



Youth Engagement Academy

YEA - Youth Engagement Academy

RESEARCH REPORT: Needs of Young People in Policy Dialogue

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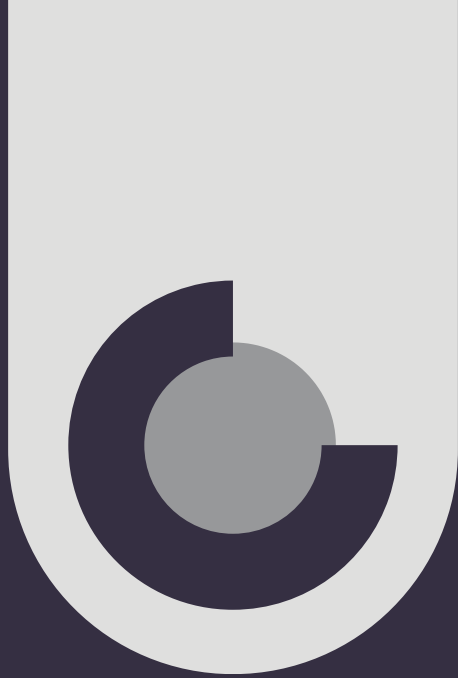


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Introduction

The research report aims to document the needs of young people as part of the Structured Dialogue Process overseen by National Youth Councils across Europe. The focus is on understanding how effectively young people's opinions are considered in shaping youth policies at both national and European levels. The report draws insights from various European countries, including Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Poland, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, and Sweden.

Croatia: In Croatia, there is a strong emphasis on actively involving young individuals in decision-making processes related to youth policies. This commitment reflects a recognition of the importance of ensuring that the voices and perspectives of young people are not only heard but also considered in shaping policies that directly affect them. By actively involving young people in these processes, Croatia aims to achieve several objectives, including ensuring representation, enhancing policy relevance, empowering youth, and assessing the influence of young perspectives on policy formulation. This proactive approach to governance underscores Croatia's commitment to inclusivity, responsiveness, and the empowerment of its youth population in shaping the nation's future.

France: France's emphasis on the Erasmus+ "Youth Engagement Academy" project underscores its dedication to empowering youth and enhancing their participation in EU policy-making processes. The project serves as a multifaceted platform aimed not only at educating young individuals but also at empowering them to actively engage in shaping EU policies. Through this initiative, France seeks to address the challenge of limited access to opportunities for youth engagement in policy discourse. By providing critical skills development and practical knowledge about EU policy and legislative mechanisms, the Youth Engagement Academy equips young Europeans with the tools needed to navigate and contribute meaningfully to policy discussions. The survey designed as part of this project is integral to capturing a diverse range of perspectives and understanding the barriers that young people face in accessing information and platforms for participation. By identifying these barriers, France aims to tailor the Youth Engagement Academy to effectively address the needs and aspirations of young individuals, ensuring that their voices are heard and considered in EU policy-making processes. In summary, France's focus on the Erasmus+ "Youth Engagement Academy" project reflects a proactive approach to empowering youth and fostering their meaningful participation in shaping EU policies, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and responsive governance framework.

Germany: Germany's recognition of the significance of integrating young voices into policy discussions underscores its commitment to addressing pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. By actively involving young people in these discussions, Germany acknowledges the valuable insights, perspectives, and innovative solutions that youth can contribute to tackling complex issues. The focus on assessing existing participation mechanisms reflects a commitment to ensuring that young voices are effectively heard and considered in policymaking processes. Through this assessment, Germany aims to identify areas for improvement, such as enhancing accessibility to participation platforms, amplifying youth representation, and fostering meaningful dialogue between policymakers and young individuals. By addressing these areas, Germany seeks to create a more inclusive and responsive policy framework that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of its youth population. In summary, Germany's approach highlights the importance of engaging young voices as key stakeholders in policymaking processes, ultimately striving towards more effective and sustainable solutions to societal challenges.



Greece: Greece places significant emphasis on the inclusion of youth perspectives in policymaking processes, recognizing that doing so is essential for fostering a representative and forward-thinking society. By actively involving young people in policymaking, Greece aims to ensure that the decisions made reflect the diverse needs, concerns, and aspirations of its youth population. This approach underscores a commitment to democratic principles and the belief that the inclusion of youth perspectives enriches the policymaking process and leads to more effective outcomes. Central to Greece's strategy is the evaluation of engagement mechanisms, which involves assessing the effectiveness of existing platforms and processes for involving young people in policymaking. By understanding what works well and where improvements are needed, Greece seeks to enhance the accessibility and inclusivity of these mechanisms, thereby empowering young Greeks to participate meaningfully in shaping policies that affect them. Additionally, Greece recognizes the importance of understanding the specific needs of young people, including areas such as education, employment, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and civic engagement. By addressing these needs, Greece aims to create policies that not only respond to immediate challenges but also lay the groundwork for a more prosperous and equitable future. In summary, Greece's approach underscores the value of youth inclusion in policymaking for building a society that is representative, forward-thinking, and responsive to the needs of its young citizens.

Poland: Poland emphasizes the critical role of policy dialogues in ensuring that the voices of young people are heard and considered in EU policymaking processes. This recognition reflects a commitment to democratic principles and the belief that the inclusion of youth perspectives enriches the quality and legitimacy of policymaking. By prioritizing policy dialogues, Poland aims to create opportunities for young people to actively participate in shaping policies that directly affect them, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and engagement among youth populations. Central to Poland's strategy is the use of surveys aimed at assessing the effectiveness of these dialogues in shaping youth policies. Through these surveys, Poland seeks to gather feedback from young people about their experiences with policy dialogues, including the extent to which their views are taken into account and the impact of their participation on policymaking outcomes. By evaluating the effectiveness of these dialogues, Poland aims to identify areas for improvement and refine its approach to youth engagement in EU policymaking. In summary, Poland's emphasis on policy dialogues highlights the importance of creating inclusive and participatory spaces for young people to contribute to policymaking processes, ultimately striving towards more responsive and effective youth policies within the EU.

Republic North Macedonia:

The Republic of North Macedonia places significant emphasis on exploring the inclusion of young people in policy dialogues at various levels of governance, including local, regional, and national levels. This reflects a commitment to ensuring that the voices and perspectives of young individuals are not only heard but also actively considered in decision-making processes that affect them and their communities. By focusing on policy dialogues, North Macedonia aims to create avenues for young people to participate meaningfully in shaping policies that directly impact their lives. Central to this effort is a survey that specifically targets quality youth work and opportunities for rural youth.

This survey serves as a tool to gather insights into the experiences, needs, and challenges faced by young people, particularly those in rural areas, in accessing opportunities for meaningful engagement in policy dialogues and youth-related initiatives. By understanding the specific barriers and opportunities faced by young people, North Macedonia seeks to develop targeted interventions and strategies to enhance their participation and representation in policy dialogues across different levels of governance. In summary, North Macedonia's focus on exploring the inclusion of young people in policy dialogues underscores a commitment to fostering a more inclusive and participatory governance framework that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of its youth population, including those in rural areas.

Romania: Romania recognizes the growing significance of young people in shaping the trajectory of the nation's future. This acknowledgment reflects an understanding of the valuable perspectives, energy, and innovative ideas that young individuals bring to the table. By emphasizing the need to integrate the voices of young people into policymaking processes, Romania underscores its commitment to ensuring that policies are inclusive, responsive, and reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of its youth population. Central to this approach is the assessment of existing participation channels, which involves evaluating the effectiveness of mechanisms through which young people currently engage in policy discussions and decision-making processes. Through this assessment, Romania aims to identify strengths and weaknesses in existing channels and identify opportunities for enhancing youth participation in policymaking. By actively involving young people in shaping policies that affect them, Romania seeks to empower its youth population and build a more inclusive and forward-thinking society. In summary, Romania's recognition of the importance of integrating young voices into policymaking processes reflects a proactive approach to governance that prioritizes youth engagement and ensures that the perspectives of young people are heard and valued in shaping the nation's future.

Sweden: Sweden places significant emphasis on the critical role of Policy Dialogue in ensuring that the perspectives of young people are effectively considered in defining youth-related policies within the European Union (EU). This underscores Sweden's commitment to fostering inclusive and participatory policymaking processes that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of its youth population. By prioritizing Policy Dialogue, Sweden aims to create structured platforms for facilitating meaningful discussions between young people and policymakers. These discussions provide opportunities for young individuals to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and contribute to the development of policies that directly affect them.

Central to Sweden's approach is a focus on analyzing the success of this process, which involves evaluating the effectiveness of Policy Dialogue in achieving its objectives and facilitating productive interactions between young people and policymakers. Through this analysis, Sweden seeks to identify best practices, lessons learned, and areas for improvement to enhance the impact and inclusivity of Policy Dialogue initiatives. By actively involving young people in the policymaking process and ensuring that their perspectives are considered, Sweden aims to build a more responsive, equitable, and youth-friendly policy framework within the EU. In summary, Sweden's emphasis on Policy Dialogue underscores its commitment to empowering young people and ensuring their meaningful participation in shaping policies that affect their lives, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and representative governance framework within the EU.



