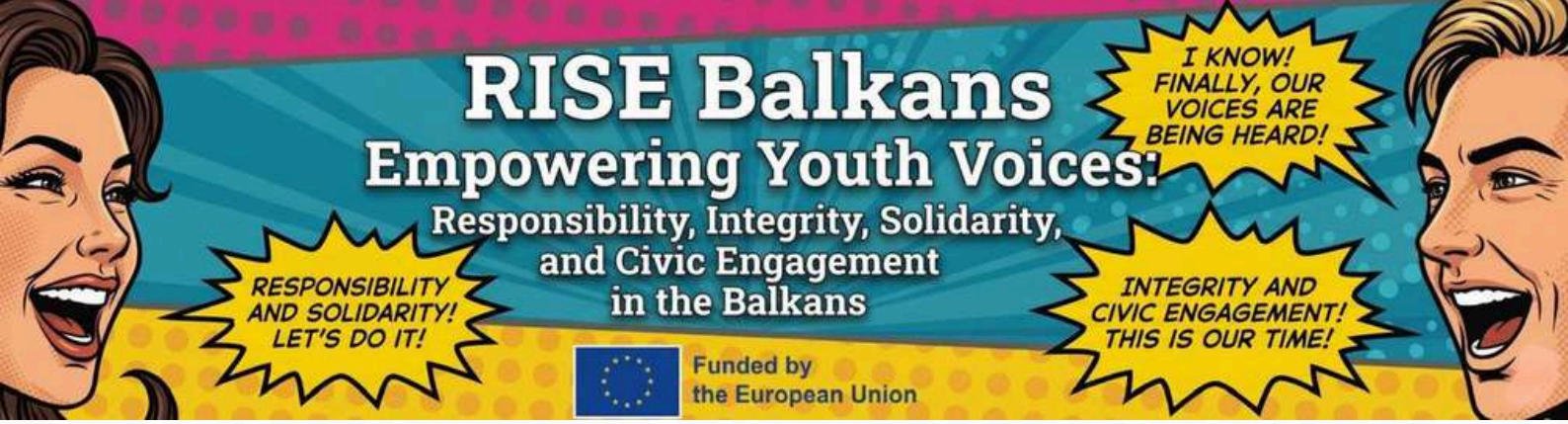


Empowering Youth Voices: Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, and Civic Engagement in the Balkans

Work Package WP1 – Youth and Governance: Reality Check

D1.1 – National Reports

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Table of Contents

Greek National Report 15

Executive Summary 15

1. Introduction 17

2. Context of youth participation 18

3. Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation 20

4. Forms of young people participation 21

5. Methodology 24

6. Youth awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti corruption, Transparency and Policy Making 25

Perceived prevalence of corruption 25

Knowledge and understanding 27

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors 30

Youth participation 30

Barriers 31

Enablers 33

8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust 35

Addressing corruption 35

9. Needs, preferred formats and Solutions 37

Topics and participation formats 37

10. Conclusions 39

11. Recommendations 41

For the RISE Balkans Programme 41

For Policymakers and Public Institutions 41

For Civil Society and Youth-Serving Organisations 42

Bulgarian National Report 43

Executive Summary 43

1. Introduction 45

2. Context of Youth Participation in Bulgaria 47

3. Enabling Factors and Barriers of Youth Participation 50

4. Forms of Young People's Participation 53

5. Methodology 55

6. Youth Awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Policymaking 59

6.1 Knowledge of anti-corruption and integrity concepts 59

6.2 Knowledge of governance and legislative processes 60

6.3 Understanding of public input and consultation opportunities 60

6.4 Qualitative insights 61

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors 62

8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust 64

9. Needs, Preferred Formats and Solutions 66

10. Conclusions 68

11. Recommendations 69

For the RISE Balkans Programme 69

For Policymakers and Public Institutions 69

For Civil Society and Youth Organisations 70

Croatian National Report 71

Executive summary 71

1. Introduction 72

2. Context of youth participation 73

3. Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation 77

4. Forms of young people's participation 81

5. Methodology 85

6. Youth awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-corruption, Transparency and Policy Making 88

Perceived prevalence of corruption 88

Knowledge and understanding 92

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors 96

Youth participation 96

Barriers 98

Enablers 103
8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust 106
Addressing corruption 106
9. Needs, preferred formats and Solutions 108
Topics and participation formats 109
10. Conclusions 112
11. Recommendations 114
For the RISE Balkans Programme 114
For Policymakers and Public Institutions 114
For Civil Society and Youth-Serving Organisations 115
Albanian National Report 116
Executive Summary 116
Introduction 118
1. Context of Youth Participation in Albania 119
2.Forms of Young People Participation 122
Formal Participation Channels 122
Informal and Ad Hoc Participation 123
3. Enabling Factors and Barriers of Youth Participation 124
Enabling Factors 124
Barriers 125
4.Methodology 127
5.Youth Awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Policy Making 129
Youth Awareness and Understanding of Corruption 129
Youth Awareness and Understanding of Policy Making 132
6.Barriers and Enabling Factors 139
Barriers 139
Enabling Factors 141
7.Transparency, Integrity, and Trust 142
Addressing Corruption 142
8.Needs, Preferred Formats and Solutions 144

9.Conclusions **146**

10.Recommendations **148**

Recommendations for the Rise Balkans Programme **148**

Recommendations for Civil Society and Youth Serving Organizations **149**

North Macedonian Report **150**

Executive Summary **150**

Introduction **151**

2. Context of youth participation **152**

2.1 The European and regional environment **152**

2.2 Youth participation in North Macedonia **152**

2.3 Comparative context with the EU **153**

3.Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation **154**

3.1 Key factors enabling participation **154**

3.2 Structural obstacles **154**

3.3 Individual and social obstacles **154**

4.Forms of young people participation **156**

4.1 Formal channels for participation **156**

4.2 Informal and ad-hoc participation **156**

4.3 Digital participation **157**

5.Methodology **158**

5.1 Methodological approach **158**

5.2 Desk research **158**

5.3 Quantitative research – public opinion survey **158**

5.4 Qualitative research – focus group discussions **158**

5.5 Validation workshops **159**

5.6 Sample profile **159**

5.7 Research limitations **160**

6. Youth awareness and understanding of civic participation, anti-corruption, transparency and policy-making **161**

6.1 Awareness of governance and institutions **161**

6.2 Knowledge of legislative and participatory processes **161**

6.3 Awareness of anti-corruption institutions and channels....162
6.4 Interest in public issues and self-assessed participation....162
7. Barriers and enabling factors....163
7.1 Main obstacles identified....163
7.2 Ease of finding information about civic participation....164
7.3 Factors that enable participation....164
7.4 Effective actions to make the voice of young people heard....164
7.5 Participation in the last 12 months....165
8. Transparency, integrity and trust....166
8.1. Perceptions of corruption....166
8.2 Most affected sectors....166
8.3 Structural corruption and political connections....167
8.4 Trust in information sources....168
8.5 Security and preparedness for reporting corruption....168
9. Needs, preferred formats and solutions....169
9.1 What do young people need most?....169
9.2 What would increase trust in institutions?....169
9.3 EU priorities....169
9.4 Learning needs....169
9.5 Preferred engagement formats....170
9.6 Most helpful tools....170
10. Good practices....172
10.1 Regional and European good practices....172
10.2 Practices in North Macedonia....172
11. Conclusions....174
12. Recommendations....176
References....178
National Versions....183
Ελληνική Έκδοση....184
Περίληψη....184
1. Εισαγωγή....186

2. Το πλαίσιο της συμμετοχής των νέων στα κοινά 188

3. Παράγοντες που ευνοούν τη συμμετοχή των νέων στα κοινά και εμπόδια 190

4. Μορφές συμμετοχής των νέων στα κοινά 193

5. Μεθοδολογία 195

6. Ευαισθητοποίηση και κατανόηση των νέων σχετικά με την Πολιτική Συμμετοχή, την Καταπολέμηση της Διαφθοράς, τη Διαφάνεια και τη Χάραξη Πολιτικής 196

Αντιλήψεις για τη συχνότητα της διαφθοράς 196

Γνώση και κατανόηση 198

7. Εμπόδια και Παράγοντες που Ευνοούν τη Συμμετοχή 202

Συμμετοχή των νέων 202

Εμπόδια 203

Παράγοντες που ευνοούν τη συμμετοχή 205

8. Διαφάνεια, Ακεραιότητα και Εμπιστοσύνη 207

Αντιμετώπιση της διαφθοράς 207

9. Ανάγκες, προτιμώμενες δράσεις και Λύσεις 209

Θέματα και μορφές συμμετοχής 209

10. Συμπεράσματα 211

11. Συστάσεις 213

Για το έργο RISE Balkans 213

Για Υπεύθυνους/ες Χάραξης Πολιτικής και Δημόσια Ιδρύματα 213

Για την Κοινωνία των Πολιτών και Οργανώσεις Νεολαίας 214

Βιβλιογραφία 216

Българска версия Резюме 217

1. Въведение 218

2. Контекст на младежкото участие в България 219

3. Фактори, благоприятстващи и възпрепятстващи младежкото участие 223

4. Форми на младежко участие 227

5. Методология 231

6. Осведоменост и разбиране на младежта относно гражданското участие, борбата с корупцията, прозрачността и изготвянето на политики 235

6.1 Познания за концепциите за борба с корупцията и почтеността 235

6.2 Познания за процесите на управление и законодателство 236
6.3 Разбиране на възможностите за обществено участие и консултации 236
6.4 Качествени наблюдения....237
7. Пречки и благоприятстващи фактори....238
8. Прозрачност, почтеност и доверие 240
9. Нужди, предпочитани формати и решения 242
10. Заключения....244
11. Препоръки....246
За проектаRISE Balkans....246
За политиците и публичните институции....246
За гражданското общество и младежките организации 247
12. Източници....248
Hrvatska verzija Sažetak 249
1. Uvod 250
2. Kontekst participacije mladih 251
3. Poticaji i prepreke participaciji mladih 255
4. Oblici participacije mladih....259
5. Metodologija 264
6. Svijest i razumijevanje mladih o građanskoj participaciji, anti-korupciji, transparentnosti i oblikovanju javnih politika 267
Percepcija raširenosti korupcije....267
Znanje i razumijevanje 271
7. Prepreke i poticaji....276
Participacija mladih....276
Prepreke....278
Poticaji 283
8. Transparentnost, integritet i povjerenje 286
Odgovor na korupciju....286
9. Potrebe, poželjni oblici i rješenja 288
Teme i oblici participacije 289
10. Zaključak 293

11. Preporuke **295**

Za RISE Balkans Program **295**

Za donositelje odluka i institucije **295**

Za civilno društvo i organizacije usmjerene na mlade **296**

Izvori **297**

Versioni shqip **298**

Përmbledhje Ekzekutive **298**

HYRJE **300**

1. KONTEKSTI I PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI **302**

2. FORMAT E PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI **305**

3. FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES DHE BARRIERAT E PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI **308**

4. METHODOlOGJIA **311**

5. NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINJVE PËR PJESËMARRJEN QYTETARE, ANTI-KORRUPSIONIN, TRANSPARENCËN, DHE pOLITIKBËRJEN **313**

NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINVJE PËR KORRUPsIONIN **313**

NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINJVE PËR POLITIKBËRJEN **316**

PJESËMARRJA QYTETARE E TË RINJVE **320**

6. BARRIERAT DHE FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES **323**

BARRIERAT **323**

FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES **325**

7. TRANSPARENCA, INTEGRITETI, DHE BESIMI **326**

ADRESIMI I KORRUPSIONIT **326**

8. NEVOJAT, FORMATET E PREFERUARA DHE ZGJIDHJET **328**

9. PËRFUNDIME **330**

10. REKOMANDIME **333**

REKOMANDIME PËR PROJEKTIN RISE BALKANS **333**

REKOMANDIME PËR POLITIKBËRËSIT DHE INSTITUCIONET PUBLIKE **333**

REKOMANDIME PËR SHOQËRINË CIVILE DHE ORGANIZATAT RINORE **334**

Referencat **335**

Македонска верзија Резиме **337**

1. Вовед 339
2. Контекст на младинското учество 340
2.1 Европското и регионалното опкружување 340
2.2 Младинско учество во Северна Македонија 340
2.3 Споредбен контекст со ЕУ 341
3. Овозможувачки фактори и пречки за младинското учество 342
3.1 Клучни фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството 342
3.2 Структурни пречки 342
3.3 Индивидуални и социјални пречки 343
4. Форми на младинско учество 344
4.1 Формални канали за учество 344
4.2 Неформално и ад-хок учество 344
4.3 Дигитално учество 345
5. Методологија 346
5.1 Методолошки пристап 346
5.2 Почетно истражување 346
5.3 Квантитативно истражување – анкета на јавното мислење 346
5.4 Квалитативно истражување – дискусии во фокус групи 346
5.5 Работилници за валидација 347
5.6 Профил на примерокот 347
5.7 Ограничувања на истражувањето 348
6. Свесност и разбирање на младите за граѓанското учество, антикорупцијата, транспарентноста и носењето одлуки 349
6.1 Свесност за управувањето и за институциите 349
6.2 Знаење за законодавните и процесите на учество 349
6.3 Свесност за антикорупциски институции и канали 350
6.4 Интерес за јавни прашања и самооценето учество 350
7. Пречки и фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството 352
7.1 Идентификувани главни пречки 352
7.2 Леснотија на наоѓање информации за учество 353
7.3 Фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството 353

7.4 Ефективни акции за да се слушне гласот на младите 354
7.5 Учество во последните 12 месеци 354
8. Транспарентност, интегритет и доверба 354
8.1. Перцепции на корупцијата 354
8.2 Најзасегнати сектори 355
8.3 Структурна корупција и политички врски 356
8.4 Доверба во изворите на информации 357
8.5 Безбедност и подготвеност за пријавување корупција 357
9. Потреби, претпочитани формати и решенија 357
9.1 Што им е најпотребно на младите луѓе? 357
9.2 Што би ја зголемило довербата во институциите? 358
9.3 Приоритети на ЕУ 358
9.4 Потреби за учење 358
9.5 Претпочитани формати за ангажман 359
9.6 Најкорисни алатки 359
10. Добри практики 360
10.1 Регионални и европски добри практики 360
10.2 Практики во Северна Македонија 361
11. Заклучоци 362
12. Препораки 364
Референци 365

Greek National Report

Executive Summary

This National Report presents the findings of the WP1 research activities implemented in Greece within the framework of the RISE Balkans project. The purpose of the report is to map young people's knowledge, perceptions and experiences regarding civic participation, democratic engagement, transparency, integrity and anti-corruption, and to identify the barriers and enabling factors that shape their involvement in public life. The Greek research combined desk research, an anonymous online survey, one focus group discussion and a validation workshop, allowing the findings to be informed by both quantitative data and youth-led qualitative reflections.

The research shows that young people in Greece are not apathetic toward public life. On the contrary, a significant share of respondents described themselves as very or extremely interested in public issues and decision-making processes that affect their lives. However, this interest is not matched by adequate knowledge of formal participation channels. Many young people remain unfamiliar with public consultations, legislative processes, EU participation tools and anti-corruption reporting mechanisms. This creates a clear gap between willingness to participate and the practical ability to do so.

A central finding of the report is the extremely high perception of corruption and institutional distrust. Most survey respondents described corruption in Greece as widespread or very widespread, while focus group and validation workshop participants confirmed that corruption is perceived as systemic and present across several areas of public life. At the same time, many young people believe that public procedures are unclear, difficult to follow and insufficiently transparent. Reporting corruption is also perceived as unsafe and confusing, with respondents highlighting the need for anonymity, protection from retaliation, clear guidance and trusted intermediaries.

The main barrier to youth participation identified by the research is not lack of interest, but lack of clear information and the presence of disinformation. Young people mainly receive civic and political information through online platforms, particularly TikTok and Instagram, but they often distrust the information they encounter. The research also shows that disinformation and corruption-related narratives can discourage participation, reduce trust and make young people feel that engagement will not produce meaningful change.

Despite these challenges, the findings reveal a strong potential for youth empowerment. Most respondents believe that young people can contribute to reducing corruption and improving public life, provided that they are given accessible information, practical tools and meaningful opportunities. Public consultations, youth organisations, volunteering, workshops, simulations and bootcamps were identified as important formats for future engagement. EU literacy, anti-corruption tools, transparency mechanisms and practical civic education emerged as priority learning areas.

The report recommends that RISE Balkans and relevant stakeholders prioritise youth-friendly communication, especially through TikTok and Instagram, strengthen EU and civic literacy, and deliver

activities through practical and experiential formats. Public institutions should make consultation and reporting mechanisms clearer, more accessible and more responsive to young people. Civil society organisations should act as trusted intermediaries and support peer-led civic content creation. Overall, the Greek findings confirm the need for structured, practical and inclusive civic education that can help young people move from interest and awareness to informed democratic action.

1. Introduction

Strengthening youth engagement in democratic life is an urgent priority across Europe, particularly in the Balkan region, where democratic participation faces persistent challenges. Across Europe—and especially in the Balkan region —young people are reporting an alarming disconnection from political institutions and democratic processes. While youth activism is visible through protests and online movements, formal and structured engagement with democratic and political institutions remains very limited. Recent data from the 2024 European Parliament Youth Survey (Flash Eurobarometer) highlights a critical gap between young people and public governance and institutions across Europe, with the situation particularly acute in the Balkan region. Youth disengagement is not primarily due to apathy but to low civic literacy and understanding of civic participation channels.

The RISE Balkans project (Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, Engagement – Youth Voices from the Balkans) addresses these gaps by empowering young people aged 18–26 in Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania, and North Macedonia with civic literacy skills and anti-corruption tools. The project focuses on young people's empowerment in civic literacy, declining institutional trust, and widespread perceptions of corruption, through civic education, experiential learning, mentoring, and support for youth-led initiatives. By fostering responsibility, integrity, solidarity, and engagement, it aims to cultivate a new generation of active, informed citizens capable of strengthening democratic resilience at national and European levels. This action is also timely, as it aligns with key European initiatives aimed at defending democracy, strengthening civic spaces, and increasing youth involvement in policymaking, particularly under the European Democracy Action Plan and the Defense of Democracy Package. RISE Balkans will equip youth not only to participate, but to drive democratic renewal across national and EU levels.

To achieve these objectives, the project will engage young people in practical initiatives, including law-making simulations, anti-corruption actions, and structured dialogues with institution, equipping them to influence legislation, contribute to anti-corruption policy reforms, and foster transparent governance at national and European levels. RISE Balkans will also produce open-access tools, including a multilingual civic education toolkit and a digital engagement platform, ensuring sustainability beyond the project's lifetime.

In the framework of the action, participating organisations conducted qualitative and quantitative research, aiming to identify young people's perceptions and experiences on barriers, opportunities, and knowledge linked to policymaking, participation, and anti-corruption frameworks, legislative processes and public consultation mechanisms. The present report encapsulates the research findings of the mapping conducted in Greece.

2. Context of youth participation

According to Special Eurobarometer 548, corruption is perceived as nearly universal among Greek citizens, with 98% of respondents characterizing it as widespread — significantly above the EU average of 68%. At the same time, 53% of the respondents reported that corruption has increased in the last three years. The highest corruption rates among public institutions were identified to be in the healthcare system (89%), political parties (71%), politicians (68%), officials awarding public tenders (67%) and issuing building (63%) and business permits (60%), Inspectors (59%), tax authorities (57%), and police and customs (56%) (European Commission, 2024a).

The protection of human rights, democracy and peace (45%) and the freedom of speech and thought (41%) remain among the top priorities in terms of values of young people aged 16-30 years old in the European Union. While the rule of law is not rated as high as a priority in the EU (15%), young people from Greece perceive it as quite important (23%), who also consider that it should be a priority in the EU for the years to come (26%). At the same time, the perception that Greece benefits from being a member of the EU in terms of providing more opportunities for young people to influence policies that affect them (14%), remains lower compared to the EU average (17%) (European Parliament, 2025).

Although many Greek young people report having adequate knowledge of their local or regional government (51%), fewer report the same for the national government (43%), remaining below the EU average of 56%. Nonetheless, young people from Greece report higher rates of participation, compared to the EU average, in terms of voting in the local, national or European elections (EL: 53%, EU: 39%), posting opinions online or on social media about political or social issues (EL: 23%, EU: 19%), participating in street protests and demonstrations (EL: 22%, EU: 16%), volunteering for a charity or campaign organisation (EL: 21%, EU: 20%), joining a youth organisation (EL: 12%, EU: 11%), and contacting a politician about an issue (EL: 9%, EU: 8%). Although lower compared to the EU, Greek participants also reported having created or signed a petition (EL: 24%, EU: 26%), boycotted or bought certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons (EL: 18%, EU: 19%), taken part in online or offline public consultations (EL: 8%, EU: 10%), and used hashtags or changed their profile picture to show support for a political or social issue (EL & EU: 16%) (European Parliament, 2025).

Despite legislative efforts to extend formal participation rights — including lowering the voting age to 17 for national and European Parliament elections — actual engagement in democratic processes remains relatively low, particularly in formal channels, with a critical electoral disengagement trend. According to post-electoral European Commission data for the 2024 European Parliament elections, Greece recorded a youth turnout rate of only 26% in the youngest age group (15–24), maintaining one of the lowest rates in the EU. Across the EU as a whole, youth turnout in the 2024 elections declined by 6 percentage points compared to 2019, from 42% to 36% among under-25s (Lavizzari, 2025).

Among young non-voters, the main reasons cited at EU level were occupation with other commitments and lack of information to make a choice (16%), followed by lack of a relatable candidate or political party and lack of trust towards politicians and general dissatisfaction with politics (15%). On the other hand, Flash Eurobarometer - Youth Survey 2024 Greek participants showed higher percentages of other commitments (36%), lack of trust (18%), and lack of a relatable candidate or political party (17%). Other reasons cited by Greek participants were the lack of information to make a decision (13%), technical

or procedural issues and avoidance of voting overall (8%), the perception that their vote would not make a difference (7%), being opposed to the European Union (4%), lack of understanding of the European Parliament and friends not voting (3%), and being unaware of the elections (2%) (European Parliament, 2025).

3. Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation

Enablers and barriers of youth participation are usually categorised as practical and attitudinal, psychological and relational. The first address the practical aspects of their participation, including the proximity, costs and transport, while the latter refer to their interests, confidence, interactions with

others, and their mental state. Common barriers include lack of interest and trust in the process and the outputs of the respective procedures, time and other commitments, and increased practical challenges (SQW UK YOUTH, 2025).

Educational structures and student representation bodies generally enable youth participation in policy and decision making, through the available structures in the respective institutions. Student councils in secondary schools and universities are among the most structurally embedded and widely recognised youth participation channels. At the same time, the Youth Parliament provides an additional, publicly funded forum (European Commission, 2026).

High smartphone penetration and social media use create informal pathways for political awareness, peer mobilisation and civic information-sharing. Research consistently confirms a positive correlation between political use of social media and political participation, particularly among younger age groups. Such use of social media channels and the internet in general include staying informed about politics or current affairs and elections, navigating through websites or social media pages of candidates and social movements, chatting about politics, signing petitions, liking political posts, and sharing political views online (Boulianne & Theocharis, 2018). The Flash Eurobarometer 545 on Youth and Democracy also found that social media is the primary source of EU information for 56% of young Europeans aged 15–30, underscoring its role as a gateway to civic engagement even when trust in platforms remains low; the rates of social media use as a primary channel for staying informed among Greek youths remains equally high, with 57% reporting to mainly use such media, followed by television (41%), online press, podcasts and news platforms (39%), and conversations with friends, family and colleagues (35%) (European Commission, 2024).

