



How to participate?

Workshop about active citizenship and participation in society.

If you have any questions or comments, please write to info@yvote.eu!

Time: 1,5 hour

Goal:	1
Outline	1
Why: Goal of session and why are we talking about it? (5 min)	1
What: participation at different levels (30 mins)	1
part a: speed dating (10 mins)	2
part b: collecting ideas (25 mins)	2
How? Discussion with people who are very active (40 min)	2
Next?: Silent reflection (10 mins)	2

Goal:

1. Participants know what ways there are to participate in society, especially EP elections.
2. Participants know stories of people very active and understand their motivation.
3. Participants reflect their own participation in society.

Mini Outline:

1. Why? do we do this session
2. What? discussing different levels
3. How? get in groups, with one "active" person. exchange experiences, motivation
4. What if? - think about future, how one wants to be active

Outline

This workshop may be done with inviting around 2-4 young people (depending on overall group size, 5-10 participant per external) that are very active in society and can share their motivation and experiences with the participants (e.g. members of political parties, people in boards of youth organisations, etc.).

Why: Goal of session and why are we talking about it? (5 min)

Introduction by trainer. Tell the participants what the goals of the session are (see above) and why the sessions is done (e.g. by being active we can shape society in different ways, it is a privilege that we live in a society where we can freely stand up for what we believe in. There are many ways from very small and easy to very



time-consuming to take part in. We believe it's important to know your options and find what role you want to take in society.)

What: participation at different levels (35 mins)

It's hard to give a definition of active citizenship. Gathering examples gives quite a good overview of the possibilities.

Explain to the participants that some externals who are very active in society are joining the session and there will be time later on to ask them questions. Let the externals introduce themselves shortly (e.g. 1 min per person) so the participants have a basic overview of where they are active and what they do.

Discover what you know and do about active citizenship and participating in society:

part a: speed dating (10 mins)

Make an inner and outer circle facing each other

Prepare several questions about how participants already participate in society

A couple has 1 min time to answer the question to each other (announce change after 30 sec, tell them whether inner or outer circle should move) + let them say their names to remember them.

possible questions:

1. Have you ever voted and at which elections?
2. What possibilities are there to participate in your city and have you been active already?
3. Who motivated you to become active and whom did you motivate?
4. What topics are you most passionate about and why?
5. Have you signed and/or started a petition and for what causes?
6. Could you imagine increasing your participation, if so, in what ways?

part b: collecting ideas (25 mins)

- introduce different levels on which a person can be active: local (e.g. city and surroundings), regional (e.g. county/ region), national, EU, make a flipchart for each (with range from very easy to very time-consuming/ requiring skills etc) (5 min)
- four groups, one for each flipchart. ask them to gather examples on how to be active and write them down from very easy to more complicated (10 min) → *depending on the group size, it would be good to have one facilitator in each group*
Option A: you may ask your external visitors to join one group each and support them if they don't have so many ideas themselves
- let each group shortly present results in big group, add possible new ones if important are missing (e.g. volunteering, participatory budget, student council, referendum, saying your opinion online-against hate speech, discussing politics with friends,...) (10 min)

mention [this time I'm voting campaign](#) for EP elections 2019 by the European Parliament.



How? Discussion with people who are very active (40 min)

Form as many groups as you have external speakers and let each group discuss with one speaker. Depending on how much they are discussing, switch which group talks to which speaker after 10-15 min.

Or make a Q&A panel, where all participants can ask questions and discuss with all speakers. Mostly dependent on number of participants.

possible topics:

- how did you become active?
- how can you manage with studies / etc?
- why did you stay active, what motivates you to continue?
- will you vote in the EP elections, why/ why not?

Next?: Silent reflection (10 mins)

Write the following questions on a flipchart so that it's visible for all pax. Ask them to think about them by themselves (possibly make notes). This should be independent of the things they heard before, although they can let themselves be inspired by the ideas.

1. What kind of topic/field are you passionate about?
2. Could you imagine being active in this field (or another)? If already active, are you satisfied with your activities?
3. Think about the EP elections. Are you going to vote? Try to convince others to vote or educate them about the elections? Maybe talk to family members/ friends about it?
4. Write down two goals for yourself. This can be anything from asking your mom if she knows about the EP elections to organising a huge project!

Possibly (if time)

Come together in big group: Those who wish to say out loud their ideas for participation can do it shortly (not all)/ share what they noted down earlier. However, it can also be very personal so this is optional.