Theoretical Framework

Based on the emphasis placed by each country on the inclusion of young people in policy dialogues and the evaluation of existing participation mechanisms, the theoretical framework for the research report can be structured around several key concepts:

1. **Youth Participation and Empowerment:** serves as a foundational pillar within the theoretical framework, elucidating the imperative of actively involving young people in decision-making processes related to youth policies. At its essence, this concept encapsulates a multifaceted approach that draws from various theoretical perspectives, including theories of youth empowerment, citizenship, and participatory democracy, to underscore the inherent rights young individuals possess in influencing matters that directly impact their lives and futures.

First and foremost, youth empowerment lies at the heart of this concept. It acknowledges that young people possess innate potential, agency, and creativity, which can be harnessed to effect positive change within their communities and societies. By providing opportunities for young individuals to develop their skills, knowledge, and confidence, empowerment initiatives enable them to not only articulate their needs and aspirations but also actively engage in shaping policies that address these concerns. Through empowerment, young people become active agents of change, driving progress and innovation in various spheres of society.

Furthermore, "Youth Participation and Empowerment" are deeply intertwined with notions of citizenship. Central to citizenship is the recognition of both rights and responsibilities within a democratic society. Young people, as citizens-in-the-making, have a stake in the decisions that shape their communities and futures. Therefore, engaging young individuals in decision-making processes related to youth policies not only fosters a sense of belonging and ownership but also cultivates civic responsibility and active citizenship. By participating in policy discussions and initiatives, young people exercise their rights as citizens to contribute to the betterment of society, thereby enriching the democratic fabric of their communities.

Moreover, the concept of youth participation aligns closely with theories of participatory democracy. Participatory democracy advocates for the inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes at all levels of governance, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive and deliberative spaces where diverse voices, including those of young people, are heard, valued, and taken into account. By fostering an environment conducive to meaningful youth participation, policymakers and stakeholders can tap into the unique perspectives, experiences, and insights that young people bring to the table. This not only enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of policymaking processes but also ensures that policies are more responsive, equitable, and reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of young people.

In summary, "Youth Participation and Empowerment" serve as guiding principles within the theoretical framework, advocating for the recognition and promotion of young people's inherent rights to have a meaningful say in shaping policies that affect their lives and futures. By fostering empowerment, cultivating active citizenship, and promoting participatory democracy, policymakers and stakeholders can create more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable policies that truly reflect the diverse voices and aspirations of young people.



2. Policy Dialogue and Deliberative Democracy: Policy dialogue stands as a fundamental mechanism within the theoretical framework, serving as a conduit through which the perspectives and voices of young people are incorporated into the policymaking process. This concept reflects an acknowledgment of the importance of creating structured opportunities for dialogue and engagement between young individuals and policymakers. At its core, policy dialogue embodies the principles of deliberative democracy, a theoretical framework that underscores the significance of inclusive and informed deliberation in democratic decision-making processes. Drawing on these principles, the framework explores how policy dialogues facilitate robust discussions characterized by openness, transparency, and mutual respect, thereby fostering a deeper understanding of diverse viewpoints and interests.

Policy dialogues provide a forum for young people to articulate their concerns, express their aspirations, and contribute to the development of policies that directly impact their lives and futures. Through these dialogues, young individuals have the opportunity to engage directly with policymakers, sharing their lived experiences, insights, and expertise on issues ranging from education and employment to social inclusion and environmental sustainability. By participating in policy dialogues, young people not only assert their agency and citizenship but also play an active role in shaping the decisions that affect their communities and societies.

Moreover, policy dialogues serve as spaces for collaborative problem-solving and co-creation of solutions. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, including young people, policymakers, experts, and representatives from civil society organizations, these dialogues facilitate exchanges of knowledge, ideas, and perspectives. Participants engage in constructive dialogue, critically evaluating policy options, identifying common ground, and exploring innovative approaches to address complex challenges. In doing so, policy dialogues promote consensus-building and collective action, leading to more effective and sustainable policy outcomes.

Furthermore, policy dialogues contribute to the legitimacy and credibility of policymaking processes by enhancing transparency, accountability, and public trust. Through their active participation in dialogues, young people become stakeholders in the policymaking process, ensuring that their voices are heard and their interests are taken into account. This fosters a sense of ownership and investment in the outcomes of policymaking, strengthening the democratic governance of society.

Policy dialogue serves as a vital mechanism for integrating the perspectives of young people into policymaking processes. Grounded in the principles of deliberative democracy, policy dialogues facilitate inclusive, informed, and collaborative discussions that lead to more legitimate, effective, and sustainable policy outcomes. By providing young people with opportunities to engage meaningfully in dialogue with policymakers, these dialogues empower them to contribute to positive change and shape the future of their communities and societies.

Positive youth development, rooted in a strength-based perspective, emphasizes the individual's development of resilience and competency through bidirectional relationships with their world. This approach assumes that communities, supports, and opportunities are crucial to youth development and success. Several models, including the Community Action Framework, Developmental Assets Framework, and the 5Cs model, focus on factors promoting thriving and reducing risk. Positive youth development approaches are recognized for promoting health behaviors and outcomes among youth with childhood-onset chronic conditions (Maslow & Chung, 2013).

3. Institutional Analysis: The institutional analysis perspective within the theoretical framework offers a nuanced examination of the structures and mechanisms that underpin youth engagement in policymaking processes. It delves deeply into the organizational frameworks, decision-making protocols, and cultural norms within institutions that shape the opportunities for young people to participate in policy dialogues. This perspective involves not only scrutinizing formal policies and regulations but also understanding the informal practices and power dynamics that influence the degree of youth involvement.

At its core, institutional analysis seeks to uncover the underlying factors that either facilitate or hinder youth engagement. This involves assessing the clarity of institutional mandates regarding youth participation, the accessibility of decision-making processes, and the allocation of resources to support youth initiatives. By examining the institutional landscape, researchers can identify structural barriers such as bureaucratic hurdles, funding constraints, and entrenched hierarchies that may limit young people's ability to effectively engage in policymaking.

Moreover, the institutional analysis perspective sheds light on the role of organizational culture and norms in shaping youth participation. This includes exploring the attitudes, values, and beliefs prevalent within institutions regarding the relevance and legitimacy of youth voices in policy discussions. Understanding these cultural dynamics is crucial for devising strategies to promote a more inclusive and supportive environment for youth engagement.

Additionally, the institutional analysis perspective considers the influence of key stakeholders involved in policymaking processes. This includes governmental bodies, civil society organizations, youth-led initiatives, and international agencies. By examining the interests, motivations, and power dynamics among these actors, researchers can gain insights into the complex network of relationships that shape youth participation.

Overall, the institutional analysis perspective provides a comprehensive framework for assessing the institutional contexts in which youth engagement occurs. It highlights the need for structural reforms, capacity-building initiatives, and cultural shifts within institutions to enhance the inclusivity, effectiveness, and sustainability of youth participation in policymaking processes. By addressing institutional barriers and promoting supportive environments for youth engagement, policymakers and stakeholders can ensure that young people have a meaningful voice in shaping the decisions that affect their lives and futures.

4. Youth Voice and Representation: "Youth Voice and Representation" stands as a central tenet within the theoretical framework, underscoring the fundamental importance of providing young people with meaningful opportunities to express their views and actively shape decision-making processes. At its core, this concept embodies the recognition that young individuals possess unique insights, experiences, and perspectives that are invaluable contributions to policy discussions and governance. Drawing upon theories of representation, the framework delves into the mechanisms through which policy dialogues can effectively amplify and incorporate diverse youth voices.

Central to the concept of youth voice and representation is the notion of inclusivity. Policy dialogues must be structured in a manner that ensures the participation of young people from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. This inclusivity is essential for capturing the full spectrum of youth experiences and priorities, thereby enriching the policymaking process with a breadth of insights and ideas. By creating spaces that are welcoming, accessible, and respectful of diversity, policymakers and stakeholders can foster an environment where all young people feel empowered to contribute to decision-making processes.

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Moreover, the concept of youth voice and representation emphasizes the need for genuine engagement and dialogue between young people and policymakers. It is not enough for young individuals to merely be present in policy discussions; their voices must be actively solicited, heard, and valued. Policy dialogues should be characterized by open and transparent communication, where young people are encouraged to express their perspectives, raise their concerns, and advocate for their interests. This requires a shift away from tokenistic forms of youth participation towards meaningful engagement that acknowledges the agency and expertise of young people.

