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PARTICIPATION - UP! 2.0



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**Bakuriani,
Georgia**



EUROPEAN WAYS



Umbrella

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WHAT DID WE DO?

This booklet has been carried out in the scope of the Meet-Up youth for partnership project "Participation-Up!2.0" which is funded by EVZ foundation and the Federal Foreign Office. The project took place in Bakuriani, Georgia from the 1st to 10th of May 2023. It was led and hosted by the Georgian organisation Umbrella, in cooperation with youth organizations Development and initiative (Ukraine) and European ways (Germany).

WHY DID WE DO IT?

The project idea is to bring together 30 young leaders/workers from Germany, Ukraine and Georgia and empower them by exchanging the best practices on the topic of youth participation.

The objectives of the project:

1. Exchange the best practices of the participation via alternative means among participations and thus promote/equip participants with alternative participation-related competencies.
2. Promote alternative ways of participation within the participating youth organizations and beneficiary young people at organizational, local, national and international levels via concrete action plans.
3. Explore digital tools (webs and mob apps) in promoting youth participation including alternative ways.

WHO DID IT?

The booklet has been created by the participants in the project and has been designed by the team of facilitators.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Umbrella  Georgia

Development and Initiative  Ukraine

European Ways  Germany

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Participation

Participation is a dynamic process in which citizens engage voluntarily and consciously in the various aspects of their daily lives.

Citizens have a set of rights and responsibilities, including the right to participate in decisions that affect public welfare. Participation is the basis of democracy, but this is more than voting during the elections. There are several ways to participate and drive democratic and socio-economic change.

Significantly, the digital world increased the possibilities and ways of participation with the involvement of young people.

Participation

Offline

Online

Traditional

Election,
demonstration,
collecting
signatures, etc.

Petition, etc.

Non-traditional

Flash mobs,
consumerism
(e.g. buying t-
shirts), etc.

Social media
reactions,
videos, etc.

Watch the video "[What is alternative form of participation?](#)" developed within the project Participation-Up! 2.0



The best practices

Georgia

LGBTQI+

On May 17, 2014, "Protest of the Invisibles" was held on Pushkin Street in Tbilisi against homophobia. The protest included lining up shoes in the street to make the "invisible" people aware of their existence.



Bucha



This way of protesting was demonstrated with protesters hands tied up, blindfolded and muted by cloth. They laid in front of Georgian parliament where they supported the ones who died in Bucha and to support their families

'Taxi drivers' changed their profession as a lecturer and were teaching their passengers different topics while taking them from one place to another. This was way of protesting against the Taxi law according to which all taxis had to be white and drivers had to get a paid license. Because it wasn't a taxi, the car could be any color, so a lot of drivers were able to continue working with the same car.



Air pollution in Tbilisi

On November 29, 2017 some activists put facemasks on the statues of famous Georgians, they wanted this way to protest air pollution in Tbilisi.

"Fu*k this life"

"Fu*k this life" - This is an phrase written on the wall of the middle school, because of which the events that developed after the investigation started, probably led the teenager to commit suicide.



The best practices

Georgia



In Georgia, environmental problems are very common. There is no waste separation, composting.

The social enterprise "Tene" (Charge) is a start-up that helps to protect the environment. "Tene" uses money to recycle plastic and create new chargers with it.

Martkopi Center

Martkopi youth center decided to do an online campaign called "more bins for Martkopi" and petition about rubbish bins. They recorded videos in a funny way about rubbish that you need to take to the bins and posted it on Martkopi Youth Center's social media. As a result of the young participation they have bins in the village.



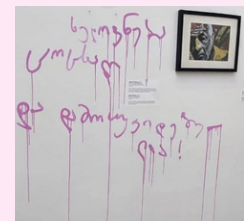
Black pictures on Facebook



In 2012 we saw some violent moments from Georgian prison through. There were thousands of people protesting against it. One of the important and modern way was the black pictures on the Facebook profiles. as a solidarity step.

Art is Alive and Independent

In February, Georgian artist protested repression against artists. The painter Sandro Sulaberidzde took down his own Photo from the exhibition space and wrote the text on the wall "Art is Alive and Independent". After this a case under 117 articles was initiated against him. Then people started protests with the name "Art is Alive and Independent".



