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YOUNG LEADERS WORLD FORUM

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Website: <http://www.youngleaders.it/young-leaders-world-forum/>

Summary

The general objective is to promote the active participation of Young Leaders in decision-making processes.

The specific objectives are:

- foster the exchange of knowledge, skills, and advice among young leaders;
- defining values, ideas, actions, and proposals of young leaders
- transfer know-how to potential young leaders to acquire skills and competences to improve their leadership;
- more impact on youth policies at local and international level.



Comparison of political participation of young people

This paper aims to analyse and compare the political involvement of young people in different countries. We will see data on how many young representatives exist in national parliaments and how many young people are involved in politics and associations, and how governments deal with youth policies.

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ITALIA

Young people as political representatives

The minimum age to run for the Italian Parliament is different for election to the Chamber of Deputies (25 years) or to the Senate of the Republic (40 years).

The minimum age to join a political party varies from 14 to 16 depending on the different Statutes and Internal Regulations of political organisations. There are no 'quotas' or specific arrangements to encourage young people to run for office: however, most Italian parties have youth sections and networks that encourage young people to participate in their activities.

Composition of the Chamber - Distinction of deputies by age group:

Age group	Total
25-29	10 (1,6%)
30-39	148 (23,5%)

* Data updated to March 2022 (<https://www.camera.it/leg18/28>)

In the Parliament elected in 2018, the average age is 44.33, while in the Senate it rises to 55.37.

Composition of Regional Councils by age group:

Age group	Total*
<i>under 29</i>	15 (1.86%)
29-35	35 (4.34%)
<i>over 35</i>	756 (93.80%)

* Survey carried out by the Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service in the period November/December 2019. It does not include the data of the Lombardy and Sardinia Region as not yet available.

At regional level, the participation of young people in the Councils, which have a legislative function, is just over 6%.

Composition of Provincial Councils and Metropolitan Cities by age group:



Age group	Total
<i>under 29</i>	205 (5.78%)
30-39	272 (7.67%)
<i>over 35</i>	3.067 (86.54%)

* Survey carried out by the Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service in the period November/December 2019. The data refer to the 113 Municipalities of the Province and Metropolitan Cities, with the exception of the municipalities of Andria (commissariat) and Ragusa (for which it was not possible to find official data on the birth date of the councillors).

The participation of young people in the Provincial Councils and Metropolitan Cities is just over 13%.

Composition of Provincial Councils and Metropolitan Cities by age and gender:

Age group	Men	Women	Total
<i>under 29</i>	131 (3.70%)	74 (2.09%)	205
29-35	188 (5.30%)	84 (2.37%)	272
<i>over 35</i>	2.169 (61.20%)	898 (25.34%)	3.067
Totale*	2.488 (70.20%)	1.056 (29.80%)	3.544

* Survey carried out by the Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civil Service in the period November/December 2019. The data refer to the 113 Municipalities of the Province and Metropolitan Cities, with the exception of the municipalities of Andria (commissariat) and Ragusa (for which it was not possible to find official data on the birth date of the councillors).

The youth participation of women in the composition of Provincial Councils and Metropolitan Cities is less than 5%.

Youth representation bodies

In Italy there is no youth parliament but there is the possibility to make a simulation of the activities of the Parliament: <http://www.democracysimulazione.it/democracy/>.

National Youth Council: The National Youth Council (Consiglio Nazionale dei Giovani, CNG) is the new youth consultative and representative body that replaced the previous National Youth Forum.



It was established with L.145/2018 (Art. 1 paragraphs 470 to 477). Under its statute, it is an independent and democratic association that promotes the rights and interests of young people "to the public authority, in particular to the President of the Council of Ministers or the delegated political authority and shall be heard at the request of the competent ministers on policy matters having an impact on the younger generations".

The CNG is a member of the European Youth Forum, which represents the interests of young Europeans in international institutions.

The CNG is composed of Italian youth associations with at least 300 members of which 70% under the age of 35 years and regional Councils/Forums. As of March 2021, 83 organisations are part of the CNG, 64 of which are members, 13 candidate members and 6 permanent observers.

The CNG is a democratic body and the renewal of the statutory bodies takes place every three years, through elections in which representatives of all member associations are called to vote, in compliance with the statutory duties. The members of one of the CNG member organisations between the ages of 18 and 36 years (not before the end of the term) are eligible for the office of the statutory organs.

National Council of University Students (Consiglio Nazionale degli Studenti Universitari, CNSU): is an advisory body of the Ministry of University and Research of the Italian Republic established by the D.P.R. December 2, 1997, n. 491. The CNSU is composed of twenty-eight members elected by the students of the three-year and specialized degree programs, the specializations, and the PhD students. Elections for the designation of members take place every three years. The CNSU may issue opinions and proposals to the Minister for Universities and Research concerning the university world as a whole (implementation of reforms, right to study, funding, news of national importance concerning national universities). The CNSU, finally, elects among its members eight representatives who sit on the National University Council (CUN), the highest representative body of the Italian academic system.

