



YOUTH CIVIC PARTICIPATION INDEX

Young people are SUPERHEROES* – an important part of society with a strong voice. In a democratic society, the civic participation of young people is ensured by diverse civic participation mechanisms, but the SUPERPOWER of young people – the civic competence, does not arise by itself.

PARTICIPATION INDEX



participationindex.eu/

For every
young
person
aged 16+

Test

Three
thematic
blocks

45
questions

Test result
visualization

Recommendations
and growing tips

* Participation SUPERHEROES are young people with active action and confidence to influence and change the environment around them as well as the life in municipality, country, European Union and even globally. Participation SUPERHEROES act responsibly, empathetically, in solidarity and with respect to others.

ARE YOUNG PEOPLE SUPERHEROES OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION?

Three thematic parts of the test to assess civic competence.



01 Knowledge and skills

Different types of civic participation are mentioned here. Consider and evaluate your knowledge and skills!

02 Values and attitude

Consider and evaluate how much you agree or disagree with these statements!

03 Experience and Activity

Mark which of these activities you have participated in.

What are the knowledge and skills of young people?

Questions of this thematic block assess young people's civic knowledge and skills.

Do young people know:

- How to get involved in decision-making at an educational institution?
- Where to find the latest information about events in municipality?
- How to propose new ideas and improvements in municipality?
- How to get involved in the discussion of ideas and making decisions in municipality, civil society organisations, youth projects, non-formal educational activities as well as local community activities?
- What laws and regulations determine the opportunities for civic participation in municipality, especially for young people aged 16 and over?
- How to participate in elections, protests and demonstrations?
- Where to get information about political or social issues?
- Where to turn for help if human rights are violated?
- What are my duties and rights as a citizen?

What are the values and attitudes of young people?

Questions of this thematic block explore young people's values and attitudes towards democracy, civic education and civic participation.

To what extent do young people agree or disagree with the following statements:

- I am interested in political and social events in my municipality, country and the world.
- Young people can influence processes in their municipality, country and the world.
- Free and fair elections are important to our society.
- Generally speaking, most people can be trusted.
- Overall, I trust my municipality.
- All citizens should have the opportunity to freely express their views on political and social issues.
- I don't feel confident and knowledgeable enough to propose new ideas in my municipality.
- I believe that the municipality wants my civic participation, is interested in my opinion.
- I am sure that I can influence the decisions and actions of my municipality.
- I am proud of my municipality.
- I feel that I am part of my municipality.

What is the experience of civic participation of young people?

Questions of this thematic block examine young people's capacity to act and their previous experience in the field of civic participation.

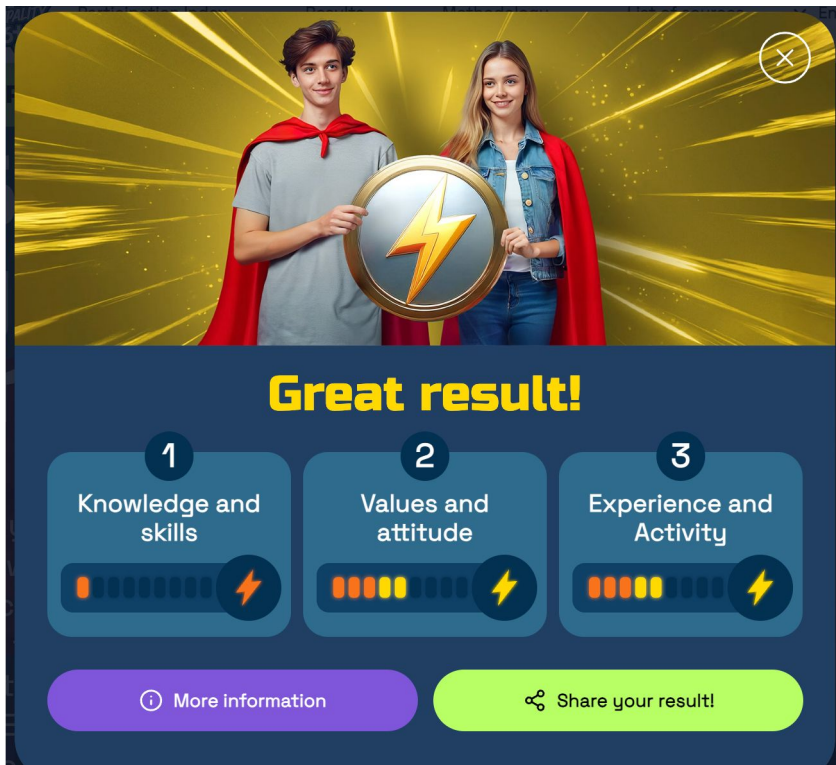
Have young people been involved in the following activities:

- I have been involved in activities of non-governmental youth organizations.
- I have been following new civic participation mechanisms in my municipality and participate in them.
- During my education, I participated in decision-making activities at my educational institution (e.g., parliament, council, etc.).
- I do volunteer work.
- I participate in youth projects.
- I participate in local community activities.
- I follow municipality news on social networks, on the website, I comment and participate in polls.
- I express my opinion on political or social issues on social media.
- I discuss political and social issues with friends or relatives.
- I participate in public consultations.



Civic competence is the mutual synergy of civic knowledge, skills, attitudes and an individual's acquired life experience, which determines a person's future civic position and ability to act. (Jurs P., Samuseviča A., 2020).

After completing each thematic block of the PARTICIPATION INDEX, the young person sees test result in visualization (how charged the battery of knowledge and skills, values and attitudes, experience and activity is). By completing all thematic blocks of the index, the young person can familiarize himself with both the test result and feedback with recommendations in each block. The young person receives recommendations for improving civic competence and can share the result on social networks, revealing received result to others.



Knowledge and skills

Even if schools and youth organizations do their best, they still might not succeed to transfer knowledge about the participatory processes and civic participation to the youth. It is understandable that if it is not mandatory you have lower incentive to learn extra, but think for yourself - if you don't gain the knowledge, you will never know what opportunities are there for you. Which is a pity if you would like to impact your local environment.

So, how can you start building your knowledge base? Here are some tips:

- Think what the definition of democracy means: "Supreme power belongs to the people". Name at least three examples how democracy shows in your daily life. Search on the internet the word "democracy" and read a paragraph - or maybe two?
- Check out who is the president of your state, and who is your prime minister.
- Look at the webpage of your municipality. Can you find some participation mechanisms? List these participation mechanisms and find out which of them would be interesting for you and through which you could make your voice heard.

Knowing the possibilities and acquiring knowledge is essential if you want to influence the local environment. Start your path to discover your superpowers!

Values and attitude

We know, we know... It is not always easy to support our system and to believe in the politicians and government. But this is not a good reason to be passive. Don't forget, even if you are not interested in politics, politics are interested in you!

If you are not satisfied, act! Engage yourself in the civic society or a political party, or just promote your thoughts and critical thinking to other friends. If we are not satisfied, it is our obligation to act and try to reshape a better future.

So, check the possibilities in your local municipality and become a superhero that will improve the system.

Experience and Activity

Superheroes are recognized by their actions.

You are already active, but there are definitely some more things that you can do in your community. Bring your energy into real-life initiatives, try to activate people around you, and continue to learn about what can help you or your community. To continue to grow in your knowledge and skills is to continue bettering your surroundings and future.

Test result visualization explaining the score with recommendations and growing tips.

PARTICIPATION INDEX is developed within the framework of the project MUNICIPALITY 16+. The project's aim is to improve young people's civic participation competence in the use of civic participation mechanisms.

Transparency International Latvia (Delna) with its partners European Movement – Latvia, PiNA – Association for Culture and Education (Slovenia), and NVIAS (Czech Republic) is implementing the project from 1 September 2023 to 30 June 2026.

Project MUNICIPALITY 16+ is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the granting authority – the Agency for International Programs for Youth of Latvia. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