Borjomi dog case



In Borjomi, a man threw his dog from the 12th floor. The dog was pregnant and when she fell, all the puppies were killed in her belly. After two operations, the dog survived. They shared posts on social media about this.

People started a massive protest, They shared posts on social media about this. As a result of which a new article about torturing and killing animals was added to the law.

The best practices

Ukraine

Debate

Is a mechanism for starting discussions on current topics that, according to young people, are socially important and due to which the topic remains open for reflection and active actions or answers in society. For example: Student debate with the Minister of Education.



Social activism on media

It includes promoting awareness of social justice issues and showing solidarity through the use of hashtags, posts, and campaigns and it positively influences on society. For example: Spreading healthy lifestyle messages on media through video and posts.

Membership in Youth Organizations

Active alternative form of youth participation, which based on youth organizations work. The main Goal is protection of youth rights, interests and positive influence on society. For example: Play library in a public organization.



The best practices

Ukraine

Volunteering

It is contribution of time, effort and talent to a need, cause or mission without financial gain. Volunteering is all about you being able to contribute some of your own time to help people in our communities. For example: assistance to displaced persons.



VOLUNTEERS



Digitale Participation

It is the process of using digital technologies to participate in public life and make decisions. For example: Voting in "ДІЯ".

Social marathon

It is an event during which participants learn about social projects, actions and initiatives. The purpose of the social marathon is to attract attention to a certain problem, mobilize the public to action and collect funds for charitable purposes. For example: Race in memory of Maksym Kagal.



The best practices

Ukraine

Online challenges

The kind of alternative youth participation that involves individuals or teams in online competitions and promoting of current ideas through passing “baton” to other. To current issues for community. For example; Try Not to Laugh Challenge.



Creation of initiatives

Creating initiatives is a process in which young people, various initiative groups create projects designed to cause change. For example: World center kitchen.

Participatory budget

A process in which community members directly decide how to allocate part of a public budget. For example: Participation budget and voting for the best projects.



Flash Mob

Is a large group of people who gather at a public location to perform a pre-defined action, typically a brief dance, and disperse rapidly after the event has concluded. For example: Portrait of Bravery: Ukraine’s First Lady, Olena Zelenska.



The best practices

Germany

Community Clean-Up

Clean up the environment to strengthen environmental values and reduce trash.

Ex: Rhine clean up is an initiative to clean riverbanks.



Youth Club

Youth institutions dealing with special topics.

Ex: The German mountaneering club has a youth branch, encouraging young people to hike and spend more time outside in the mountains while connecting with others. .

Flashmob

Group of people who assemble in a public place to perform for a short period of time for the purpose to raise awareness for a certain topic.

Ex: in 2017 people protested in Köln against racism.



Deliberative Participation



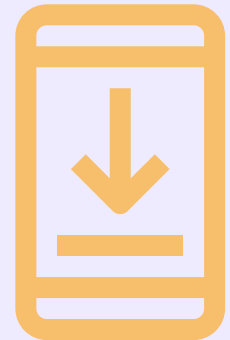
An umbrella term for several different models of participation based on public deliberation and discussion.

Ex: The German Children & Youth Aid organization hosts round tables for young people to discuss political issues with local politicians. to give them a voice.

Social Startups

Company in the first stages of operations, founded by one or more entrepreneurs who want to develop a product or service. The aim is to make a fundamental and positive change.

Ex: Share is a social start up that develops and sells products for social causes. In the video example, for every hat sold, one night in a homeless shelter is sponsored by Share.