Provincial Student Council (CPS): it is an institutional body of student representation on a provincial basis consisting of two students for each secondary school of the province. Its representatives are elected by the students of the school to which they belong and remain in office for two years.



The Consults have their own funds to be used for the creation of events and projects aimed at supporting student participation in their local area. They create moments of coordination and representation at the regional level, concretizing, at the national level, the formulation of their own requests through the National Council of Presidents of Consulta - CNPC. The Consultes encourage the exchange of information and experience on the territory, devise projects to be integrated, discuss the crucial issues common to the PSC and discuss with the Ministry of Education, University and Research by drawing up opinions and proposals.

ANCI Giovani: is the National Council of Young Local Administrators under 35 in Italy, which represents all the young administrators of the Municipalities belonging to the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI). ANCI Giovani aims to be a tool that encourages and stimulates the meeting and the exchange of opinions and the different local experiences of the Young Administrators. The objective is to create, in agreement with ANCI and through the structures connected to it, a network composed of the new local ruling class, which has as its purpose not only the knowledge and monitoring of the phenomenon related to the presence of young people in local administrations, but that can contribute, as a young and innovative soul of the association, to the definition of public policies that affect local authorities, in terms of proposals and content to share.

In addition, ANCI Youth promotes training activities for the new local ruling class (ANCI School for young administrators) also through the organization of events and specific events that encourage continuous training and the effective updating on the many issues, technical and regulatory, related to local authorities. These goals are to be achieved throughout the national territory, also operating as a link with regional realities and in collaboration with all the articulations of the ANCI.

Youth policies

The Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civic Service (DPGSCU) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is the institution responsible for supporting the political Authority in the promotion and coordination of all Government actions aimed at ensuring the implementation of youth policies. At the territorial level, the Regions and the autonomous Provinces enact youth laws, while local authorities, the Third Sector and youth organizations are actively involved in both its bottom-up design and implementation.



At present, Italian youth policies are based on a bottom-up approach, which is a distinctive feature of the Italian youth legislation.

An example of current regional law on youth policies is the following:

Lazio Region: Regional law 20/2007 “Promotion of tools for the institutional participation of young generations in political and administrative life”.

The law aims to implement the Council of Europe “Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life”. It recognizes the role and favours the establishment, development, and interaction of: the Municipal councils of young people (15-25 years), the Municipal councils of children (8-14 years)

The law also established a network of all youth councils, aimed at promoting the exchange of good practices.

Voluntary Activities

At a national level, volunteering is a widespread phenomenon with a long tradition. The national legal system recognizes the social value and function of volunteering as an expression of participation, solidarity, and pluralism. On a national level, one of the main tools for promoting youth volunteering is the Universal Civic Service - Institute of the Republic regulated by a specific law (Legislative Decree 6 March 2017, n.40) which was established as an instrument of the unarmed and non-violent defense of Homeland - accessible to young people between the ages of 18 and 28, managed by the Department for Youth Policies and Universal Civic Service of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Sources:

<https://www.camera.it/leg18/28>

<https://www.politichegiovani.gov.it/politiche-giovani/attivita-internazionali/youthwiki/5-partecipazione/5-2-partecipazione-dei-giovani-alla-democrazia-rappresentativa/#Rappresentanti>

[http://www.democracysimulazione.it/democracy/.](http://www.democracysimulazione.it/democracy/)



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<https://consigionazionalegiovani.it>

<http://www.cnsu.miur.it>

<https://www.miur.gov.it/consulte-provinciali-degli-studenti>

<https://www.anci.it/tag/anci-giovani/>

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki>



GERMANY

Young people as political representatives

Minimum age of eligibility to be elected for European elections, for the German parliament, for State parliament elections and Local elections is always 18 years.

Representatives elected in the 2021 German Parliament elections – age distribution as of October 2022:

Age in years	Total mandates in %	Women in %	Men in %
70 or older	1,77	-	1,77
65-69	3,94	1,09	2,85
60-64	10,33	3,53	6,79
55-59	15,35	4,62	10,73
50-54	16,3	5,43	10,87
45-49	15,76	4,21	11,55
40-44	13,45	6,11	7,34
35-39	10,05	4,62	5,43
30-34	7,88	2,99	4,89
25-29	4,89	2,17	2,72
18-24	0,27	0,14	0,14
Total	100,00	34,92	65,08

Average age of all members of the German Bundestag at the start of the legislative period: 47.

