?

1 Nationality

To be a Spanish citizen is a requisite for voting, except for European elections, in which UE nationals can vote; and, local elections, in which UE nationals and also citizens of other countries with which there is an specific agreement.

2 Age

To be 18 years old or older.

3 Full use of legal rights

Everyone can vote, except:

- Convicted and sentenced to deprivation of the right to vote
- The declared incompetent by final judicial decision
- The inmates at a psychiatric hospital with judicial authorization

- What are the legal requirements for being a candidate in elections?

The same requirements required to be eligible; and also not be within one of the excluded posts, ranging from the royal family, the judges, armed forces, police, etc.

¹ If applicable

2.1. Participation in elections

Please give the percentage of young voters (young people who are allowed to vote below 30 years old) on European (for EU-countries only) and national level. If detailed data on young people is not available please provide the general turnout of all voters and describe the young voter's participation.

	Participation in European elections in % of people with the right to vote			Participation in national elections in % of people with the right to vote		
	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population	45'14			75'32		
13 – 30 year olds						
16 – 19 year olds ²						
20 – 24 year olds						
25 – 30 year olds						

The person who votes is not asked for age or other, and there are no statistics regarding gender or age.

For the same reason, there are no data for age groups.

The voting age is **18** years, so the range of ages goes from **18 to 30**.

There are surveys for the last national election, that show that 46% of people ranging from 18 to 29 voted, while participation for the whole population was 75'32%.

2.2. Young people elected into representative bodies

Please provide the number (in total and by gender) of young people under the age of 30 who are members of the national parliament. Please provide the total number of parliamentarians on national level.

	MP ≥ 30		All MP	
	Number	%	Number	%
Women	10	9.8%	102	29.1%
Men	4	1.6%	244	70.9%
Total	14	4%	350	100 %

3. Youth participation in civil society

3.1 Membership in NGOs

Please give the percentage of young people aged 13 to 30 (if possible in total and gender) who are members in non-governmental organisations (including political and youth NGOs) and if possible for youth NGOs. Please provide the same data for political parties as well. For comparison, please provide the same data for the whole population.

This is the available data:

	NGOs, including political NGOs and youth NGOs			Youth NGOs			Political parties		
	Total	female	male	Total	female	male	total	female	male
% of total population									
13 – 30 year olds	19.2	23.4	14.7	17.9			2.1		
18 – 24 year olds	15.1								
25 – 30 year olds	22.9								

3.2 Youth participation structures on local, regional or national level

Please give a picture of how young people can/do participate in formally recognized ways in civic society/policy in your country by answering to the following questions:

Which types of youth participation structures exist in your country and which group of young people these structures do represent.

The Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España, CJE) is a nation wide platform of youth organisations. Its members are the regional youth councils operating in Spain as well as other national youth organisations.

It works towards achieving a plural platform so that the various ideologies and sensitivities which make up the Spanish youth organisation movement can work together and exchange ideas and experiences. Its main goal is to be a means for the expression, concerns and aspirations of the Spanish youth, serving as a tool for their participation and for improving their quality of life.

It promotes the democratic and plural participation, as a mean to fully implement youth citizenship; social commitment; equal opportunities; dialogue; and respect to diversity in its broadest sense.

The CJE encourages participation, fosters the youth association movement and supports the consolidation of initiatives targeting non-associated youth, through bottom up structures, from local associations, to regional and national.

To channel proposals made by young people towards the Authorities and society at large and raise public awareness on youth-specific problems.

What is the degree of participation to decision making allowed by these structures (please fill in the table below):

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

type of youth participation structure	% of local structures			% of regional structures			% of national structures		
	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information	Share of power	consultation	information
.....									

4. Learning to participate

4.1 The formal education system

Please describe existing mechanisms within the system of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate in your country.

Are there teacher trainings programs at the national and/or regional level on this topic?

The Right to Education Act (LODE), of 1985, along with the Law for the Education System (LOGSE), of 1990, are the two basic principles underpinning the educational reform of non university teaching undertaken from the 1978 Constitution. The LODE addresses two equally important issues, participation (School Councils) and the regime of agreements with private schools, the true statute of private schools in our country. But this right focuses almost exclusively on student participation in school life. It heeds the anthropological and socio-political foundation of school participation.