Non-governmental organisations and non-formal education settings are consistently identified as pivotal enablers of youth participation, particularly non-institutionalised forms. The role of civil society actors is not merely supplementary to formal state structures — it is often where meaningful youth civic engagement actually takes place, operating outside and frequently in productive tension with the administrative frameworks of government. Older people tend to be more engaged in formal and conventional forms of participation, while younger generations tend to be rather drawn to activism (Prof. Deželan, 2024).

Positive perceptions about participation also influence young people's active engagement. For example, in the case of voting, respective perceptions revolve around taking responsibility for the future, understanding that voting constitutes one's duty as a citizen, making your voice heard, preventing groups you disagree with to gain power and voting as a pathway towards real change. A general more committed understanding of citizenship positively influences youth's engagement (DEŽELAN, 2023).

On the other hand, the most pervasive barrier is institutional distrust, and in Greece it operates at a particularly extreme level. While 68% of Europeans consider corruption to be widespread in their Member State, in Greece this figure reaches 98%. Moreover, 53% of Greeks believe corruption has increased over the past three years, compared to only 5% who think the situation has improved — a perception of accelerating deterioration that is broadly shared across age groups (European Commission, 2024a). When trust in the institutions through which participation is supposed to take place is this comprehensively absent, formal civic engagement becomes, in the perception of many young people, not merely ineffective but actively pointless. This is consistent with EU-level evidence: the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership's analysis of the 2024 European elections finds that among the main reasons young people gave for not voting were a general disinterest in politics (19%), the belief that voting will not bring about meaningful change (19%), distrust in political systems (17%), and the perception that the EU does not address issues relevant to their lives (16%). Greece and Italy, notably, recorded their lowest-ever turnouts in EU election history in 2024, falling below 50% (Lavizzari, 2025).

Closely related is the barrier of low political efficacy and the perception that one's participation will not produce meaningful change. The European Parliament Research Service study on youth participation establishes this as a structurally distinct problem: young people who are not simply uninterested but who feel that the arenas of democratic expression are not relevant to their citizenship represent a group requiring not more information but visible evidence of impact. At the same time, abstention in European elections is particularly high among the youngest cohorts of eligible voters, exceeding 70% in some Member States, and that the gap between young and older voters has widened significantly (DEŽELAN, 2023). The perception that the ‘vote does not change anything’ (15%) was among the four primary reasons of absenteeism in the EU elections amongst youngsters 15-24 years old, as well as the 25-39 age group (Lavizzari, 2025).

Information deficits constitute a third major barrier, one that operates within a specifically Greek media environment of exceptionally low news trust. The European Parliament study identifies information provision, information processing capacity, and access to democratic institutions as the three structural domains requiring intervention (DEŽELAN, 2023). Meanwhile, social media is the primary source of information about the EU for 56% of young Europeans, followed by television (49%) and online news platforms (33%), while only 24% are familiar with the European Youth Portal (European Commission, 2024). In this environment, structured civic information — how to participate in consultations, where to report wrongdoing, what rights citizens hold — is structurally at a disadvantage. The Council of the European Union explicitly acknowledges that disinformation, international political tensions, and armed conflicts exacerbate inequalities and create barriers that prevent young people from engaging in democratic processes (Council of the European Union, 2025).

4. Forms of young people participation

Young people in Greece engage with civic life through a layered ecology of formal, informal, and ad hoc channels. The Youth Parliament (Vouli ton Efivon) constitutes an annual national programme

organised by the Hellenic Parliament Foundation for Parliamentarism and Democracy in cooperation with the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. Although it is not a part of the constitutional order, it remains an officially recognised educational and civic engagement initiative overseen by the Hellenic Parliament Foundation, aiming at facilitating the representation of young people's views, promoting civic education, and developing participants' skills in democratic debate and public discourse (European Commission, 2026).

Although a national youth council is not established in Greece, Municipal Youth Councils are established under local regulations in many municipalities, operating at the local level and supported by municipal authorities. They run under the auspices and oversight of the respective municipal youth services or departments, and in many cases, their legal basis is aligned with broader youth policy frameworks supported by national authorities. They include young people aged 15 to 28 who are registered in the municipal register and apply to participate. They aim to support the identification and communication of local youth needs, the proposition of initiatives, and the collaboration with municipal councils on issues such as culture, employment, education, ecology and social inclusion. Despite not having binding decision-making authority over public policy, they may submit proposals and collaborate with local policymakers (European Commission, 2026).

Youth participation is also applicable in the framework of Higher Education Institutions, in the form of student unions, which are governed under national education law and institutional statutes, and operate independently within their institutions. They represent students' interests in academic quality, welfare, campus life and broader societal issues affecting students. They liaise with university governance bodies, engage in national student networks, and may participate in consultations on higher education policy. While not binding on national policy, their inputs are recognised in debates on student rights and reforms (European Commission, 2026).

Similarly, students' unions operate in the context of secondary education institutions as well, at the individual school level. They are regulated by the Ministry of Education framework for school governance and are supervised by school administrations. They consist of elected representatives from secondary schools, with membership drawn from the student body, and aim to articulate student concerns within the school, promote participation in school life, and organise activities. They engage with school councils and may provide input on educational and welfare issues, but do not have binding powers over school or national policy (European Commission, 2026).

Furthermore, the Hellenic National Youth Council is an independent federation of youth organisations in Greece and is formally recognised as a key actor in youth policy. The Council brings together a broad range of youth organisations, including non-governmental organisations, political youth wings, and local youth councils, and collaborates with public authorities on consultative youth initiatives and participates in national and international forums on youth policy. It aims at facilitating youth participation in national and international policy discussions, supporting youth organisations in advocacy, education, and training, and providing recommendations to public authorities on youth issues, including employment, education, social inclusion, and active citizenship (European Commission, 2026).

Young people's involvement in decision making varies and is dependent on the nature of the issue. Youth and non-governmental organisations are invited to comment on draft laws or policies by the Hellenic

Parliament or relevant government ministries, if the responsible committee considers that input from a youth organisation could improve the design or effectiveness of a policy. Although there is no official mechanism for the participation of a specific youth union in the policymaking process, the Youth Parliament is usually divided into thematic groups and meets. The work of the Youth Parliament is completed with the presence and greeting of the President of the Greek Parliament, who provides extensive commentary on the young people's proposals to the Greek Parliament on various issues beyond those that concern exclusively young people. The most top-level and widespread programme available to encourage youth participation in discussions or debates with public officials who make policy is the National Youth Council. Among others, the Council intervenes and publicly expresses views on youth policy issues, cooperates with other social bodies (university institutions, trade unions, other non-governmental organisations, etc.) and with bodies of the Greek State and the European Union, participates in national and international networks of organisations, organises public events (conferences, workshops, debates, lectures, etc.), conducts applied research on topics relevant to its objectives and undertakes relevant research projects, and sets up committees and working groups (European Commission, 2026b).

5. Methodology

Quantitative and qualitative research was conducted to explore youth experiences and perceptions of civic participation and engagement in everyday life, the relevance and clarity of key concepts and participation channels, and the enabling factors and barriers concerning young people's active engagement. The methodological framework was developed by Panteion, in collaboration with all partners.

The quantitative research comprised an online questionnaire developed on the basis of existing research on the aforementioned topics, such as the Eurobarometer and other EU surveys on political participation, experiences and challenges young people face. The questionnaire was administered via the LimeSurvey tool, which ensures anonymity and confidentiality. Prior to its completion, respondents were asked to provide their consent in participating; if not, the questionnaire closed automatically and no responses were recorded. Convenience sampling was employed, with the survey disseminated at the university between late March and the end of April 2026.

A total of 67 Greek respondents completed the survey, from a broader international sample of 490 respondents across all RISE Balkans project countries, representing 13.7% of the total dataset. The sample is predominantly female (92.5%), with 7.46% being male. Approximately half (49.25%) were 21-23 years old, 47.76% were 18-20 years old and 2.99% belonged to the 24-26 age group. The majority (86.57%) lived in a city or large town, 11.94% lived in semi-urban areas, and 1.49% in a rural area. In terms of the highest completed education level, the majority (88.06%) has completed secondary education, 10.45% has a bachelor degree, and 1.49% holds a master. 97.01% reported currently being a student and 38.81% being employed.

In the framework of the qualitative research, a focus group discussion was conducted in April with a total of nine participants, one of whom was male and nine were female. Convenience sampling was followed, with an open call to university students. All participants were informed about the research scope and objectives and signed a consent form confirming their voluntary participation and the confidentiality of their responses. The discussion covered civic knowledge, media literacy, trust, political engagement, corruption perceptions, and preferred forms of participation.

Upon the completion of the qualitative and quantitative research phases, a validation workshop was convened in April 2026 to review preliminary findings, discuss their resonance with participants' lived experience, and enrich the analysis through additional collective insights. Workshop notes and a formal presentation of results served as primary sources for the integration of workshop findings across all sections of this report. The workshop was attended by a total of 68 participants, five of whom were male and 63 female.

6. Youth awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti corruption, Transparency and Policy Making

Perceived prevalence of corruption

Survey findings reveal that the vast majority of the sample (92.5%) described **corruption in Greece as "widespread" or "very widespread"**, and not a single respondent described it as "rare" or "very rare" (Figure 1). Most participants also agreed or strongly agreed that corruption exists within the national (98.5%) and the local/regional public institutions (94.03%), while fewer (55.22%) stated that they are personal affected by corruption in their day to day life; 37.31% neither agreed nor disagreed with the relevant statement and 5.97% remained unsure. Focus group participants confirmed these findings, identifying corruption to be widespread.

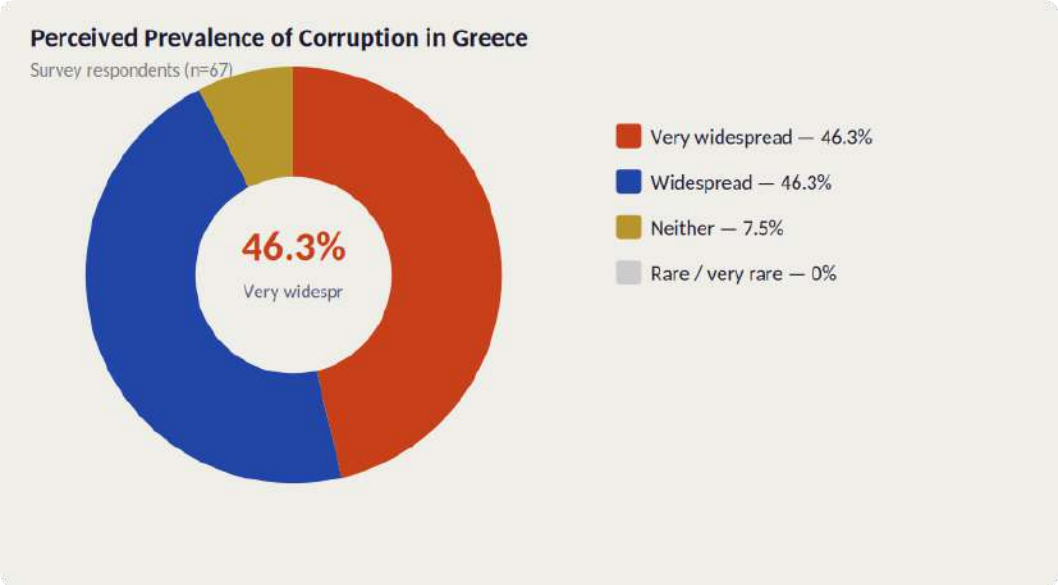


Figure 1 Perceived prevalence of corruption in Greece

The **sector-by-sector data** reveals a landscape of near-universal institutional distrust. As evident in Figure 2, political parties attract the highest perceived corruption, in terms of bribery and abuse of power for personal gain: 98.5% of respondents describe bribery and abuse of power for personal gain as "widespread" or "very widespread" among parties. Tax authorities (89.6%), police (88.1%), politicians at all levels (92.5%), and public contract officials (86.6%) all attract near-universal perceptions. A significant number of respondents also found bribery and abuse of power to be "widespread" or "very widespread" among officials issuing building permits (76.12%) and private companies (71.65%). Such forms of corruption were not perceived to be as prevalent in social security and welfare authorities (56.72%) and the sports sector (46.27%). Focus group participants elaborated that corruption permeates all sectors and aspects of everyday life, at national, regional, and local levels. This pervasiveness is connected, in participants' view, to the absence of effective state organisation and transparency, which enables corrupt practices to persist unchallenged. The examples mentioned included the facilitation of voters' requests on behalf of politicians to ensure more votes, and the demand to give money to public healthcare institutions for them to fulfil their duties. While some variation was noted in how participants ranked individual sectors,

validation workshop attendees unanimously confirmed the perception that corruption is prevalent across all major institutional domains.

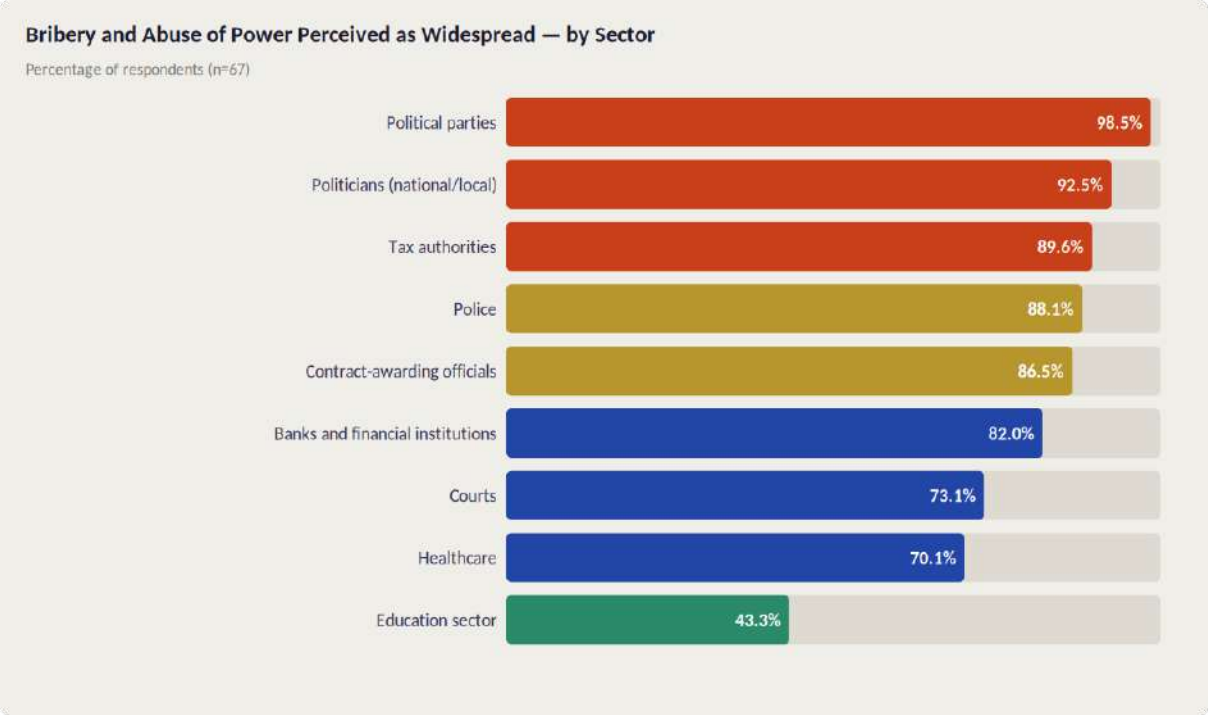


Figure 2 Perceived prevalence of corruption per sector

The **qualitative character of corruption** emerges clearly from respondents' evaluations of structural statements. 97.0% agree or strongly agree that "favouritism and corruption obstruct healthy business competition"; 85.1% agree that political connections are necessary for business success; and 77.6% agree that close links between business and politics lead to corruption. Only 4.5% agree that public institutions usually explain procedures clearly (68.65% disagree or strongly disagree, and 25.37% neither agree nor disagree), and 79.1% believes that young people cannot access public services fairly without personal connections; 88.06% agreed that public processes should be easier to understand and follow.

Survey respondents further identified the following **areas where young people are most likely to face corruption, favouritism or unfair treatment**: employment and recruitment (87.07%), political life or participation in political parties (34.33%), public administration, permits and documents (31.34%), healthcare or other public services (16.42%), education and universities (13.43%), and local government and municipal services (10.45%).

Knowledge and understanding

Survey findings reveal a partial and uneven **understanding of how governance operates**. The majority of respondents have at least some knowledge of the national government — 56.7% know "some things" and 37.3% know "quite a lot" or "very much." Understanding falls sharply when it comes to local government, with 14.9% of the respondents reporting feeling they know much, and knowledge of EU institutions is the weakest of all, with 41.8% reporting "not very much" or "nothing at all".

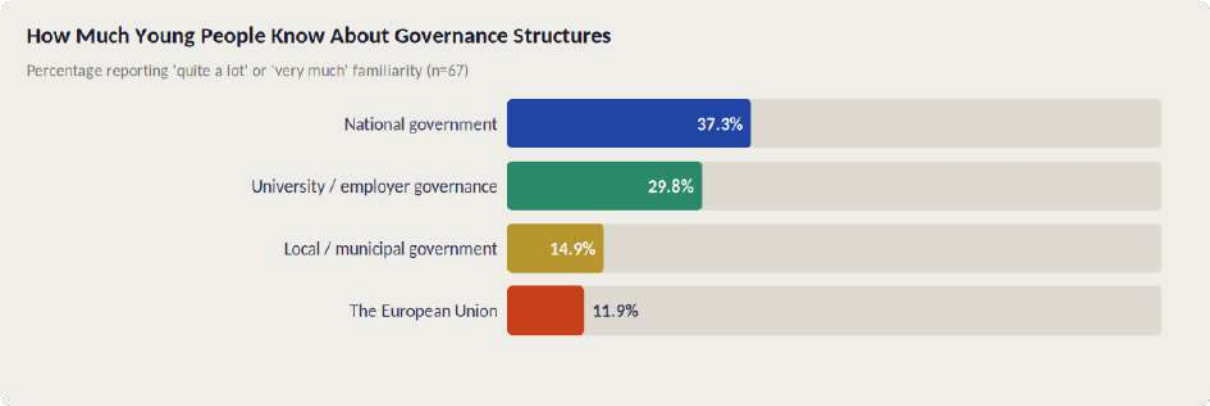


Figure 3 How Much Young People Know About Governance Structures

Similarly, **Familiarity with key civic mechanisms** is limited. A combined 73.1% describe themselves as "not at all" or only "slightly" familiar with how national legislative processes work, and 92.5% for the EU legislative process. Similarly, 74.62% were slightly or not familiar at all with the concept and aspects of a public consultation, and 13.44% were extremely or very familiar. 61.2% reported being slightly or not at all familiar with where they can find information about participation opportunities in their community or university, and 30% were moderately familiar.

The concept of **public consultation** is particularly poorly understood: 40.3% of respondents chose "voting in a national election" when asked to identify a public consultation mechanism, while only 32.8% correctly identified submitting written feedback during an official consultation period. A smaller number (5.97%) identified commenting on social media about a government policy as a consultation mechanism and 17.91% were unaware. Knowledge of EU-specific tools is even weaker: just 16.4% correctly identified the Commission's 'Have Your Say' portal as a mechanism for feedback collection, while most (47.76%) suggested that referendums in every EU country are commonly utilised for this cause; 32.84% did not know.

Elaborating on the **legislation processes**, most survey respondents believe that national legislation is mainly proposed by Members of the Parliament (85.07%), Ministers or the Government (64.18%), and citizens through petitions in case a high number of signatures is collected (50.75%). Some also recognised municipal councils (20.9%) as actors who are involved in such a process. Respectively, 50.75% stated that the European Parliament has the relevant role for EU processes, 17.91% believes that the European Commission is the primary actor proposing EU law, 10.45% identified the Council of Europe and 2.99% the Court of Justice of the European Union as primary actors; 17.91% were unsure.

Although most respondents (67.16%) correctly identified that citizens can provide **feedback or input on a proposed new law**, 7.46% reported the opposite and 25.37% were unaware. Out of those who answered positively, 52.24% stated that this can be done during the public consultation or hearing phase, 7.46% referred to street protests and 4.48% mentioned that this can be done only after a law is passed; 19.4% were unsure.

In terms of **participation channels**, respondents reported being aware of student councils and university representation (88.06%), volunteering and community initiatives (64.18%), actions organised by civil society organisations (56.72%), petitions (50.75%), youth councils and advisory bodies (44.78%), public consultations organised by authorities (32.84%), communication with elected representatives or public authorities (26.87%), and reporting channels for unfair treatment or corruption-related concerns (25.37%). Focus group participants described participation as the active engagement in decision making processes and dialogue through various channels including the municipality, volunteering initiatives – organised by the municipality and civil society organisations –, cultural associations, established in rural areas for example, as well as other associations organised by citizens, voting, sports, protests and active engagement in the respective processes within the university. At European level, participants identified petitions that can support the introduction of new legal provisions. One participant cited contexts where they have the opportunity to discuss with their peers within the institution, while another one added that participation entails engagement with issues that concern society and its citizens. More indicative examples provided included a Municipality's initiatives to support people whose houses have been damaged by a fire, and the participation in the protests for a railway accident, leading to the death of 57 passengers. Examples of civil society organisations mentioned include Humanity Greece, Doctors Without Borders, the Smile of the Child, and the organisation Be a Human [Gine Anthropos]. The validation workshop participants confirmed these examples and added the reporting of corruption cases, education and training on the above.

With regards to familiarisation with **key concepts related to anti-corruption**, "disinformation" stands out as uniquely well-known, followed by conflict of interest, corruption and whistleblowing. Terms such as beneficial ownership (67.17% slightly/ not at all familiar), public procurement (68.65% slightly/ not at all familiar), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (79.1% slightly/ not at all familiar), lobbying (55.23% slightly/ not at all familiar), EU-fraud (64.18% slightly/ not at all familiar), and good governance (58.21% slightly/ not at all familiar) are largely unknown.