Furthermore, the concept of youth voice and representation underscores the importance of accountability and responsiveness on the part of policymakers. Young people must have confidence that their input will be taken seriously and that policy decisions will reflect their contributions. This necessitates mechanisms for feedback, follow-up, and transparency in the policymaking process, ensuring that the voices of young people are not only heard but also acted upon.

"Youth Voice and Representation" form a cornerstone within the theoretical framework, highlighting the imperative of ensuring that young people have meaningful opportunities to participate in decision-making processes. By embracing inclusivity, fostering genuine dialogue, and prioritizing accountability, policymakers and stakeholders can create policy dialogues that effectively amplify and incorporate diverse youth voices, ultimately leading to more equitable, responsive, and inclusive governance.

5. Capacity Building and Skill Development: "Capacity Building and Skill Development" emerge as integral components within the theoretical framework, reflecting an understanding of the pivotal role played by knowledge, skills, and resources in empowering young people to engage effectively in policy dialogues. At its essence, this concept underscores the recognition that meaningful youth participation requires more than just the desire to engage—it necessitates the acquisition of relevant competencies and capabilities to navigate complex policy processes and contribute substantively to discussions.

The framework draws upon theories of capacity building to explore various strategies aimed at enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues. One key aspect involves education initiatives designed to equip young people with the necessary knowledge and understanding of policy issues, governance structures, and decision-making processes. By providing access to information and resources, educational programs empower young individuals to develop a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand and to articulate informed perspectives during policy discussions. Additionally, the framework emphasizes the importance of skill development initiatives tailored to enhance young people's communication, critical thinking, and advocacy skills. Through training programs and workshops, young individuals can hone their abilities to effectively articulate their viewpoints, analyze policy proposals, and engage in constructive dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders. These skills not only enhance the quality of youth contributions to policy dialogues but also equip them with the tools needed to navigate and influence decision-making processes effectively.

Furthermore, the framework underscores the significance of empowerment initiatives aimed at fostering a sense of agency, confidence, and leadership among young people. Empowerment programs provide opportunities for young individuals to take on active roles in shaping their communities and societies, thereby fostering a sense of ownership and investment in the policymaking process. By empowering young people to advocate for their interests and effect positive change, these initiatives contribute to the creation of more inclusive and responsive governance systems.

"Capacity Building and Skill Development" serve as critical pillars within the theoretical framework, highlighting the importance of equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to engage effectively in policy dialogues. By investing in education, training, and empowerment initiatives, policymakers and stakeholders can cultivate a new generation of informed, skilled, and empowered youth leaders who are capable of making meaningful contributions to decision-making processes and driving positive change in their communities and beyond.

6. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement:

"Evaluation and Continuous Improvement" represent crucial facets within the theoretical framework, underlining the necessity of ongoing assessment and refinement to enhance youth participation in policy dialogues. This concept underscores the recognition that effective policymaking processes require a commitment to evaluating outcomes, gathering feedback, and iteratively improving approaches to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness.

The framework draws upon theories of evaluation and organizational learning to delve into the mechanisms through which feedback and reflection can inform the design and implementation of policy dialogues. Evaluation serves as a critical tool for assessing the effectiveness of existing participation mechanisms, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and gauging the impact of youth engagement efforts. By systematically collecting data on participation rates, satisfaction levels, and outcomes, policymakers and stakeholders can gain insights into the experiences and perspectives of young participants, as well as areas for improvement.

Moreover, the framework emphasizes the importance of incorporating feedback mechanisms into policy dialogue processes to solicit input from young people and other stakeholders. These mechanisms may include surveys, focus groups, interviews, and online platforms designed to gather feedback on the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of policy dialogues. By actively soliciting input from participants, policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of their needs, preferences, and concerns, thereby informing decision-making and shaping future dialogue initiatives.

Furthermore, the concept of continuous improvement highlights the iterative nature of policymaking processes, whereby lessons learned from evaluation and feedback are used to refine and enhance approaches over time. This involves a commitment to reflective practices, ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, and a willingness to adapt strategies in response to changing circumstances and emerging priorities. By embracing a culture of learning and adaptation, policymakers and stakeholders can ensure that policy dialogues remain dynamic, responsive, and relevant to the evolving needs and aspirations of young people.

"Evaluation and Continuous Improvement" serve as essential components within the theoretical framework, emphasizing the importance of ongoing assessment and refinement to enhance youth participation in policy dialogues. By integrating evaluation mechanisms, soliciting feedback from stakeholders, and embracing a culture of continuous learning and improvement, policymakers and stakeholders can create more inclusive, effective, and responsive platforms for young people to engage in decision-making processes and contribute to positive change in their communities and societies.

Methodology

For the research report on the needs of young people in policy dialogues, a comprehensive methodology is essential to ensure the credibility, validity, and reliability of the findings. The methodology outlined below incorporates various research methods and techniques tailored to capture the nuanced perspectives and experiences of young individuals across different contexts within Europe.

Mixed-Methods Approach:

In the research methodology for exploring the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, a mixed-methods approach serves as a foundational strategy.



By combining quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques, this approach offers a more comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. Quantitative data provide numerical insights into trends, patterns, and correlations, while qualitative data offer deeper insights into the lived experiences, perspectives, and nuances of youth engagement in policy dialogues.

The adoption of a mixed-methods approach allows researchers to triangulate findings from different sources, enriching the analysis and enhancing the overall robustness of the research. By corroborating quantitative results with qualitative narratives, researchers can validate and contextualize their findings, providing a more nuanced and holistic understanding of youth needs and experiences. This triangulation also helps mitigate the limitations inherent in any single methodological approach, ensuring a more robust and reliable interpretation of the data.

Moreover, the mixed-methods approach enables researchers to explore both the breadth and depth of youth engagement in policy dialogues. Quantitative surveys provide a broad overview of participation rates, demographic characteristics, and overarching trends, while qualitative interviews and focus groups delve into the underlying motivations, challenges, and aspirations of young people. This combination of breadth and depth facilitates a more comprehensive analysis of the complex dynamics at play within policy dialogues, shedding light on both the macro-level structures and micro-level interactions shaping youth engagement.

Additionally, the mixed-methods approach fosters methodological flexibility, allowing researchers to adapt their strategies in response to emerging insights and evolving research questions. This flexibility enables researchers to iteratively refine their data collection instruments, sampling strategies, and analytical frameworks, ensuring alignment with the evolving needs and contexts of the research participants. By embracing methodological flexibility, researchers can maximize the richness and relevance of their findings, ultimately enhancing the utility and impact of the research outcomes.

The mixed-methods approach serves as a cornerstone of the research methodology, offering a robust and comprehensive framework for exploring the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues. By integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches, researchers can triangulate findings, explore both breadth and depth, and foster methodological flexibility, ultimately providing valuable insights to inform policy and practice in youth engagement initiatives.

Survey Design and Administration:

In the research methodology aimed at understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, survey design and administration play a critical role in gathering quantitative data. A structured survey will be meticulously developed to collect insights from young individuals aged 18-30 across the participating countries. The survey will be designed to capture a broad range of information related to their engagement in policy dialogues, perceptions of these processes, and areas for improvement.

The survey instrument will include carefully crafted questions aimed at assessing various aspects of youth engagement in policy dialogues. These questions will cover a spectrum of topics, ranging from participation rates and frequency of involvement to the accessibility and inclusivity of dialogue platforms. By soliciting responses on these key dimensions, researchers can gain valuable insights into the extent to which young people are actively involved in policy discussions and the factors that may facilitate or hinder their participation.

Furthermore, the survey will delve into participants' perceptions of the impact of policy dialogues on policymaking processes. Questions will seek to understand whether young people feel that their contributions are valued and whether they believe that policy dialogues lead to tangible outcomes or policy changes. This aspect of the survey aims to gauge the effectiveness and relevance of existing dialogue mechanisms from the perspective of young participants, providing valuable feedback for policymakers and stakeholders.

Additionally, the survey will provide young individuals with an opportunity to offer suggestions for improvement. By soliciting their ideas and recommendations, researchers can identify potential areas for enhancing the accessibility, inclusivity, and effectiveness of policy dialogues. This participatory approach empowers young people to actively contribute to the improvement of dialogue processes, ensuring that their voices are not only heard but also acted upon.

Overall, the survey design and administration process will be guided by a commitment to capturing a comprehensive picture of youth engagement in policy dialogues. By employing a structured approach and targeting a diverse range of participants, researchers can gather quantitative data that shed light on the experiences, perceptions, and needs of young people in relation to policy dialogue processes. This data will serve as a valuable foundation for informing policy and practice in youth engagement initiatives, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and responsive policymaking.

Sampling Strategy:

In the methodology for investigating the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, the sampling strategy plays a crucial role in ensuring the representativeness and generalizability of the research findings. Employing a stratified random sampling technique is fundamental to achieving this objective, as it allows for the inclusion of diverse demographic groups within the target population.

