The youth political framework (1)

Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU provides that the EU shall encourage (…)

- the development of youth exchanges;
- the participation of young people in democratic life in Europe
The youth political framework (2)

The EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018 aims...

- to provide more and equal opportunities for young people in education and in the labour market
- to encourage young people to be active citizens and participate in society
Fields of action

- Employment & Entrepreneurship,
- Education & Training,
- Voluntary activities,
- Health & Well-being,
- Participation,
- Social inclusion,
- Creativity & Culture,
- Youth & the World

Implementation

- Mutual learning
- Knowledge building
- Reporting & monitoring
- Structured dialogue with young people
- Mobilising EU programmes such as Youth in Action
Participation: a priority of the EU youth programme

- Youth in Action promotes and supports young people’s involvement in democratic life, so that they become active citizens who care about their communities and understand the value of representative democracy

- The future Erasmus + programme will also have this priority
Youth Participation in Democratic Life
Main findings of a recent European study

- No apathy from youth, but dissatisfaction
- Young people are stakeholders to be heard in democratic processes
- Political education is at the heart of participation
- Institutions and contexts matter
Lessons to draw from the study

- Improve, diversify and widen participatory mechanisms
- Address representativity and reach out to all youth
- Promote grassroots and innovative participatory initiatives, including online
- Excluded young people rely on support to participate, including volunteering
Youth participation in democratic life
A Eurobarometer Survey

- 13,000 young people between 15 and 30 interviewed across the EU in April 2013
- Questions about voting, vote intentions for 2014, standing as a candidate, participating in activities of various organisations...
64% of young people say they are likely to vote in next year's European elections, with only 28% certain to vote.
47% of respondents are aware of how members of the European Parliament are elected.
73% of respondents who were old enough to vote have done so in a political election in the past 3 years.
Q6. Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations?

- A sports club: 34% (FL319a Feb. 2011), 35% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- A youth club, leisure-time club or any kind of youth organisation: 18% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- A local organisation aimed at improving your local community: 15% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- A cultural organisation: 14% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- An organisation promoting human rights or global development: 8% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- An organisation active in the domain of climate change/environmental issues: 3% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- A political organisation or a political party: 5% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- Any other non-governmental organisation: 8% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
- None of these (DO NOT READ OUT): 44% (FL375 Apr. 2013)

Don't know: 1% (FL375 Apr. 2013)
Young people have the highest score in terms of considering themselves citizens of the European Union.

To conclude: young people's political participation is not in decline - it is in transformation.
THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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EU Website on youth:
http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm

Studies:

Youth Portal: europa.eu/youth