Representative elected in the State parliament elections:

Federal state (Land) (election year)	Total mandates	Ø age	Mandates18-29 age group
<u>Baden-Württemberg</u> (2016)	143	approx. 55 yrs.	5
<u>Bavaria</u> (2018)	205	approx. 51 yrs.	7
<u>Berlin</u> (2016)	160	approx. 47 yrs.	2
<u>Brandenburg</u> (2019)	88	approx. 49 yrs.	1
<u>Bremen</u> (2019)	84	approx. 48 yrs.	3
<u>Hamburg</u> (2015)	123	approx. 54 yrs.	11
<u>Hesse</u> (2019)	137	approx. 50 yrs.	2
<u>Mecklenburg-West Pomerania</u> (2016)	71	approx. 49 yrs.	6
<u>Lower Saxony</u> (2017)	137	approx. 51 yrs.	3
<u>North Rhine-Westphalia</u> (2017)	237	approx. 48 yrs.	6
<u>Rhineland-Palatinate</u> (2016)	101	approx. 51 yrs.	3
<u>Saarland</u> (2017)	51	approx. 50 yrs.	2
<u>Saxony</u> (2019)	126	approx. 50 yrs.	3
<u>Saxony-Anhalt</u> (2016)	87	approx. 47 yrs.	6
<u>Schleswig-Holstein</u> (2017)	69	approx. 51 yrs.	1
<u>Thuringia</u> (2019)	90	approx. 47 yrs.	6



Youth representation bodies

Youth Parliament: Germany has no government-run youth parliament or similar structure on a national level. At the federal level, there are various participation formats such as federal youth conferences (Bundesjugendkonferenzen) or YouthPoliticsDays (JugendPolitikTage) (alternating annually). Non-profit organization bujupa e. V. has established a platform by and for young people. It promotes youth participation and aims to establish a federal youth parliament.

The state parliaments organize regular youth parliaments at different intervals. They are an opportunity for young people to exchange ideas with one other as well as with political representatives at state level. Many state parliaments promise to give the young participants a political voice that will be heard by the members of parliament.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards: Children's and youth boards and youth advisory boards exist at all levels and in many contexts. They support policymakers on issues such as sustainability. They provide input on policy matters, represent the perspectives of children and young people, and suggest ways to strengthen support for the interests of young people. Each advisory board/council has its own way of electing delegates and working. Below are some examples. The Youth advisory board lobbies also suggests ways to increase the participation of children and young people in development policy and writes policy papers on making this happen.

Youth associations and youth councils: Youth associations are democratic forms of self-organization and lobbying for young people. They reach, provide a structure for, and represent millions of young people. At federal (Bund) level, several youth associations have joined forces to form the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring, DBJR). The DBJR's main work is representing the interests of children and young people in Germany.

Youth Councils: Youth councils (Jugendringe) are alliances of youth organisations and other organisations active in youth work at national, regional, and local level. The youth councils combine the interests of their member organisations and those of children and young people at the various levels and represent them externally. They have very different organisational types, levels of staff resources and structures.



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The youth councils help member organisations mainly by representing their interests, providing resources, and carrying out public relations work. Their activities include youth-oriented recreational programmes, youth policy activities, specific educational programmes, addiction prevention services and sport, to name just a few.

Most youth councils are recognised as independent youth services organisations. This lets them access public funding and means that they are subject to the associated administrative and financial regulations.

Youth branches of political parties

All the parties represented in the Bundestag have youth organizations. The largest is the Junge Union which is linked with the CDU and CSU. It says it is the “largest political youth organization in Europe”. The young socialists or Jusos of the SPD have more than 70,000 members. The young greens or Grüne Jugend have around 16,000 active members, while the young liberals (Junge Liberalen) total around 14,500. In most of the youth organizations the age limits range between 14 and 35 years. Many politicians who now have leading positions began their political careers in one of the youth organizations. For instance, Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz was federal deputy chairman of the Jusos.

Active outside political parties

Many young people are politically active without belonging to a political party. In Germany they have been involved in the Fridays for Future movement since 2019 to put pressure on politicians with methods such as climate strikes.

But young people have long since been fighting not just for greater climate protection. There are also youth groups in human rights organizations such as Amnesty International. There are also active young members in the trade unions. The youth section of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB) has around 500,000 young members aged up to 27 years. They are actively involved in standing up for the interests of young people no matter whether they are internees, trainees or young employees.



Youth policies

Germany does not currently have a separate law in place at national or regional level that deals comprehensively with the needs and rights of young people. Instead, a number of different laws address the needs and rights of young people along with other related youth policy matters.

Some of these laws include the word "youth" or similar in their title and regulate in relative detail important areas of young people's lives. Other laws regulate the needs and rights of the general population and include rules that affect young people.

Here an example of a federal law that affects the lives of young people:

Young Persons (Protection of Employment) Act (Gesetz zum Schutze der arbeitenden Jugend, JArbSchG, 1976, amended in 2021), regulating employment protection for young people, including working hours, overtime, and holiday entitlement.

Sources:

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/germany/54-young-peoples-participation-in-policy-making>

<https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/politics-in-germany-young-and-involved>

<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/jarbschg/index.html>



SPAIN

In Spain there is a type of consultation called Structured Dialogue (Dialogo Estructurado), an initiative launched by the European, with the purpose of serving as a forum for joint reflection on priorities, implementation, and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field. This initiative involves regular consultation with young people and youth organizations at all levels in EU countries. It also promotes dialogue between youth representatives and policymakers at youth conferences organized by the Member States holding the Presidency of the EU during European Youth Week. With the purpose of adapting the policies to the needs of those they are aimed towards, the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda (Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030) guarantees that representatives for youth and youth organizations actively participate in the design and application of policies and action plans for youth Employment and entrepreneurship.