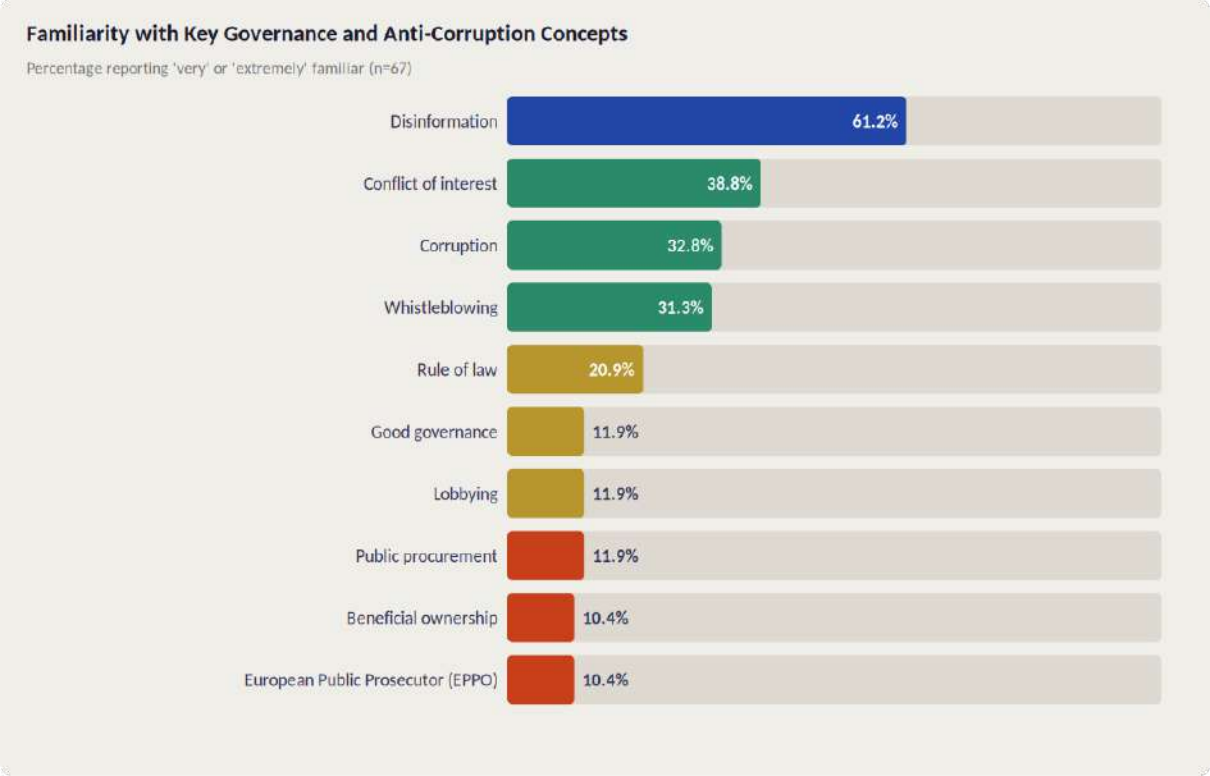


Figure 4 Familiarity with key terms

This limited familiarity with key concepts was confirmed by both the focus group and the validation workshop. For some terms, such as the rule of law, focus group participants could offer a general definition but could not provide concrete examples or elaborate further. Validation workshop participants similarly identified disinformation as the most widely recognised concept, and confirmed the low levels of awareness of all remaining governance and anti-corruption terms. Validation workshop participants further noted that the opacity of governance processes is experienced not merely as inconvenient but as a deliberate feature of institutions that do not wish to be held accountable.

When asked whether they are aware of any **anti-corruption agencies or state authorities in Greece**, 49.3% of respondents said they were aware of none at all. A further 29.9% had heard of some but could not name them, and only 19.4% could name at least one institution.

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors

Youth participation

One of the most striking findings of this research is the profound disjunction between young people's interest in civic life and their awareness of the ways in which they can participate. When asked how interested they are in public issues and decision-making that affects their lives, **68.7% of respondents described themselves as "very interested" (38.8%) or "extremely interested" (29.9%)**. Not a single respondent selected "not at all interested". Nonetheless, 22.39% stated that they are completely **unaware of ways in which young people can participate in public life**, 31.34% felt slightly informed and 43.28% moderately aware; only 2.99% stated to be very informed. At the same time, the majority had never participated in a public consultation: 50.75% stated they do not know how, 38.81% expressed willingness to participate if given the opportunity, and 4.48% were not interested.

In terms of their **participation in the year preceding the survey**, young respondents reported having voted in an election (35.82%), attended a civic, youth, or community meeting or event (23.88%), signed a petition, supported a campaign, or volunteered in a community or social initiative (17.91%), participated in a student, youth, or university representative body (16.42%), engaged in an online campaign, discussion, or consultation on a public issue (13.43%), and contacted a public authority, institution, or representative (11.94%). 23.88% had not engaged in any of these activities. Focus group participants added that they had signed petitions, citing as an example a campaign related to abortion rights.

Respondents identified online news websites (58.21%) as their **primary source of political and news information**, followed by TikTok videos and influencers (34.33%), television (31.34%), Instagram reels and stories (20.9%), official government portals (19.4%), and YouTube political content (16.42%). Some also mentioned Facebook posts and groups (4.48%), Telegram channels and groups, and the radio (2.99%). The focus group discussion on information sources was one of the richest conversations of the session. Participants articulated what quickly became a group consensus: social media — TikTok, Instagram, Facebook — is the primary information environment for their generation, not because they trust it uncritically, but because it is where information arrives without deliberate effort. Traditional print media has effectively ceased to exist as a first-order information source.

> ***'Newspapers and journalists are now setting up accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. [..] And they should be, because I don't think there's anyone our age who would go to a kiosk and say, "Give me a newspaper so I can read the news," for example.' FG participant, female***

Some participants described using social media as a trigger rather than a source. When something catches their attention on social media, such as TikTok, they open multiple news websites to verify whether it is true, cross-checking before forming a view. They elaborated that high like counts influence not whether they believe something, but whether they investigate it further, treating virality as a signal of relevance, not of truth. One participant provided the most concrete illustration of covert political influence: he described discovering by accident that a TikTok influencer they had been following, who consistently praised a specific political party, was in fact a relative of a senior member of that party, without having disclosed this connection. This example captures something important about the informational conditions in which young

Greeks form political views: influence is pervasive, disclosure is rare, and the boundary between authentic content and covert political messaging is often deliberately blurred. Validation workshop participants clarified that TikTok and Instagram are the two most widely used platforms young people use to access information.

Barriers

The research identifies a strikingly dominant barrier: **82.1% of survey respondents cited lack of clear information or the presence of disinformation** as a main reason why participation is difficult — a figure that dwarfs every other barrier on the list and that is more than thirteen times higher than the share citing lack of interest (6%). The second-placed barrier, "I do not know where to start," was cited by 46.3%, followed by lack of time at 37.3%. Another 8.96% referred to accessibility issues, in terms of opportunities being too far or hard to access.

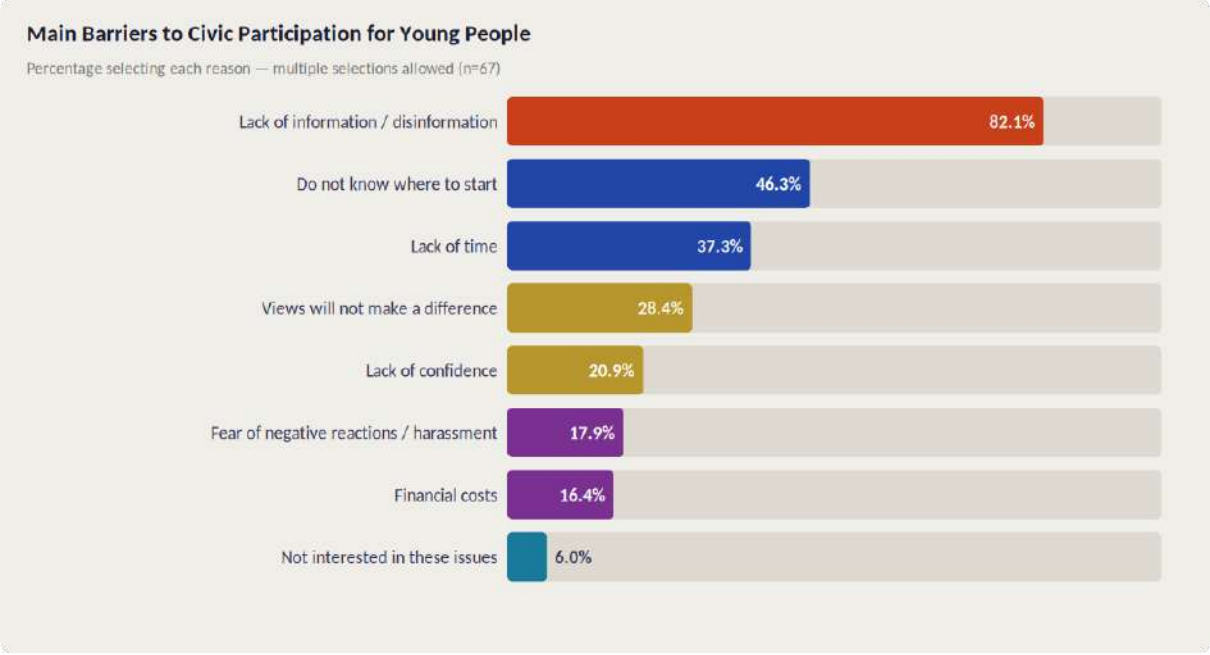


Figure 5 Barriers to youth civic participation

Focus group participants underlined the lack of clear information and the heavy bureaucracy that is often associated with participation. The lack of tangible impact was also mentioned, through the example of voting, and the common perception that this form of participation does not lead to real, actual change. Participants also described a general climate of pessimism that prevails in their generation, influenced by the mishandling of the voting system, for instance, in the form of instructing older people to vote for a specific party. Another important aspect raised was the limited dissemination and communication of relevant actions, that often do not reach young people. Lack of trust, which is highly correlated with the lack of transparency, was another concern raised. One participant mentioned that in many actions gathering money or having participation costs, the said lack of transparency leads to questioning of the use of the money. Finally, young focus group participants stated that the lack of encouragement and motivation has a toll in participation rates.

The barrier of lack of information and disinformation is also burdened by the **lack of trust** respondents reported in a variety of **channels**, despite using them to access information. They reported very little or no trust at all for TikTok influencers and Instagram memes and stories (76.12%), as well as Telegram channels and groups (59.71%), local journalists, and official election statements (56.7%). The most trusted channels identified were international news (43.28% have quite a lot or complete trust and 46.27% show some trust), and government-official sources (40.3% trust them a lot or completely, and 31.34% to some extent).

The data on where young people last **encountered political content that influenced their actions** confirms the dominance of short-form visual platforms in the political information environment of Greek youth. TikTok emerges as the leading platform by a substantial margin, cited by 38.81% of respondents, followed by Instagram (28.36%) and YouTube (13.43%). Facebook and Twitter/X each account for 8.96%, while Telegram registers at just 1.49%.

The **effects of this exposure** reveal a pattern that is simultaneously concerning and nuanced. The most widely reported effect is stopping donating to causes following exposure to scandals, cited by 52.24% of respondents — the single largest response across all civic engagement options. The second most commonly reported effect is attending protests in response to viral content (28.36%), followed by reduced volunteering due to corruption-related distrust (26.87%). A further 19.40% report having signed petitions in response to social media campaigns, and 11.94% describe increased activism following influencer calls to action.

The **electoral dimension** of the data is particularly significant. 35.82% report having changed their candidate preference due to social media content — the highest single response — followed by 31.34% who report feeling less likely to vote due to corruption-related claims, and 23.88% who considered boycotting an election. A further 16.42% report having shared election fraud content, and 3% report registering late due to mobilisation posts.

Respondents were asked **how frequently they encounter five categories of disinformation content in their general social media use**. The results reveal a landscape of pervasive exposure. Claims that corruption justifies political disengagement are the most frequently seen content: 37.31% encounter this "often" and a further 4.48% "always", making this the most persistently circulating disinformation narrative in respondents' feeds. Content questioning election fairness is seen "often" or "always" by 29.85% of respondents, while "strong leaders are better than democracy" narratives are encountered at least sometimes by 52.24%. Foreign governance models promoted over EU norms are seen "sometimes" or more by 56.72% — a finding worth noting given the geopolitical context. By contrast, celebrity or influencer endorsements of election boycotts are the least commonly encountered content, with 74.62% reporting they see this "never" or "rarely" — suggesting that explicit, named boycott campaigns have lower penetration than more diffuse anti-institutional narratives.

The **pre-electoral disinformation** data is one of the most alarming sections of the dataset. Claims of alleged corruption in candidate selection processes are encountered "often" or "always" by 59.70% of respondents — nearly six in ten — making this the most saturating form of pre-electoral disinformation. Claims that elections will be manipulated or stolen are seen "often" or "always" by 47.77%, and claims that "your vote doesn't matter" by 47.76%. Content promoting election abstention as a form of protest is

encountered at least sometimes by 68.66% of respondents, with 35.82% seeing it "often" or "always." Deepfake or AI-generated videos of candidates saying false things are seen "sometimes" or more by 64.19% of respondents.

Enablers

When asked which actions they consider most effective for making young people's voices heard by decision-makers, respondents placed formal institutional channels decisively above informal and digital ones — a finding that directly challenges the assumption, common in both policy discourse and academic literature, that young people have turned away from formal participation in favour of digital activism. Public consultations and hearings are identified as the most effective mechanism by 47.76% of respondents, followed by voting in elections and joining a youth organisation, NGO, or civic initiative, which were equally placed as the second most cited responses, each selected by 29.85% of respondents. Volunteering and community action, and direct contact with public authorities or elected representatives, each follow at 25.37%, suggesting a relatively coherent picture of institutional and community-based channels as the perceived means of effective voice. The striking finding is at the bottom of the ranking. Sharing views through online campaigns or social media is identified as effective by only 7.46% of respondents — the lowest figure of all actionable options, lower even than signing petitions (11.94%) and peaceful demonstrations (11.94%).

When asked what would help them participate more, respondents identified clear and simple information about how to get involved (73.1%) as the most important enabler. Trust in information about civic life followed at 50.7%, and practical guidance or mentoring at 47.8%. Better feedback on how input is actually used was cited by 23.9%.

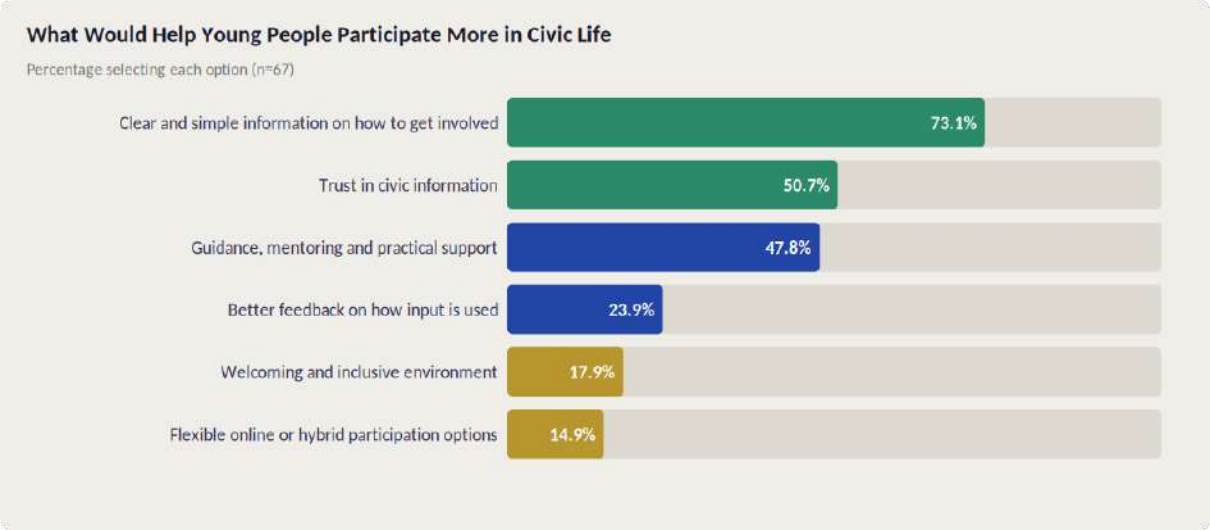


Figure 6 Youth participation enablers

Focus group participants underscored the need for clear guidance and straightforward, open procedures. They also noted that young people need to engage in actions where they can observe tangible impact and concrete results, in order to overcome the widespread narrative that ‘nothing can change’ — a belief that significantly depresses civic engagement if left unaddressed.

> ***'It should be a simple process that anyone can participate in. It shouldn't be a process that's difficult in and of itself, because that alone might discourage someone from participating.' FG participant, female***

Accessibility emerged as a significant theme in both the focus group and the validation workshop. Participants raised the importance of online participation options and physically accessible offline formats, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities. Validation workshop participants specifically raised LGBTQIA+ inclusion needs, referencing inclusive and gender-neutral language and the availability of gender-neutral spaces as concrete requirements for genuinely inclusive participation. Information provision was highlighted in both events: focus group participants explained that awareness of participation opportunities is intrinsically linked to young people's decisions to engage, and should be sustained and delivered continuously across different contexts and formats, in plain, accessible language and age-appropriate forms. Participants also noted that reducing practical participation costs is an important facilitating factor.

8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust

Addressing corruption

Despite the challenges identified, when asked whether they believe **young people can make a difference in reducing corruption in Greece**, 88.06% of respondents answered affirmatively — 47.76% saying "probably yes" and 40.30% "definitely yes." Only 7.46% expressed scepticism ("probably not" at 5.97% and "definitely not" at 1.49%), and just 4.48% said they did not know.

On the other hand, more than half of the sample (52.2%) said they would feel "very **unsafe**," and a further 13.4% "rather unsafe" to **report corruption or unfair treatment involving a public institution**. Only 6% would feel safe in any degree. To **support young people feeling safer** in such a process, respondents identified a clear hierarchy of needs. Anonymous reporting options were selected by the largest share of respondents (79.10%), reflecting the degree to which fear of identification is the primary obstacle to reporting. Clear guidance on where and how to report and protection from negative consequences or retaliation (67.16%) were equally placed as the second most cited needs. A trusted intermediary — such as an NGO, ombudsperson, or youth organisation — was identified as essential by 65.67%, while a clear follow-up process with regular updates and more education on integrity and reporting options were each selected by 56.72% of respondents. Faster institutional response, while still cited by 44.78%, ranked lowest among the options. Anonymous reporting channels were also emphasised during the focus group discussion as essential for creating a genuinely safe reporting environment. Participants noted, however, that the exact opposite approach — a highly familiar, trust-based environment in which the reporter is personally known and supported — could equally foster confidence. The key requirement is either full anonymity or a genuinely trusted relationship: the middle ground of impersonal, bureaucratic processes is what young people find most discouraging.

Knowledge of **where or how to report a corrupt act** by a public official is strikingly limited across the sample. Only 4.48% of respondents know exactly where to report, while 32.84% have a general idea but are uncertain of the process. Most (59.70%) would not know where to go at all, and a further 2.99% would not report even if they did know, believing it would make no difference. As depicted in Figure 6, if they wanted to report a case of corruption, young respondents indicated they would most trust a private lawyer (46.27%) or a specialised anti-corruption agency (43.28%) — bypassing the police (10.45%) and elected representatives (1.49%) almost entirely.

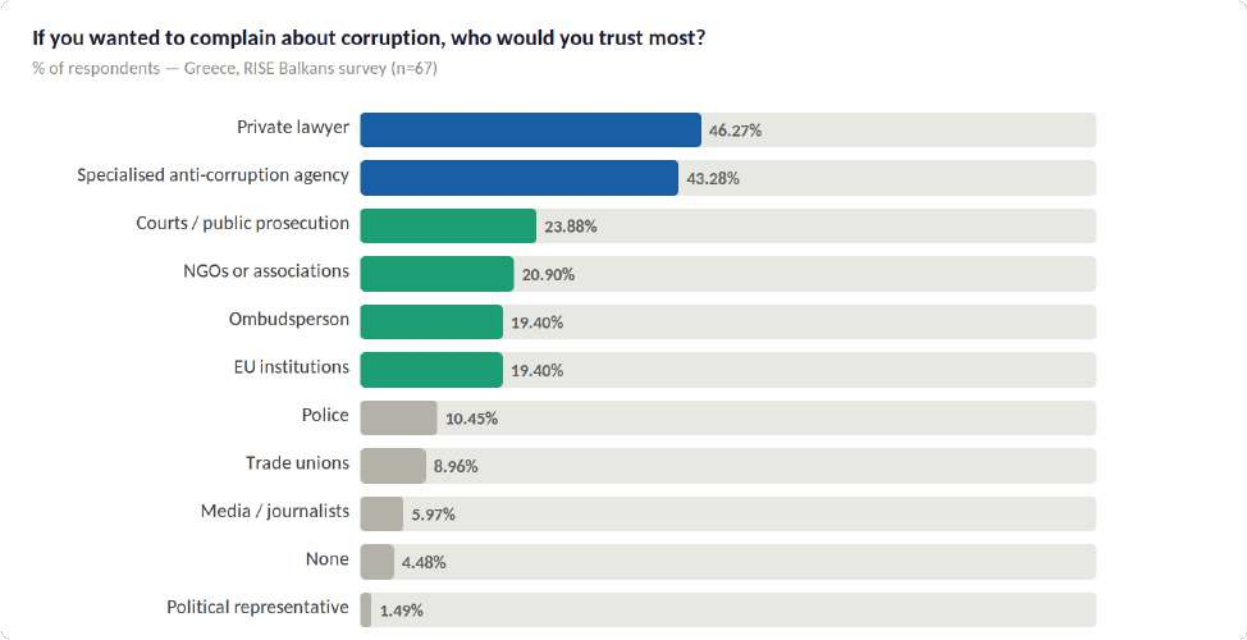


Figure 7 Trust in actors in case of report

9. Needs, preferred formats and Solutions

When asked what would most **increase their trust when dealing with a public service or institution**, survey respondents identified clear steps and processes explained in advance as the most important factor (62.69%), followed by equal treatment and consistent rules for everyone (55.22%). Clear decision criteria — how public decisions are actually made — were cited by 28.36%, and clear costs and fees by 20.90%. The ability to track progress, with online status updates (11.94%) and clear timelines (8.96%) ranked lower, as did an easy way to ask questions and receive an official response (7.46%). Focus group participants emphasised the need for transparent procedures, including clear communication of progress, impact, and outcomes. It was further underlined that institutional trust is fundamentally dependent on transparency and on regular updates throughout any process in which young people participate.

On **EU priorities for the next five years**, defence and peace ranked first by a considerable margin (55.22%), reflecting the heightened regional security context. Unemployment and job creation followed (34.33%), then social protection, welfare and healthcare (31.34%). Democracy and the rule of law were cited by 26.87% — a notable finding given the survey's broader corruption and trust data — followed closely by rising prices and cost of living (25.37%). The environment and climate change (17.91%) and education and training (8.96%) ranked lower.

Topics and participation formats

In terms of **topics of interest**, EU literacy tops the learning agenda by a considerable margin: 68.7% wish to learn more about how the EU works and how young people can engage with it. Anti-corruption and transparency tools were selected by 44.8%, followed by how decisions are made at local and national level and citizens' rights and access to information (41.8%). Approximately 30% wishes to learn more about how to advocate for change in their community, 23.88% on how to participate in public consultations and 14.93% wants to elaborate on youth councils, student representation, and local governance. The focus group and validation workshop participants attested to the aforementioned topics as important aspects they need to invest in, underlining good governance, the rule of law, disinformation, the Greek and the European legal framework and procedures and how they impact their lives. The legal framework concerning corruption was also pinpointed. Money laundering was also identified as a topic that should be explored.

In terms of **participation formats**, workshops and volunteering projects are equally preferred, each selected by 43.3% of respondents. Simulations and bootcamps attracted 37.3%, and online sessions 29.9%.