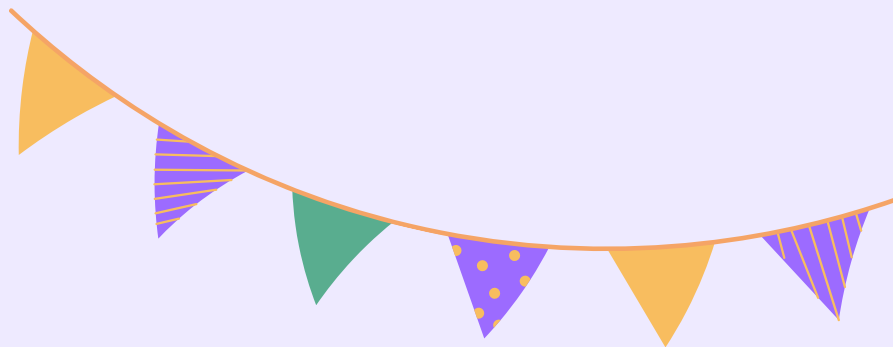


Online-Platforms



Before buying something new or throwing something away you can check if you can buy, sell, exchange, give it away or get it via a shop or platform dedicated to that.

Ex: Free your stuff is a facebook group where people give away things for free.



Soliparty.

Solidarities have an up-to-you entrance fee to collect donations and create awareness for a specific cause. Ex. in December 2022 they collected money for the costs incurred at the Wegbassen Demo in October this year. It took place in a club in Berlin.

Civil Disobedience for Climate Justice



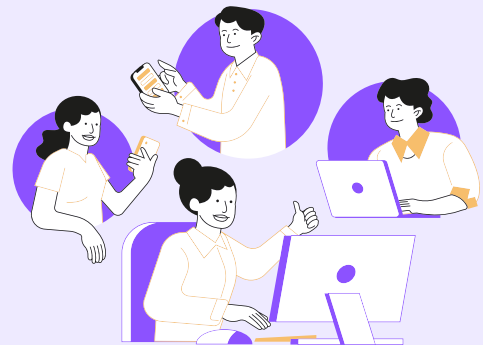
Actions involve thousands of people who block for example coal mines, power plants, airports and other infrastructure that contribute to climate change.

Ex: As part of the Global Action Day, 2,000 activists from Ende Gelände, together with guests from the global south, block gas infrastructure in Brunsbüttel. At the same time, the Anti-Colonial Attack demonstrates as a migrant self-organisation in Hamburg..

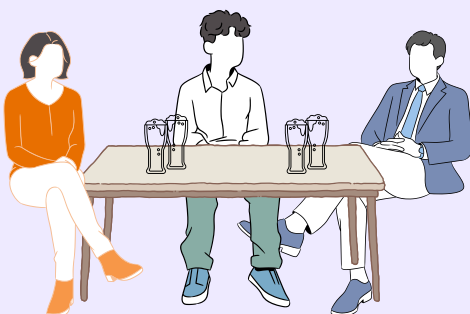
Digital Participation

Use of the internet, social media, mobile technology and other technologies to enable young people's participation in democratic life.

Ex: Germany agreed to reduce the VAT on menstrual products from the standard rate of 19% to the reduced rate of 7% from January 2020. The campaign started in March 2018 with an online petition on change.org by activists Nanna-Josephine Roloff and Yasemin Kotra.



Stammtisch



Regular non-formal meetings, usually held in a bar. People come to discuss and exchange ideas, news, etc.

Ex: Erasmus Students Network offers every Wednesday at Uni Potsdam the possibility to meet new people all around the world and exchange cultures, ideas.

Umbrella Merchandise

The "Umbrella Market" is an online market which we-young people created.



With the market, we want to send messages in society about several fundamental issues. E.g: Environment, health, motivation, education, democracy, e.t.c.

Our market is different from other ones because of its ideology. Market offers products with affordable prices, and this money is used for youth development.

You:

- use it
- participate in charity (youth field)
- raise awareness in people about youth issues.

is a mechanism for starting discussions on current topics that, according to young people, are socially important and due to which the topic remains open for reflection and active actions or answers in society.

Topics

1. Resolution
2. Team Structure
3. Time Limits
4. Constructive Speeches
5. Rebuttal Speeches
6. Cross-Examination
7. Points of Information
8. Rejoinders
9. Decorum and Conduct
10. Judging

First Format - "Debate Candidates"

Two candidates and their support groups are debating with each other and at the same time they have to communicate with the community and answer their questions.