The European Youth Strategy establishes Structured Dialogue between youth and people responsible for youth policies within the member states, which entails the development of regular enquiries with youth and their representatives in advisory bodies and youth organizations at all levels.

The Spanish Youth Council is the main body advising public officials on the process of elaborating policies related to youth. It binds together a total of 76 youth entities and it is made of the Autonomous Regions Youth Councils as well as the national youth organizations.

The Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment 2013-2016 is the result of these mechanisms of participation, enquiry and dialogue with social partners and youth. This strategy includes 100 measures, with the final purpose of making access for youth to the labour market easier by means of recruitment or self-employment.

Structured Dialogue focuses on a general theme (established by Council of Youth Ministers) during each of its 18-month work cycles. The working method is one of conducting a consultation between young people and youth organizations in each of the Member States.

These States are the ones who organize and guarantee the participatory process of the national working groups, in which, among others, the following are included:



Representatives of the Youth Ministries (representatives of the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda – Ministerio de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030), National youth councils (representatives of the Spanish Youth Council (Consejo de la Juventud de España) and the Institute of Youth (Instituto de la Juventud), local and regional youth councils, Youth organizations, young people from different fields, Youth researchers.

National Agency for Youth

The Youth Institute is the public body, currently attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, working as the Spanish National Agency for Youth. Created in 1977 by virtue of Royal Decree 1119/1977 (Real Decreto 1119/1977), of 20th of May; however, its purposes and current structure were approved in 2005 by Royal Decree 486/2005 (Real Decreto 486 /2005), of 4th of May. Amongst its targets are: “the promotion of equal opportunities for all youth regardless of gender; to encourage the free and effective participation of youth in the political, social, economic and cultural development of Spain; and to encourage the cooperation with other ministerial departments as well as with other public administrations”. In all, its main purpose is the promotion of public actions which favor youth.

Its role of coordination of youth policies both with the State Administration as well as with the Autonomous Regions and local authorities (in this case through the Spanish Federation of Provinces and Municipalities (Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias) is crucial.

Youth people as political representatives

The average age of the Congress of Deputies in Spain is 47 years old. Its oldest and youngest member are respectively 73 and 23 years old.

Age in years	Total
21-30	12
31-40	68
41-45	63
46-50	61
51-60	108



61-70	36
71-80	2

In the Senate, the average age of the members is 53 years old. The youngest member is 27 years old, while its oldest member is 75.

Age in years	Total
21-30	5
31-40	25
41-45	29
46-50	48
51-60	107
61-70	46
71-80	4

Youth Policies

There is not a national youth law made by the General Government Administration. However, there are laws about youth in 12 of the 17 Autonomous Regions. Even though there is not a Youth Comprehensive Law, from the General Government Administration, the different laws of the eleven Autonomous Regions can be examined in general terms of scope and contents with one example, due to the similarities between the youth laws of the different Autonomous Regions.

The Law 11/2002 related to Youth from the Castile and Leon Region sets the scope in the following topics: employment, housing, education, social services, sports, health, consume, environment, agricultural medium and society of information. The aim of the law is to promote the training and information of the youth, the cultural promotion, the leisure activities, youth tourism, juvenile premises, and the youth card. It also tackles the legislative aspects of the associative world and the financing features of the services and activities provided by the Regional Government.

Sources:

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/spain/54-young-peoples-participation-in-policy-making>

<https://data.ipu.org/content/parline-global-data-national-parliaments>



PORTUGAL

Youth people as political representatives

In formal terms, there is no differentiation between young people and other voters regarding their passive electoral capacity, except for the election for the President of the Republic (Head of State), which is for people aged over 35 (article 122nd, Constitution of the Portuguese Republic). For all other elective functions, the Constitution states that Portuguese citizens and voters are eligible, without prejudice of the restrictions established by electoral law, due to local incompatibilities or exercise of certain functions, which means that the minimum age to be a candidate is 18. There are no quotas for young people or any special provisions regarding young people as candidates. In Portugal, the average age of the Parliament's members is 49, with no positions reserved in Parliament for young people.

Still, as stated above, the intervention of young people in society and the exercise of citizenship results in an active transformation of their integration, through movements such as youth associationism and volunteering, where the idea of actions to see visible results seems to be gaining momentum, that is, the need to act and see an immediate or concrete consequence of that action, outside of the direct political representation context. For example, youth associationism in Portugal is comprised of more than 1200 active youth federations or associations. According to the Law of Youth Associations (Law no. 57/2019, of 7th August article 3rd, n 2), youth political parties are treated as youth associations, respecting specific legislation about political parties.

In the table below we can see the number of members by age:

Age in years	Total
21-30	13
31-40	43
41-45	30
46-50	39
51-60	69
61-70	29
71-80	7



Youth representation bodies

Youth Parliament: is an educational programme to promote citizenship, which aims to boost the interest of young people in civic and political participation.