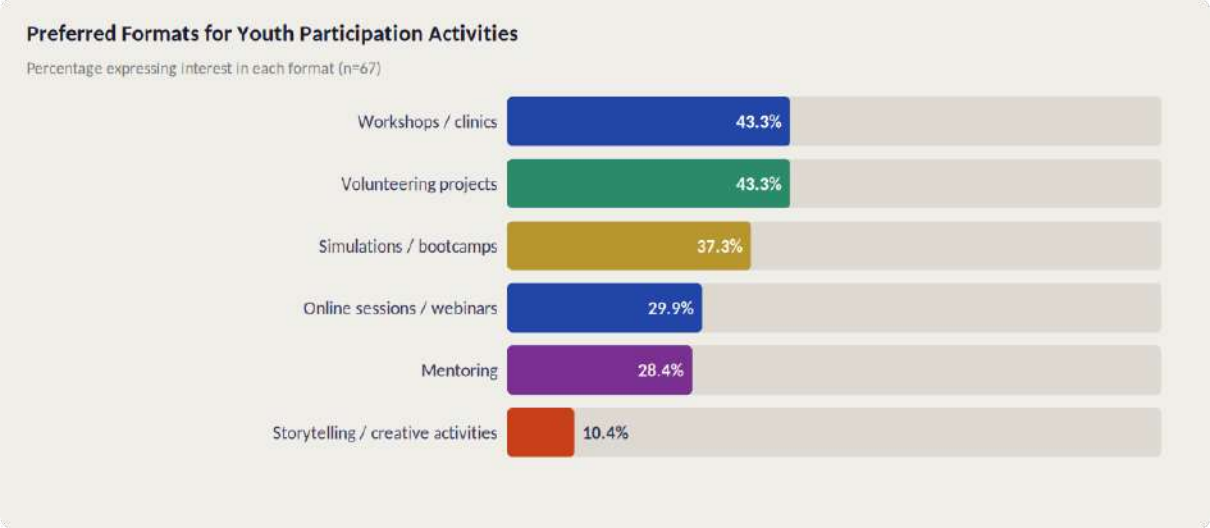


Figure 8 Preferred participation formats

Focus group participants emphasised that participation formats should incorporate practical and experiential dimensions, building young people's skills and competencies, accompanying the acquisition of theoretical knowledge. Such actions should be continuous and not be implemented as stand-alone actions.

Survey participants also reflected on the **tools that would be most helpful to support their participation and access to trustworthy information and knowledge**. A calendar of opportunities was the top ranked option (52.24%), followed by a youth-friendly digital platform (46.27%) and a simple guide/toolkit on how to participate (40.3%). Some would also prefer peer-to-peer support groups (25.37) and short explainers, such as videos and infographics (20.9%).

Focus group participants were also invited to share recommendations specifically for the RISE Balkans project. These entailed the increased dissemination actions and the communication of the forthcoming activities. They further suggested that social media should be the primary channel of dissemination, with TikTok remaining in the spotlight. Podcasts were also recognised as a creative idea that could draw the attention of their peers. Information sessions and online events should be incorporated into the project's actions.

10. Conclusions

The research reveals that young participants are genuinely interested in public life — 68.7% describe themselves as "very" or "extremely" interested in public issues — yet remain structurally disconnected from the formal channels through which civic and political decisions are made. This core paradox, confirmed across survey, focus group, and validation workshop data, runs through every finding in this report and constitutes its central conclusion: the problem is not youth apathy but a failure of civic infrastructure.

Corruption is perceived as near-universal and systemic. 92.5% of survey respondents describe corruption as "widespread" or "very widespread" in Greece, consistent with Special Eurobarometer 548 (2024), which records 98% of Greek citizens — the highest rate in the EU — considering corruption widespread. Critically, focus group participants and validation workshop attendees did not frame corruption as individual wrongdoing: they described it as a structural and normalised feature of public life, embedded in political parties, procurement, healthcare, and employment. This systemic framing is consistent with the structural corruption literature and implies that awareness campaigns targeting individual acts are insufficient without broader institutional reform.

Institutional trust is critically low across all major sectors. From political parties (98.5% perceiving widespread bribery and abuse of power) to tax authorities, police, courts, and healthcare, young Greeks express pervasive distrust. This finding aligns with the literature on institutional trust, which documents a durable disengagement from formal institutions among the post-crisis generation, and a corresponding turn towards informal and expressive civic action. The qualitative research confirmed this pattern: participants questioned the meaningfulness of formal participation channels and expressed scepticism about whether their input would produce any tangible change. However, survey respondents showed increased interest in formal participation formats.

The dominant barrier to participation is informational, not motivational. 82.1% of respondents cited lack of clear information or the presence of disinformation as the primary obstacle — more than thirteen times the share citing lack of interest (6%). Pre-electoral disinformation is pervasive: 59.7% encounter content claiming corruption in candidate selection "often" or "always," and 47.8% regularly encounter content claiming their vote does not matter. TikTok (38.81%) and Instagram (28.36%) dominate political content exposure, but the most widely reported civic effect of this exposure is withdrawal — stopping donations (52.24%) and feeling less likely to vote (31.34%). The qualitative research participants corroborated this picture, describing an environment in which civic guidance is invisible while disinformation is omnipresent and actively demobilising.

Despite these obstacles, young Greeks retain a strong belief in their collective agency: 88.06% believe young people can make a difference in reducing corruption, a finding confirmed by validation workshop participants who described themselves as motivated to act but lacking knowledge, tools, and structural support. This gap between high collective efficacy and low individual civic knowledge is theoretically significant.

Formal channels are perceived as most effective but remain inaccessible. 47.76% of respondents identified public consultations as the most effective mechanism for making their voices heard, while only 32.84% are moderately or more familiar with how consultations work. Social media activism was deemed

effective by just 7.46%. Young Greeks are not turning away from formal participation because they disbelieve in it — they are not as engaged because they lack the knowledge and pathways to access it. Validation workshop participants reinforced this finding, emphasising procedural clarity, outcome feedback, and trusted intermediaries as prerequisites for confidence in formal engagement.

Reporting corruption feels both unsafe and unknowable. 52.2% would feel very unsafe reporting corruption, and 59.7% would not know where to go. Respondents would most trust a private lawyer (46.27%) or a specialised anti-corruption agency (43.28%) — and almost none (1.49%) a political representative. Focus group and validation workshop participants consistently stressed anonymity, procedural clarity, protection from retaliation, and trusted intermediaries as minimum conditions for any reporting channel they would actually use.

11. Recommendations

For the RISE Balkans Programme

1. **Prioritise TikTok and Instagram as the primary communication channels**. Both survey data and focus group and validation workshop participants identified these as the dominant platforms through which young Greeks access information. Content should use peer creators, verified organisational accounts, and short-form video formats. Podcasts — recommended independently by focus group participants and validated in the workshop — should be developed as a complementary format, ideally co-produced with young people.
2. **Make EU literacy a central programme theme**. 68.7% of respondents wish to learn more about how the EU works and how young people can engage with it — the highest learning demand across all topics. Practical modules on EU institutions, the "Have Your Say" portal, and EU-funded opportunities for young Greeks, and how the European legal framework influences the national contexts should be integrated across all programme activities. This finding was confirmed and prioritised by both focus group and validation workshop participants.
3. **Deliver civic skills through experiential formats**. Workshops and volunteering projects (43.3% each) and simulations and bootcamps (37.3%) are the preferred participation formats, confirming that the foreseen project activities are compatible with the young people's needs. Focus group and validation workshop participants consistently emphasised learning by doing over passive information transfer. Programme activities should be designed as progressive sequences — introductory session, workshop, simulation, real participation — building civic capacity incrementally and ensuring participants experience tangible outcomes at each stage.
4. **Develop consolidated, youth-friendly digital materials when possible**. Survey respondents ranked a calendar of participation opportunities (52.24%), a youth-friendly digital platform (46.27%), and a plain-language guide to civic processes (40.3%) as the most useful tools. This hub directly responds to the 82.1% who cited information deficits as the primary barrier, and was enthusiastically endorsed by focus group and validation workshop participants who called for accessible, continuously updated, and age-appropriate civic information.

For Policymakers and Public Institutions

1. **Redesign public consultation mechanisms with youth accessibility as a core requirement**. The opengov.gr platform should be promoted through social media, redesigned with plain-language interfaces, and, critically, equipped with systematic feedback mechanisms informing participants what happened to their input. 88.06% agreed that public processes should be easier to follow, and 62.69% identified clear steps explained in advance as the most important trust-building factor. The absence of feedback on outcomes was repeatedly cited as the primary reason for not re-engaging, in both the focus group and the validation workshop.
2. **Launch a targeted national digital awareness campaign on anti-corruption reporting**. 49.3% of young Greeks cannot name any anti-corruption institutions. A campaign designed for young audiences, promoted via TikTok and Instagram, explaining in plain terms what the General Inspector of Public Administration, the Ombudsperson, and specialised agencies do and how to contact them, would directly address one of the most consequential knowledge gaps in the research. Validation workshop participants identified this as an urgent priority.

3. **Integrate practical civic education into secondary school curricula**. The near-total unfamiliarity with legislative processes, public consultations, and anti-corruption concepts points to a systematic failure of civic education at school level. Curricula should include practical civic skills: how to participate in a consultation, how to verify information, how to recognise and report corruption, and how EU institutions affect daily life. Validation workshop participants specifically identified the school system as the most structurally effective channel for broad civic knowledge dissemination.

For Civil Society and Youth-Serving Organisations

1. **Position NGOs and civil society organisations as trusted civic intermediaries**. The research demonstrates that young Greeks trust NGOs and the Ombudsperson more than the police or political representatives for handling corruption complaints. Civil society organisations should actively develop structured support pathways for young people navigating civic processes — from participation in consultations to the reporting of wrongdoing — and make this role visible and accessible through social media. The organisations spontaneously named by focus group participants (Humanity Greece, Doctors Without Borders, Smile of the Child, Be a Human) demonstrate the genuine familiarity and trust that already exists and should be leveraged.
2. **Support peer-led civic content creation**. The research indicated that peer voices are the most trusted route to reaching young Greeks. Youth-serving organisations should invest in enabling young people to create and share civic content in their own formats and on their own platforms — short videos, podcasts, infographics, and social media posts explaining governance processes, participation opportunities, and anti-corruption tools in accessible, authentic terms. This approach simultaneously builds civic skills in creators and civic knowledge in audiences.

Bulgarian National Report

Executive Summary

This National Report for Bulgaria has been prepared within Work Package 1 "Youth and Governance: Reality Check" of the RISE Balkans project. Its main purpose is to present the Bulgarian context of youth civic participation, anti-corruption awareness, transparency and trust in institutions, while also identifying the practical barriers that limit young people's involvement in democratic and governance processes.

The report is based on a combination of desk research, survey data and validation activities. The desk research reviewed national and European policy documents, including the National Youth Strategy 2021–2030, the Youth Report for 2023–2024, EU youth policy sources and relevant project materials. The empirical part of the research was carried out through an online survey conducted in Bulgaria between 5 and 12 April 2026. A total of 62 valid responses were collected from young people aged 18–26, representing 12.65% of the overall RISE Balkans survey sample of 490 respondents. The findings were further discussed and validated through two workshops organised in Bulgaria, including a national validation workshop held by the University of National and World Economy on 4 May 2026 with 36 students.

The findings show that young people in Bulgaria are generally familiar with basic concepts such as corruption, conflict of interest and whistleblowing. At the same time, their practical knowledge of participation channels remains more limited. Many respondents understand the importance of civic engagement, but are less confident about how to participate in public consultations, how to contact institutions, or where and how to report corruption. This creates a clear gap between awareness and actual participation.

The survey also confirms that corruption is perceived as a serious and widespread problem. A total of 95.16% of the Bulgarian respondents described corruption as widespread or very widespread. Trust in institutions is weakened by unclear procedures, doubts about equal treatment and low confidence that high-level corruption cases are pursued effectively. Reporting corruption is also seen as sensitive: many respondents do not feel safe reporting corruption and are unsure about the available procedures.

The main barriers to youth participation are lack of clear information, distrust in the impact of participation, limited confidence and uncertainty about how to engage in practice. The strongest barrier identified was the lack of clear information and disinformation, selected by 66.13% of respondents. At the same time, 40.32% stated that they had not participated in public consultations but would like to do so, while 17.74% did not know how to start. This shows that the issue is not simply lack of interest, but lack of accessible and understandable entry points.

The report concludes that young people in Bulgaria have the potential and willingness to participate more actively, but they need clearer guidance, more visible opportunities and stronger institutional feedback. Participation should be made more practical, understandable and meaningful. Key recommendations include the development of youth-friendly information materials, short guides and visual

explainers, more accessible public consultations, clearer corruption reporting procedures, stronger protection for reporting, and the creation of a centralised digital space where young people can find information about participation opportunities, civic initiatives and anti-corruption tools.

1. Introduction

The present National Report for Bulgaria has been prepared within the framework of Work Package 1 "Youth and Governance: Reality Check" of the RISE Balkans project – Empowering Youth Voices: Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, and Civic Engagement in the Balkans. The project is implemented in Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania and North Macedonia and aims to strengthen youth participation in democratic life, while supporting youth-led integrity and anti-corruption action through civic education, experiential learning, mentoring and cross-border cooperation. WP1 is designed as the initial research phase of the project and seeks to establish an evidence base on youth civic engagement, participation, policymaking, transparency and anti-corruption in the participating countries. According to the Research Protocol, WP1 combines desk research, qualitative and quantitative research, and national validation activities, with the purpose of identifying existing barriers, opportunities and perceptions related to youth participation in governance processes.

The Bulgarian National Report focuses on the current situation of young people in Bulgaria with regard to civic participation, awareness of democratic processes, trust in institutions, perceptions of corruption, and preferred forms of engagement. The report combines contextual analysis based on national and European policy documents with empirical findings from the RISE Balkans survey conducted in Bulgaria. The quantitative component of the research was implemented through an online survey distributed between 5 and 12 April 2026. A total of 62 valid responses from Bulgaria were collected, representing 12.65% of the overall survey population of 490 respondents. The survey targeted young people aged 18–26 and covered issues such as knowledge of participation channels, perceptions of corruption and transparency, institutional trust, media and information sources, barriers to participation, and preferred formats for future civic engagement activities.

The national context of youth participation in Bulgaria is shaped by the country's strategic policy framework for young people. The National Youth Strategy 2021–2030 defines young Bulgarians as capable, engaged and empowered individuals who should be supported to develop their full potential and contribute consciously to the development of the country within the European and global context[1]. The official Youth Report for 2023–2024, prepared in accordance with the Youth Act, confirms that youth policy in Bulgaria covers key areas such as education, employment, health and well-being, equality and inclusion, information and digital skills, youth organisations, and young people from small settlements. The same report identifies the promotion of youth engagement, participation and empowerment as one of the central priorities of national youth policy.

At institutional level, Bulgaria has developed several mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making processes, including consultative and advisory formats at national and local level. These include structures such as the Public Council on Youth Issues, the National Consultative Council for Youth, municipal youth consultative councils, national working groups linked to the EU Youth Dialogue, and other formats supporting youth participation. Recent amendments to the Youth Act have further strengthened this framework by regulating the composition and functions of the Public Council on Youth Issues and by introducing obligations for municipalities with a population above 45,000 inhabitants to establish local

[1] Republic of Bulgaria. (2023). National Youth Strategy 2021–2030. Strategy.bg. https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1587

youth consultative councils with the participation of young people. These mechanisms are relevant for the present report because they represent the formal participation infrastructure through which young people in Bulgaria can contribute to public decision-making.

The purpose of this report is therefore twofold. First, it provides an overview of the Bulgarian youth participation context, including the existing policy framework, institutional channels, enabling factors and persistent barriers. Second, it analyses the empirical results from the RISE Balkans survey in Bulgaria, with a focus on youth awareness, participation patterns, perceptions of transparency and integrity, and practical needs for future engagement. The report also identifies good practices and formulates recommendations aimed at strengthening youth participation, improving institutional transparency, and supporting youth-led democratic and anti-corruption initiatives in Bulgaria.

2. Context of Youth Participation in Bulgaria

Youth participation in Bulgaria is formally recognised as an important component of national youth policy and democratic governance. The Bulgarian policy framework defines young people not only as beneficiaries of public measures, but also as active participants in social, civic and institutional processes. This approach is reflected in the National Youth Strategy 2021–2030, which presents young Bulgarians as capable, engaged and empowered individuals who should be supported to develop their full potential and contribute to the development of the country within the European and global context. The Strategy places particular emphasis on engagement, participation and empowerment, while also addressing education, employment, inclusion, youth work, digital skills, health, culture and European belonging[2].

The official Youth Report for 2023–2024 confirms that Bulgarian youth policy is structured around several key thematic areas: education, employment, health and well-being, equality and inclusion, information and digital skills, youth organisations, and young people from small settlements. The report is prepared under the Youth Act and is adopted by the National Assembly on a proposal of the Council of Ministers. It provides an overview of policies, measures and activities implemented by responsible institutions in support of young people in Bulgaria. Importantly, the report explicitly identifies the promotion of youth engagement, participation and empowerment as one of the central priorities of national youth policy[3].

In the Bulgarian context, participation of young people in decision-making is understood as a necessary condition for building democratic culture, civic competences and trust in institutions. National policy documents underline that quality youth participation should be supported at all levels of governance: local, national and European. This is particularly relevant for young people with fewer opportunities, including those from small settlements, economically disadvantaged backgrounds, vulnerable groups, and young people not in education, employment or training. The inclusion of NEETs is identified as a specific policy priority, since their limited access to education, employment and participation opportunities may deepen social exclusion and weaken civic engagement.

Bulgaria has developed a set of formal mechanisms through which young people and youth organisations can be involved in consultation and decision-making processes. These include the Public Council on Youth Issues, the National Consultative Council for Youth, municipal youth consultative councils, the National Working Group under the EU Youth Dialogue, and other working formats related to youth work and youth policy. These mechanisms provide opportunities for consultation, policy dialogue and representation of youth interests before public authorities. Their role is particularly important because they create institutional channels through which young people can express positions, contribute to policy discussions, and participate in the formulation and implementation of youth-related measure.

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[2] [2] Republic of Bulgaria. (2023). National Youth Strategy 2021–2030. Strategy.bg. https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1587

[3] Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. (2025). Decision No. 675 of 26 September 2025 on the adoption of the Youth Report for the period 2023–2024. Legal Information System of the Council of Ministers. https://pris.government.bg/document/acd72b7ca6fbb1392c9a2d3de2d265c1

Recent amendments to the Youth Act further strengthen the formal framework for participation. They regulate the composition and functions of the Public Council on Youth Issues as an advisory body to the Minister of Youth and Sports, including representatives of youth organisations and organisations working with and for young people. At local level, legislative changes introduced an obligation for mayors of municipalities with a population above 45,000 inhabitants to establish local youth consultative councils with the participation of young people. This reform is significant because it expands the institutional basis for youth participation beyond the national level and creates a legal expectation that larger municipalities should involve young people in local governance processes.

Alongside consultative bodies, national youth programmes are an important instrument for supporting youth participation in Bulgaria. These programmes provide financial support to youth organisations and other actors for the implementation of youth activities and projects. They encourage non-formal learning, awareness-raising campaigns, initiatives and events on topics relevant to young people. Such programmes contribute to the personal development of young people and support their transformation into active citizens. They also pay specific attention to young people with fewer opportunities and to NEETs, placing them among the priority target groups of youth projects.

Youth infrastructure is another relevant factor in the Bulgarian participation context. The national youth policy framework recognises that civic spaces, youth centres and community-based environments are essential for developing youth potential and supporting participation. The Youth Report 2023–2024 highlights the importance of youth infrastructure, including youth centres, youth spaces, community centres and other places where youth activities can be organised. Bulgaria already has eight youth centres established with the support of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, while the National Recovery and Resilience Plan foresees the establishment of 20 additional youth centres and a National Focus Centre by 2026. This development is important because physical spaces for youth work can facilitate local participation, non-formal learning, dialogue with institutions and community engagement.

At the European level, Bulgarian youth participation is influenced by the broader EU youth policy framework. The EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027 is structured around the principles of "Engage, Connect, Empower", which aim to encourage young people to participate in democratic life, benefit from mobility and volunteering opportunities, and develop competences through quality youth work. According to the European Commission, the EU and Member States cooperate to support young people through these three areas of action, with engagement specifically focused on encouraging young people to be active in society and [4]participate in decision-making[5].

The EU context also shows that young people increasingly participate through a mixture of formal and informal channels. According to EU-level information based on the 2024 Youth and Democracy Eurobarometer, 64% of young people in the EU had participated in non-profit organisations' activities in the previous 12 months, while 48% had taken action to change society, such as signing a petition,

[4] European Commission. (2024). Flash Eurobarometer 545: Youth and Democracy. European Commission. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3181

[5] European Commission. (2025). EU Youth Report 2024: Looking at how youth are shaping the future. European Youth Portal. https://youth.europa.eu/news/eu-youth-report-2024-looking-how-youth-are-shaping-future_en

participating in a rally or writing to a politician[6]. Another Eurobarometer summary reports that young people consider voting in local, national or European elections as the most effective way to make their voice heard by decision-makers, followed by expressing opinions through social media and online forms of engagement. These trends are relevant for Bulgaria because they show that youth participation is no longer limited to traditional institutional channels, but increasingly includes hybrid forms of civic action, digital engagement and issue-based mobilisation[7].

At the same time, European evidence suggests that structured youth participation remains challenging. A 2024 study of the European Economic and Social Committee on structured and meaningful youth participation notes that, although intentions to involve young people are often positive, implementation may be limited by insufficient resources, weak engagement strategies, and a lack of understanding of young people's needs. The study underlines that youth participation should be structured and meaningful, rather than treated as an additional or symbolic element of policy processes. This observation is applicable to the Bulgarian context as well: while institutional mechanisms exist, their effectiveness depends on accessibility, visibility, feedback, and the extent to which young people perceive them as capable of producing real influence[8].

In Bulgaria, young people have access to a combination of participation opportunities: voting in elections, participation in public consultations, membership in student and youth councils, involvement in youth organisations and NGOs, volunteering, civic campaigns, petitions, local initiatives, and participation in EU programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. Bulgaria's EU membership has expanded opportunities for youth mobility, intercultural exchange, volunteering and participation in European initiatives. These opportunities support the development of civic competences and strengthen young people's connection to the European public space.

However, the existence of formal mechanisms and programmes does not automatically guarantee high levels of effective participation. The broader context indicates that challenges remain in relation to awareness, accessibility, trust, digital information quality and the perceived responsiveness of institutions. Young people may be interested in public issues but still lack practical knowledge of how to participate, where to find reliable information, or how their input will be used. For this reason, the Bulgarian context of youth participation can be characterised by a relatively developed formal framework, growing youth infrastructure and access to EU opportunities, combined with persistent gaps in visibility, trust and practical engagement.

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[6] European Commission. (2024). *Youth and Democracy – Flash Eurobarometer*. European Commission. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3373

[7] European Parliament. (2025). Flash Eurobarometer: Youth Survey 2024. European Parliament. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3373

[8] European Economic and Social Committee. (2024). Structured and meaningful youth participation in democratic and social life in the EU. European Economic and Social Committee. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/publications-other-work/publications/structured-and-meaningful-youth-participation-democratic-and-social-life-eu

3. Enabling Factors and Barriers of Youth Participation

Youth participation in Bulgaria is shaped by a combination of enabling factors and persistent barriers. On the one hand, the country has developed a strategic and institutional framework that formally supports the engagement, participation and empowerment of young people. On the other hand, available reports indicate that participation remains uneven, particularly at local level, and that many existing mechanisms are not yet sufficiently visible, accessible or influential for young people.

A key enabling factor is the existence of a national strategic framework for youth policy. The National Youth Strategy 2021–2030 identifies the promotion of youth engagement, participation and empowerment as one of its main priorities. This creates a formal policy basis for developing programmes, consultative mechanisms and youth-oriented initiatives at national and local level. The Youth Report for 2023–2024 also confirms that youth policy in Bulgaria is structured around several thematic areas, including education, employment, equality and inclusion, information and digital skills, youth organisations, and young people from small settlements. These areas are relevant to youth participation because they address both the civic and socio-economic conditions that influence whether young people can take an active role in public life.

