

Participation

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In its larger sense, participation refers to social integration of people: those who are excluded, for instance due to racial and economic reasons, can not fully participate in society: they do not properly share resources, negotiate opportunities and benefit from public facilities…

Concerning civic participation it can be underlined that it is a rather loose concept which includes various forms of users involvement in the decision making process. It is generally seen as a means to reinforce traditional forms of representative democracy. Developed by public authorities at all levels of decision from the beginning of the 80’ies, in a context of always more complex public action, participation can be considered as an instrument to struggle against abstention, against the formation of an exclusive dialogue between elected representatives and experts.

In the context of our project, participation can be considered as an attempt to strengthen the relationships between young people and public life. Indeed, a multitude of experiences of young people’s empowerment can be emphasized. This is true for programs on the European Union level but even more so on national, regional and local levels. In this regard, we not only take into account formal types of involvement (Youth summits, Youth councils, electronic fora…) but more informal experiences which can be made in particular at local levels. (PL)

References:

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