Approved by the Resolution no. 42/2006, of 2nd June, the Youth Parliament programme is an initiative of the Portuguese Parliament, whose implementation is developed in partnership with the following entities: the Portuguese Institute of Sports and Youth; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Regional Secretariats of Education and Youth of Madeira and the Azores. The Youth Parliament in Portugal is not a representation body to put in place youth interests. It is mainly an educational programme. But the Portuguese institutional framework provides for several youth representation bodies, in various scopes. In terms of national scope, there are two major platforms that represent youth and the youth associationism movement: the National Youth Council and the National Federation of Youth Associations. Also, within national scope, we have the Youth Advisory Council, which is the advisory body of the member of Government responsible for the field of youth and which is also chaired by this member. The organic law of the IPDJ also provides for the existence of its own Advisory Council, which supports and participates in establishing the guidelines for its scope of action. Finally, at a regional and local level, there are Regional Advisory Councils and Youth City Councils.

National Youth Council: It is the platform of the national youth organizations that represents youth interests and promotes the participation of young people in the formulation, implementation and assessment of youth policies. It comprises 45 youth organizations from various sectors (student, scout, cultural, sports, socio-educational, religious) and it rules on several advisory areas on matters of youth interest (e.g., Advisory Council on Youth, Advisory Committee of the IPDJ, National Education Council, National Council for Drugs, Drug Addiction and the Harmful Use of Alcohol, Committee for the Coordination and Monitoring of the Youth Guarantee, RTP's Advisory Council, Parliamentary Committee hearings and working groups for youth matters). At an international level, it represents the Portuguese youth in places such as the European Youth Forum, the CPLP Youth Forum and the Ibero-American Youth Organization (OIJ).

National Federation of Youth Associations: Another fundamental platform of representation for young Portuguese, for its wide local base of involvement, is the National Federation of Youth



Associations. FNAJ represents youth organizations at a local level and their regional federations, defending young people's aspirations and fighting for the resolution of their problems; promotes associative life as an instrument of active participation for young people in local communities, and encourages civic and associative education for young people. FNAJ has four governing bodies and its statutes and rules are available on the organization website. Its funding comes from IPDJ programs for youth associations and from applications for national and international funds.

Advisory Council on Youth: The architecture of public youth policies involves a building where there are proper spaces and time, beyond those that the democratic expression can find on their own accord, for the expression of positions on how to best defend young people's interests. Thus, the Advisory Council on Youth (Conselho Consultivo da Juventude) is an advisory body of the Government member responsible for youth affairs and concertation of youth policies. According to article 2nd of Decree-Law no. 129/2015, the Advisory Council on Youth is responsible for: examining the issues concerning global youth policy; examining the issues concerning civic participation and social and economic integration of young people; assessing projects of sector-specific legislation, in sections concerning youth issues; identifying priority fields for intervention in the youth sector, in the context of the White Paper on Youth; identifying fields for intervention, in the context of the European strategies agreed upon by the EU Member States for each decade; establishing structured dialogue procedures.

Youth policies

There isn't a framework-law for youth in Portugal. Youth's needs and rights are incorporated into various pieces of legislation in several domains related to the lives of young people, such as education and training, employment, and entrepreneurship associativism, health and sexuality, housing, volunteering, citizenship, conscientious objection.

Sources:

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/portugal/1-youth-policy-governance>

<https://data.ipu.org/content/parline-global-data-national-parliaments>



GREECE

The main official authority that forms youth policies in Greece, is the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth (GSVETLL&Y), part of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (MoE). Its mission is planning, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating policies, actions, and programmes in the respective fields, with no discrimination or exclusion. The GSVETLL&Y works according to a new model of youth support, which fosters collaboration with municipalities to promote the active participation of young people at local level, support of youth organizations through EU programmes, participation in the EU Youth Dialogue, volunteering, youth work, cultural and artistic creativity of young people.

A national youth strategy exists in Greece and is included in the Strategic Plan for Vocational Education Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth 2022-2024, issued by the MoE in January 2022.

Young people as political representatives

There is no data available from official resources regarding the number of young members of the political parties. However, it is public the data on the average age in the Greek Parliament, which is 53.85 years old. In the Greek Parliament there are only two members under the age of 30, a percentage of 0.67%.

The table below shows the number of members by age:

Age in years	Total
21-30	2
31-40	35
41-45	37
46-50	37
51-60	113
61-70	61
71-80	16
81-90	2



Youth representation bodies

Youth Parliament: Putting participation into practice is an educational programme organized annually by the Foundation of the Hellenic Parliament for Parliamentaryism and Democracy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs. The main objectives of the programme are to acquaint the teenagers with the principles and values of democracy as well as with the functioning and role of Parliament, the exercise of democratic practices, and the activation of the teenagers in issues that concern the school, the community, and society. The program aspires to offer students, in addition to knowledge, a platform for personal expression and creativity, opportunities for reflection, dialogue, and participation. The Youth Parliament is part of the educational process and school life throughout the school year.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

The law 3443/2006 defines the framework for the activities of the youth councils in Greece. To strengthen the participation of young people in the management of local affairs, which respond to their interests, municipal and community youth councils (local youth councils) are established in each municipality and community in the country.

