

MIJARC

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EDITORIAL

The second issue of our MIJARC Explore magazine is here and it looks fresher than ever. Following the intense but enriching summer period, we bring you news about some of our most important activities and invite you to join our online campaign **#EveryBreathWeTake**. This second issue of 2019 focuses on our annual topic: citizenship and youth participation, one of our three thematic focus points for the period 2018-2021.

Enjoy the reading!



Introduction



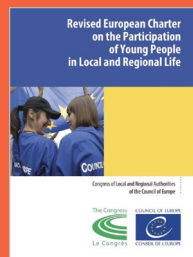
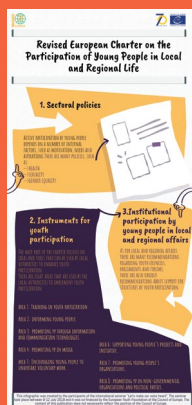
PARTICIPATION UNDER THE LENSES

Defining youth participation is no easy task. It means different things to different people, it is highly influenced by context, culture and mindset. Yet, it has been the topic we have been exploring this year and the young people who attended our international seminar managed to come up with a definition they all agreed on: *"Participation is a state in which everybody is important and has the*

opportunity to speak, express a point of view, make real effect on the decision making process and leave an impact."

With this definition in mind we surfed through the activities of these past months: a seminar on the basics of youth participation, a training course on digital citizenship and a study session on advocacy. The next pages will tell and show you more about our activities.

Tools in focus



REVISED EUROPEAN CHARTER ON THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIFE

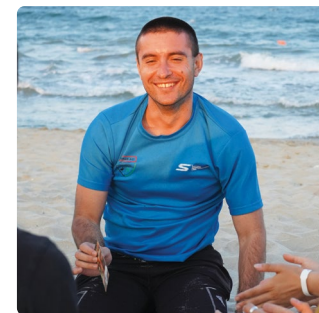
The revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life, adopted in May 2003 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, is a standard-setting instrument for youth participation.



"HAVE YOUR SAY" MANUAL

An educational and practical tool to support all those committed to making the right to participation a reality for more young people in the Council of Europe member states.

News from MIJARC

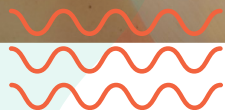


International Seminar "Let's have our say"

9-12 July 2019 • Kranevo – Bulgaria • 40 participants

The seminar was organised as the second activity of our annual work plan on youth participation. It had the role to bridge the results of the fieldwork done by MIJARC Europe during the local visits with the theoretical and practical aspects of the participation at local, national, regional and European level by involving active members in a proactive learning process. The seminar was designed and led based on the methods of non-formal education and relevant approaches using the **Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in local and regional life** and

the **"Have your say" Manual**. The successful implementation of the seminar resulted in a magazine of personal stories of participation written and drawn by the participants, the creation of vlogs and of three infographics. The final evaluation results show that the seminar scored high in the hearts and minds of the participants. The percentage of those who believe that they got the basic theory, practical approaches and tools, to help them to build a culture of participation after the seminar is about 92%. This is also shown by the testimonials we got from three of the participants:



NAIRA DARBINYAN HAS HER SAY

During the seminar "Let's have our say!" we discussed the **Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life**. This was one of the outstanding activities in the seminar to give us thorough knowledge on participation and how it should be maintained at local and regional level. Particularly, the discussions touched upon the sections II and III of the charter, which explained how to raise awareness on participation, how to promote participation among young people, how to support young people's projects, how to encourage them to undertake voluntary work and more. In addition, it was more than effective to discuss also the institutionalised youth participation.

As we learned, the charter defines participation as "having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and the support to participate in the democratic life of any kind of community and provides both policy principles and instruments for enhancing young people's participation."

After reviewing the charter, we had the chance to exchange with the practices in our countries and point out the similarities and differences on youth policies.



JUSTUS KATHMANN HAS HIS SAY

I remember this one special moment. We sat with a group from people from many different countries in our meeting room. Everyone has considered for himself how he has ever found to the youth work. Everyone has thought about his own path and what moves him to work for the youth. Many joyful and emotional moments in a journey through many personal experiences. Something very important has become clearer to me than ever before. We all have our own path that we left and made us who we are now. However, we all have the same destination together. We want to give the youth a voice and create new perspectives. We want to change the world together, no matter where we come from or what our past looks like because we have our common future ahead of us."