Youth organisations and civil society structures are also a significant enabling factor. They can act as intermediaries between young people and institutions, provide civic education, organise consultations and campaigns, and support the development of youth leadership. The National Youth Forum, as the largest platform of youth organisations in Bulgaria, plays an important role in representing youth interests and participating in structured dialogue processes. At local level, youth organisations and informal groups can contribute to identifying community needs, implementing youth initiatives and ensuring that local authorities receive feedback from young people.

Municipal support for youth initiatives is another positive element. According to the Youth Report for 2023–2024, 97 municipalities, or 74% of the municipalities that responded to the relevant survey, stated that they support youth initiatives in different ways. This support includes the provision of rooms and spaces, funding for events and projects, logistical and methodological assistance, involvement in the organisation of initiatives, and support for participation in national and international projects. This indicates that, in many municipalities, local authorities recognise the value of youth initiatives and are willing to provide practical support.

Despite these enabling factors, several barriers continue to limit the quality and consistency of youth participation in Bulgaria. One of the main barriers is the uneven territorial distribution of youth organisations and participation structures. The Youth Report for 2023–2024 shows that only 51 municipalities, or 39% of those surveyed, reported having registered youth organisations active on their territory. In many municipalities there are no registered youth organisations or active informal groups, which creates a lack of sustainable partners for local administrations. This is particularly visible in smaller settlements and rural municipalities, where young people often have fewer opportunities to engage in organised civic activities.

A second barrier is the limited presence and effectiveness of youth councils and consultative bodies at local level. The same report indicates that only 36 municipalities, or 27% of those surveyed, have a youth council, youth parliament or another consultative body through which young people can participate in

decision-making. Even where such structures exist, their influence is often limited by the absence of clear procedures, weak institutional follow-up or insufficient integration into municipal planning. This suggests that the existence of a consultative body does not automatically guarantee meaningful participation.

A further barrier is the lack of structured and sustainable mechanisms for supporting youth initiatives. Municipalities may provide occasional support, but this support is often not institutionalised through clear rules, dedicated funding schemes or internal programmes. The Youth Report notes that municipal support is significant but frequently unstructured, and that clear mechanisms, regulations or internal programmes for financing youth initiatives are often missing. As a result, youth participation may depend on individual municipal capacity, political will, or informal relations rather than on predictable and transparent procedures.

The participation of youth organisations in decision-making also remains limited. Available evidence suggests that their involvement in planning and implementing youth policy is still more of an exception than a regular practice. In the municipal survey cited in the Youth Report, only 56 out of 132 municipalities reported that they include youth organisations in the planning and implementation of youth policy. This points to a gap between the formal recognition of youth participation and its practical application in local governance.

Another important barrier concerns information, civic literacy and the perceived effectiveness of participation. The RISE Balkans proposal, drawing on European youth survey data, highlights that low civic literacy, limited understanding of participation channels and lack of accessible information are among the key reasons for low civic engagement. In the Bulgarian case, the data show a comparatively better understanding of governance structures than in some other countries, but formal participation remains limited: only 10% of Bulgarian youth are reported to have participated in public consultations, while only 6% have contacted elected politicians. This indicates that knowledge of institutions does not necessarily translate into active use of participation mechanisms.

The perception that young people's voices are not heard or do not lead to real change is another significant obstacle. European-level evidence cited in the project documentation shows that 34% of Bulgarian youth believe that contacting a politician would not make a difference. Although this share is lower than the EU average, it still represents a substantial barrier to meaningful participation. When young people do not expect institutions to respond to their input, they may prefer informal or online forms of expression, or withdraw from participation altogether.

Socio-economic and territorial inequalities also influence participation. Young people from small settlements, vulnerable groups or economically disadvantaged backgrounds may face additional barriers, including limited access to youth organisations, fewer local initiatives, transport difficulties, weaker digital access or lower confidence in communicating with institutions. The national policy framework recognises the need to support young people with fewer opportunities and NEETs, but effective inclusion requires targeted outreach and accessible formats that correspond to the realities of these groups.

In summary, Bulgaria has a relatively developed strategic and institutional framework for youth participation, supported by national programmes, European opportunities, youth organisations, municipal initiatives and expanding youth infrastructure. However, the main barriers relate to uneven territorial

coverage, insufficiently institutionalised local mechanisms, limited real influence of youth councils, lack of structured funding and support, gaps in information and civic literacy, and low trust that participation will produce concrete results. These challenges demonstrate the need to move from formal participation opportunities toward more visible, accessible, transparent and responsive mechanisms that allow young people to see the practical impact of their involvement.

4. Forms of Young People's Participation

Young people's participation in Bulgaria takes place through a combination of formal institutional channels, consultative bodies, student representation structures, youth organisations, volunteering initiatives, public consultations, European programmes, digital tools and informal civic actions. The existing framework provides opportunities for participation at national, local and European level, but the actual use of these mechanisms remains uneven. Available evidence shows that participation is more developed in larger urban centres and municipalities with active youth organisations, while smaller municipalities often lack stable youth structures, dedicated funding and institutionalised channels for dialogue.

One of the main formal channels for youth participation in Bulgaria is the system of consultative and advisory bodies in the field of youth policy. At national level, young people and youth organisations may be represented through the National Consultative Council for Youth, the Public Council on Youth Issues, the National Working Group under the EU Youth Dialogue, and other working formats related to youth policy and youth work. These mechanisms provide opportunities for dialogue between public institutions, youth organisations and representatives of young people, allowing youth perspectives to be included in discussions on youth policy, civic engagement, social inclusion, education, employment, volunteering and the development of youth services.

At local level, municipal youth consultative councils, youth councils and youth parliaments are among the most direct forms of participation in decision-making. Their role is to support local authorities in identifying youth needs, preparing municipal youth policies, proposing initiatives and improving communication between young people and municipalities. However, the territorial coverage of these bodies remains limited. According to the Youth Report for 2023–2024, only 36 municipalities, or 27% of the municipalities that participated in the survey, reported having a youth council, youth parliament or another consultative body in which young people participate in decision-making. This shows that, although local youth participation structures exist, they are not yet a standard practice across the country.

Recent amendments to the Youth Act introduced an obligation for mayors of municipalities with a population above 45,000 inhabitants to establish local youth consultative councils with the participation of young people. This is an important legal step because it creates a clearer institutional basis for involving young people in municipal decision-making. At the same time, the practical impact of this reform will depend on whether these councils are regularly convened, whether young people are meaningfully selected and involved, and whether municipal authorities provide feedback on how youth proposals are considered.

Youth organisations and informal youth groups are another important channel for participation. They act as intermediaries between young people and institutions, organise campaigns, trainings, consultations, advocacy initiatives and civic education activities. Nevertheless, the presence of such organisations is uneven. The Youth Report for 2023–2024 shows that only 51 municipalities, or 39% of those surveyed, reported that registered youth organisations were active on their territory. In many municipalities there are no registered youth organisations or functioning informal groups, which limits the ability of local administrations to work with stable youth partners.

A concrete example of the role of youth organisations in Bulgaria is the activity of the National Youth Forum. In 2026, the organisation continued to participate in advocacy initiatives, public consultations

and national working groups related to youth policy. Examples include the Declaration to the 52nd National Assembly, published during the "Give a Voice" campaign and the "League of Young Voters", as well as positions on draft regulations and legislative proposals affecting youth organisations and youth programmes. The National Youth Forum also contributed to the EU Youth Dialogue through the publication of recommendations from the final national youth conference "Connecting EU with Youth", addressing local youth policy, transparency and trust in institutions, and access to mobility programmes. These examples show that youth organisations can function as intermediaries between young people and decision-makers, translating youth priorities into policy proposals, public positions and advocacy actions[9].

Despite this limited organisational presence, many municipalities provide practical support for youth initiatives. According to the same report, 97 municipalities, or 74% of the municipalities that responded, stated that they support youth initiatives in different ways. This support includes the provision of rooms and spaces, funding for events and projects, logistical and methodological assistance, involvement in the organisation of initiatives, and support for participation in national and international projects. This indicates that municipal authorities often recognise the importance of youth activities, even where formal youth structures are weak or absent.

However, the inclusion of youth organisations in actual policy planning remains limited. Although 132 municipalities completed the municipal survey cited in the Youth Report, only 56 of them reported that they include youth organisations in the planning and implementation of youth policy. The reported examples vary: some municipalities involve youth representatives in committees and working groups, while others cooperate mainly through single campaigns or events. This shows that dialogue between municipalities and young people often exists, but is frequently episodic rather than institutionalised.

Public consultations represent another formal channel for youth participation. Through public consultations, young people can provide feedback on draft legislation, strategies, municipal plans and policy documents. In principle, this mechanism enables young citizens to participate in decision-making beyond elections and party politics. In practice, however, public consultations are often underused by young people because they may be perceived as too technical, bureaucratic or distant from everyday youth concerns. The RISE Balkans project proposal, drawing on European youth survey data, notes that only 10% of Bulgarian youth had participated in public consultations, while only 6% had contacted elected politicians. This indicates that formal participation mechanisms exist, but are not yet widely used by young people.

Student representation is also an important form of participation in Bulgaria. At university level, student councils provide a formal mechanism through which students can represent their interests, participate in academic governance and contribute to discussions on student welfare, education quality, mobility, campus life and institutional development. At national level, the National Representation of Student Councils in the Republic of Bulgaria represents students, doctoral students and trainees in accredited higher education institutions. It functions as the statutory national body defending student rights and interests and supporting student self-government, inter-university cooperation and participation in public discussions related to higher education and youth policy.

[9] National Youth Forum. (2026). *Update on advocacy activities, EU Youth Dialogue, national working groups and youth participation initiatives.* National Youth Forum newsletter, May 2026.

Volunteering is another widespread and practical form of participation. It allows young people to engage in social, humanitarian, cultural, environmental, educational and community-based causes. Volunteering is particularly important because it combines civic engagement with visible results and practical action. Through volunteering, young people can develop solidarity, responsibility, communication skills and a sense of belonging to their community. This form of participation is supported both through national youth programmes and through European instruments such as the European Solidarity Corps.

Youth infrastructure is also directly connected to participation. Youth centres, youth spaces, community centres and similar environments provide physical places where young people can meet, learn, participate and develop civic skills. The Youth Report for 2023–2024 highlights that two thirds of municipalities have some form of space for youth activities, but in many cases these are multifunctional premises rather than specialised youth centres. The report also notes that standards for maintenance, accessibility and management are often missing. This means that youth infrastructure exists in many places, but its quality, accessibility and capacity to support meaningful participation differ significantly between municipalities[10].

European programmes provide additional opportunities for youth participation. Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps and the EU Youth Dialogue enable young people in Bulgaria to participate in international mobility, volunteering, youth consultations, intercultural exchange and project-based activities. These programmes strengthen civic competences and support the development of a European identity among young people. They also provide opportunities for engagement with issues such as democracy, inclusion, human rights, environmental protection, solidarity and active citizenship.

In summary, Bulgaria has a diverse set of youth participation channels, including consultative bodies, public consultations, student representation, youth organisations, volunteering, youth spaces and European programmes. The main challenge is not the absence of mechanisms, but their uneven territorial coverage, limited visibility and insufficient institutional follow-up.

5. Methodology

According to the Protocol, WP1 aims to establish an evidence base on youth civic engagement across the participating countries by identifying barriers, opportunities and perceptions related to participation, policymaking, transparency and anti-corruption. The research design includes desk research, qualitative and quantitative research, and national validation activities, with the results feeding into the national reports and the comparative analysis report.

Desk research was used to provide the national and European context for youth participation in Bulgaria. It included a review of national policy documents, institutional reports and European-level sources related to youth participation, civic engagement, transparency and anti-corruption. Particular attention was paid to the Bulgarian Youth Report for the period 2023–2024, the National Youth Strategy

[10] Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria. (2025). Decision No. 675 of 26 September 2025 on the adoption of the Youth Report for the period 2023–2024. Legal Information System of the Council of Ministers. https://pris.government.bg/document/acd72b7ca6fbb1392c9a2d3de2d265c1

2021–2030, EU youth policy documents, Eurobarometer data and relevant project materials. This part of the research provided the basis for the contextual sections of the report, especially those concerning the national youth policy framework, formal participation channels, enabling factors, barriers and existing good practices.

The quantitative component was implemented through an anonymous online survey conducted in Bulgarian between 5 and 12 April 2026. The survey targeted young people aged 18–26 living in Bulgaria and was designed to explore their awareness, attitudes and experiences regarding civic participation, anti-corruption, transparency, institutional trust and policymaking. A total of 62 valid responses were collected from Bulgaria, representing 12.65% of the overall RISE Balkans survey population of 490 respondents across the participating countries. The Bulgarian sample therefore provides a descriptive picture of youth perceptions in the country, while not claiming statistical representativeness for the entire youth population.

Table 1. Survey sample profile – Bulgaria

Category	**Main result**
Total valid responses	62 respondents
Survey period	5–12 April 2026
Target group	Young people aged 18–26
Share of total RISE Balkans survey sample	12.65% of 490 respondents
Largest age group	21–23 years old – 56.45%
Gender distribution	Men – 50%; Women – 43.55%; Non-binary – 4.84%; Prefer not to answer – 1.61%
Area of residence	Urban – 74.19%; Semi-urban – 17.74%; Rural – 8.06%
Most common education level	Secondary education – 54.84%
Main current status	Students – 77.42%
Additional status categories	Employed – 30.65%; In training/apprenticeship – 11.29%; Unemployed – 6.45%

The question on current status allowed multiple responses; therefore, the total percentage exceeds 100%.

The sample is therefore predominantly urban and student-oriented, which should be taken into account when interpreting the findings, particularly in relation to young people from rural areas, small settlements and vulnerable groups.

The survey questionnaire included closed-ended and multiple-response questions, five-point Likert-type scales and selected open-ended questions. It covered several thematic areas: demographic profile; perceptions of corruption, transparency and integrity; knowledge of governance and legislative processes; awareness of participation channels; civic participation experience; obstacles and enabling factors; trust in information sources; reporting of corruption; and preferred formats and tools for future youth engagement. The survey instrument was implemented in Bulgarian in order to ensure accessibility, comprehension and more authentic responses from the target group.

The qualitative component of the analysis is based on written open-ended responses provided by survey participants. In total, 19 respondents, representing 30.65% of the Bulgarian sample, provided written comments to the final question concerning additional support needs for active civic participation. These responses were analysed thematically and used to complement the quantitative results. They provided insight into young people's perceptions of information gaps, institutional opacity, the need for clearer procedures, mentoring, protection when reporting corruption, and visible results from participation. Where relevant, anonymised and translated excerpts from these responses are integrated in the analytical sections of the report.

As part of the WP1 validation process, two validation workshops were organised in Bulgaria. The National Student Confederation (NSC), as a Bulgarian project partner, organised a validation workshop in the previous week with the participation of 34 young people. In addition, the University of National and World Economy organised a national validation workshop on 4 May 2026 with the participation of 36 students. The workshops provided an opportunity to present and discuss the preliminary findings from the Bulgarian survey, verify whether the identified trends correspond to participants' experience, and collect additional views on barriers, enabling factors, transparency, integrity and youth participation. The feedback received during the validation workshops was integrated into the analytical sections of the report, where relevant.

The analysis is primarily descriptive. Quantitative results are presented through frequencies, percentages and thematic interpretation of response patterns. Qualitative comments are used to contextualise the numerical findings and to identify recurring perceptions, concerns and expectations. The report does not make population-level claims, since the survey relied on convenience sampling and the sample size is limited. The findings should therefore be interpreted as indicative of the perceptions of the surveyed youth cohort, rather than as fully representative of all young people in Bulgaria.

Several limitations should be noted. First, the sample is predominantly urban and student-oriented, which may underrepresent young people from rural areas, economically disadvantaged backgrounds, NEETs and other vulnerable groups. Second, the data were collected online, which may have excluded young people with limited digital access or lower interest in civic and public issues. Third, the qualitative evidence is based on open-ended survey responses rather than a large number of in-depth interviews. Despite these limitations, the research provides valuable insight into the relationship between youth awareness, institutional trust, corruption perceptions and the practical barriers that shape civic participation in Bulgaria.

The analytical interpretation of the survey results is also placed within the broader European context of youth participation. Recent EU-level evidence shows that young people increasingly combine formal

participation, such as voting and consultations, with informal and digital forms of engagement. At the same time, European studies underline that meaningful youth participation depends not only on the existence of formal mechanisms, but also on whether these mechanisms are accessible, understandable and followed by visible institutional response. This perspective is relevant for the Bulgarian findings, where awareness of civic and anti-corruption issues is relatively strong, but practical knowledge of participation channels remains more limited[11].

[11] European Economic and Social Committee. (2024). *Structured and meaningful youth participation in democratic and social life in the EU*. European Economic and Social Committee. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/publications-other-work/publications/structured-and-meaningful-youth-participation-policy-and-decision-making-processes-mapping-local-national-eu-and

6. Youth Awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Policymaking

The survey results show that young respondents in Bulgaria demonstrate relatively strong awareness of core anti-corruption and integrity-related concepts, but a more uneven understanding of policymaking, public consultation mechanisms and practical participation channels. This suggests that young people may be familiar with general civic and anti-corruption terminology, while still lacking sufficient practical knowledge of how to engage with institutions and decision-making processes.

6.1 Knowledge of anti-corruption and integrity concepts

The strongest levels of familiarity were registered with regard to basic concepts such as corruption, conflict of interest and whistleblowing/reporting corruption. Understanding of corruption as a concept achieved the highest familiarity levels: 37.10% of respondents (n=23) stated that they were "very familiar" with the term, while 38.71% (n=24) reported being "extremely familiar". This means that more than three quarters of the surveyed young people declared a high level of familiarity with the concept of corruption.

A similarly strong result was observed for the concept of conflict of interest. A total of 38.71% of respondents (n=24) reported being "very familiar" with the term, while 43.55% (n=27) indicated that they were "extremely familiar". This is an important finding, because conflict of interest is one of the core concepts in the broader field of public integrity and anti-corruption policy. Familiarity with the concept suggests that respondents have at least a basic understanding of situations where private interests may interfere with public responsibilities.

Whistleblowing and corruption reporting also showed relatively high levels of awareness. A total of 38.71% of respondents (n=24) stated that they were "very familiar" with the concept, while 35.48% (n=22) indicated that they were "extremely familiar". This result is significant because reporting corruption is directly linked to active civic behaviour and institutional accountability. However, as shown in later sections of the report, awareness of the concept does not necessarily mean that young people feel safe or sufficiently informed about where and how to report corruption.

Overall, the data indicate that Bulgarian respondents are not unfamiliar with the basic vocabulary of corruption and integrity. They can recognise key concepts and appear to understand their general meaning. At the same time, this awareness is more conceptual than practical. The survey results suggest that knowing what corruption, conflict of interest or whistleblowing mean does not automatically translate into confidence in using available reporting channels or participating in accountability mechanisms.

6.2 Knowledge of governance and legislative processes

Knowledge of legislative and governance processes appears more moderate. When asked about familiarity with the national legislative process, 40.32% of respondents (n=25) reported being "moderately familiar", 27.42% (n=17) stated that they were "very familiar", and 14.52% (n=9) considered themselves "extremely familiar". These results show that a majority of respondents have at least some understanding of how national legislation is developed, but the proportion of those with very high confidence remains limited.

Public consultation processes showed a similar pattern. A total of 40.32% of respondents (n=25) reported being moderately familiar with public consultations, while only 9.68% (n=6) described themselves as very familiar. This points to a specific gap in practical civic literacy. Public consultations are one of the main formal mechanisms through which citizens can provide feedback on draft laws, strategies and policy documents, yet many young people do not appear to have a strong understanding of how this mechanism works in practice.

The same conclusion is supported by the responses concerning access to information about participation opportunities. A majority of respondents, 51.61% (n=32), stated that finding information about civic participation opportunities was neither easy nor difficult. At the same time, 19.35% (n=12) found it rather difficult, while only 3.23% (n=2) considered it easy. These findings suggest that the problem is not necessarily the complete absence of information, but rather its fragmentation, limited visibility and insufficient adaptation to young people's needs.

When asked who can propose new legislation at national level, 66.13% of respondents (n=41) correctly identified Members of Parliament, while 61.29% (n=38) identified the government. However, the results also indicate uncertainty or incomplete knowledge regarding other actors and channels. On European Union legislative authority, 46.77% of respondents (n=29) correctly identified the European Commission as the institution with the primary role in proposing new EU laws, while 33.87% (n=21) incorrectly selected the European Parliament. This demonstrates that, although many respondents have basic knowledge of EU institutions, there is still confusion regarding their specific functions in the legislative process.

6.3 Understanding of public input and consultation opportunities

The survey also examined whether young people understand when and how citizens can provide input on proposed laws. When asked whether citizens can provide feedback or input on a proposed new law, 67.74% of respondents (n=42) answered positively. However, 17.74% (n=11) stated that citizens cannot provide such input, while 14.52% (n=9) were unsure. This indicates that almost one third of respondents either do not know or do not believe that citizens can participate in legislative feedback processes.

Regarding the stage at which citizens can provide feedback, 64.52% of respondents (n=40) correctly identified the public consultation or hearing phase. However, 11.29% (n=7) believed that citizens could influence the process only through street protests, while 6.45% (n=4) stated that citizens cannot influence the legislative process. These answers point to a clear need for more practical civic education, especially on the functioning of public consultations, hearings and institutional feedback mechanisms.

This finding is important because it shows a gap between general democratic awareness and practical procedural knowledge. Young people may support democratic participation in principle, but they do not always know which formal mechanisms exist, when they can be used, and what kind of input is expected from citizens. This creates a barrier to meaningful participation, because participation requires not only motivation, but also procedural clarity.

6.4 Qualitative insights

The qualitative responses support the quantitative findings and provide additional context. Several respondents emphasised that they need clearer, simpler and more accessible information on how to participate. One respondent stated that young people need "clear and simple information about how to get involved". Another respondent explained that they need "more accessible and understandable information about legislative processes, more opportunities to participate in public consultations, and clearer channels for communication with institutions".

These comments suggest that the main challenge is not a complete lack of interest or awareness, but the difficulty of translating awareness into action. Young people may understand basic civic concepts, but they often lack practical guidance on what steps to take, where to find reliable information, and how to communicate with institutions. This creates an information-action gap: knowledge exists at a general level, but it is not always connected to concrete participation pathways.

The open-ended responses also show that awareness alone is insufficient. Respondents linked participation with the need for clearer procedures, better communication and practical guidance on how to use existing channels.

The validation workshops organised in Bulgaria confirmed these findings. Participants recognised that young people are generally aware of the importance of civic participation, transparency and anti-corruption, but often lack practical knowledge of how to use formal participation channels. The discussions also underlined the need for youth-friendly explanations, visible participation opportunities, and examples showing that youth input can lead to concrete outcomes.

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors

The Bulgarian survey results show that the main barriers to youth participation are not related to a lack of interest, but rather to lack of clear information, distrust in the effectiveness of participation, limited confidence and uncertainty about how to engage in practice. The strongest barrier identified by respondents was the lack of clear information and disinformation, selected by 66.13% of respondents (n=41). This indicates that access to understandable, reliable and youth-friendly information is a precondition for meaningful participation.

The second most significant barrier was the perception that personal views would not make a difference, selected by 40.32% of respondents (n=25). This finding points to a problem of low perceived impact. Young people may be aware of participation opportunities, but if they do not believe that institutions will take their views seriously, they are less likely to engage. This was also confirmed in the open-ended responses, where one respondent stated that they need to "see results" in order to feel that participation has meaning.