The task of the Local Youth Councils is to identify, highlight, and monitor the needs and problems of youth at the local level; to undertake initiatives and activities for the full and free development of young people's personalities in collaboration with the relevant Local Government Organization; to take measures for the active and effective participation of young people in local society; and to develop cooperative relations with respective Local Youth Councils.

National Youth Council: is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit federation of youth organizations. Today, it is made up of fifty-nine youth organizations (six youth political parties and many non-governmental youth organizations), i.e., most of the organized Greek youth. Its aim is to strengthen the role and coordinate the actions of its member organizations. The National Youth Council, according to the number of members of its organizations, represents over three hundred and fifty thousand organized Greek young men and women. The National Youth Council overcomes party, ideological, and social commitments to look for solutions and proposals, drafting a new policy for the youth, by the youth. Having as its goal the continuous training and information of young



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people on issues that concern them, the National Youth Council implements conferences, cultural and other programmes, seminars, and actions that directly target young people.

Youth policies

Until the creation of the first National Action Plan for young people aged 15-29, youth policies are partially included in laws issued by different Ministries and governmental bodies. A recent example, is as follows: Greek Law 4763/2020 for the formation of the General Secretariat for Vocational Education, Training, Lifelong Learning and Youth (GSVETLL&Y), issued by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (MoE), stipulates that the GSVETLL&Y is entrusted with the planning, coordination, monitoring, promotion and formulation of policy proposals applicable to vocational education, training, lifelong learning and youth, without discrimination and exclusion, with a scope to develop, at national level, competitive human resources in the international economy, as well as ensuring rights and equal opportunities for all young people, including young people with disabilities and chronic diseases.

Sources:

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/greece/1-youth-policy-governance>

<https://data.ipu.org/content/parline-global-data-national-parliaments>



ROMANIA

Young people as political representatives

Party members can only be persons with voting rights, therefore over 18, according to the law on political parties. No other discrimination, positive or negative, is made by the legislation regarding to young people participation in political parties.

Political parties have formal party youth wings, for party members until 35, but no age limit is stipulated by the statutes of parliamentary parties according to young people participation to party life and leadership and no special provisions are stipulated in the law on political parties or the parties' statutes for the youth wings of parties.

Parliamentary elections have been organised in Romania in December 2020. Regarding the Chamber of Deputies, 196 of its members are under 45 and 133 are over 45; the average age in this Chamber is 45 years old. The deputies are divided by age as follows:

Age in years	Total
21-30	14
31-40	100
41-45	82
46-50	42
51-60	71
61-70	18
71-80	2
81-90	0

This tables shows that the 35% of the Chamber of Deputies' members are under 40 years old.

Compared to the senate instead, here, the average age is higher (49 years old), and its members are divides by age as follows:

Age in years	Total
21-30	0
31-40	19



41-45	28
46-50	33
51-60	41
61-70	14
71-80	1
81-90	0

Youth representation bodies

At national level the National Council for Youth (NCFY) was established in 2020, including 50 representatives of youth civil society organizations, as the advisory structure of the Ministry of Youth and Sports with youth associations. The Ministry of Youth and Sports provides the secretariat of the NCFY.

A law establishing the National Council of Youth from Romania was adopted in 2006 creating a representative structure of youth organizations (NGOs, trade unions, political parties' youth branches etc.). However, the law was never implemented. The council was supposed to have both a representation and consultation role, but due to its very complicated and non-functional regulation it was never actually established.

Volunteering

According to Eurobarometer data from the spring of 2010, Romania had approximately 4.4 million volunteers i.e., about 20% of the population being involved in such activities specific mainly to people under 35 years, and those involved or included in the educational system.

According to the Youth Barometer commissioned by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2020, 52% of young people have been participating in volunteering activities, compared to only 13% in 2012.

Youth policies

Romania has a Youth Law: Law no. 350/2006, adopted by the Parliament and published in the Official Journal of Romania on July 27th, 2006 (Lege nr. 350 din 21/07/2006 Legea Tinerilor). The Youth Law 350/2006 is the main document that sets the youth policy framework in Romania. The document is clarifying the terminology defining the age of young people (14-35), the youth activity as well as the responsibilities of central and local authorities in the field of youth policy.



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The state authorities are responsible for developing programmes that would ensure the social inclusion of young people. The law establishes rights and facilities for young people in several domains: education, culture, research, health, economy (facilities for young entrepreneurs), housing, employment, volunteering.

Sources:

<https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/romania/54-young-peoples-participation-in-policy-making>

<https://data.ipu.org/content/parline-global-data-national-parliaments>



NEPAL

In Nepal, youths have led protests, revolutions and had an important role in changing century-long governing systems, but they have often been neglected when making important decisions. Active participation of youths in decision making and policy making is necessary to incorporate youth issues while formulating law and executing it. However, there is only five percent representation of youths in the Nepali parliament which is far below than the global average of 13.5 percent, though Nepal considers people from 16 to 40 as youths.

