

# European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life

## Right

implicit right to participate  
it is not dependent on local or regional authorities  
it is a fundamental right  
active in promoting their rights  
influencing local decisions by consultations or voting  
activities, projects or organisations should promote rights  
in all areas of life - not only civil or political rights, but also social, economic or cultural ones.

## Means

basic needs like food or shelter are not met  
may feel isolated or left out of society  
focus on obtaining missing resources instead of participating  
ensure basic needs are met  
sufficient social security, education, housing, health care, transportation, know-how and access to technology.

## Space

physical space to meet  
spend time or to organise own activities  
Internet used more and more as a space for exchanging views or even setting up projects with others  
not only about physical space  
participate within the institutional framework of policy making  
young people's views, recommendations and conclusions should have a real impact on decisions

## Opportunity

need to be provided with the opportunity to do  
access to information on how to get involved  
what opportunities are available and where  
make informed decisions about their involvement  
decision-making processes and systems need to be youth-friendly  
space for young people within these processes and structures  
way organised and way they work should be understandable  
having sufficient time and supportive structures

## Support

involvement not as efficient as it could be  
access to various forms of support  
financial, moral and institutional support  
personal, organisational or at local community level  
local authorities should provide adequate financial support to cover expenses and structural costs  
moral support and advice  
by a person referred to in the revised charter as a guarantor, youth worker or other professional  
institution or community to support and recognise importance and contribution of youth participation