The participation of all those who form the education community: teachers, students, parents and school workers, are represented in the School Councils, that are democratically elected, that have the role of representing everyone that is part of the school in the school itself, but also to represent them before at a general level, existing regional School Councils and a national one.

The education affairs are a responsibility of the regions, according to the Spanish distribution of powers.

There exist teacher trainings programmes in some regions for the education of families, in order to improve the collaboration between family and school in the successful education of the child.

5. Youth information in Spain

5.1 The structure of youth information

Please describe how youth information is organised in your country answering the following questions.

- *Do youth information points / centers exist?* YES. There is a local network of youth information centers covering most cities.

- *Does youth information coordinated at the national level exist?* YES. There is a national Youth Information Service within the Spanish Institute for Youth.

- *Does youth information coordinated at the regional level exist? YES If yes, where?* Each one of the regional governments has its own regional information service.

- *Is youth information in your country member of any European network (ERYICA, EYCA, Eurodesk)?* YES, Spain is a member of the three of them.

5.2. The youth information services

Please provide the percentage of municipalities with a youth information point/centre: 82%

Is there an online national youth information system? NO. This is a faculty that belongs to the regional authorities, existing in some regions online youth information services that provide general information for young people.

Please describe existing national or regional (federal states) print publications for information of young people in your country (e.g. magazines, folders/brochures).

There is national fortnightly digital guide, produced by the Spanish Institute for Youth with the information provided by local, regional or foreign public or private institutions:

www.guiainjuve.injuve.es/

5.3. Topics of youth information

In relation to the structures of youth information you mentioned above, what are the main contents of information delivered to young people?

X career guidance

X studies and scholarships

X jobs and training

X relationships and sexuality

X rights of young people

X European opportunities for young people

X youth activities and exchanges

X benefits as young citizens: discounts on transportation and in cultural activities

5.4. Young people's involvement in youth information

How do young people participate in the national/regional system of youth information?

They participate as users but now there is a tendency to interaction information from the development of Internet and therefore of online communication.

There is a local figure called "information antenna (antena informativa)" which is a young person transmitting the information of the Information Center in areas dealing with youth such as secondary schools.

6. Informal ways of young people's participation

Please describe informal ways used by young people to make their voices heard in society in your country.

There is an important use of the social networks among young people that is increasing its influence in all fields of society.

Please describe alternative ways of youth participation connected to the use of online technologies answering the following questions:

Top down approach (e.g. online consultations): in which occasion?

Online consultations are being more and more used by young people, whenever they get the chance, because they tend to solve things from their computer at home.

An example is the consultation that carried out the Madrid Local Authority in 2009 to choose the best logo for the Madrid 2016 Olympic candidature, in which young people were the main target.

Recently, the Spanish Institute for Youth has launched a public consultation at national level, both through the Internet on our website or in person at youth centers. The purpose of the consultation is to open a debate, collect proposals and to hear from young people about the new youth policy to follow in the coming years, based on a text, the White Paper of Youth 2020, prepared by this Institute.

Bottom up approach (e.g. organised actions through social networks and the internet): in which occasion?

Chats are a pattern of communication among this sector of the population, to express an opinion or to exchange information "inter pares" in a horizontal way.

For example, to call for public demonstrations, protests or events, internet is used in combination with mobile phones. In this field, Spain is more active than most European countries, and the number of political demonstrations is higher, and the use of these ways to propose the actions, as well as to exchange related information is especially important for people below 30 years of age.

Social networks work in this way too. In Spain there is a national social network called Tuenti, very popular among young people, very active as a communication media.

7. Sources of information

YOUNG CITIZEN PORTAL - www.060.es (click on Youth)

Information on housing, employment, education, scholarship, entertainment, etc.

YOUTH COUNCIL OF SPAIN - www.CJE.org

The Youth Council of Spain (CJE) is a platform of youth associations, formed by the Youth Councils of the Autonomous Communities (the regions) and youth organizations state level. They provide announcements, publications, activities, online counseling services and management software for youth organizations.

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION - www.ojj.org

International governmental organization created to promote dialogue, consultation and cooperation between Latin American countries youth. Their work in this field comprises news conferences, events and publications.