

Meaningful Youth Political Participation: How can you tell?!

**HOW TO
SCORE A
YOUTH GOAL**

TICK ALL OF THESE BOXES TO ENSURE THAT YOU REALLY THINK OF A POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY!

The activity is voluntary!	The activity aims to support a public cause!	The activity depends on active engagement of young people!	The activity shapes, affects, or involves the political sphere!
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Did you tick all of the boxes?! Great, read on! Are any boxes in need of further work? Think of how you can adjust the activity so the box can be ticked!

CHECK WHAT TYPE(S) OF AIM(S) YOUR YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY HAS/HAVE AND TICK THE RELEVANT BOX(ES)!

RIGHTS-BASED AIMS Providing young people with access to youth political participation opportunities.	EMPOWERMENT AIMS Providing young people with power to make policy decisions.	EFFICIENCY AIMS Providing young people with voice to improve public policies.	DEVELOPMENT AIMS Providing young people with real-life learning and development opportunities.
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CHECK IN WHAT TYPE(S) OF DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT(S) YOUR ACTIVITY TAKES PLACE AND TICK THE RELEVANT BOX(ES)!

DIRECT DEMOCRACY An environment typical by direct decision-making of citizens through voting on concrete policy decisions, as is the case in referenda.	REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY An environment typical by citizens voting in elections from which political representatives are identified, and it is the role of the political representatives to make policy decisions on behalf of the citizens, as is the case in general elections forming country governments.	PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY An environment typical by citizens suggesting concrete policies which are subsequently implemented by the political representatives, as is the case in participatory budgeting.	DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY An environment typical by citizens debating (or deliberating, hence the name!) on policies, where instead of voting, the decisions are based on conclusions of the public discussions, as is the case in deliberative polling.	COUNTER DEMOCRACY An environment typical by citizens balancing the power of democratic institutions by monitoring the political and public domains, and voicing opinions towards policymakers, as is the case in peaceful protests.
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DETERMINE THE MEANINGFULNESS OF THE YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY!

Are the aims achievable by mechanisms offered by the democratic environments that your activity takes place in?

YES Congratulations: Your youth political participation is meaningful, because it offers young people a realistic way of achieving its goals!	NO Do not despair! Go back to your aims, see how they can be adjusted so they can be achieved in democratic environments you work with or that are available to you. Then use the methods of that particular environment to make your youth political participation activity a meaningful one by making the aims achievable!
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Do you want to learn more?! Download the Cookbook of Meaningful Youth Political Participation written by Ondřej Bárta in 2023!