



# YOU PART

Engage. Connect. Empower

## **YES, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE**

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# YES, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!

## FACTS

**Age** of participants: 13 +

**Number** of participants: 3 – 33

**Duration:** 60 - 90 minutes

## GOALS

This information event with workshop elements aims to invite young people to participate in a local, national or international youth participation project. Sometimes it is not so easy to get young people to participate in projects that take place over a longer period of time. In this event, the most important information should be given to the young people. They will also be introduced to the topic of the project through a little activity.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS FOR FACILITATORS

- This activity is based on the first local workshops as part of the YouPart Erasmus+ project, conducted by project partners (NGO and youth workers) mainly in youth centres. The project started with local workshops in March/April 2022, continued with national workshops and two youth conferences in Vienna and Prague with participants from the six countries of the partner organisations. Finally, the “YouPart Youth Demands” were presented to MEPs at the European Parliament in Brussels in December 2022.
- If you know young people who have already participated in such a project, you can invite them to share their experiences peer-to-peer.
- There are always questions that some young people don't like to ask in the whole group or that only come up after the end of the event. External facilitators should, in agreement with the youth workers, plan some more time in the youth centre for one-to-one conversations.

## MATERIALS

Info flyers, registration forms, flipcharts, cards, markers, pins or tape

# PREPARATIONS

- Announce time and date of the information event in good time.
- In the team of youth workers, it must be clear who is the contact person for the young people and - if the project requires it - who can participate in project activities with the young people.
- Prepare info flyers and registration forms. If the target group is (also) minors, the flyers can be different for young people and parents.
- Prepare a comfortable space in the youth centre. A few snacks and refreshments are always welcome.

# INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1

If you are a youth worker, you don't have to introduce yourself to the young people. If you are an external facilitator, e.g. from the NGO leading the project, introduce yourself briefly. Present your organisation only briefly. The focus is on the project presentation. Whenever there are participants and facilitators who do not know each other, it is useful to have name tags.

## Step 2

Provide basic information about the project. This includes in any case:

- What is the project about? What are the aims of the project?
- How long will it take? How many events and activities does it include?
- What do the young people have to do?
- How many young people can participate - at local, national, international level?
- Are all costs covered by the project?
- When is the registration deadline?
- Can participants drop out and drop in during the project?

The information does not have to be given all at once at the beginning. Allow yourself only short phases of monologue presentation. Make the communication as interactive as possible to be open for the questions of the young people. Give interested young people the opportunity to join later.

## Step 3

The basic information is indeed on the flyer. However, at the event it is advisable to hand out the flyers later to get the group's attention first. For this purpose, the information can be written step by step on flipcharts. For example, write down the individual activities of the project from bottom to top: at the bottom the info event, then e.g. the next workshop, the youth conference, etc., at the top the final event, e.g. presentation to politicians. Then add the dates.

However, some may prefer to have the info already written on flipcharts and then flip them over.

#### **Step 4**

Ask if anyone has already participated in a similar project. Make reference to the young people's previous participatory experiences, e.g. youth/school parliaments at local level. Highlight that the participation project on a national or international level is an accordingly bigger thing: that the project is about issues that interest and affect many young people across the country or across Europe: "We'd like to take your ideas/demands from here to... and finally to...!"

#### **Step 5**

Highlight the benefits of youth group experiences: acquiring new skills, travelling, getting to know other young people from your and other countries. Of course, the experience should be fun.

#### **Step 6**

Explain what is expected of the young people when participating. In case of an international project: Are (good) English skills required – from young people and/or youth workers? Is there support from the youth workers?

#### **Step 7**

Once essential questions have been answered, the time is right to try out a crucial activity of the project in a low-key way. If, for example, the project is about the young people working out demands together and presenting them to politicians, a first collection of ideas can be done. You can ask questions like:

"What do you think about when you think about politics?", "What have you always wanted to say to a politician?", "Which issues are important to you?", "What moves you?", "What upsets you?", "What needs to be done for a change / better future?"

#### **Step 8**

Either the young people themselves or the facilitator write ideas on cards. The cards can now be assigned to different categories. This gives a first overview of which topics are particularly important to the young people.

Keywords for categorising the ideas could be: societal/social issues, education/training/school, (anti-)discrimination/racism, gender/LGBTQIA+, climate justice/environment, mobility, etc.

#### **Step 9**

Distribute the flyers and registration forms at the end if it has not already been done. It must be clear to the young people who is the contact person of the youth workers. And the youth workers need to know the contact person of the external project team. Repeat the registration deadline and the date of the next project event.

Ask again if there are any questions and allow a few more minutes for feedback.



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## PROJECT PARTNERS



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