ADELINA ZHIYANSKI HAS HER SAY

On the last days of the Seminar I was thinking of a word that can actually be the "one" to describe and to be used as a title of what that exact experience was to me and I have it now, here we go.

What I thought of, each and every night, while lying in bed, was that each one of us is a small special particle, a little piece of something huge and we can all work together for a better storyline of that world we live in. I looked at the picture from the eyes of people whose minds were so beautiful, all of them - so special, thoughts that inspired me to create, to move, to be, to know that it is not just working towards something, it is the path to it. The people, the story itself, the problems and their solutions, the different perspectives and positivity that brightens it all.

Now, a month later, while lying in bed, I still remember that sparkle in the eyes of each and every person in the room, who was enthusiastically talking about a sudden idea that came to their mind. I will never forget that - how beautiful it is to see someone being inspired, to create, to move, to be.

Oh, and the word? I guess we all have to understand that things sometimes are not that obvious, that easy, but when we find our own way towards the goal it becomes so beautiful, so ... it is all between the lines.



International training course "Let's go online"

21-25 August 2019 • Overijse - Belgium • 35 participants

The training course was the third and last international activity of our annual work plan and it aimed to bring the participants closer to e-participation. The participants were encouraged to build their own positions for different topics related to participation and e-participation and they had a possibility to present and discuss in a safe learning environment. They had a possibility to address their comments and questions to Dirk Van Eeckhout, the Thematic Coordinator on Information Policy in the Council of Europe and Rita Jonusaite, part of the

secretariat of the YFJ. That was a highly valuable experience that helped the participants to meet stakeholders, gain self-confidence and resilience breaking the present barriers. The participants worked together in intercultural subgroups in order to solve practical case studies through the e-participation tools they have discovered. The most impressive result of the training course was the set up of an online campaign "Every Breath we take" the participants used to raise awareness on the fires in the Amazon and climate injustice.



#EveryBreathWeTake online campaign

Launched on the last day of our training course, the #EveryBreathWeTake raising awareness campaign aimed to make young people more aware of the fires in the Amazon and climate injustice. The participants used the knowledge and tools they had gained throughout the training course and put them to good use in a campaign that had reached more than 100 people in the first week since its launch.



GABRIEL BREZOIU HAS HIS SAY ON WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A TRAINER OF THE "LET'S GO ONLINE" TRAINING COURSE

The experience was enriching for me as I felt that each member of the group contributed somehow to the project success: we had more experienced people, others more energetic, others more ready to return to their organisations/communities and take action. The campaign #EveryBreathWeTake was also a fantastic way to coagulate the group in a very short time and I think also the topic was closely connected to the MIJARC Europe mission and at the same time, it was a practical part of our training on digital participation.



DZHAHER SAATCHA HAS HIS SAY ON WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A TRAINER OF THE "LET'S GO ONLINE" TRAINING COURSE

Being in the role of a trainer of MIJARC Europe for the second time, I feel that I got to know the values of the organisation, to better understand the positions of the organisation in terms of the youth policies in the European context. I appreciated that it is a movement driven by values and the power of the member organisations rather than by some political interests. I felt enriched with different view shared during the activity and this is really important for me. Resonating with MIJARC Europe team based on the mentioned interaction and influence, I felt quite comfortable to design the activities, work together and support each other.



"Our common home is on fire. The Amazon is burning and we cannot hold our breath until you finally take action. What is happening in the Amazon is affecting us all over the world. It is a global emergency.

Will you watch the fire or will you support us in doing something? In putting pressure on the institutions which are supposed to protect our home and ACT?

Will you help us prevent this from happening again?

This is about #EveryBreathWeTake.

Challenge 3 more people to take a deep breath to remind us about the precious natural resource which is on fire. We need to keep the fight for Climate Justice!"



When ...?	What...?	Where...?
7 th – 10 th October 2019	Study session "I, Youth Advocate"	Budapest - Hungary



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