Stratification involves categorizing the population into distinct groups based on relevant characteristics such as age, gender, geographical location, and level of engagement in policy dialogues. By stratifying the sample in this manner, researchers can ensure that each subgroup is adequately represented in the study, thereby reducing the risk of bias and enhancing the external validity of the findings.

Moreover, stratified sampling enables researchers to capture the variability present within the population, ensuring that the research findings are reflective of the diverse perspectives and experiences of young people across different demographic categories. For example, stratifying by age allows researchers to compare the needs and experiences of younger and older participants, while stratifying by geographical location enables the examination of regional differences in policy dialogue engagement.

Furthermore, the sample size must be sufficiently large to yield statistically significant results for each participating country. Adequate sample sizes are essential for ensuring the reliability and precision of the research findings, enabling researchers to draw meaningful conclusions and make informed recommendations based on the data collected.

Overall, employing a stratified random sampling technique is essential for ensuring the representativeness and reliability of the research findings. By stratifying the sample based on key demographic characteristics and ensuring adequate sample sizes, researchers can capture the diversity of perspectives and experiences within the target population, ultimately enhancing the credibility and validity of the research outcomes.

Qualitative Interviews and Focus Groups:

In the research methodology focusing on understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, qualitative interviews and focus groups serve as invaluable tools for capturing nuanced insights and perspectives. These qualitative methods offer a deeper exploration of the lived experiences, motivations, and challenges faced by young individuals engaged in policy dialogues.

In-depth interviews will be conducted to provide a platform for participants to share their experiences, perceptions, and reflections in detail. These interviews will allow researchers to delve into the intricacies of youth engagement in policy dialogues, exploring the factors that influence their participation, the barriers they encounter, and the outcomes they perceive. Through open-ended questions and probing discussions, researchers can uncover rich narratives that illuminate the diverse ways in which young people interact with policy dialogue processes.

Additionally, focus group discussions will be organized to facilitate interactive dialogue and collective exploration of key themes and issues. By bringing together small groups of participants who share similar backgrounds or interests, focus groups create opportunities for dynamic exchanges of ideas, experiences, and perspectives. This collaborative approach fosters deeper insights into shared challenges, differing viewpoints, and potential areas for consensus or divergence among young people engaged in policy dialogues.

Purposive sampling will be employed to select participants for qualitative interviews and focus groups, ensuring representation from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences, and viewpoints. This sampling approach allows researchers to intentionally select individuals who possess unique insights or perspectives relevant to the research objectives. By including participants with varying levels of engagement in policy dialogues, researchers can capture a spectrum of experiences and perspectives, enriching the depth and breadth of the qualitative data collected.

Overall, qualitative interviews and focus groups offer a complementary lens through which to explore the complexities of youth engagement in policy dialogues. These methods provide rich contextual information that complements the quantitative data collected through surveys, offering a more holistic understanding of the needs, aspirations, and challenges faced by young people in shaping policy outcomes. By integrating qualitative insights with quantitative findings, researchers can generate nuanced and actionable recommendations for enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues.

Stakeholder Consultations:

In the research methodology aimed at understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, stakeholder consultations play a vital role in providing additional perspectives and insights. Engaging with key stakeholders, including policymakers, youth organizations, and civil society representatives, offers a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of policy dialogues and identifies areas for improvement.

Stakeholder consultations may take various forms, including interviews, focus groups, or participatory workshops, depending on the preferences and availability of the stakeholders involved. These consultations provide opportunities for stakeholders to share their perspectives, experiences, and recommendations related to policy dialogue processes. By soliciting input from a diverse range of stakeholders, researchers can gain insights into current practices, challenges faced, and potential opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of policy dialogues.



Interviews with policymakers allow researchers to understand the decision-making processes behind policy dialogues, as well as policymakers' perceptions of the value and impact of youth engagement. Through these interviews, researchers can identify barriers to effective youth participation and gather suggestions for improving policy dialogue platforms.

Similarly, engaging with youth organizations and civil society representatives provides valuable insights into the experiences of young people in policy dialogues. These stakeholders often have firsthand knowledge of the challenges faced by young individuals in engaging with policy processes and can offer recommendations for creating more inclusive and accessible dialogue platforms.

Additionally, participatory workshops offer a collaborative environment for stakeholders to brainstorm solutions and co-create strategies for improving policy dialogue processes. These workshops foster dialogue, consensus-building, and collective problem-solving, ultimately leading to actionable recommendations for enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues.

Overall, stakeholder consultations complement other research methods by providing diverse perspectives and insights into the effectiveness of policy dialogues. By engaging with key stakeholders, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in youth engagement and develop evidence-based recommendations for enhancing policy dialogue processes.

Data Analysis:

In the research methodology focusing on understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, data analysis is a critical step in deriving meaningful insights from the collected data. Both quantitative survey data and qualitative data from interviews and focus groups will undergo distinct but complementary analysis processes to illuminate different aspects of youth engagement in policy dialogues.

Quantitative survey data will be subjected to rigorous analysis using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and measures of central tendency will be calculated to summarize the characteristics of the sample and key variables of interest. This analysis will provide an overview of participation rates, demographic profiles, and responses to survey questions. Additionally, inferential statistical techniques such as chi-square tests, t-tests, or regression analyses may be employed to explore relationships between variables, identify significant differences, and uncover patterns or trends within the dataset. By analyzing quantitative survey data, researchers can identify key themes, trends, and associations that shed light on the extent and nature of youth engagement in policy dialogues.

Qualitative data from interviews and focus groups will undergo thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, perspectives, and narratives across participants. Thematic analysis involves systematically coding and categorizing qualitative data to identify patterns, similarities, and differences in participants' experiences and viewpoints. Researchers will immerse themselves in the data, reading and re-reading transcripts to gain familiarity with the content before identifying and labeling key themes and sub-themes. Through this iterative process, researchers can identify patterns, nuances, and variations in participants' experiences and perceptions of policy dialogues. Thematic analysis allows researchers to uncover rich insights into the lived experiences, motivations, and challenges faced by young people in engaging with policy processes.

Overall, data analysis serves as a crucial stage in the research process, enabling researchers to derive meaningful insights from the collected data. By analyzing both quantitative survey data and qualitative data from interviews and focus groups, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs, experiences, and perspectives of young people in policy dialogues. This analysis informs the development of evidence-based recommendations for enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues and contributes to the broader discourse on inclusive policymaking processes.

Ethical Considerations:

In the research methodology aimed at understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, ethical considerations are of utmost importance to ensure the well-being, rights, and privacy of participants. Adhering to ethical principles is paramount throughout the research process to uphold the integrity and credibility of the study.

One crucial ethical consideration is obtaining informed consent from participants. Before participating in the research, individuals must be fully informed about the purpose, procedures, risks, and benefits of the study. Researchers will provide clear and comprehensible information to potential participants, allowing them to make an informed decision about whether to participate. Informed consent forms will be obtained from participants, indicating their voluntary agreement to participate in the research.

Confidentiality and anonymity are also essential ethical principles to uphold during the research process. Participants' privacy must be protected, and their personal information kept confidential. To maintain confidentiality, researchers will assign unique identifiers to participants rather than using their names or other identifying information in research documents or reports. Additionally, researchers will take measures to ensure that data are securely stored and accessible only to authorized personnel.

Furthermore, researchers must mitigate potential risks associated with participation in the research. This includes minimizing any potential harm or discomfort to participants, both during data collection and afterward. Researchers will take steps to ensure that participants are not subjected to undue stress, coercion, or harm as a result of their involvement in the study. Participants will be made aware of their right to withdraw from the research at any time without penalty.

Ethical approval may be sought from relevant institutional review boards or ethics committees to ensure that the research meets ethical standards and guidelines. These review bodies assess research proposals to ensure that they adhere to ethical principles and safeguard the rights and welfare of participants. Researchers will submit their research protocols, informed consent forms, and other relevant documents to the ethics committee for review and approval before commencing data collection.

In summary, ethical considerations are integral to the research methodology and must be carefully addressed throughout the research process. By obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, mitigating potential risks, and seeking ethical approval, researchers can uphold ethical standards and protect the rights and well-being of participants in the study. This commitment to ethical conduct enhances the integrity and credibility of the research outcomes.

Triangulation and Validation: Αρχή φόρμας

In the research methodology focused on understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, triangulation and validation serve as essential strategies to enhance the credibility and validity of the research findings. Triangulation involves the use of multiple data sources and methods to corroborate and validate the research findings, thereby strengthening the overall reliability of the study.

One aspect of triangulation involves comparing and contrasting findings from different data sources, such as quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and stakeholder consultations. By analyzing data from diverse sources, researchers can gain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of youth needs and experiences in policy dialogues.