Practical and social barriers were also present, although less dominant. Lack of time was selected by 29.03% of respondents (n=18), while fear of negative reactions, criticism or online harassment was identified by 25.81% (n=16). A further 20.97% (n=13) pointed to lack of confidence, and 11.29% (n=7) stated that opportunities are too far away or difficult to access. Financial costs were mentioned by only 6.45% (n=4), which suggests that for this sample informational and psychological barriers are more important than direct economic obstacles.

Actual participation patterns show that young people are more likely to engage through familiar or low-threshold forms of participation than through direct institutional channels. In the last 12 months, 67.74% of respondents (n=42) had voted in elections, where eligible; 46.77% (n=29) had signed a petition or supported a campaign; 41.94% (n=26) had volunteered in a community or social initiative; and 38.71% (n=24) had attended a civic, youth or community meeting or event. In contrast, only 12.90% (n=8) had contacted a public authority, institution or representative, while 17.74% (n=11) had participated in a student, youth or university representative body.

Participation in public consultations remains particularly limited. Only 9.68% of respondents (n=6) had participated in a consultation at local or municipal level, 8.06% (n=5) at national level, and 6.45% (n=4) at EU level. At the same time, 40.32% (n=25) stated that they had not participated but would like to do so, while 17.74% (n=11) indicated that they do not know how to start. This shows a clear gap between interest and actual participation: many young people are open to engagement, but they need clearer guidance and more accessible entry points.

The enabling factors identified by respondents confirm this conclusion. The most frequently selected measure that would help young people participate more was "clear and simple information about how to get involved", chosen by 61.29% of respondents (n=38). Trust in information about civic and public life was selected by 48.39% (n=30), while 29.03% (n=18) pointed to opportunities closer to where they study, work or live. Guidance, mentoring or practical support was also highlighted in the qualitative responses as necessary for turning interest into action.

When asked which actions are most effective for making young people's voices heard, respondents placed voting in elections first, selected by 59.68% (n=37). Joining a youth organisation, NGO or civic initiative followed with 41.94% (n=26). Other forms, such as online campaigns, petitions and demonstrations, were selected less frequently. This suggests that young respondents still recognise the importance of formal and organisational forms of participation, even if they often experience barriers to using them effectively.

The validation workshops confirmed the same pattern. Participants recognised that young people are not necessarily apathetic, but often lack accessible information, practical examples and confidence that their participation will lead to visible outcomes. They also stressed the importance of feedback from institutions, because young people are more likely to remain engaged when they can see how their input has been considered.

8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust

The Bulgarian survey results show that perceptions of corruption are very high among young respondents. A total of 67.74% of respondents (n=42) described corruption in Bulgaria as "very widespread", while 27.42% (n=17) considered it "widespread". Taken together, 95.16% of the Bulgarian sample perceive corruption as widespread or very widespread. This indicates that corruption is not seen as an isolated problem, but as a structural issue affecting public life and institutional trust.

This perception is also visible in relation to specific institutions and sectors. Corruption among politicians at national, regional and local level was assessed as "very widespread" by 61.29% of respondents (n=38) and as "widespread" by 30.65% (n=19). Similar results were observed for the police, where 58.06% (n=36) selected "very widespread" and 33.87% (n=21) selected "widespread". These results suggest that young respondents associate corruption both with high-level politics and with institutions that directly affect citizens' everyday interactions with the state.

The survey also reveals low confidence in accountability mechanisms. When asked whether high-level corruption cases are pursued sufficiently, 51.61% of respondents (n=32) strongly agreed that they are not, while 30.65% (n=19) agreed. This means that more than four fifths of respondents express scepticism regarding the effective prosecution and follow-up of high-level corruption cases.

Transparency of institutional procedures is another major concern. Only 12.90% of respondents (n=8) agreed that public institutions usually explain procedures clearly, while 41.94% (n=26) disagreed and 25.81% (n=16) remained neutral. Similarly, 46.77% of respondents (n=29) disagreed that young people can access public services fairly without personal connections, while only 16.13% (n=10) agreed. These findings suggest that trust is weakened not only by perceptions of corruption, but also by unclear procedures and doubts about equal treatment.Respondents linked trust mainly to practical transparency, including clear steps, timelines and decision criteria.

Reporting corruption appears to be a particularly sensitive issue. Only 6.45% of respondents (n=4) stated that they would feel "very safe" reporting corruption or unfair treatment, while 32.26% (n=20) would feel "rather unsafe" and 9.68% (n=6) would feel "very unsafe". A further 38.71% (n=24) remained neutral. This shows that reporting corruption is not perceived as a simple administrative act, but as a process involving personal risk, uncertainty and lack of confidence in institutional protection.

Knowledge of reporting channels is also limited. A total of 45.16% of respondents (n=28) stated that they have a general idea where or how to report corruption, but are not sure of the process. Another 27.42% (n=17) would not know where to go, while only 12.90% (n=8) stated that they know exactly where to report. This confirms that awareness of corruption as a problem is much higher than practical knowledge of reporting mechanisms.

When asked what would make young people feel safer when reporting corruption, respondents prioritised anonymity and protection. Anonymous reporting options were selected by 59.68% of respondents (n=37), while protection from negative consequences or retaliation was selected by 50% (n=31). Clear guidance on where and how to report was selected by 38.71% (n=24). These results show that reporting mechanisms need to be not only formally available, but also trusted, confidential and easy to understand.

Trust in possible actors for corruption complaints is fragmented. Specialised anti-corruption agencies were selected by 30.65% of respondents (n=19), journalists by 29.03% (n=18), and lawyers by 20.97% (n=13). The police were selected by 19.35% (n=12), while courts or prosecution services were selected by 14.52% (n=9). Notably, 11.29% (n=7) selected “none”, indicating a complete lack of trust in any of the listed actors.

9. Needs, Preferred Formats and Solutions

The most frequently selected need was “clear and simple information about how to get involved”, chosen by 61.29% of respondents (n=38). This confirms one of the central findings of the report: young people are not necessarily unwilling to participate, but they often lack clear and practical information on where to start. Trust in information about civic and public life was the second most important factor, selected by 48.39% of respondents (n=30). This shows that information must not only be available, but also reliable, understandable and perceived as trustworthy.

Accessibility also matters. A total of 29.03% of respondents (n=18) stated that opportunities closer to where they study, work or live would help them participate more. Flexible online or hybrid participation options were selected by 17.74% (n=11). These results suggest that participation opportunities should be designed in a way that reflects young people’s daily routines, study obligations, work commitments and geographical location.

The survey also asked what would increase trust when young people interact with public services or institutions. The most frequently selected answer was “clear steps/process explained in advance”, chosen by 61.29% of respondents (n=38). This was followed by clear timelines, selected by 33.87% (n=21), and clear decision criteria, selected by 30.65% (n=19). These findings show that young people understand transparency in very practical terms: they need to know what the procedure is, how long it will take, what criteria will be applied and how they will receive feedback.

In relation to learning needs, respondents expressed the strongest interest in the European Union and youth engagement. This topic was selected by 50% of respondents (n=31). The second most preferred topic was integrity, transparency and anti-corruption tools, selected by 41.94% (n=26). Citizens’ rights and access to information were selected by 33.87% (n=21), while 32.26% (n=20) expressed interest in how decisions are made at local and national level. These results indicate that young people are interested not only in abstract democratic values, but also in practical knowledge about institutions, rights, decision-making and anti-corruption mechanisms.

The preferred formats for future activities are relatively diverse, which suggests that no single format would be sufficient. Workshops and clinics were selected by 32.26% of respondents (n=20), while volunteering projects were selected by 30.65% (n=19). Online sessions appealed to 29.03% (n=18), while mentoring and simulations/bootcamps were each selected by 27.42% (n=17). This distribution shows that young people value both practical face-to-face formats and flexible digital opportunities. It also suggests that future project activities should combine several methods rather than rely on lectures or one-way information sessions.

Respondents also identified specific tools that would help them access information and participate more easily. The most preferred option was a youth-friendly digital platform, selected by 67.74% of respondents (n=42). Short explainers in video or infographic format were selected by 33.87% (n=21), and the same share selected a simple guide or toolkit on how to participate. A calendar of opportunities was selected by 17.74% (n=11), while peer-to-peer support groups were selected by 14.52% (n=9). These results indicate that young people prefer accessible, visual, practical and centralised information tools.

The qualitative responses support these findings. Several respondents stated that they need more accessible and understandable information, clearer channels for communication with institutions, and more opportunities to participate in public consultations. Others emphasised the importance of seeing concrete results from participation. One respondent stated that they need to "see results" in order to feel that participation has meaning. This points to the importance of feedback mechanisms: young people are more likely to remain engaged when they understand how their views are used.

The validation workshops confirmed the need for practical and youth-friendly formats. Participants underlined that information should be presented in simple language, through examples, visual materials and interactive formats. They also stressed that young people need concrete guidance on how to participate, how to contact institutions, how to submit proposals or feedback, and how to report corruption or unfair treatment. The workshops also confirmed that digital tools should be combined with in-person activities, because some young people prefer direct discussion and peer interaction.

10. Conclusions

The research conducted in Bulgaria under WP1 of the RISE Balkans project shows that young people are not indifferent to civic participation, transparency and anti-corruption issues. On the contrary, the survey results indicate a relatively high level of awareness of key concepts such as corruption, conflict of interest and whistleblowing, as well as a strong belief that young people can contribute to reducing corruption. However, this awareness does not automatically translate into active and structured participation. The main challenge identified by the research is the gap between civic awareness and practical civic engagement.

One of the central findings is that young people in Bulgaria face an information-action gap. Respondents are generally familiar with basic civic and anti-corruption concepts, but they often lack practical knowledge of how to participate, where to find reliable information, how public consultations work, how to contact institutions, and where to report corruption or unfair treatment. This suggests that the problem is not only educational in a broad sense, but also procedural. Young people need practical civic literacy, including step-by-step guidance, clear examples and accessible explanations of institutional processes.

A second major conclusion concerns the perceived effectiveness of participation. A significant share of respondents believe that their views may not make a difference. This does not necessarily indicate apathy, but rather low confidence in institutional responsiveness. The qualitative responses and validation workshops confirmed that young people are more likely to engage when they can see concrete results, receive feedback and understand how their input has been used. Meaningful participation therefore requires not only access to consultation channels, but also visible follow-up.

Perceptions of corruption are very high among the surveyed young people. A total of 95.16% of respondents described corruption in Bulgaria as widespread or very widespread. Corruption is perceived not as an isolated problem, but as a structural issue affecting political institutions, public administration and everyday interactions with the state. This perception strongly influences institutional trust and shapes young people's willingness to engage with formal mechanisms.

Reporting corruption remains a particularly sensitive area. While respondents are familiar with the concept of whistleblowing and corruption reporting, many do not feel safe reporting corruption and are unsure where or how to report it. Anonymous reporting options, protection from retaliation and clear guidance on reporting procedures were identified as key requirements. This suggests that anti-corruption policy should place greater emphasis on youth-friendly reporting mechanisms, confidentiality and practical protection.

Overall, the Bulgarian findings point to a clear conclusion: young people have the potential and willingness to participate, but they need better civic infrastructure. This includes reliable information, practical guidance, accessible participation channels, safe reporting mechanisms, institutional feedback and visible results. The challenge is not simply to encourage young people to be active, but to make participation understandable, safe, meaningful and connected to real decision-making processes.

11. Recommendations

For the RISE Balkans Programme

1. Prioritise practical civic literacy.

RISE Balkans activities in Bulgaria should focus on practical skills rather than only theoretical knowledge. Young people need clear guidance on how to participate in public consultations, how to contact institutions, how to submit feedback, how to request public information and how to report corruption or unfair treatment.

2. Develop youth-friendly digital materials.

Since lack of clear information and disinformation were identified as the main barriers to participation, the project should produce short, accessible and visual materials, including infographics, short videos, checklists and step-by-step guides. These materials should explain civic participation and anti-corruption tools in simple language and with concrete examples.

3. Use interactive and experiential formats.

Workshops, simulations, bootcamps, mentoring and volunteering projects should be prioritised. These formats correspond to the preferences expressed by respondents and allow young people to learn through practice, discussion and real-life examples.

4. Create a centralised youth-friendly information space.

A digital platform or online hub should gather information on participation opportunities, public consultations, project activities, youth initiatives, volunteering, Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps opportunities, and reporting channels. This would respond directly to the respondents' preference for accessible and centralised information.

For Policymakers and Public Institutions

1. Make public consultations more accessible to young people.

Public consultations should be promoted through youth-friendly channels and accompanied by short explanations of what is being proposed, how young people can contribute and what will happen with their input. Technical and legal language should be simplified where possible.

2. Provide feedback after participation processes.

Young people are more likely to participate when they can see that their views are taken seriously. Institutions should provide short feedback reports after consultations, youth meetings and advisory processes, explaining which proposals were accepted, rejected or further considered.

3. Improve transparency of administrative procedures.

Public institutions should provide clear steps, timelines, decision criteria and contact points for procedures affecting young people. The survey shows that practical transparency is essential for building trust in institutions.

4. Strengthen safe and clear corruption reporting mechanisms.

Institutions should provide youth-friendly information on where and how to report corruption, including anonymous reporting options, protection from retaliation and clear follow-up procedures.

For Civil Society and Youth Organisations

1. Act as trusted intermediaries between young people and institutions.

Youth organisations and NGOs should help young people understand participation channels, prepare feedback, submit proposals and follow institutional responses. This role is especially important where trust in institutions is low.

2. Reach beyond already active young people.

Civil society initiatives should target not only students and already engaged youth, but also young people from small settlements, rural areas, vulnerable groups and those with lower confidence or fewer opportunities.

3. Use social media strategically.

Youth organisations should use short videos, infographics, podcasts and interactive posts to explain participation opportunities, civic rights, public consultations and anti-corruption mechanisms. Digital communication should be combined with media literacy and fact-checking elements.

4. Support youth-led initiatives with visible outcomes.

Projects should lead to concrete outputs such as youth proposals, local campaigns, public discussions, policy recommendations or awareness materials. Visible results can help overcome the perception that participation does not lead to change.

Croatian National Report

Executive summary

The research report combines results from the survey among young people aged 18-26 in Croatia, focus group discussions, and the validation workshop in the period April-May 2026.

The findings of the research point to a paradoxical position of young people in Croatia: on the one hand, they demonstrate a strong interest in social and political issues and recognize the importance of their own participation; on the other hand, they express low levels of trust in institutions, question the effectiveness of participatory mechanisms, and often believe that their engagement will not lead to meaningful change. Corruption is perceived as a deeply embedded and systemic problem that negatively affects trust in institutions, democratic processes, and young people's willingness to actively participate in public life.

The research also shows that the main barriers to participation are not a lack of interest but rather a lack of information, support, trust, and visible outcomes of civic engagement. Young people clearly express the need for more accessible information, stronger civic education, greater institutional transparency, and concrete evidence that their participation can have a real impact.

Importantly, despite their skepticism toward political institutions and the widespread presence of disinformation, young people continue to recognize the value of democratic participation and express a willingness to engage through elections, civic initiatives, volunteering, and civil society organizations. This indicates the existence of considerable participatory potential which, with adequate institutional support, increased trust, and more inclusive participation mechanisms, could contribute to a more active role for young people in shaping a democratic and resilient society.

Finally, the findings suggest that future youth-oriented policies should simultaneously strengthen civic competencies, resilience to disinformation, anti-corruption awareness, and opportunities for meaningful participation in decision-making processes. Only through a combination of education, transparency, institutional accountability, and open dialogue can an environment be created in which young people feel that their voices matter, are genuinely heard, and are capable of driving positive social change.

1. Introduction

Strengthening youth engagement in democratic life is an urgent priority across Europe, particularly in the Balkan region, where democratic participation faces persistent challenges. Across Europe—and especially in the Balkan region —young people are reporting an alarming disconnection from political institutions and democratic processes. While youth activism is visible through protests and online movements, formal and structured engagement with democratic and political institutions remains very limited. Recent data from the 2024 European Parliament Youth Survey (Flash Eurobarometer) highlights a critical gap between young people and public governance and institutions across Europe, with the situation particularly acute in the Balkan region. Youth disengagement is not primarily due to apathy but to low civic literacy and understanding of civic participation channels.

The RISE Balkans project (Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, Engagement – Youth Voices from the Balkans) addresses these gaps by empowering young people aged 18–26 in Greece, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania, and North Macedonia with civic literacy skills and anti-corruption tools. The project focuses on young people's empowerment in civic literacy, declining institutional trust, and widespread perceptions of corruption, through civic education, experiential learning, mentoring, and support for youth-led initiatives. By fostering responsibility, integrity, solidarity, and engagement, it aims to cultivate a new generation of active, informed citizens capable of strengthening democratic resilience at national and European levels. This action is also timely, as it aligns with key European initiatives aimed at defending democracy, strengthening civic spaces, and increasing youth involvement in policymaking, particularly under the European Democracy Action Plan and the Defense of Democracy Package. RISE Balkans will equip youth not only to participate, but to drive democratic renewal across national and EU levels.

To achieve these objectives, the project will engage young people in practical initiatives, including law-making simulations, anti-corruption actions, and structured dialogues with institutions, equipping them to influence legislation, contribute to anti-corruption policy reforms, and foster transparent governance at national and European levels. RISE Balkans will also produce open-access tools, including a multilingual civic education toolkit and a digital engagement platform, ensuring sustainability beyond the project's lifetime.

In the framework of the action, participating organisations conducted qualitative and quantitative research, aiming to identify young people's perceptions and experiences on barriers, opportunities, and knowledge linked to policymaking, participation, and anti-corruption frameworks, legislative processes and public consultation mechanisms. The present report encapsulates the research findings of the mapping conducted in Croatia.

2. Context of youth participation

Youth participation in Croatia has developed significantly over the past decade through institutional reforms, youth policy frameworks, and stronger cooperation between public institutions and civil society organizations. At the same time, scarce research and survey data continue to show relatively low levels of political participation, limited trust in institutions, and insufficient knowledge of democratic processes among young people. Croatia's youth participation landscape is therefore characterized by both growing opportunities for engagement (see chapters 3 and 4) and persistent structural challenges.

Despite these frameworks, studies consistently indicate relatively low levels of civic and political participation among Croatian youth. According to the European Commission's YouthWiki platform, research has shown that young people in Croatia demonstrate lower levels of political engagement and participation compared to many EU peers. It also shows that Croatia is, along other countries in the RISE Balkans project, among the rare countries that do not have a digital platform for young people. Political participation is often limited to voting, while involvement in political parties, advocacy initiatives, and civic organizations remains comparatively low. Research on political literacy among Croatian youth also points to gaps in democratic knowledge, critical thinking, and understanding of political institutions and processes.

Nevertheless, there are signs of growing interest in democratic participation, particularly in relation to European issues. Eurobarometer surveys conducted ahead of the 2024 European Parliament elections showed increasing interest among Croatian citizens in EU elections, with Croatia recording one of the largest increases in interest compared to previous election cycles. European-level surveys further indicate that young people across the EU, including Croatia, see voting as the most effective way to make their voices heard by decision-makers. The 2024 European Parliament Youth Survey also highlighted that young people are increasingly engaged through digital participation, social media discussions, and issue-based activism, especially around climate change, social justice, and mental health.

According to the Eurobarometer Youth Survey (2024), Croatian young people broadly share the priorities and attitudes of their peers across the European Union. However, economic concerns appear to be even more pronounced among Croatian youth than among the EU average. The most important issues identified by young people in Croatia are the economic situation and employment opportunities, cited by 41% of respondents compared to 31% across the EU. This is followed by rising prices and the cost of living (41% in Croatia; 40% EU average), social protection, welfare and healthcare (37% compared to 29% EU), environmental and climate issues (28% compared to 33% EU), and education and training (23% compared to 27% EU). These findings suggest that Croatian youth place particular emphasis on economic security and social welfare, reflecting broader socioeconomic challenges facing the country.

Attitudes towards the European Union are generally positive. Similar to their European peers, Croatian young people largely support EU membership and integration, although many express reservations about the way the Union currently functions. While 28% of Croatian respondents reported being unequivocally in favour of the EU (compared to 31% across the EU), a larger share (41%) indicated that they support the EU but are dissatisfied with its current performance (32% EU average). Opposition to the EU remains very limited, with only 3% of Croatian youth expressing a negative attitude towards the Union, compared to 6% across the EU.

Despite generally positive attitudes towards the EU, electoral participation remains relatively low. Among young Croatians who did not vote in the most recent European Parliament elections, the most commonly cited reason was a lack of information about the elections or the voting process (24%, compared to 26% across the EU). Other respondents pointed to the absence of a candidate or political party that represented their interests (18% compared to 15% EU average). Distrust in politicians and dissatisfaction with politics were somewhat less prominent reasons than among young people in the EU overall (13% in Croatia compared to 15% EU average). Nevertheless, Croatia continues to record one of the lowest levels of electoral participation in the European Union. According to data reported by the European Parliament, voter turnout in the 2019 European Parliament elections was 29.85%, with only three Member States—Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic—recording lower participation rates (Deželan, 2023). Moreover, in 2024, not only that the voter turnout was the lowest in Croatia but in group of young people it was significantly lower than in other countries (9% among young people aged 15-24 and 17% in group 25-39 years old) (Lavizzari, 2025).

In terms of broader civic participation, Eurobarometer (2024) shows that Croatian youth display patterns that both align with and diverge from European trends. Participation in elections is broadly comparable to the EU average (38% in Croatia compared to 39% across the EU). However, Croatian young people are somewhat less likely to engage in conventional forms of civic action such as signing petitions (23% compared to 26% EU average). Conversely, they demonstrate above-average involvement in volunteering activities, with 27% reporting participation compared to 20% of young people across the EU.

Young people in Croatia rely heavily on digital sources of information, particularly social media. Nearly half (48%) identify social media as their primary source of information, compared to 42% across the EU. Television remains the second most important source (40% in Croatia; 39% EU average), followed by online news platforms (32% compared to 26% EU average). In terms of specific social media platforms, Facebook remains the most widely used platform among Croatian youth, in contrast to the EU average where it ranks fourth. Facebook is followed by YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and X (formerly Twitter). This pattern suggests that information and civic engagement strategies targeting young people in Croatia should place particular emphasis on digital communication channels, while recognizing the continued relevance of traditional media such as television. Still, exposure to disinformation and fake news is high – 41% of young Croatian citizens report being exposed in last 7 days very often or often (44% EU average).

Overall, the findings indicate that Croatian youth are strongly concerned with economic security, generally supportive of European integration, and highly connected through digital media. At the same time, relatively low levels of electoral participation and civic engagement point to the need for stronger civic education, improved access to political information, and more effective mechanisms for involving young people in democratic decision-making processes.

One of the major factors influencing youth participation and institutional trust is the perception of corruption and political inefficiency. Research and public opinion surveys indicate that corruption remains a significant concern among Croatian citizens, particularly young people. This contributes to political apathy, skepticism toward institutions, and lower motivation to engage in formal political processes. At the same time, civil society organizations and youth initiatives increasingly focus on anti-corruption education,

democratic literacy, media literacy, and active citizenship as tools for strengthening democratic resilience among young people.

The Special Eurobarometer 548, the 2024 survey among Croatian citizens, shows that they perceive corruption as being widespread (92%), significantly higher than average EU citizens (68%), although there is a 4-point decrease in this perception compared to 2023 and 41% of respondents believe it has even increased. By group and sector, the corruption is perceived as being the mostly spread among political parties (52%) and politicians (53%), followed by officials awarding tenders (46%) and issuing building permits (44%), but police and customs and courts follow with 42 and 43% respectively, in sharp contrast to the EU average (24% and 18%). Corruption experience is reported by 14% of respondents (EU average 5%), but compared to the European average, Croatians believe that reporting corruption, in addition to difficulties in proving it, and lack of sanctioning, is not worth the effort (32% compared to 16% EU average). They do not have trust in police when reporting corruption (39% compared to 60% EU), but they trust specialized anti-corruption bodies (37% compared to 12% EU) (European Commission 2024).

