



B-YOUth Forum:

Participatory research with young people to promote Global Education

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B-YOUth Forum

- B-YOUth Forum is a **participatory research lab** open to young people between **14 and 25 years old** and dedicated to **participation, civic engagement** and **activism in public space**.
- B-YOUth Forum is promoted by the University of Milano-Bicocca as part of the **MUSA (Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action) project**, funded by the Ministry of University and Research within the framework of the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan.



Background: youth and participation

- **Participation** as a multidimensional (Crowley & Moxon, 2017) and multidisciplinary concept (Andersson, 2017; Hart, 1992; Lardner, 2011; Lundy, 2007; Percy-Smith & Thomas, 2010).
- **Youth** is referred to subjects aged between 10 and 24 years or, elsewhere, between 15 and 29 years.

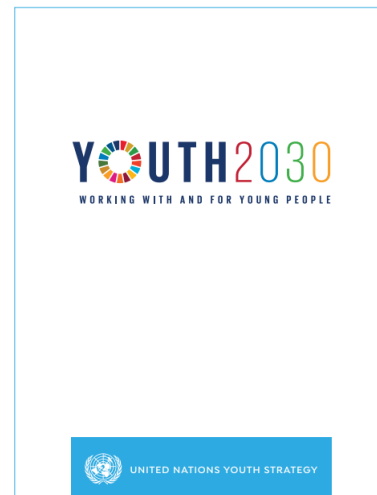


Participation, generations, future

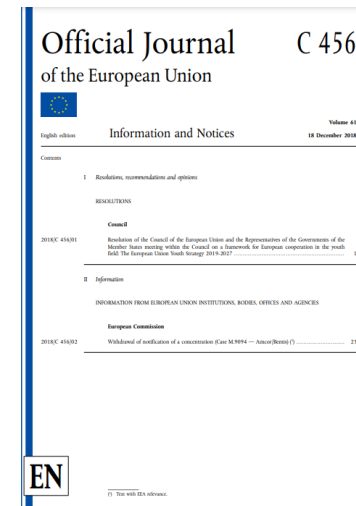


Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015)

UN Youth Strategy (UN, 2018)



Youth Sector Strategy 2030 (Council of Europe, 2022)



European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (European Union, 2018)



From the youth's perspective



**SPACE AND PARTICIPATION FOR ALL –
Help us to make it happen!**

Last updated on Wednesday, 03/03/2021

Youth Portal, European Commission



Our Europe, Our Rights, Our Future,
Eurochild, 2021

... a **paradox** (Willems,
Heinen & Meyers, 2021)

... **alternative** forms
(Crowley & Moxon,
2017).

... and more:

Norris, 2023; Eurochild, 2021; Cornwall, 2008; Farthing, 2010



Which forms for youth participation?

«One of the major problems with participation has been its widespread preoccupation with involvement in decision-making rather than a wider spectrum of activities which characterize how young people engage with and make sense of their worlds and through which one could argue their wellbeing, identity and citizenship status is realized» .

Percy-Smith, 2010, p. 110.

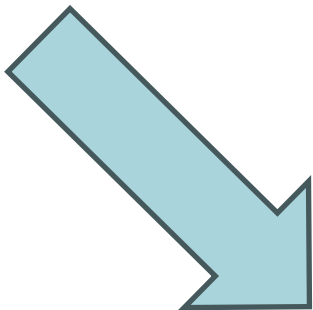


Re-researching youth participation

«Because changes does not just happen through formal decision making channels we need to widen concepts of participation beyond conventional (political) decision making arena».

Percy-Smith, 2010, p. 110, p. 118.





A participatory lab

- Intergenerational
- Multidisciplinary
- ✓ To think critically on participation
- ✓ To promote citizenship competences
- ✓ To build knowledge



B-YOUth Forum: Methodology

Youth participatory approaches (Checkoway, Dobbie & Richards-Schuster, 2003; Clark, 2010; Delgado, 2006).

Research tools:

- Contents: young people define their own tools
- Processes: arts informed tools; observation grid; interviews and focus groups

Ethical aspects:

- Ethics committee
- Educational pact
- Child safeguarding policy

Dissemination:

- Social media
- Events (e.g. Festival GenerAzioni)



Our roadmap



Defining the research question

- B-YOUth Forum's **research object**: the **square** - a public space for meeting, confrontation and participation of young people.
- **Research question:**

**ARE THE SQUARES STILL AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?
WHAT POSSIBLE DIALOGUE BETWEEN YOUTH AND INSTITUTIONS?**



The Square as a Public Space

- ... to share
- ... to protest
- ...to *become public*



«Becoming public is not about a physical relocation from the home to the street or from the oikos to the polis, but about the achievement of a form of human togetherness in which, to put it in the language of Hannah Arendt, action is possible and freedom can appear».

Biesta, 2012, p. 693



Education and participation

«Education remains a key element for active citizenship, inclusive society and employability. That is why we need to broaden our vision on education for the 21st century, focusing more on transferable skills, student-centred learning and non-formal education, in order to achieve truly equitable and universal access to quality learning»

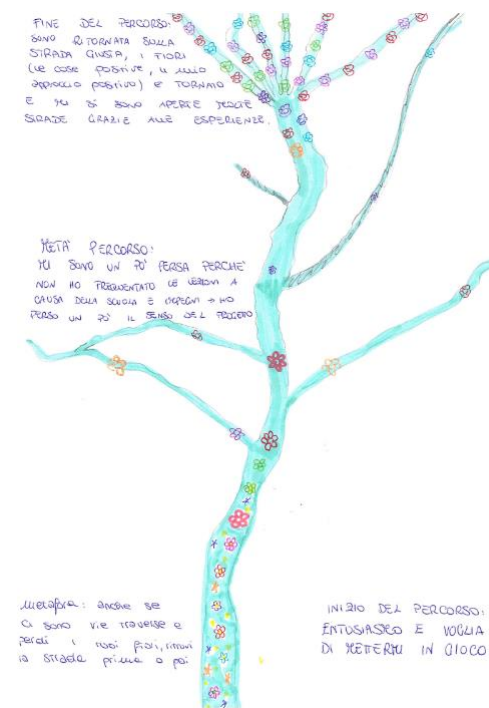
European Union, 2018



B-YOUth Forum: Promoting Global Education

B-YOUth Forum promotes **Global Education** through:

- the development of **citizenship skills and lifelong learning** (European Union, 2018; UNESCO, 2015).
- the **construction of living environments**, that are inclusive, sustainable and respectful of the fundamental rights of people.
- the resulting **transformation of people and places** (Global Education Network Europe , 2022).



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Thank you!

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