For example, quantitative survey data may provide insights into broad trends and patterns, while qualitative interviews offer deeper insights into individual perspectives and lived experiences. Similarly, stakeholder consultations may provide additional context and perspectives on key issues identified through the survey and interviews. By triangulating data from these different sources, researchers can cross-validate findings and derive more robust conclusions.

Moreover, member checking and peer debriefing techniques may be employed to further validate the interpretation of findings. Member checking involves returning research findings to participants for their review and feedback, allowing them to confirm the accuracy and validity of the interpretations. This process enhances the trustworthiness of the findings by ensuring that they resonate with the experiences and perspectives of the participants. Similarly, peer debriefing involves seeking input and feedback from colleagues or experts in the field to validate the interpretation of findings and ensure methodological rigor. By soliciting external perspectives, researchers can identify potential biases or blind spots in their analysis and enhance the credibility of the research findings.

Overall, triangulation and validation are integral components of the research methodology, contributing to the credibility and validity of the research findings. By triangulating data from multiple sources and methods and validating interpretations through member checking and peer debriefing, researchers can strengthen the trustworthiness and reliability of their conclusions. This rigorous approach enhances the overall quality and impact of the research outcomes, ultimately contributing to more informed decision-making and policy development in the realm of youth engagement in policy dialogues.

Dissemination and Engagement:

In the research methodology focused on understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues, dissemination and engagement strategies play a crucial role in maximizing the impact and relevance of the research findings. After completing the study, efforts will be made to disseminate the research findings through various channels to reach a wide audience and ensure that the insights generated are accessible and actionable.

One avenue for dissemination is academic publications, where research findings can be shared with scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in the academic community. Peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations, and academic conferences provide platforms for sharing the research methodology, findings, and implications with a scholarly audience. Publishing in academic outlets ensures that the research undergoes rigorous scrutiny and contributes to the broader academic discourse on youth engagement in policy dialogues.

Additionally, policy briefs will be developed to distill key findings and recommendations in a format that is accessible and relevant to policymakers and stakeholders. Policy briefs provide concise summaries of research findings and highlight actionable recommendations for policymakers to consider in their decision-making processes. By disseminating policy briefs, researchers can bridge the gap between research and policy, facilitating evidence-informed decision-making and policy development.

Stakeholder workshops and public presentations offer opportunities for engaging directly with policymakers, youth organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the research findings and implications. These forums provide platforms for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, enabling stakeholders to reflect on the research findings, share their perspectives, and co-create strategies for enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues. By fostering engagement with stakeholders, researchers can ensure that the research contributes to informed decision-making and meaningful change in policy dialogue practices.

Overall, dissemination and engagement efforts are essential components of the research process, ensuring that the insights generated have a meaningful impact on policy and practice. By disseminating research findings through academic publications, policy briefs, stakeholder workshops, and public presentations, researchers can maximize the reach and relevance of their work, ultimately contributing to more inclusive, effective, and responsive policy dialogues that reflect the needs and perspectives of young people.

In conclusion, the methodology outlined for understanding the needs and experiences of young people in policy dialogues incorporates a comprehensive and systematic approach to research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. By adopting a mixed-methods approach, researchers can capture both quantitative and qualitative insights, providing a holistic understanding of youth engagement in policy dialogues. The methodology prioritizes ethical considerations, ensuring the protection of participants' rights and well-being throughout the research process. Moreover, triangulation and validation techniques enhance the credibility and reliability of the research findings by corroborating data from multiple sources and methods. Finally, dissemination and engagement strategies aim to maximize the impact and relevance of the research findings by sharing them with policymakers, youth organizations, and other stakeholders through various channels. Overall, the methodology is designed to generate evidence-based recommendations for enhancing youth participation in policy dialogues, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and effective policymaking processes that reflect the needs and perspectives of young people.

The methodology employed in this study hinges upon a comprehensive analysis of survey data gathered from a cohort of 40 young individuals aged 18-30 in Germany. The survey was meticulously designed to elicit detailed insights into the perspectives, experiences, and expectations of young people regarding the policy dialogue process within the context of Germany. Data collection was facilitated through an online survey platform to ensure accessibility and broad participation. The voluntary participation of 40 individuals provided a diverse array of viewpoints on the intricacies of policy dialogue in Germany. The online survey encompassed a range of inquiries delving into various aspects of the policy dialogue process, including participant satisfaction, levels of engagement, and perceptions of the effectiveness of the Structured Dialogue Process in Germany. Utilizing an online platform streamlined the data collection process, enabling representation from diverse geographical regions across the country and enhancing the breadth and depth of insights garnered from the survey respondents.

In this study, a meticulous examination of survey data collected from a sample of 40 young individuals aged 18-30 in Greece forms the cornerstone of the research approach. The survey design was carefully crafted to capture nuanced insights into the perceptions, experiences, and expectations of young people regarding the policy dialogue process in Greece.

Data collection was facilitated through an online survey instrument to ensure accessibility and broad participation. A total of 40 respondents willingly engaged in the survey, providing diverse perspectives on the intricacies of policy dialogue in Greece. The online survey comprised various questions addressing different aspects of the policy dialogue process, including participant satisfaction, depth of involvement, and perceived effectiveness of the Structured Dialogue Process. The online platform streamlined data collection, ensuring representation from various geographical areas within the country.

The collected data underwent thorough analysis, employing a blend of quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative analysis involved scrutinizing numerical data to discern statistical patterns and trends, offering a quantitative measure of participant sentiments. Qualitative data, derived from open-ended survey questions, underwent thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns within the textual responses, providing a profound understanding of participants' perceptions and experiences related to the Structured Dialogue Process in Greece.

The analysis focused on key indicators such as participant satisfaction levels, depth of engagement, and perceived effectiveness of the policy dialogue process. By amalgamating quantitative and qualitative findings, the study aimed to present a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of young people's experiences within the Structured Dialogue Process in Greece.

This methodological framework ensures the reliability and validity of the research findings, laying a sturdy foundation for deriving meaningful conclusions about the role and impact of policy dialogue on the youth demographic in Greece.

For this study, a one-method research approach was adopted, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. FRATERNITAS administered a questionnaire-based survey to a diverse sample of young people aged 18 to 35, representing the Polish youth with various backgrounds, currently residing in Poland. The survey aimed to gather comprehensive insights into the perspectives, experiences, and needs of young individuals concerning various aspects of policy dialogue and youth engagement in Poland. This approach allowed for the collection of both numerical data, providing quantitative measures of participant sentiments, as well as qualitative information obtained through open-ended survey questions, facilitating a deeper understanding of the nuanced dynamics surrounding policy dialogue among Polish youth.

In this report, both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods are employed to comprehensively analyze the findings. The survey targeted young people aged 18 to 30 from North Macedonia, aiming to gauge their satisfaction levels, participation rates, and perceptions regarding the effectiveness of the Structured Dialogue Process. Quantitative analysis involves scrutinizing numerical data to identify statistical trends and patterns, providing quantitative measures of participant satisfaction and engagement. Meanwhile, qualitative analysis delves into the nuanced perspectives and experiences shared by the respondents through open-ended survey questions, offering a deeper understanding of the dynamics surrounding the Structured Dialogue Process in North Macedonia. By integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches, this report seeks to provide a holistic insight into the experiences and perceptions of young individuals participating in policy dialogues in North Macedonia. Αρχή φόρμας

The methodology employed in this research encompasses a detailed survey design, data collection, and analysis process. The core of the study relies on the meticulous analysis of survey data gathered from a cohort of 40 young individuals aged 18-30 in Bucharest. The survey design was carefully crafted to capture nuanced insights into the perceptions, experiences, and expectations of young people regarding the policy dialogue process in the context of Bucharest. To ensure accessibility and broad outreach, the survey instrument was administered online, with 40 respondents willingly participating and providing diverse perspectives on the dynamics of policy dialogue in Bucharest.

The online survey covered various facets of the policy dialogue process, including participant satisfaction, depth of involvement, and perceived effectiveness of the Structured Dialogue Process. Through rigorous analysis employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques, the collected data underwent examination to discern statistical patterns and trends, offering a quantitative measure of participant sentiments. Qualitative data, obtained from open-ended survey questions, underwent thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns within the textual responses, providing a deeper understanding of participants' perceptions and experiences related to the Structured Dialogue Process in Bucharest. The analysis focused on key indicators such as participant satisfaction levels, depth of engagement, and perceived effectiveness of the policy dialogue process, aiming to present a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of young people's experiences within the Structured Dialogue Process in Bucharest. This methodological framework ensures the reliability and validity of the research findings, establishing a robust foundation for drawing meaningful conclusions about the role and impact of policy dialogue on the youth demographic in Bucharest.