Youth rights' activists have demanded 50 percent of the positions to be allocated to youths while deciding candidacy in the upcoming federal and provincial level elections. This demand has been made by youth representatives of all the seven provinces of Nepal. People from 16 to 40 years are considered as youths in Nepal. Although majority countries, including Nepal's neighbours limit the age of youths to below 30.

Legislations in Nepal, also prevent younger youths from contesting elections in Nepal. A person must be at least 21 years of age to contest in local elections, and 25 to contest in provincial and federal elections. Similarly, the age bar has been set too high for a person wanting to be a part of a constitutional committee. The current legislation demands a person to be 45 years old or over to be a part of the constitutional committee.

Although the policies guiding youth participation are still weak and political parties' reluctance to formally engage youth is common in Nepal, the recent Nepal local-level elections, held in May 2022, saw a surge in youth involvement. The 2022 federal and provincial level elections too saw an increase in youth participation with 31% of the total candidates falling in the youth category. These paradigmatic instances have shown that the youth have the potential to drive change and bring new ideas to the table. However, it is crucial to understand the challenges that prevent them from taking on a more active role.

Youth politics

On the 6th October 2015 was approved the National Youth Policy by the Nepal Government, Ministry of Youth and Sports. Guaranteeing the basic rights of the youth, the Vision of this National Youth Policy shall be to establish the youth of the nation in leadership role making them capable of making



meaningful contributions to political, economic, social, and cultural life of the nation by preparing such youths who are competent, enterprising, creative, and scientific, and have positive thinking.

Young people as political representatives

We don't have data about the average age of the Nepal's House of Representatives, but we know there are 63 under 45 and 212 over 45 years old members.

The table below shows the House of Representatives' members by age:

Age in years	Total
21-30	8
31-40	24
41-45	31
46-50	38
51-60	95
61-70	62
71-80	16
81-90	1

Sources:

<https://election.ekantipur.com/?lng=eng>

<https://nepaleconomicforum.org/prospects-of-youth-participation-in-political-landscape-in-nepal/>

<https://www.nepalnews.com/s/issues/why-does-nepali-politics-lack-youth-participation>

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ARGENTINA

Party affiliation: the party affiliation of Argentine's young people, especially between 18 and 24 years old is 4%.

Young people as political representatives

The average age of the Argentine Deputy Chamber is 52 years old. A survey from the Argentine government shows that only 46 Members of Parliament are under the age of 40, or 18% of the 46 seats occupied by young people aged 25 to 40, 21 were renewed in the 2021 parliamentary elections. It is possible to observe that only three members of the Chamber are under 30 years of age, or 1.16% in percentage.

The House of Commons has 72 members. According to Article 5 of the National Constitution, the minimum age of 30 years is required to be a senator/senator. The average age of the College is 58.

A survey from the Argentine government shows that only 5 senators and senators are under 40 years old, or 7%, of which 3 are renewed in the legislative elections of 2021.

Youth's National Institute: works to ensure that young people in our country develop freely within a framework of rights for a more inclusive and fair society.

Policy and legislation

While Argentina has a National Youth Bureau, it lacks a unified national youth policy. The Bureau rather focuses on a variety of social policies that affect the welfare of youth, in three main policy areas: participation, civic education and coordinating youth programmes across government departments. 2009 World Bank report reviews additional policy areas that have an influence on youth, namely education, labour markets, health and citizenship and participation. The report argues for a more effective cross-sector implementation capacity, including “clear coordination structures, implementation mandate structures and collaborative arrangements, effective youth participation and engagement, and quality monitoring and evaluation,” despite the presence of a dedicated youth bureau.



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Sources:

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<https://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/argentina/>

https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/voto_joven_6.7.pdf

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MEXICO

A survey on youth's participation in organizations, associations, movements, and groups shows that the 92,6% of young people is not interested in, while just the 1,9% of them have joined an activity such those above.

Policy and legislation

Mexico's National Youth Programme 2014-2018 was released in April 2014 after a comprehensive consultation through public forums, an online survey, mobile consultation units, a video submission contest, roundtable discussions with stakeholders and online discussion boards. The programme identifies four main objectives: prosperity (education, employment, and housing), welfare (physical, emotional, and social development), participation and inclusion. Each objective has a series of strategies and actions.

Youth and representation

Mexico has no national and/or regional youth councils and no apparent permanent structures for youth involvement in decision- making. However, youth participation was emphasised in the consultation processes in the development of the National Youth Programme 2014-2018. National consultations took place for the first time in the development of a youth policy. The Law of the Mexican Institute of Youth (2006) also mandates a Monitoring Board for Projects and Programmes, comprised of ten young people selected by IMJUVE involved in monitoring and providing feedback.

Youth people as political representatives

In Mexico, the average age of the Chamber of Deputies' members is 48 years old. 224 deputies are under 45, 276 are over. There are 26 deputies under 30 and 117 between 31 and 40 years old.

