


# Choices of Participation

THEME/FOCUS: PARTICIPATION

 **Group Size** | 15-30    
  **Age Group** | 14+    
  **Total Time** | 90 Minutes    
  **Level of Complexity** | 2

 **Materials Needed** | Handout with the list of “my choices of participation”. Flipchart and markers

 **Keywords** | Participation

<b>Purpose/ Learning objective</b>	<p>The session aims at exploring what youth participation means in the everyday life of young people and in which areas of life it can/should be implemented. To reflect on the areas in which youth participation is more or less important from their own perspective;</p> <p>To raise awareness about the diversity of youth work/active participation experiences present in the group and to engage participants in and benefit from a clear and focused dialogue with other colleagues working in the field.</p>	
<b>Preparation/ Instructions for educator</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Instructions step by step</b>
	10 min	<p>The exercise starts with the distribution of the handout with multiple choices of participation and the instructions to choose individually 3 ways of participation that would never engage in, and 3 ways that for sure they would engage in.</p> <p>After the presentation of the exercise, allow time for individual reflection to make the choices.</p>
	30 min	<p>Form groups of four participants. Each group should achieve an agreement on the 3 ways of participation that would never engage in, and 3 ways that for sure they would engage in.</p>
	20 min	<p>The groups present the results of their work. Start first, sharing and writing in one column of the board the three choices that the sub-groups decided will never engage in. Do it for all the subgroups writing the results in the board. Underline those choices of participation that are repeated among groups.</p> <p>Once all the subgroups have presented, continue with the second round on the three choices of participation were they will surely engage in. Write them in the second column on the board. The board with the table of final results is displayed.</p>

	30 min	Time for debriefing the exercise
<b>Facilitation tips</b>	<p>Question guidelines for the activity debriefing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would I choose to participate in? Start with the column of the “choices of participation I will never engage in”:</li> <li>• What are the main choices of no-participation?</li> <li>• Any surprises?</li> <li>• Why do you think is this for?</li> </ul> <p>Continue with the “choices of participation I will potentially engage in”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main choices of participation?</li> <li>• Any surprises?</li> <li>• Why do you think is this for?</li> <li>• How was for you individually to make these choices (easy/difficult)?</li> <li>• How has been the process in the subgroups?</li> <li>• Returning to participants’ daily lives, and the groups of young people participants’ are working with. Are these choices similar or do they have different positions? Why?</li> </ul>	
<b>Ideas for follow-up</b>	<p>A potential proposal is to explore what are the ways young people can engage in their community, what potential spaces of participation exist and where are them. Potentially the group could map their community exploring what citizenship dimensions are encouraging the participation of young people in cultural, economical, social, political and environmental areas.</p> <p>Once the community mapping is done, establish what aspects need further development and meet with the local authorities to develop them.</p>	
<b>Appendices</b>	<p>Handouts with the list of choices of participation (to be adapted according to the group context).</p> <p>There are statistics that could be introduced/visualized regarding Youth participation (in the EU there are regular statistics published by Eurostat).</p>	
<b>Source</b>	Developed by ECTC group	

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## HAND-OUT

### Choose 3 situations in which you will certainly participate and 3 in which you will never engage

- a neighbourhood meeting on a road reconstruction project plan
- the election of the City Youth Council
- a street demonstration against environmental problems caused by a chemical factory in the city
- opening of a new local pub
- "Political apathy everywhere?" debate in a local club organised by two political parties
- Internet discussion forum about lack of mutual tolerance between migrants and the hosting society
- open meeting of the parents council at the local secondary school
- cleaning the local railway station
- assisting an unemployed hard of hearing person to apply for a vocational re-training
- public reading and debate about Fundamental Rights
- not to buy products of a multinational company that pay their workers less than the social minimum wage
- to assist my home town to start up a new twin town co-operation project
- to assist my home town to apply for grant within the Euro-Mediterranean support programme
- to assist people (in the refugee camp) through the procedure of applying for citizenship
- to organise the recycling system in my neighbourhood
- to become a member of a political party
- to run as candidate for local election
- to give some change to beggars on the street
- to give some donation to starving children in some African country
- to create a group of young volunteers supporting the army
- to host a youth exchange for inter-religious dialogue
- to write an article for a youth magazine about Euro-Mediterranean citizenship
- to organise a New Year party for all the volunteers of my organisation
- to deliver a workshop on Intercultural citizenship for my colleagues in the organisation
- to create a blog to coordinate a social movement in my country
- to express my opinion on a radio phone-in about immigration/refugee crisis
- to join a consumers co-operative to buy directly from local producers
- to make a graffiti about young people problems in my community
- to sit in the main square of my city in support of political reforms
- other situation: ...