The methodology employed in this research revolves around the analysis of survey data collected from 40 young individuals aged 18-30 from Sweden. The survey, conducted online, garnered participation from 43 respondents. Both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques were utilized in the data analysis phase. The aim was to gain insights into the level of satisfaction, participation, and effectiveness of the Structured Dialogue Process among young people in Sweden. Quantitative analysis involved examining numerical data to discern patterns and trends, providing quantitative measures of participant sentiments. Meanwhile, qualitative data analysis focused on understanding the nuanced perspectives and experiences shared by respondents through open-ended survey questions. By integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the study sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics surrounding the Structured Dialogue Process in Sweden, laying a solid foundation for drawing meaningful conclusions about youth engagement in policy dialogues.

Country Profiles

Croatia:

The survey conducted in Croatia encompassed the perspectives of 10 young individuals hailing from different regions across the country. The demographic profile of the respondents was diverse, reflecting a balanced representation in terms of age and gender, with an equal split between males and females aged between 18 to 35 years. Among the respondents, 30% identified themselves as students, while 60% were engaged in professional occupations, showcasing a blend of educational pursuits and professional endeavors within the sample.

The geographic distribution of respondents spanned both urban and rural areas, ensuring a comprehensive representation of experiences and perspectives across different settings. Furthermore, the educational background of the respondents varied, with 10% having completed basic schooling, 20% having completed high school, 40% holding a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and 30% holding a Master's degree or equivalent. Regarding group affiliations, 10% of the respondents were members of local and regional youth councils, while 20% belonged to diverse youth groups, and 40% were associated with youth organizations. Notably, 30% of the respondents indicated that they were not affiliated with any particular group, highlighting the diversity of experiences and perspectives within the sample. The survey findings unveiled several noteworthy insights regarding youth engagement and perceptions related to policy dialogues in Croatia. Firstly, a minority of respondents, constituting 20%, reported involvement in youth dialogues at either local or national levels within the country, indicating a modest level of direct participation in policy discourse among young people. Furthermore, regarding perceptions on access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare, findings demonstrated a lack of consensus among respondents, with 50% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, 40% in agreement, and 10% in disagreement with the statement. Similarly, opinions on fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market were divided, with 60% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, 20% in agreement, and 20% in disagreement. Notably, the survey revealed that the majority of respondents acquired knowledge about policy dialogues through online channels and participation in Erasmus+ events, underscoring the importance of digital platforms and international youth initiatives in raising awareness and fostering engagement among Croatian youth in policy-related discussions.

The assessment of the effectiveness of policy dialogue in Croatia revealed mixed perceptions among respondents, particularly regarding the equitable participation of young people from rural areas in decision-making processes.

A significant proportion of respondents, constituting 60%, neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement suggesting that young people in rural areas have equal opportunities to participate in decision-making. However, findings also indicated a notable level of skepticism, with 30% of respondents expressing disagreement, and an additional 10% strongly disagreeing with the assertion. This suggests that while some respondents may perceive policy dialogues to be inclusive of rural youth, a substantial portion remains unconvinced or critical of the extent to which opportunities for participation are truly equitable across different geographic regions. These findings underscore the importance of further examination and targeted interventions to address potential disparities in access and representation within policy dialogue processes, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all young people, regardless of their background or location, are effectively considered and integrated into decision-making mechanisms.

France:

In our survey conducted for the "Youth Engagement Academy" project in France, we gathered detailed demographic information from 24 respondents. The gender distribution leaned towards females, with 18 respondents, while males represented a smaller portion with 6 participants. Across age groups, we had a balanced representation, with 10 respondents falling in the 26-30 years bracket, 7 in the 18-22 years range, and 6 in the 22-26 years category. Professionally, our participants encompassed a diverse mix, including students, private company employees, and individuals from state institutions. Educationally, the majority held higher education degrees, with 11 possessing a Master's degree or equivalent, 8 with a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, and 4 having completed high school. This diverse demographic composition enabled us to capture a broad range of perspectives from young French adults.

Moving on to the survey findings, several key insights emerged. Firstly, there was a general consensus among respondents regarding the need for improved access to quality jobs and social protection, although opinions on healthcare access varied, suggesting a need for more targeted approaches. Secondly, perceptions of inequality and unfair treatment in the labor market were prevalent, particularly among younger and rural respondents. Thirdly, there was a notable demand for better information and support in preparing for the workforce, indicating a gap in current systems. Additionally, concerns were raised about the accessibility of public services and quality education in rural areas, with many respondents expressing dissatisfaction in this regard. Lastly, the survey highlighted a significant disparity in opportunities for rural youth, both in job markets and in participatory decision-making processes.

Upon analysis of these findings, several trends and opinions emerged. Firstly, there was a notable concern regarding access to quality jobs, especially among those in the private sector, coupled with varying opinions on social protection. Secondly, perceptions of inequality in the labor market were particularly strong among younger participants and those currently unemployed. Thirdly, the data indicated a need for better resources and information to prepare for the workforce, with students expressing stronger concerns in this area. Furthermore, participants from rural areas, especially younger individuals, exhibited strong dissatisfaction with the accessibility and quality of public services and education. Lastly, a significant disparity in opportunities for rural youth was observed, with widespread opinions about the lack of fair treatment and decision-making roles. These findings shed light on key areas for improvement in youth policy and engagement initiatives in France.

Germany:

The findings from the survey conducted among 40 participants shed light on various aspects of policy dialogue engagement among young individuals in Germany. The gender distribution revealed a slightly higher participation rate among female respondents, with 25 females and 15 males actively engaging in the survey.



Understanding this distribution is crucial as gender dynamics can influence how individuals perceive and engage with policy dialogue processes. Analyzing the age distribution highlighted a significant representation of young adults aged 22-26, followed by individuals aged 26-30, indicating sustained involvement in policy conversations as they progress into later stages of young adulthood. While a smaller number of respondents belonged to the younger age group of 16-22, their perspectives are equally valuable. Investigating the country of birth emphasized the predominance of respondents born in Germany, underscoring the importance of comprehending the perspectives of the local youth population. Furthermore, examining the employment status revealed that a majority of respondents are actively engaged in non-governmental organizations (NGOs), demonstrating a significant presence of individuals dedicated to civic engagement and social causes. Additionally, a considerable portion comprises students and young professionals employed in private companies, bringing diverse perspectives from both academic and corporate sectors to the policy dialogue table. These demographic insights provide essential contextual details for understanding the diverse perspectives and experiences of young people participating in policy discussions in Germany.

Greece

Gender Distribution Analysis

The examination of gender distribution within our survey cohort reveals a diverse and inclusive participation. Out of the 40 respondents, 20 identified as female, 18 as male, and 2 as non-binary. This distribution underscores a balanced representation, fostering a comprehensive understanding of perspectives across gender identities. The active engagement of individuals across the gender spectrum contributes richness to our dataset. It ensures that the insights gathered from the survey reflect the diverse experiences and viewpoints of women, men, and non-binary individuals. This inclusive gender distribution is vital for generating findings that are representative and relevant to the entire spectrum of our respondent community. As we delve into the survey results, we remain mindful of the significance of capturing nuanced insights from all gender identities, fostering a research environment that values diversity and inclusivity. This approach enhances the credibility and applicability of our findings, allowing for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the dynamics surrounding policy dialogue in our study context.

Age Distribution

An assessment of the age distribution among our survey participants provides a nuanced look at the different demographics involved in our research. The breakdown shows that 10 respondents are between the ages of 16 and 20, 19 are between the ages of 20 and 26, 9 are between the ages of 26 and 30, and 2 are 30 or older. This wide age mix ensures a complete representation of opinions at various phases of life. Insights from younger participants (16-26 years old) offer a look into the experiences and expectations of those navigating early adulthood, whereas replies from those aged 26 and over provide useful insights into the viewpoints of those with a broader range of life experiences. Our approach to analyzing age distribution strives to capture the richness of opinions across different age groups, providing to a more holistic understanding of the role and impact of policy debate throughout different life stages.

Country of Birth Analysis

In investigating the country of birth among our respondents, the majority hail from Greece, reflecting a predominant national representation. Additionally, a few participants have diverse international backgrounds, contributing to the overall richness of perspectives within our survey. This diversity in the country of birth allows for an exploration of varied cultural influences and experiences, enriching the depth of insights derived from our study. By acknowledging and considering this diversity, we aim to capture a comprehensive understanding of the influence of individual backgrounds on perceptions and expectations regarding policy dialogue. As we delve into the survey findings, the varied country of birth representation serves as a valuable lens through which to interpret the nuanced perspectives that emerge, fostering a more inclusive and globally informed analysis.

