



Catch
EyoU



LSE

MEDIA@LSE
Department of Media and Communications

Constructing Active Citizenship with European Youth

Milestone 8 Catalogue Youth Participation Practices in the European Union

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Level: Public – for website

NB. This is an inclusive list, that runs from common and conventional to very unusual and unconventional. The categorisation of these practices as conventional, common, conformist, unconventional, uncommon or non-conformist depends on 1) the national histories and patterns of participation and political action in our partner countries or 2) the penetration rate of the internet; and 3) the ideological positions and aims of youth groups and organisations. There are some objective criteria – such as the frequency or infrequency of a particular practice in conventional youth organisations and groups, and its uptake by different members of the ideological spectrum: So, meetings, for instance, are held by almost every group, initiative, network or organisation regardless of how loose and informal their structure; and websites of at least one page are common. But other criteria for whether something is a common practice are more contextual: For instance, in the UK going out voluntarily to clear up beaches, collect scrap metal and other environmental hazards is particular to environmental charities and activist groups, whereas in Czech Republic and Estonia is an established civic practice; likewise, in the UK, taking brief strike action as part of a workplace is fairly common in the public sector, but in Estonia and Germany it is quite unusual. Yet other practices are notably unusual or specific to a certain cause – and these are indicated via a parenthesis below. Some practices, such as weapon's training or raids on animal testing laboratories, are extremely rare.

List of youth participation practices gleaned from our sample

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| Holding meetings of members |
| Holding public meetings |
| Holding organised debates |
| Demonstrations and speeches |
| Drafting and circulating petitions |
| Signing petitions |
| Polls about current affairs issues (such as Brexit, Grexit) |
| Elections, secret ballots, campaigns and voting (for steering committees, etc) |
| Choosing representatives |
| Appointing representatives |
| Representing an organisation at another level or amongst other organisations |
| Applying for a particular 'status' for members |
| Discussion groups – on issues such as art, religion, sexuality, philosophy |

Online discussion forums

Blogging

Vlogging

Making, editing and uploading short films about organisational work/achievements

Making and uploading podcasts of discussions and interviews

Organising group meals and religious events

Profiling key issues on the website through banners and logos

Providing information on leaflets, stickers and offline banners

Lobbying politicians

Campaigning over wages through trade unions

Taking strike action

Getting celebrity endorsements

Bringing members of the police or local authorities to speak to communities

Organising sports tournaments for marginal youth or to bring races/ethnicities together

Running social enterprises and cooperatives

Running competitions – online or offline – to encourage entrepreneurship

Hosting classes and lectures that aim to educate young people on particular topics

Running social media training – how to use Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat to further a cause

Using Twitter, Facebook or Instagram to promote events

Leafletting in residential neighbourhoods or near transport hubs

Collecting money to donate to a charity or cause

Collecting money for the organisational cause

Funding study-abroad years for graduate students

Visiting elderly people, or people with disabilities in care homes and neighbourhoods

Making apps and online puzzles with civic themes

Organising vegan cafes and events to promote vegan life styles

Attending policy consultations with adult authorities

Participating in tendering processes with adult authorities

Playing games and doing music, arts and crafts with children with disabilities

Media training – teaching other young people how to access and get one’s issues into the mainstream media

Running collaborative wikis

Offering offline and online psychological counselling services (for addiction, issues of sexuality, etc).

Setting up venues and occasions for performance poetry about key issues – particularly life narratives of LGBTQ/refugees/women who face domestic abuse

Sit-ins and occupations of public space

Taking unoccupied buildings and turning them into public art installations, cafes, homeless shelters and women’s refuges

Doing political or social oriented graffiti

Making street art with a political message (for instance about refugees, unemployment, etc.)

All-night discussions that allow everyone to speak and to draw up a manifesto together

Taking literature, storybooks, music or art into working-class or marginal communities

Starting and maintaining free libraries and/or mobile libraries in deprived neighbourhoods

‘Each one Reach one’: Individuals each funding the practical ‘dream’ of other individuals and then ‘paying it forward’

Donating pianos and chess boards to public spaces to bring community together

Creating squats and communes (sometimes for vulnerable people like single mothers)

Running counselling services for young refugees

Organising forest schools or universities and camps in which different groups come together (sometimes under the radar, sometimes openly)

Taking extended strike action and picketing to support the strikes of others

Running film making clubs

Running cine-clubs which screen films about social issues

Organising free hostels and housing for refugees and asylum seekers

Running 'food banks' or soup kitchens

Discussion groups which bring communities together (eg. Muslims and Christians; Catholics and Protestants)

Largescale street food events to highlight particular issues

Helping homeless people back into the community through social enterprise – giving them unusual jobs such as 'tourist guide'

'Guerrilla gardening' and 'Guerrilla farming' – taking over unused land for permacultures

Forming human chains around detention centres, airbases, weapons shows, or other official and military buildings to protest military and/or nuclear activities

Street theatre and spectacular events – (projecting symbols onto official buildings; holding mock trials of those guilty of corruption or warmongering)

Giving free advice and legal support to women facing domestic violence, to refugees, and asylum seekers or to protestors beaten/arrested by police while protesting

Accompanying those who cannot afford interpreters or legal aid to court or to welfare hearings

Running alternative media on and offline – magazines, newsletters, radio and television as well as social media content aggregators

Protecting tenants from being evicted (for instance, by forming human chains against bailiffs; or getting legal stay orders)

Disrupting fox hunts (for instance, by banging pots and pans to stop the dogs killing the foxes; or by running at the horses to scare them)

Breaking into drugs' laboratories and freeing caged animals used for testing

Making and circulating apps that help protestors to avoid police surveillance or 'kettling' by police and other authorities ("Kettling" is the practice of surrounding demonstrators or protestors with police in riot gear, and pushing them into tight spaces where they are kept without access to water or sanitation for a number of hours).

Setting up proxy web addresses to circumvent censorship of particular issues (e.g. to do with protests against the monarchy, or Muslim Lives Matter)

Collecting scrap metal, plastic and other pollutants on beaches to clean the environment

De-gentrification – running events to draw attention to unaffordable housing and eateries in once-affordable neighbourhoods; deliberately tagging and graffitiing

neighbourhoods that are pushing out the original residents, so that wealthy new comers will not feel welcome.

Burning flags of institutions or nations in order to show opposition

Weapons' training – for an apparent fight against the democratic authorities (only in ultra nationalist and Far Right youth groups).