One of the few recent studies examining young people's perceptions of corruption in Croatia (Roksandić, 2024) provides valuable insight into their understanding of corruption, trust in institutions, and attitudes towards anti-corruption measures. Based on a survey of 525 young respondents conducted in September 2024, the findings suggest that awareness of corruption is relatively high. Nearly four in ten respondents (39%) reported that they understand very well what corruption means, while an additional 38% stated that they understand it fairly well. Despite this relatively high level of awareness, a concerning proportion of young people appear to perceive corruption as an inevitable feature of political and social systems. Almost one quarter of respondents (24%) agreed, either fully or mostly, with the statement that corruption is a necessary phenomenon in societies and democracies.

When asked about the main causes of corruption in Croatia, respondents most frequently pointed to the prevalence of informal networks and patronage practices. Six in ten young people (60%) identified the perception that “everyone knows everyone” and that employment in public institutions is often based on personal connections rather than merit, expertise, or qualifications. A further 34% highlighted a lack of integrity among both public officials and private sector actors as a significant contributing factor.

The findings also reveal widespread scepticism regarding institutional transparency. Nearly half of respondents (48%) considered the work of Croatian institutions involved in preventing and combating corruption—including ministries, Parliament, public hospitals, and universities—to be insufficiently transparent, while an additional 26% viewed their work as not transparent at all. This suggests that almost three-quarters of young people perceive significant shortcomings in the transparency of public institutions.

Young people's views on the role of the media are similarly mixed. While most respondents considered the media to be moderately effective in exposing corruption (42%), only 19% viewed the media as effective, whereas 27% perceived them as only slightly effective. At the same time, concerns about media independence are pronounced. More than one-third of respondents (38%) believe that most media outlets are not independent and are susceptible to corrupt influence, while 9% consider no media outlet to be fully independent.

The study also highlights an important distinction between trust in institutions and perceptions of their effectiveness. Respondents assigned relatively high levels of responsibility to key anti-corruption institutions, including the Office for the Suppression of Corruption and Organised Crime (USKOK) (4.69 out of 5), the State Attorney's Office (4.39 out of 5), and the police (4.03 out of 5), indicating that young people recognise these institutions as central actors in combating corruption. However, assessments of their actual effectiveness were considerably lower. USKOK received an average effectiveness rating of 2.7 out of 5, while the State Attorney's Office and the police were rated at 2.29 and 2.1, respectively. This gap suggests that although young people understand the institutional responsibilities for addressing corruption, they remain unconvinced about the capacity of these institutions to deliver tangible results.

Importantly, the findings also point to strong support for preventive and educational approaches. More than two thirds of respondents (68%) considered the inclusion of anti-corruption education in school curricula to be important. This demonstrates a clear demand among young people for greater education and awareness-raising efforts aimed at strengthening integrity, accountability, and understanding of corruption from an early age.

Overall, the study by Roksandić (2024) indicates that Croatian youth possess a relatively high awareness of corruption and its causes, but express considerable concerns regarding institutional transparency, media independence, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. At the same time, their strong support for anti-corruption education suggests a recognition that long-term change requires both institutional reforms and investments in civic and ethical education.

Digital participation has become increasingly important in Croatia, especially among younger generations. Social media platforms, online campaigns, and digital activism have created additional channels for youth engagement, allowing young people to discuss political and social issues outside traditional institutional structures. However, this trend also raises concerns related to disinformation, political polarization, and media literacy. Consequently, the National Youth Programme and related policy frameworks place growing emphasis on digital skills, critical thinking, and civic education.

Overall, the context of youth participation in Croatia reflects a transitional democratic environment in which institutional mechanisms for participation are relatively well developed, but levels of trust, political efficacy, and sustained civic engagement among young people remain limited.

3. Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation

Youth participation in Croatia is influenced by a combination of enabling factors and structural barriers that shape the extent to which young people engage in democratic, civic, and political processes. Over the past decade, Croatia has developed an increasingly supportive policy and institutional framework for youth participation, yet important challenges remain in ensuring meaningful and sustained engagement of young people in society.

One of the main enabling factors is the existence of a comprehensive policy framework focused on youth participation. The National Youth Programme 2023–2025 recognizes active citizenship, participation in decision-making, and democratic engagement as key priorities of youth policy. Croatia has also established institutional participation mechanisms such as local and regional youth councils (*savjeti mladih*), student councils, student unions, public consultations through the e-Savjetovanja platform, and advisory bodies at national level. These mechanisms provide formal opportunities for young people to express their opinions and influence public policies affecting their lives.

Another important enabling factor is the strong role of civil society organizations and youth organizations. Organizations such as Mreža mladih Hrvatske and numerous local youth associations provide opportunities for volunteering, advocacy, non-formal education, and participation in public dialogue. Through these organizations, young people develop leadership skills, democratic competencies, and experience in civic engagement. International and European initiatives, particularly the EU Youth Dialogue, Erasmus+, and the European Solidarity Corps, further encourage youth participation by supporting mobility, intercultural learning, and direct involvement in policymaking processes at the European level.

Digital technologies and social media have also expanded opportunities for participation. Young people increasingly engage through online activism, awareness campaigns, petitions, and issue-based movements related to climate change, mental health, gender equality, and human rights. Digital tools have made participation more accessible and have enabled young people to organize and communicate outside traditional institutional structures.

The focused research on youth participation in Croatia is scarce, with only a few scholars particularly engaged in the topic. However, context and timing of assessing enablers and barriers matters. In an older study, Ilišin & Spajić (2015) claim that youth political participation should be understood within the broader framework of political culture, citizenship, and democratic engagement. Political culture encompasses individuals' relationships with political values, institutions, and forms of participation, while democratic citizenship emphasizes belonging, equality, responsibility, and active involvement in public life. Young people's engagement with politics is shaped not only by institutional opportunities but also by social, cultural, and generational factors.

Research shows that youth political attitudes and behaviours are influenced by a combination of life-cycle effects, specific generational experiences, and wider social and political developments. While existing social and ideological divisions within society are reflected among young people, age itself also represents an important factor shaping political values and patterns of participation. As a result, young people often differ from older generations in their political outlook and forms of engagement. In countries such as Croatia, which transitioned from a socialist one-party system to a multiparty democracy and market

economy in parallel with tremendous globalization, Europeanisation, and digital revolution, the context of youth participation has specific characteristics.

In a recent research, Ilišin & Baketa (2024), found that only a minority of final year secondary school students (17-18 years old) show unreserved support for liberal-democratic values, such as the respect for human rights, freedom, and equality; they also found the trend of the standard liberal-democratic values, such as rule of law and democratic multiparty system, losing support continues alongside the growth of experience in living within a democratic social and political environment. Also, when examining the trust in institutions, they found that the majority of respondents expressed trust only in the army and scientists, but also showed relatively respectable trust in the police and religious institutions. At the same time, the majority distrusts political parties and representatives of the media.

Another study conducted among young people aged 15–25 in Croatia (Ilišin & Gvozdanović, 2020) found that young people are more likely to justify than condemn the use of personal connections and informal networks, both in employment processes and in interactions with public and state institutions. The findings suggest a degree of normalization of clientelist practices among youth, reflecting broader societal patterns and perceptions of how opportunities are accessed and decisions are made. The study also found that young people who place greater importance on social responsibility, civic engagement, and democratic values tend to be more critical of such practices and less likely to accept the use of personal connections as a legitimate means of achieving personal or professional goals.

A recent study conducted among young people aged 13–25 (Kovačić et al., 2025) found that voting with the aim of addressing societal issues represents the most prominent form of formal political participation among youth. The findings indicate a positive relationship between age and electoral participation, with older respondents demonstrating a greater willingness to vote than younger participants. The study also revealed gender differences in political participation, with young women expressing a lower propensity to vote compared to young men. Furthermore, the research confirmed that several factors significantly predict young people's willingness to participate in elections. These include age, discussing current affairs with friends, participating in protests alongside peers, alignment between the participant’s value system and that of their family, following socially engaged content on social media, and interacting with political content online (e.g., liking political posts on social media). Together, these findings highlight the importance of both socialization processes and digital engagement in shaping young people's political participation and electoral behaviour.

At the same time, several barriers continue to limit youth participation in Croatia.

One of the most significant challenges is low trust in political institutions and political actors. Research and Eurobarometer surveys consistently show that young people often perceive politics as ineffective, unresponsive, or disconnected from their everyday concerns. Perceptions of corruption, political clientelism, and lack of transparency further contribute to political apathy and skepticism toward formal democratic processes.

Another important barrier is insufficient civic and political literacy. Although civic education initiatives exist, democratic competencies and knowledge of political processes among young people remain uneven. Many young people report limited understanding of how institutions function or how they

can influence decision-making processes beyond voting in elections. This weakens confidence in participation and reduces motivation for long-term civic engagement.

Socioeconomic factors also significantly affect participation levels. Economic insecurity, unemployment, precarious work, housing difficulties, and emigration trends influence young people's priorities and capacity to participate in public life. Young people from rural areas, disadvantaged backgrounds, or marginalized communities often face additional obstacles related to unequal access to education, participation opportunities, youth organizations, and public services. Participation mechanisms are frequently more accessible in larger urban centers than in smaller or less developed areas.

Furthermore, youth participation mechanisms themselves sometimes face limitations. Youth councils and consultation processes may lack visibility, resources, or real influence on policymaking. Young people occasionally perceive participation as symbolic rather than meaningful, particularly when their recommendations are not adequately reflected in final decisions. Limited feedback from institutions and insufficient communication about policy outcomes can reduce motivation and trust in participatory processes.

Finally, digital participation, while expanding opportunities, also creates challenges linked to misinformation, political polarization, online harassment, and superficial forms of engagement that may not translate into sustained civic action. Strengthening media literacy and critical thinking, therefore, remains an important priority.

MECHANISMS FOR CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION Citizen participation in Croatia is ensured through several institutional and non-institutional channels at national, regional, and local levels. The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, Article 44, guarantees citizens the right to participate in democratic processes and public affairs.

The main formal channel is participation in *elections*, through which citizens elect representatives to the Croatian Parliament, local and regional governments (555 local and 20 regional units), and the European Parliament, as well as to sub-municipal councils, a form of citizens' participation in local affairs, and national minority councils. Citizens may also participate directly through *referendums* (Article 87 Constitution for national referendum) and *citizens' initiatives* (Article 46 Constitution), which allow proposals for legislative or constitutional changes when sufficient public support is collected. Only three referendums were held since 1990 (on independence; on EU accession; on marriage definition).

Public consultations represent an important participatory mechanism, enabling citizens, civil society organizations, experts, and other stakeholders to provide comments and recommendations on draft laws, strategies, and public policies before their adoption. Regulated by the Law on the Right of Access to Information , which makes it obligatory for laws, bylaws, local and regional general acts, and strategic and planning documents since 2013, and the Law on the Instruments of Better Legislation Policy , it is implemented at the national level through the e-savjetovanjae-consultation platform, while local and regional units, as well as public institutions implement public consultations through their websites.

At the local level, in accordance with the Law on Local and Regional Self-Government, citizens can participate through *sub-municipal councils*, *local referenda*, *public hearings* (mjesni zbor), *national*

minority councils, and *youth councils*, which advise municipalities, cities, and counties on issues affecting young people. In recent years, many local and regional units have introduced *participatory budgeting*, e.g. in the capital city of Zagreb . Local referenda and public hearings are rare, but most local units have established sub-municipal councils, and larger units have national minority councils.

Civil society organizations, including associations (around 46.000 registered associations), youth organizations, trade unions, and advocacy groups, also play a key role in representing citizen interests and encouraging civic engagement. Additional channels include petitions, protests, volunteering, digital participation platforms, and membership in school, student, or professional representative bodies. The Government Office for Civil Society is responsible for supporting the development of civil society. As a rule, representatives of associations are included in advisory bodies and working groups across government and parliamentary committees (as external members, with no voting rights).

In recent years, Croatia, a long-standing member of the Open Government Partnership Initiative, has increasingly promoted participatory governance and dialogue between public institutions and citizens, particularly through digital tools, youth participation mechanisms, and cooperation with civil society organizations. In addition, since 2015 the Government Council for the Prevention of Corruption Government Council against Corruption, a collegiate body comprised of institutional representatives, social partners, associations of local and regional authorities, and civil society associations, has prepared action plans for the prevention of corruption and monitors their implementation.

4. Forms of young people's participation

Young people in Croatia are defined as persons **between 15 and 30 years** of age and represent a heterogeneous yet highly significant social group. According to data from the 2021 Population Census conducted by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, young people account for 15.8% of the total population of the Republic of Croatia. They are characterized by diverse social, educational, and economic backgrounds, while sharing a common aspiration to become active, responsible, and equal members of society. At the same time, young people face numerous challenges arising from rapid social, economic, and technological changes in contemporary society. Ensuring adequate support, opportunities, and resources for young people is a shared responsibility of society as a whole, including public and state administration bodies. Such support is essential for enabling their active participation in society, strengthening their understanding of their role within the community, and encouraging their contribution to social development and progress.[1]

The youth policy in Croatia rests upon several instruments – (a) governmental unit - ministerial directorate for youth (frequently reshuffling between different ministries, currently under the Ministry of Science, Education, and Youth), (b) representative and advisory bodies (youth councils; Government Youth Policies Council; student unions and associations; school student councils; Children's ombudsman advisory body; Youth representative in UN), (c) youth associations, and (d) national strategy for youth (National Youth Programme).

YOUTH COUNCILS. The specific forms of youth participation in public affairs are youth councils, introduced at the local and regional level by the Law on Youth Councils in 2014 and at the national level in 2023. The aim is to enable participation of young people in decision-making in the public affairs of interest and significance to young people, the inclusion of young people in public life, informing and advising young people in local and regional self-government units, and monitoring and promoting the interests of young people from all parts of Croatia at the national level.

Young people between the ages of 15 and 30 may become members of youth councils, selected by representative bodies at the local and regional level through public calls, and youth organizations, schools, student associations, non-governmental organizations, and informal groups of young people can propose candidates. The final appointment is made by local or regional representative bodies, such as city councils or county assemblies. The national level youth council is established by the ministry responsible for youth (interestingly, the responsible ministries have frequently been changed), based upon the nominations by regional level youth councils.

The main role of youth councils is consultative. They propose initiatives, give opinions on youth-related policies, organize workshops and public discussions, and encourage civic participation among young people. Their activities often focus on education, employment, culture, sports, volunteerism, and social inclusion. Although youth councils may influence local policies, they do not have executive or legislative powers, meaning authorities are not legally required to accept their proposals.

Recent amendments to the law introduced changes such as reducing the minimum number of members, abolishing substitute members, and strengthening the role of the national Youth Council of the Republic of Croatia. These changes aimed to improve efficiency and coordination, although some youth organizations criticized them for potentially reducing the independence of local youth participation. The Croatian Youth Network, as well as 44 members of parliament, submitted a request for constitutional review

of the amendments to the Law on Youth Councils, which provided for the establishment of a national youth council due to the violation of the right to local self-government.

In practice, the latest available report (for 2022; State Office for Demography and Youth, 2023) shows that out of 575 local and regional units, only 140 units established youth councils, with only 73 active youth councils (39 cities, 20 municipalities / 13 regions and 1 in the City of Zagreb). While the report presents several good-practice examples (e.g., sports events, awareness-raising campaigns on youth-related issues), the majority of youth councils encountered a lack of support and interest among young people. The national Youth Council has operated since the beginning of 2026, and its role is yet to be assessed.

Overall, the Law on Youth Councils is an important mechanism for promoting democratic participation and civic engagement among young people in Croatia. Its effectiveness, however, depends largely on the level of support from local authorities and the active involvement of young citizens themselves.

YOUTH POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL. The Youth Policy Advisory Council of the Government (Savjet za razvoj politika za mlade) is an interdepartmental advisory body that participates in the development, monitoring, and improvement of public policies affecting young people in Croatia. Its role is to connect representatives of state institutions, youth organizations, and experts to ensure that the needs and interests of young people are included in decision-making processes. First established in 2012, the last set-up includes 15 representatives of institutions, 4 representatives of national councils and associations of local units, four representatives of other youth organisations, and up to 8 representatives of youth associations.

The Council monitors the implementation of youth policies and provides recommendations and opinions to the Government on laws, strategies, and measures relevant to the position of young people. It also promotes cooperation between public institutions and civil society organizations, strengthens youth participation and dialogue with decision-makers, and contributes to the development of better measures in areas such as education, employment, housing, health, and social inclusion. From 2018 to 2022, the Advisory Board for Youth of the Government of the Republic of Croatia organised activities to encourage youth participation, including two Annual Youth Advisory Boards Conferences to promote youth empowerment, exchange best practices in the work of Youth Advisory Boards, and increase the visibility of the role and work of Youth Advisory Boards in Croatia.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS A Students' Union (Croatian: *Studentski zbor*) is the official elected representative body of students at universities, faculties, polytechnics, and colleges in Croatia (e.g. Student Council of the University of Zagreb). Its primary role is to protect student interests, participate in university decision-making processes, and represent students within the higher education system. The legal framework for student unions is defined by the Croatian Parliament through the Law on Student Union and other student organisations adopted in 2007 (first established in 1996) The law regulates student representation, student elections, the work of student organizations, and the institution of the student ombudsperson.

Student unions are organized at the level of higher education institutions, while at the national level they are coordinated through the Hrvatski studentski zbor (Croatian Student Union). Their structure

generally includes an assembly, president, committees, and elected student representatives in university senates and faculty councils. The main responsibilities of student unions include representing students before university authorities and public institutions, improving the quality of studies and student standards, advocating for student rights, organizing extracurricular and cultural activities, supporting student participation, and appointing student representatives and student ombudspersons (each higher education institution has a student ombudsman, article 17 of the law).

Croatia has more than 150,000 students enrolled in higher education institutions, with student unions operating at all public universities and many private higher education institutions. Student representatives participate in university governance bodies, where students are guaranteed representation under Croatian higher education legislation. In addition to the students' union and similar organisations, the higher education institutions enable students' associations of various interests, from sports, culture, advocacy,, professional and career development organisations, branches of international students organisations, science organisations, humanitarian organisations, etc. At the University of Zagreb, the largest university in Croatia with 70.000 students, there are more than 50 student associations.

NATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS COUNCIL– National Council of Schools Students of the Republic of Croatia NVURH) is the highest representative body of primary and secondary school students at the national level in Croatia. Established in 2005 as an advisory body to the Ministry responsible for education, it represents the interests, rights, and opinions of students in matters related to the education system and youth participation. The Council is composed of representatives of county-level student councils from across Croatia, ensuring national representation of students in decision-making and consultation processes. Its legal basis derives from the Croatian education framework, particularly the Act on Education in Primary and Secondary Schools, which regulates student participation and the work of student councils in primary and secondary schools.

The main goals of NVURH are to strengthen school student participation, protect student rights and interests, promote democratic values and dialogue within schools, and contribute to improving educational conditions and policies. The Council advocates for issues such as accessible education, student standards, mental health, transport subsidies, inclusion, and participation in educational reforms. Its activities include consultations with the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, participation in public discussions on education policies, cooperation with student councils and youth organizations, and representation of Croatian students in national and international initiatives related to youth participation and democratic engagement.

CHILDREN OMBUDSMAN NETWORK. The Network of Young Advisors (Mreža mladih savjetnika – MMS) and the Youth Forum 16+ (Forum mladih 16+) are advisory bodies of the Ombudsperson for Children in Croatia, established to strengthen child and youth participation in matters affecting their rights and well-being. MMS has operated since 2010, while Forum 16+ focuses on young people approaching adulthood. Their members act as advisors, collaborators, and ambassadors who promote children's rights among peers and provide the Ombudsperson with insights into the challenges young people face in their communities.

In 2025, the sixth generation of MMS included 25 members, while Forum 16+ included 16 members. Activities included national and online meetings, discussions on artificial intelligence and

education, children's physical health, and the introduction of the Barnahus child protection model in Croatia. Members developed recommendations for improving children's right to physical health and participated in consultations with national stakeholders. The groups were also active internationally through UNICEF initiatives, the EU Children's Participation Platform (CPP), and the European Network of Young Advisors (ENYA) within the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). Croatia hosted the ENYA Forum 2025, and the MMS model was presented internationally as an example of good practice in child participation.

YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS. Croatian Youth Network (Mreža mladih Hrvatske) is the national umbrella organization of youth associations in Croatia (established in 2002 to represent and advocate for the interests and rights of young people at the national and international level. It brings together youth organizations and organizations working with and for young people, creating a platform for cooperation, dialogue, and coordinated advocacy in the field of youth policy. Currently involving 77 youth associations it connects a large set of diverse organizations (advocacy, culture, environment, minority, etc.) with a common interest to develop youth policies at national, regional and local level. The organization operates as a non-governmental, non-profit network focused on strengthening youth participation, promoting democratic values, social inclusion, human rights, and equal opportunities. Its members include local and national youth organizations, student associations, and civil society actors engaged in youth work and civic participation.

The main goals of the organization are to improve the position of young people in society, encourage active citizenship and participation in decision-making processes, strengthen the capacities of youth organizations, and advocate for quality and inclusive youth policies. Its activities include policy advocacy, research and analysis, educational programs and training, public campaigns, consultations with young people, international cooperation, and support for civil society development and youth work. Mreža mladih Hrvatske is actively involved in several European and international initiatives and networks, including the European Youth Forum, through which it contributes to European youth policy discussions and represents Croatian youth organizations internationally. It also cooperates with institutions of the Republic of Croatia, local authorities, and international partners on the development and implementation of youth-related policies and programs.

NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME The last strategic document, National Youth Programme 2023-2025 mentions 6 priority areas of the youth policy, one of them being Youth participation with the goal – Enhancing involvement of youth in decision-making, which includes ten measures related to the work of advisory councils, creating stimulative environment for participation, support to local and regional youth policy, and sectoral initiatives related to sustainable development, environmental policies, art. In 2025, the Ministry of Science, Education, and Sports allocated funds to 142 youth organisations.

5. Methodology

The data was collected through quantitative and qualitative research instruments – a survey, focus group discussion, and survey results validation workshop. The goal was to explore youth experiences and perceptions of civic participation and engagement in everyday life, the relevance and clarity of key concepts and participation channels, and the enabling factors and barriers concerning young people's active engagement. The methodological framework was developed in the form of the Research Protocol by Panteion University, in collaboration with all partners.

The ***quantitative research*** was conducted by the dissemination of an **online questionnaire** developed on the basis of existing research on the aforementioned topics, such as the Eurobarometer and other EU surveys on political participation, experiences and challenges young people face. The questionnaire was administered via the LimeSurvey tool in a way that the same questionnaire in five languages was disseminated in five countries participating in the research. The survey procedure was designed in a way that ensures anonymity and confidentiality of respondents and collected data. Prior to its completion, respondents were asked to provide their consent to participate; if not, the questionnaire closed automatically, and no responses were recorded. Convenience sampling was employed, with the survey disseminated at the university between late March and the end of April 2026 through regular channels (social networks, e-mails, e-learning platforms, personal networks).

A total of 105 young people in Croatia completed the survey, from a broader international sample of 490 respondents across all RISE Balkans project countries, representing slightly more than 1/5 or 21,4% of the total dataset.