City of Residence Analysis

An examination of the participants' city of residence reveals a cohesive and geographically centered representation, as all respondents currently reside in Greece and more specific in Thessaloniki. This shared location provides a unified context for understanding the perspectives and experiences of our survey participants within the national landscape. The homogeneity in the city of residence underscores a commonality in the socio-cultural environment, creating a focused lens through which to explore the dynamics of policy dialogue within the Greek context. This shared geographic base lays the foundation for an in-depth analysis of the local nuances that shape the participants' perceptions and expectations related to policy processes. As we navigate through the survey findings, the uniform city of residence becomes a key factor in interpreting the collective insights, offering a distinct Greek perspective on the role and impact of policy dialogue within the nation's borders.

Poland:

Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

The survey involved 11 young people from various regions of Poland, offering a diverse representation of perspectives. The demographics of the respondents revealed a range of characteristics: the age group spanned from 18 to 35 years, with a slight majority of 63% identifying as females and 37% as males. A significant portion, comprising 72%, were students, while 28% were professionally employed. The geographic distribution of respondents covered both urban and rural areas, providing insights into the experiences of young people from different living environments. Moreover, the educational background varied among the participants, reflecting a diverse range of academic experiences and qualifications. Additionally, 18% had affiliations with NGOs, 9% with Local Councils, and 18% with young people from diverse backgrounds, indicating a breadth of engagement within various community and organizational contexts.

Awareness and Engagement in Policy Dialogue

The survey revealed significant insights into the awareness and engagement of young people in policy dialogue. Among the respondents, 54% reported involvement in youth dialogue at the local or national level, indicating a substantial level of engagement in participatory processes. Regarding key policy issues, 18% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that young people have access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare. Similarly, 9% strongly agreed and 36% agreed that young people receive fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market. Furthermore, 18% strongly agreed and 27% agreed that young people have access to quality information and adequate support for work preparation. However, concerning rural areas, 54% disagreed that young people have good access to quality public services and education, while 27% strongly agreed that they have access to quality jobs. The majority of respondents acquired knowledge about policy dialogue through online channels and participation in Erasmus+ events, highlighting the importance of digital platforms and international exchange programs in raising awareness and fostering engagement.



Effectiveness of Policy Dialogue

Key findings on the effectiveness of policy dialogue indicated areas for improvement and action. Only 18% strongly agreed that young people in rural areas have equal opportunities to participate in decision-making, with 54% disagreeing with this statement. This disparity underscores the need for enhanced inclusivity and accessibility in policy processes. Overall, there was a consensus among respondents that much more needs to be done to ensure a wider reach and greater diversity of voices in policy dialogue. These findings underscore the importance of ongoing efforts to strengthen youth participation and engagement in decision-making processes to create more inclusive and effective policies that address the diverse needs and aspirations of young people in Poland.

The Republic of North Macedonia: Αρχή φόρμας

Demographic Profile of Respondents

In the survey, 31 young people from various regions of North Macedonia participated, offering a diverse representation of perspectives. Among the respondents, 53% identified as female, while 47% identified as male. Regarding age distribution, the largest group comprised individuals aged 22 to 26 years, accounting for 42% of participants, followed by those aged 26 to 30 years, constituting 39% of respondents. Only one participant fell within the 18 to 22 age group, representing 16% of the total. The geographic distribution of respondents spanned different cities and regions within North Macedonia, with Skopje hosting the highest number of participants at 13%, followed by Kichevo at 12%, which encompasses Ohrid. Other regions represented include Prilep and Bitola from the Polog planning region, Kumanovo from the northeast planning region, and Shtip from the eastern planning region. Additionally, one respondent reported residence in Sofia, Bulgaria. In terms of occupation, the majority of respondents, comprising 42%, worked in private companies, while 16% were engaged in NGOs or state institutions, and 13% were students. Furthermore, the educational background of respondents varied, with 17% holding a university degree, 5% completing a master's degree, and one respondent holding a doctorate. In the occupational realm, 65% of respondents worked full-time, 13% worked part-time, and 19% were not currently employed.

Representation of Groups

Among the respondents, 57% were affiliated with youth organizations, making it the most represented category, followed by youth researchers at 13%. Other groups, such as representatives of youth ministries and other ministries, national youth councils, local and regional youth councils, and representatives of the National Agency for Erasmus+ youth in action, had lower representation percentages.

Awareness and Engagement in Policy Dialogue

Regarding involvement in policy dialogue, 52% of respondents reported participation in youth dialogues at the local and national levels. The most prevalent areas of involvement included youth organizations, with 57% of respondents engaged in such activities. When asked about their perceptions of young people's access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare, 45% of respondents agreed with the statement. Similarly, 42% agreed that young people receive fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market, with 7% strongly agreeing and 45% agreeing. However, 19% neither agreed nor disagreed, 19% disagreed, 7% strongly disagreed, and 3% indicated they did not know. These findings highlight the varying perspectives and levels of engagement among young people in North Macedonia regarding policy dialogue and related issues.

The survey findings regarding young people's treatment and opportunities in the labor market indicate varied perspectives among respondents. Regarding fair treatment and equal opportunities, 42% of respondents agreed that young people receive such treatment, with 7% strongly agreeing and 45% agreeing. However, 19% neither agreed nor disagreed, 19% disagreed, 7% strongly disagreed, and 3% indicated they did not know.

Similarly, in a separate analysis of the same question, 42% of respondents agreed, with 6% strongly agreeing and 42% agreeing. However, 29% neither agreed nor disagreed, 10% disagreed, 10% strongly disagreed, and 3% did not know. Regarding access to quality information and support for work preparation, 42% of respondents agreed, while 45% disagreed that young people in rural areas have access to quality jobs. The distribution of responses for this statement showed 10% agreement, 23% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, 45% disagreement, 16% strong disagreement, and 6% indicating they did not know. Regarding equal opportunities for rural youth in decision-making, 45% disagreed with the statement, while 20% strongly agreed, 19% agreed, 13% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 3% did not know. These findings highlight the diverse perspectives on the state of opportunities and access for young people in various aspects of society, particularly in rural areas, within the surveyed population.

Romania:

The survey findings offer a comprehensive glimpse into the demographic landscape and engagement patterns of young individuals participating in policy dialogue activities within Bucharest. Among the 40 survey participants, an intriguing aspect emerges from the gender distribution, with a slightly higher representation of females compared to males. This nuanced gender balance is noteworthy as it underscores the importance of capturing diverse perspectives across gender identities, recognizing the potential impact of gender dynamics on individuals' experiences and interactions within policy dialogue processes.

Delving deeper into the age distribution of respondents reveals an interesting trend, with a predominant representation of young adults aged between 22 and 26 years. This age group emerges as the driving force behind policy dialogue engagement, signifying their active involvement and interest in shaping discussions surrounding societal issues and policy-making processes. Conversely, while the participation of younger individuals aged 16 to 22 is less pronounced, their perspectives remain essential in understanding the evolving dynamics of youth engagement in policy discourse.

Furthermore, the geographical and cultural context of respondents' origin adds a layer of complexity to the survey findings. The majority of respondents being born and currently residing in Romania underscores the significance of capturing insights from the local youth population. This localized perspective offers valuable contextual information vital for understanding the socio-political landscape and tailoring policy dialogue initiatives to address the specific needs and aspirations of young people within Bucharest.

Examining the employment status of respondents provides additional insights into the diverse professional backgrounds contributing to policy dialogue engagement. The substantial representation of individuals working in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) reflects a strong commitment to civic engagement and advocacy among young adults in Bucharest. Moreover, the presence of students and young professionals from various sectors highlights the multifaceted nature of youth participation in policy discussions, with each group bringing unique perspectives and experiences to the table.

Overall, the demographic profile of survey respondents paints a rich tapestry of youth engagement in policy dialogue within Bucharest. By capturing a diverse array of voices across gender, age, geographical, and occupational spectra, the survey findings offer a nuanced understanding of the factors shaping young people's involvement in policy discourse. This comprehensive insight serves as a valuable foundation for crafting targeted strategies and initiatives aimed at fostering inclusive and meaningful youth participation in shaping the future of Bucharest's policymaking landscape.

Sweden:

The findings from the survey provide valuable insights into the demographic composition of the respondents, shedding light on the characteristics of those engaging in the research on policy dialogue.



Among the 43 participants, a slight numerical predominance of male respondents is observed, comprising 51.2% of the total participants. In contrast, female respondents make up 46.5% of the surveyed cohort, with a small proportion (2.3%) opting not to disclose their gender. This distribution highlights a relatively balanced representation across gender identities, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and experiences are captured within the survey dataset.

Examining the age distribution of the respondents reveals notable trends in the participation patterns across different age groups. The majority of respondents fall within the 26-30 age bracket, constituting 44.2% of the surveyed population. Following closely behind, the 22-26 age group represents the second largest cohort, comprising 34.9% of the respondents. In contrast, a smaller proportion of very young participants aged 16-22 are observed, accounting for only 9.3% of the total respondents. Similarly, respondents aged 30 and above constitute a minor segment, comprising 4.6% of the surveyed population. This age distribution reflects a diverse range of perspectives and life experiences among the respondents, enabling a comprehensive understanding of youth engagement in policy dialogue across different stages of young adulthood.

