

How to engage with young people in advance of the 2024 Elections?



Youth and Civil Society Organisations play a key role in engaging with voters - particularly those voting for the first time - and providing them with tools and resources to make an informed choice.

It is vital that this role is recognised - particularly in the context of young people traditionally voting in lower numbers than their peers.

Through working closely with these organisations, parliamentarians can enhance voter engagement, voter turnout and inclusivity of election representation, campaigns and experience.

Ahead of the elections the following pillars should be in focus:

- Young Candidates:** European and national political parties should work with their youth organisations to select, train and promote young candidates to elections, and to increase the amount of young candidates, including from marginalised backgrounds, on national lists.

 - Collaboration with Youth Organisations:** MEP candidates should engage with youth organisations, including national youth councils, and young people during their campaign and, if elected, during their parliamentary term.

 - Encouraging Voter Turnout:** The European Parliament as well as national, regional and local authorities should ensure the dissemination of accessible information about the EU and EU elections to young people, with specific information packages for first time voters and students residing away from home, and using online platforms used by young people. Resources should also be invested into 'Get Out The Vote' (GOTV) initiatives working closely with youth organisations to ensure effectiveness and outreach.

 - Inclusive Voting:** The European Parliament as well as national, regional and local authorities should ensure easy access to voting for young people by ensuring accessible and ubiquitous polling places, with a particular focus on ensuring young people from marginalised backgrounds and those young people who are studying/ working abroad, outside their country of origin, do not struggle to exercise their right to vote.

 - Youth at the Centre:** Political groups should ensure youth interests are included at the heart of the political programmes for the elections including through consulting with relevant and representative youth organisations.
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