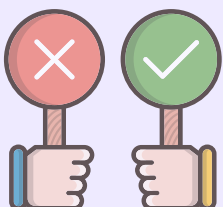


Second Format - "Open Debate"

- Is a discussion or argument where participants engage in a conversation without a specific resolution or motion

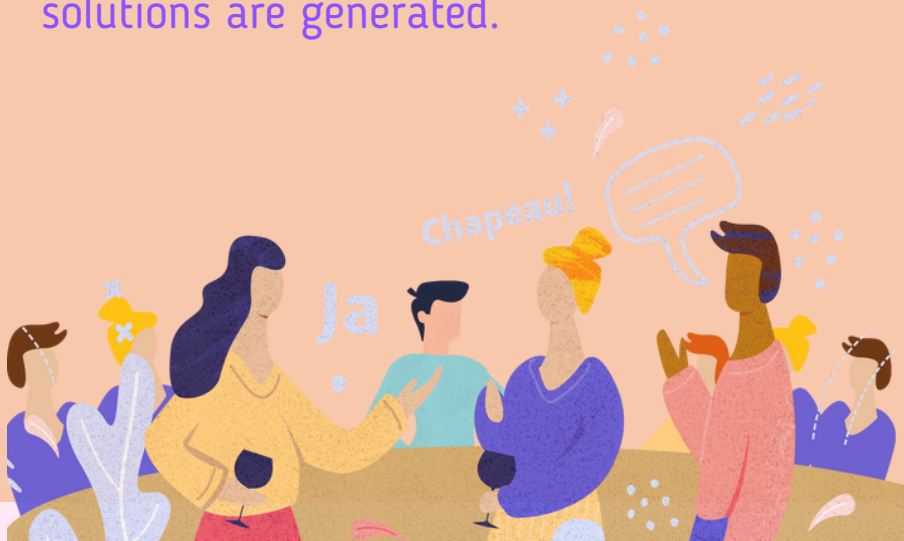
Search Influential Speakers

- Identify the right person
- Use mutual contacts
- Respect for the time and schedule of others
- Be more persistent



STAMMTISCH

Stammtisch comes from the German word: Stamm (“trunk, stem”) + Tisch (“table”), which can be translated as regulars table. It is an old method that evolved from a high social status meeting into regular non-formal get-togethers. Different topics are discussed, everybody can join, and it offers the possibility to exchange ideas, talk and be in society. Common problems are shared, and solutions are generated.



Stammtisch can serve different purposes depending on the group and context, but here are some potential problems that a Stammtisch could solve:



Lack of socialization: In many cities or communities, people may feel isolated or disconnected from their neighbours. A Stammtisch can provide a regular opportunity to meet and socialize with familiar faces, building relationships and a sense of community.

Language barriers: Stammtisch groups provide opportunities for language learners to practice conversational skills in a relaxed environment with fluent speakers. This can aid learning and help bridge language barriers.



Work-related stress: A Stammtisch can be a chance for coworkers to unwind outside of the office, to discuss work-related issues or just enjoy some time together.

Cultural exchange: Stammtisch groups that consist of people from diverse backgrounds can help foster cross-cultural communication and better understanding within the community.



Political discussions: Stammtisch can provide an informal platform for members to discuss political or social issues in a constructive and respectful way.



Step-by-step Guide

Merchandise

1

Sharpen the problem - You need to have an exact problem that you are going to address by merch and the exact target audience, you are gonna sell the product.

2

Create the message - Think about catchy, short and clear messages you will put on your products. Will it be interesting for the target audience? Will it help you to solve the problem?

3

Choose the product- You also have to consider which product you can highlight your messages better. It has to be actual and exciting for the target audience. Stickers, caps, t-shirts, water bottles...

4

Design the product-It is necessary to create the design of the chosen product. The design should match your idea and product. Consider colours, youth friendly designs.

5

The shop_ After all this, you have to think about details like size, color, price, quantity, quality. Meanwhile consider your budget and abilities.

6

Marketing - finally, you have to find ways of marketing. There are online and offline ways of marketing and you have to choose the way that will be comfortable for targets. Promoting during the projects, in universities...

Video



Step-by-step Guide

Debate

1 Prepare well: Familiarize yourself with the life path, thoughts, works and achievements of the person with whom you plan to debate.