The demographic profile of the respondents in terms of their country of birth reflects a diverse representation within the surveyed cohort. The majority of respondents, comprising 76.7% of the total, were born outside of Sweden, indicating a significant immigrant population participating in the survey. Among foreign-born respondents, a substantial portion originated from Lithuania, constituting 14% of the surveyed population, followed by respondents born in Iran, accounting for 9.3%. This diversity in the country of birth underscores the varied cultural backgrounds and experiences shaping the perspectives of the respondents within the context of Sweden's policy dialogue processes.

Regarding the city of residence, the respondents are primarily concentrated in Sweden, with only one respondent residing outside the country. The distribution of respondents within Sweden reflects a spread across central and southern regions, with key urban centers serving as main hubs of residence. Notably, major cities such as Gothenburg, Stockholm, and Malmö emerge as primary locations of residence for the surveyed population, comprising 27.9%, 20.7%, and 16.1% of respondents, respectively. This geographic dispersion highlights the nationwide representation of the respondents, providing insights into the perspectives and experiences of individuals from diverse regions within Sweden.

Examining the employment status of the respondents reveals a varied mix of engagement in different sectors and occupations. The highest proportion of respondents, accounting for 34.9% of the surveyed population, identify as students, indicating a significant presence of individuals pursuing educational pursuits while engaging in policy dialogue. Additionally, young people working in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and those employed in private companies each represent 16.3% of the respondents, reflecting a diverse range of professional backgrounds contributing to the survey dataset. This distribution underscores the multifaceted engagement of young individuals across different sectors, enriching the depth and breadth of perspectives within the survey findings.

In terms of educational background, the respondents exhibit a varied mix of formal and non-formal education experiences. A significant proportion, comprising 37.2% of the surveyed population, report engagement in non-formal education programs, indicating a commitment to continuous learning outside traditional academic settings.

Additionally, 34.9% of respondents have completed high school education, while 20.9% hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification. Furthermore, 37.2% of respondents hold a master's degree or equivalent, reflecting a notable presence of individuals with advanced educational credentials contributing to the survey dataset. This educational diversity enriches the depth of insights derived from the survey findings, offering a nuanced understanding of the perspectives and experiences of young individuals engaged in policy dialogue within Sweden.

In terms of occupation, the surveyed respondents exhibit diverse levels of employment engagement. A significant proportion, comprising 44.2% of the surveyed population, report working full time, indicating substantial involvement in professional roles within various sectors. Additionally, 23.3% of respondents indicate working part time, reflecting a segment of individuals engaged in flexible employment arrangements. Furthermore, 30.2% of respondents report not currently being employed, suggesting a notable proportion of individuals either seeking employment opportunities or engaged in activities outside the traditional workforce. This varied occupational distribution underscores the multifaceted engagement of young individuals in different forms of employment, contributing to the richness of perspectives within the surveyed cohort.

Turning to the findings related to policy dialogue, the survey reveals insights into the level of engagement and perceptions of young individuals regarding key policy issues. In terms of involvement in policy dialogue, 34.9% of respondents indicate active participation, while the majority, comprising 65.1%, report not being engaged in such dialogues. This indicates a diverse range of levels of involvement and interest among young individuals in contributing to policy discussions and decision-making processes.

Regarding access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare, the survey findings show a range of opinions among respondents. A substantial proportion, comprising 41.9% of respondents, agree that young people have access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare. Conversely, 14% of respondents disagree, indicating a level of skepticism or dissatisfaction with the current state of access to these essential resources. Notably, 32.6% of respondents strongly agree with the statement, highlighting a significant segment of individuals who perceive favorable conditions in terms of access to quality jobs, social protection, and healthcare.

When assessing the perception of fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market, the survey findings reflect a diverse range of viewpoints among respondents. A notable proportion, comprising 32.6%, strongly agree that young people receive fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market. Additionally, 20.9% agree with this statement, indicating a substantial segment of individuals who perceive a degree of fairness and equality in labor market dynamics. However, 32.6% of respondents disagree with the statement, suggesting concerns or skepticism regarding the extent of fairness and equality in employment opportunities. Similarly, 7% of respondents strongly disagree, underscoring a subset of individuals who perceive significant shortcomings in terms of fair treatment and equal opportunities in the labor market.

The survey findings pertaining to the equal opportunities for young people in rural areas to participate in decision-making reveal a range of perspectives among respondents. A significant majority, comprising 51.2% of respondents, strongly agree that young people in rural areas possess equal opportunities to engage in decision-making processes. This strong agreement underscores a prevailing sentiment among a substantial portion of respondents that young individuals in rural settings have equitable access to participate in shaping decisions that affect their communities. Additionally, 27.9% of respondents agree with this statement, further highlighting a considerable segment of individuals who perceive a degree of parity in decision-making opportunities for rural youth.

However, the survey also indicates some divergence in viewpoints regarding the extent of equal opportunities for rural youth in decision-making. A smaller proportion, consisting of 7% of respondents, disagrees with the statement, suggesting a perception among some individuals that disparities may exist in the level of participation afforded to young people in rural areas. Similarly, 9.3% of respondents neither agree nor disagree, indicating a degree of uncertainty or neutrality on this issue among a subset of individuals.

Overall, while a substantial majority of respondents express strong agreement or agreement regarding equal opportunities for rural youth in decision-making, the presence of differing perspectives underscores the complexity of this issue and highlights the importance of further exploration and dialogue to address any existing disparities and promote inclusive participation among young people in rural areas.

Challenges and Opportunities

Identifying both the challenges and opportunities inherent in the research report is essential for ensuring its effectiveness and impact. Firstly, challenges may arise in terms of data collection, especially in reaching diverse demographics and obtaining representative samples. Ensuring adequate participation from underrepresented groups, such as marginalized communities or rural areas, may pose logistical difficulties and require targeted outreach strategies. Additionally, maintaining data accuracy and integrity throughout the research process, particularly in qualitative data analysis, presents another challenge. Ensuring that responses are accurately interpreted and contextualized without bias is crucial for producing credible findings.

On the other hand, the research report presents numerous opportunities for generating valuable insights and contributing to knowledge advancement. One significant opportunity lies in the potential to uncover new perspectives and understandings regarding policy dialogue processes among young people. By engaging with diverse participants and analyzing their experiences, the research report can shed light on previously unexplored dynamics and inform more inclusive and effective policy-making practices. Furthermore, the report has the potential to facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders, including policymakers, youth organizations, and advocacy groups. By disseminating findings through various channels, such as academic publications and public presentations, the research report can catalyze meaningful dialogue and action toward addressing the needs and concerns of young people in policy contexts.

Moreover, the research report may serve as a catalyst for future research and initiatives in the field of youth engagement and policy dialogue. By highlighting gaps in knowledge or areas needing further investigation, the report can guide future research agendas and inform the development of targeted interventions and policy recommendations. Additionally, the report's findings may inform the design and implementation of youth-centered programs and initiatives aimed at enhancing youth participation and empowerment. Overall, while challenges may exist, the research report presents significant opportunities for advancing understanding, promoting dialogue, and driving positive change in policy dialogue practices concerning young people.



Conclusion

In conclusion, this research report represents a comprehensive endeavor to shed light on the intricate landscape of policy dialogue among young people. Through meticulous data collection methodologies and rigorous analysis, the report has unveiled a rich tapestry of insights into the myriad factors influencing youth engagement in policy processes. By delving into various demographic aspects such as gender distribution, age demographics, country of birth, city of residence, educational backgrounds, and occupational status, the report paints a nuanced picture of the diverse contexts and experiences shaping youth participation in policy discussions.

Throughout the research, numerous challenges and opportunities have emerged, underscoring the complexities inherent in fostering meaningful youth engagement in policy dialogue. Challenges such as ensuring diverse representation, overcoming barriers to participation, and maintaining data integrity have been acknowledged and addressed within the report. Additionally, the research has identified opportunities for enhancing youth participation, including leveraging digital platforms, promoting inclusive decision-making spaces, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Furthermore, the report highlights the imperative of amplifying youth voices in policy processes, recognizing them as valuable contributors to democratic governance and social change. By disseminating the findings widely and advocating for evidence-based policy-making, the report seeks to catalyze transformative action and promote the adoption of policies that better reflect the needs and aspirations of young people.

In essence, this research report serves as a vital resource for policymakers, youth advocates, and researchers, providing actionable insights and recommendations to inform policy development and implementation. By prioritizing youth perspectives and experiences, policymakers can create more responsive, inclusive, and effective policy frameworks that address the diverse challenges and opportunities facing young people today and in the future.



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