Age in years	Total
21-30	26
31-40	117
41-45	81
46-50	70



51-60	142
61-70	52
71-80	11
81-90	1

The Senate counts 30 members under 45 years old, the others 72 member are over.

Age in years	Total
21-30	2
31-40	13
41-45	15
46-50	12
51-60	28
61-70	22
71-80	9
81-90	0
91 and over	1

Sources:

<https://archivos.juridicas.unam.mx/www/bjv/libros/7/3221/19.pdf>

<https://www.youthpolicy.org/pdfs/factsheets/mexico.pdf>

https://data.ipu.org/content/mexico?chamber_id=13464

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INDIA

Youth policies

The Government prepared a new draft of National Youth Policy (NYP). The draft NYP envisages a ten-year vision for youth development that India seeks to achieve by 2030. It is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and serves to 'unlock the potential of youth to advance India'. The NYP seeks to catalyse widespread action on youth development on five priority areas viz. education; employment & entrepreneurship; youth leadership & development; health, fitness & sports; and social justice. Each priority area is underpinned by the principle of social inclusion keeping in view of the marginalized sections.

According to this draft, to develop India's youth, both men and women, as leaders of tomorrow, the policy prescribes strengthening the volunteering ecosystem, expanding opportunities for leadership development and mobilising technology to establish a vibrant youth enablement platform.

Political participation

All major political parties have youth and student wings, such as Indian Youth Congress, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, and Democratic Youth Federation of India, but we don't know how many people actively participate to their activities.

Indian Student Parliament: to attract youth, who are committed towards politics and are willing to embrace public life with a view to strengthen the democratic fabric of our nation, it was created the Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad, the Indian Student Parliament. It is a non-political platform to sensitize and harness the power of youth, mainly through the general secretaries, joint secretaries and socially active & politically sensitive students from around 25000 colleges of more than 400 universities in India. The BCS is a classroom that provides political coaching to nearly 10,000 students in the age group of 18-25. It provides lessons on the functioning of a democracy and encourages the students to serve the society by entering public life and attaining leadership roles. It is aimed at enhancing the roles and relevance of youth in democratic institutions such as: political parties, social organizations, colleges, universities, and public institutions. We are trying to create an



environment so that committed, educated, and spirited youth participate in democratic polity and contribute to evolving a healthy, democratic system.

Youth Parliament of India: it is a forum for democratic dialogues with an objective of strengthening democracy and to enable the student community to understand the working of our parliament the Youth Parliament of India is being organised.

Young people as political representatives

According to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), young parliamentarians are defined at age 30 or younger. India's median age is 29 and the average parliamentarian is 55 for a directly elected Lok Sabha (LS) member. Indirectly elected Rajya Sabha members are still older, with average age being 63.

House of the people of India count 504 deputies. Of them, 102 are under 45 and 402 are over 45 years old. The average age in this institution is 51.

The table below show the number of members by age:

Age in years	Total
21-30	4
31-40	50
41-45	48
46-50	68
51-60	158
61-70	144
71-80	29
81-90	3
91 and over	0



Instead, the average age of the Council of States' members is 61.

Members are divided by age as follows:

Age in years	Total
21-30	0
31-40	3
41-45	15
46-50	25
51-60	74
61-70	77
71-80	39
81-90	6
91 and over	0

Sources:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1842734>

<https://www.indianyouthparliament.co.in>

<https://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/india/>

https://data.ipu.org/content/india?chamber_id=13419

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GHANA

Youth policies

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has launched the new policy framework to guide the implementation of interventions geared towards youth development for the next decade.

The National Youth Policy 2022-2032 provides the government's strategy to harness the value of the country's youthful population to provide opportunities for young people in the country.

It is a coordinated framework that has been formulated to guide the implementation of projects and programmes to develop the youth in the country.

President Akufo-Addo noted that his cabinet's adoption of the new National Youth Policy was evidence of the government's acceptance of the global shift in attitude towards youth policymaking. He said cabinet's adoption of the policy was a statement of government's understanding that the myriad of challenges that the youth faced would not be solved for the youth but in collaboration with the youth.

National Youth Authority: The National Youth Authority (NYA), formally called the National Youth Council (NYC), is an agency within the Ministry of Youth and Sports that is responsible for coordinating and facilitating youth development activities in Ghana. Established in 1974, its mandate is to “ensure the empowerment of the Ghanaian youth”.

Youth and representation

It is unclear what youth representation structures exist at the national level. According to a 2012 profile on youth and civic participation, youth and student groups were organized under the Federation of Youth Associations in Ghana (FEDYAG). However, the group has no online presence, and no indication that it is still in operation.

In Ghana, the minimum age of eligibility for the Ghanaian Parliament is 21 years old. However, the average age of its members is 49 years old, and its youngest member is 27 years old.

As we can see in the table below, there are few under 30 in the Ghanaian Parliament and there are many deputies between 51 and 60 years old.



Age in years	Total
21-30	2
31-40	32
41-45	43
46-50	69
51-60	96
61-70	31
71-80	2

Sources:

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