2 Establish a comfortable atmosphere: Provide comfortable conditions for all participants so that they can freely express their opinions.

3 Set the rules: Discuss the rules of the debate with all participants in advance, including time limits, question-and-answer format, speaking order, etc.

4 Be polite and professional: Be polite, express your arguments respectfully and avoid personal attacks.

5 Give a voice: Debating with eminent personalities can be extremely valuable as they can bring deep insight and new perspectives.

6 Gather an audience: Invite an audience that is interested in this person and their position on the chosen topic

7 Identify the right person: This could be someone who has knowledge or experience in the particular topic or issue you want to discuss, or someone who is well known and respected in the field.

8 Connect through a mutual contact: Search a mutual contact with the person you want to invite, it can be helpful to ask for an introduction or referral. Provide a clear and compelling message: be sure to provide a clear and concise explanation: what the debate is about, and what their role will be.

9 Respect their time and schedule: Offer scheduling flexibility and be prepared to work around their availability.

10 Follow Up and Be Persistent: Follow up politely after an acceptable amount of time has passed, and continue to be persistent without being pushy.



Step-by-step Guide “Stammtisch”

Identify the purpose: Before starting a Stammtisch, define the group's purpose and what you hope to achieve by gathering regularly.

1

2 Find a location: Select a venue that is easily accessible for all members and that can accommodate the size of the group. It could be a pub, bar, coffee shop, or any other informal setting.

Set the date and time: Set a regular schedule that works for everyone, such as once a month or weekly.

3

4 Invite people: Spread the information through social media, emails, or flyers. Use your personal networks to find people with similar interests who may be interested in joining your group.

Facilitate conversation: Ensure that everyone has a chance to participate in the discussion by setting a few ground rules.

5

6 Encourage attendance: Keep the group engaged and invested by organizing informal activities or changing the venues to ensure that Stammtisch stays exciting.

Keep it regular: Make sure to hold the Stammtisch frequently to avoid gaps that could disrupt participants' enthusiasm to attend.

7

Street action in Germany

Show me Europe

Only 8% of German young people are aware of European-funded youth projects. After coming home, the German group began to solve this challenge, for which they used a variety of modes of participation: Petition - to encourage appropriate structures to enhance young opportunities.

Street action - Protested for more visibility of EU funded youth projects in front of the federal ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Woman and Youth.

Online - Created Instagram Page for the visibility of the protest and petition; Several German youth shared their pictures with the banner: Show me Europe.



Stammtisch in Ukraine



The Ukrainian team used German format of alternative participation Stammtisch. They discussed about opportunities of active participation for young people in Dnipro region and types of non-traditional youth participation. Various participants were invited: member of youth organisations, local authorities, students, volunteers and interested people.

Debate in Gori



On the 21st of June the participants from Georgia held debate with the Gori municipality transport agency member and municipality city hall representatives on the topic of discount prices in public transport for pupil and students in Gori.

Bike ride in Martkopi

The participants from Martkopi youth center held a bike ride dedicated to the advocacy campaign "Where to park".

They popularized eco-friendly transport, and a campaign to install bike racks on the school and youth center territory.



Protest for youth space in Sachkhere



The young people from Sachkhere protested the lack of space for the youth center in front of the Sachkhere municipality hall. They have not permanent space to hold meetings and activities and they have to gather in the garden or public spaces.

Alternative ways of participation in Sachkhere

The Sachkhere youth center held a meeting with the local youth about alternative forms of participation



CONCLUSION

As a result of the Meet-Up youth for the partnership "Participation-Up! 2.0", the participants improved their competencies in promoting alternative forms of participation, developed creative ideas and performances, and familiarised with the good practices of different countries. carried out videos, and booklet, tested all the methods via follow-up/local activities. Increased their knowledge of Meet-up Projects. Get acquainted with methods of non-formal learning and establish a long-term partnership between youth organisations.

Take a look at the  and  posts and keep an eye on the pages to see the follow-up activities that the participants implemented in their countries.

#MEETUPforPartnership



#YOUTHforPartnership

THANK YOUth