- By gender, the sample is mostly female (70,48%), with 27.62% being male.
- By age, the most dominant group are 21-23 years old young people (47,62%) followed by a younger cohort of 18-20 years old young people (33,33%) and finally the oldest group of 24-26-year-old youth representatives (19.05%).
- By community background, the majority of respondents live in an urban area (city/large town) – 65,1%, followed by those living in a semi-urban area (small town, suburbs) – 21,9% and finally rural area – 12,38%.
- By educational background, the largest share completed secondary education (52,38%) followed by BA degree (35,24%), while 3,81 holds master degree.
- By status, 90,48% reported currently being a student and 13,33% being employed (Master level students often work parallel to studying), followed by 5,71% unemployed.

In the framework of the **qualitative research**, a **focus group discussion** was conducted on 27 April 2026 at the Faculty of Law. Convenience sampling was followed, with an open call to university students. The focus group was held in a hybrid format, with the majority of participants attending the event in situ (8) and an additional 4 participants attending online. The FGD gathered **a total of 12 participants**, with an average age of 21,6; five male, seven female; two secondary school students, 9 university students, and one unemployed. Three participants were minority related). One is living currently in a smaller town, but five

additional participants, although currently living in a larger city, are from smaller towns. and 5 out of 12 are from other parts of Croatia. Out of 12 participants, 5 indicated that they have NGO experience. All participants were informed about the research scope and objectives and signed a consent form confirming their voluntary participation and the confidentiality of their responses. The discussion covered civic knowledge, media literacy, trust, political engagement, corruption perceptions, and preferred forms of participation.

Focus group discussion	**27 April 2026 / Hybrid**
participants	12 / 8 in the classroom, 4 online
gender	5 M, 7 F
average age (range)	21,6 (18-25)
status	9 university students 2 secondary school students 1 unemployed (but NGO activists)
minority representation	3
experience in NGOs	5
moderators	1 online 1 in the classroom
administrators	1 online 1 in the classroom




Focus Group Discussion 27 April 2026

Upon the completion of the qualitative and quantitative research phases, a **validation workshop** was convened on 04 May 2026 at the Faculty of Law to review preliminary findings, discuss their resonance with participants' lived experience, and enrich the analysis through additional collective insights. Workshop notes and a formal presentation of results served as primary sources for the integration of workshop findings across all sections of this report. The workshop was attended by **a total of 62 participants**, with three-quarters of female participants (47 or 75,81%) and one-quarter of male participants (15 or 24,19%). The participants, all holding Croatian nationality, were predominantly students of public administration, law, social work, political science and journalism.




Survey Validation Workshop 4 May 2026

6. Youth awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-corruption, Transparency and Policy Making

Perceived prevalence of corruption

Survey findings reveal that the vast **majority of the sample (91,44%)** described **corruption in Croatia as "widespread" or "very widespread"**, and not a single respondent described it as "rare" or "very rare" (Figure 1). Most participants also agreed or strongly agreed that corruption exists within the national and the local/regional public institutions (93,33% in both cases), while two-thirds (67,62%) believe that they are personally affected by corruption in their day-to-day life and 11,43% disagree with this thesis.

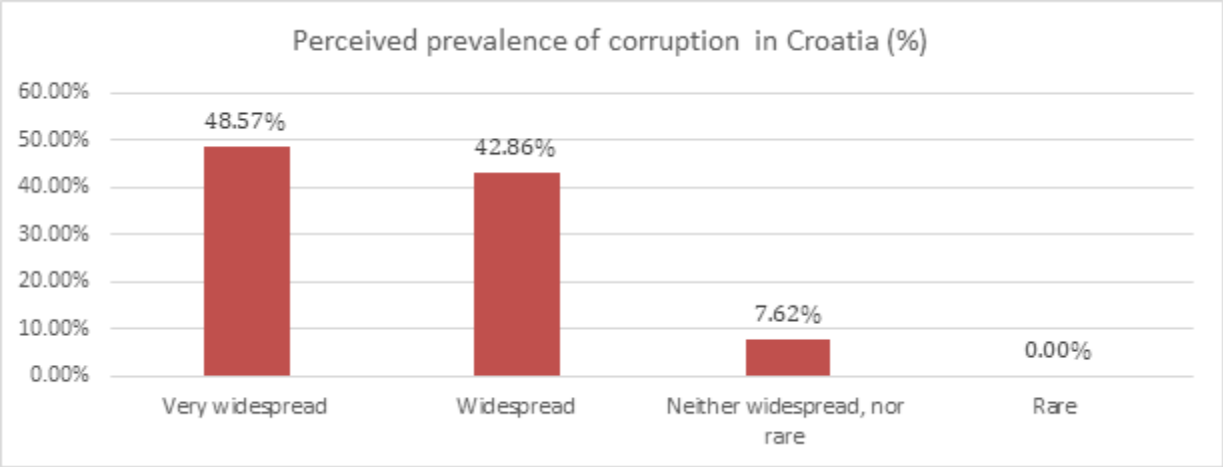


Figure 1 Perceived prevalence of corruption in Croatia

As evident from the **sector-by-sector data** in Figure 2, politicians and political parties attract the highest perceived corruption, in terms of bribery and abuse of power for personal gain. The responses in relation to 13 sectors and groups show the following results in relation to bribery and abuse of power being widespread:

- When it comes to politicians, bribery and abuse of power for personal gain are perceived as "widespread" or "very widespread" by 89,5% respondents, and 88,57% believe so in relation to political parties

- Young people believe that bribery and abuse of power for personal gain is "widespread" or "very widespread" among officials awarding public contracts in 77,14% and officials issuing building permits 79,05%, followed by the health care (73,33%) followed by

- A slightly lower level is perceived in sports (65,71%), police (60%) and the private sector (60%)

- Half of the respondents perceive the bribery and abuse of power for personal gain to be widespread or very widespread in relation to tax authorities (58,1%) and courts (52,38%)

- A somewhat promising picture is shown in the groups of banks (41,9%), education (34,29%), and social security (29,52%)

However, almost one third of respondents perceive bribery and abuse of power to be rare or very rare in the education sector (28,57%) and the social security sector (27,62%), followed by banks (18,1%), courts (16,19%), private sector (10,48%), sports (9,52%) and tax authorities (9,52%). Interestingly, a certain share of respondents doesn't know whether bribery and abuse of power are widespread – for example, the highest rate of 'I do not know' responses is recorded in relation to social security (14,29%), banks (15,24%), and courts (10,48%), while for education, a sector where they have most experience, it is 6,67%. In contrast, the response I do not know is recorded only 1,9% when it comes to politicians, or 2,86% when it comes to health care, the topics they often encounter in news and in real life.

The **qualitative character of corruption** shows an overall picture of awareness on the issues of structural corruption.

- 72,38% respondents agree or strongly agree that close links between business and politics lead to corruption

- 75,24% agree or strongly agree that "favouritism and corruption obstruct business competition";

- 84,76% respondents agree or strongly agree that high-level corruption cases are not pursued sufficiently

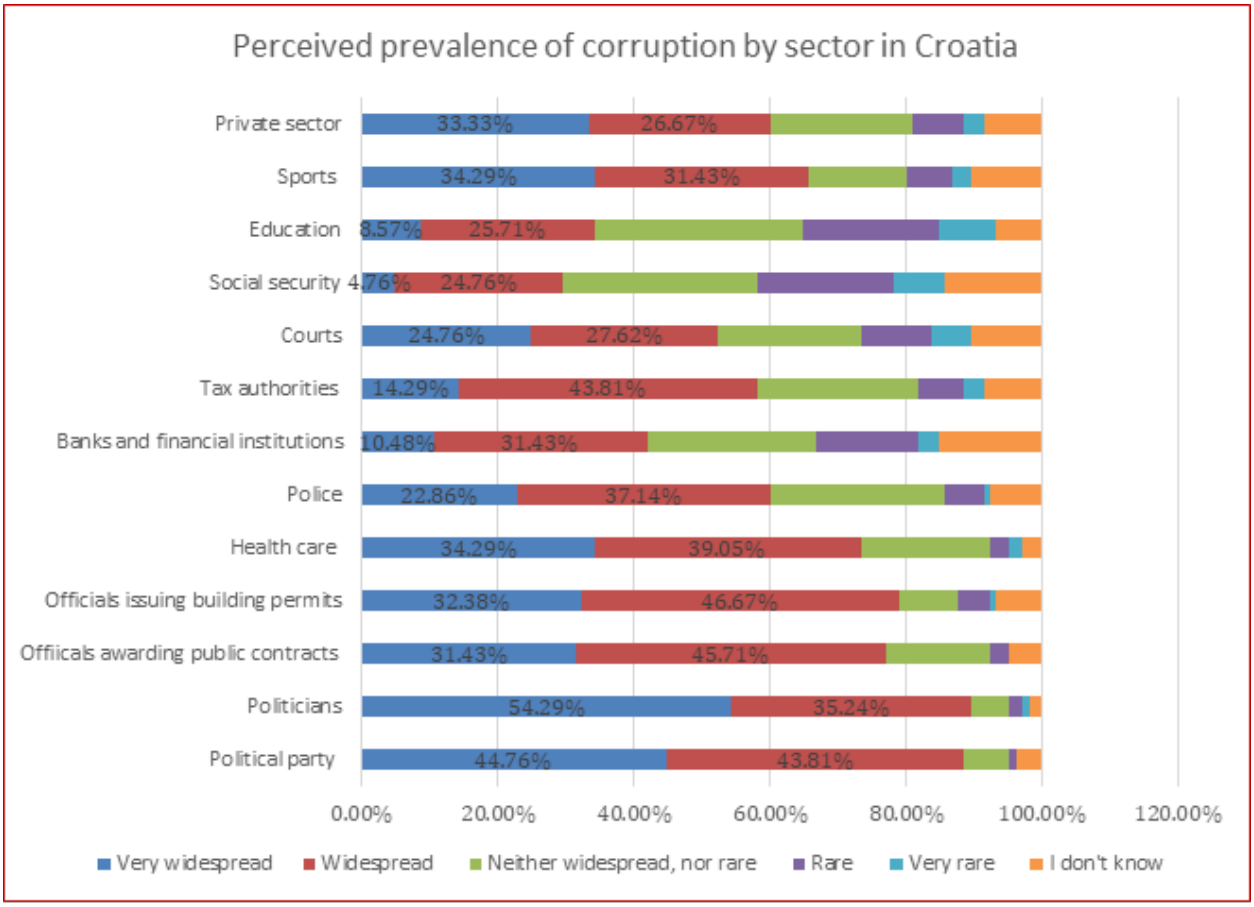


Figure 2 Perceived prevalence of corruption per sector

However, less than half of respondents see corruptive behaviour as a means for personal success or service consumption:

- 43,81% agree or strongly agree that political connections are necessary for business success, while 20% disagree or strongly disagree
- 48,57% believes that young people cannot access public services fairly without personal connections, with 44,76% respondents disagree or strongly disagree and 27,62% neither agree nor disagree.

Still, clear, transparent, and understandable processes and information is not perceived as a standard by young people in Croatia. Only 10,48% of respondents agree that public institutions usually explain procedures and decisions clearly (35% neither agree nor disagree) and 88,57% of young people believe that public processes should be easier to understand and follow.

The overwhelming majority of survey respondents – 88,57% or almost 9 out of 10, identified **employment and recruitment** as being the most critical among **areas where young people are most likely to face corruption, favouritism or unfair treatment** (Figure 3), followed by political life or participation in political parties, where one third believe so (29,52%). This shows that the path to job or

political engagement, albeit to a lower degree, includes challenges of inclusion. Still, the picture is a bit better when it comes to other areas, because other areas are assessed by one-fifth or less as being areas where young people are most likely to face corruption, favouritism or unfair treatment - public administration, permits and documents (20,95%), healthcare or other public services (18,10%), education and universities (16,19%), and local government and municipal services (7,62%).

The *focus group discussion*, conducted with 12 participants, revealed several important insights regarding youth participation opportunities. Participants largely associated civic participation with political engagement and perceived that young people's voices can only be heard through affiliation with a particular political option or party. However, they also expressed skepticism regarding the effectiveness of such involvement. Even when young people join political parties, participants feel they are expected to adopt the principles, ideology, and values associated with that political structure, while their own perspectives and "youth voice" remain unable to reach higher decision-making levels or generate meaningful change within hierarchical systems.

The *validation workshop participants* expressed their satisfaction with the survey results in terms of validity, confirming that corruption is prevalent across all major institutional domains, with the employment & recruitment process being the most critical for them, as young people seeking job opportunities. They also believe that in sports, an area where young people intensively engage, corruption is very high (this coincides with recent scandals in national sports associations). However, they perceive corruption as widespread, and even more so than shown in the survey results, especially in rural areas, since data does not discern between urban and rural communities. They think that institutional response to corruption is not strong enough and they opt for stricter anti-corruption measures and express concern that such a high perception of corruption negatively affects the participation level. As they noted:

'Unfortunately, it sounds familiar. Corruption cannot always be seen directly, be we have a feeling that connections and acquaintances often play greater role than knowledge and hard work.'

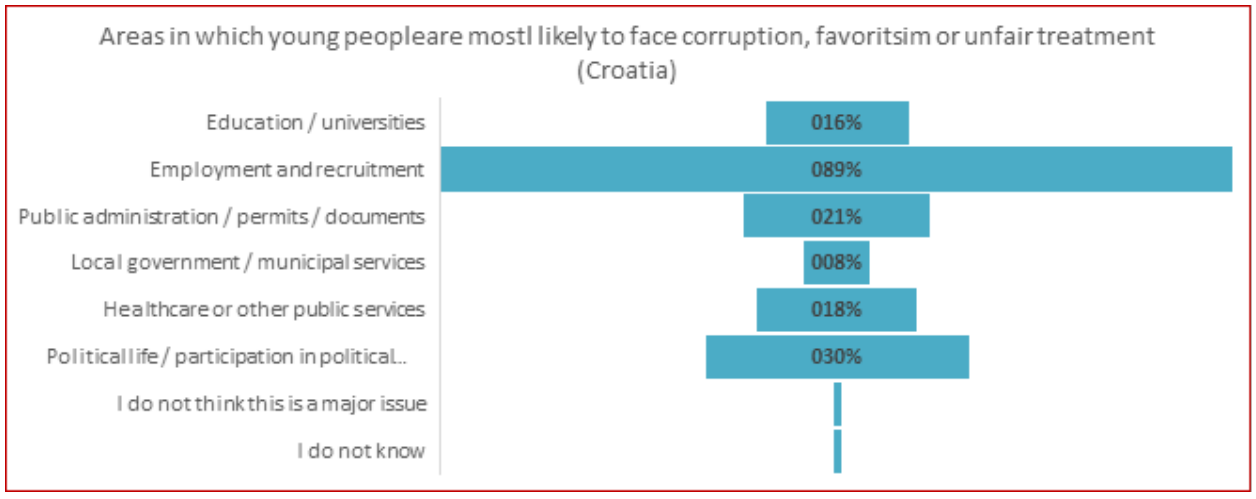


Figure 3: Perceived prevalence of corruption per area

Knowledge and understanding

Survey findings reveal **relatively satisfying knowledge and understanding of how governance operates**, (Figure 4), but the distribution of results might partially be attributed to the possible greater share of law, public administration, and political science students in the sample. The majority of respondents report that they know very much and quite a lot about national level governance (63,81%) while 9,52% know not very much or nothing at all. When it comes to local government, the understanding falls to 54,29% who report that they know very much or quite a lot, similarly to university governance or employer organisation (50,48%), but it is less present in relation to the EU governance (37,14%), where 26,67% report that they do not know much or nothing at all.

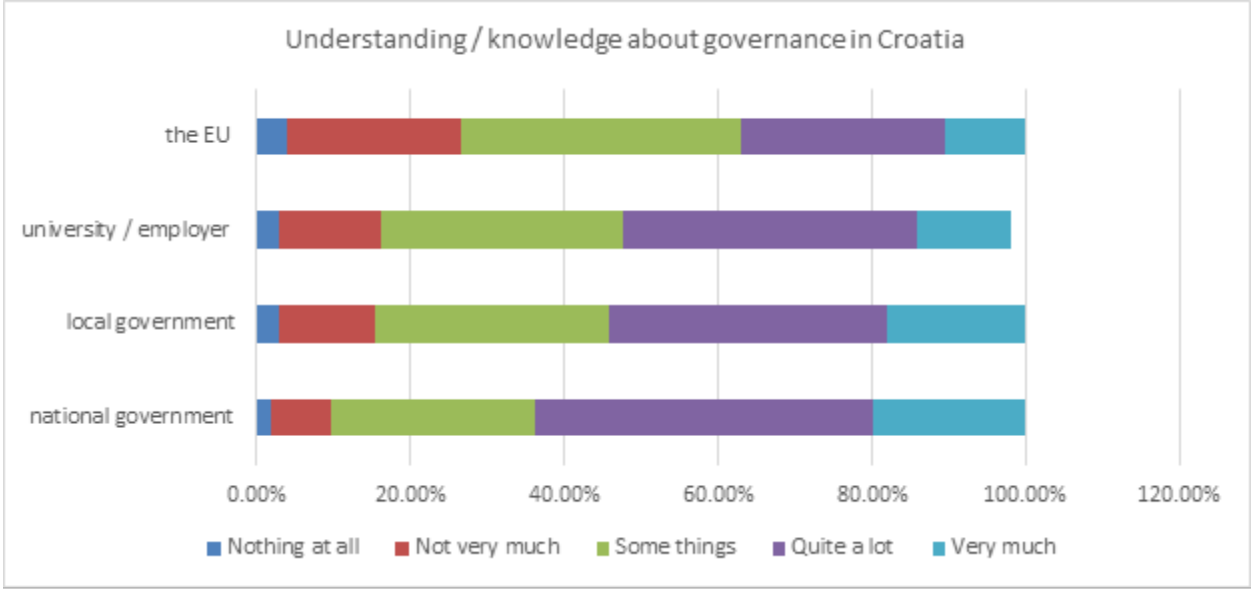


Figure 4: Understanding and knowledge of governance by young people in Croatia (N=105)

Familiarity with key civic mechanisms is fairly good. A combined 37,14% report being **extremely or very familiar with the legislative process** in Croatia, with an additional 41,9% being moderately familiar, which reflects their main area of education. Almost one-fifth (19,05%) of respondents are extremely or very familiar with the legislative process in the EU, with an additional 38,1% being moderately familiar. The results show a relatively satisfying self-perceived knowledge of youth on legislative processes at national and supranational level (around ¾ at the national and almost 2/3 at the EU level are moderately, very or extremely familiar. Correspondingly, only 1,9% and 7,62% are not at all familiar with the national and EU level legislative process, respectively. However, 77,14% of respondents claim that they know where they can find information about participation opportunities in their community or university.

When asked precise questions, the results show a certain relation to the self-perceived knowledge and understanding. Elaborating on the **legislative processes**, two-thirds of young respondents correctly identify that the national legislation is proposed by the Government (65.71%) and Members of the Parliament (67,62%), although in practice, the Government figures as the main proposers. However, a significant share, half of respondents, wrongly believe that citizens might propose legislation through

petitions (50,48%) although such a high rate might be attributed to mixing the option with the referendum. A tenth of respondents do not know or wrongly attribute the possibility to local level councils (11,43% in both cases). At the EU level, respondents mistakenly find the European Parliament as being the primary actor in proposing new EU laws, and only one third (37,14%) correctly identify the European Commission as the initiator. Correctly, no one thinks that the ECJ can propose the laws. The same share as for the national level claims that they do not know (11,43%).

When it comes to **public consultations**, 22,86% respondents claim to be not at all familiar, and 28,57% slightly familiar. But when asked what is the example of public consultation mechanism they correctly identify a submission of written feedback in 70,48% of cases. While 1,90% confuse social media comments and 11,43% as voting in elections as being examples of public consultations, 16,19% claim that they do not know what the mechanism is. Similarly, they correctly identify public consultations as the stage that opens the possibility for citizens to **provide feedback** or input on a proposed law (69,52%), with 2,86% believing that citizens cannot influence the legislative process, or that they can only do so through street protests (11,48%). In general, two-thirds of respondents (63,81%) claim that citizens can provide feedback on legislation, while 18,10% respond that they do not know. Knowledge of EU-specific tools is somewhat weaker: one third or 37,14% identify Have your Say portal as a mechanism for feedback collection, while one-fifth (21,9%) believe that it is done by national referendums. A small share identifies social media as channels for feedback collection (2,86%) while a significant share, one third (31,43%), admits that they do not know.

In terms of **participation channels** (Figure 5) most respondents reported being aware of student councils and university representation (74,24%), petitions or signature campaigns (74,29%) and volunteering or community initiatives (60,95%). Less than half of respondents, between 42-25%, are aware of public consultations (45,71%), youth councils/youth advisory bodies (43,81%) and NGO initiatives (42,86%). Less than one third respondents is aware of the possibility to contact elected representatives (29,52%) or of reporting channels for unfair treatment (24.76%).

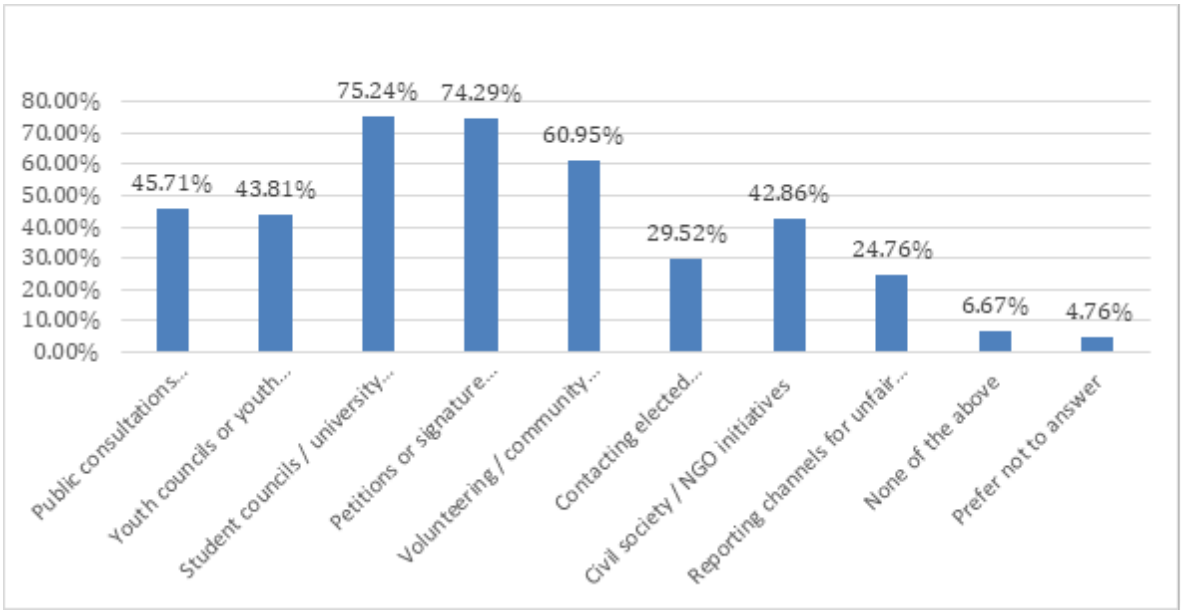


Figure 5: Awareness of participation channels (N=105)

Focus group discussion revealed deeper insights in young people's understanding and knowledge of civic engagement and opportunities. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the insufficient level of civic education available in secondary schools and universities. Participants emphasized that young people are generally not provided with adequate knowledge about civic participation, democratic processes, or the mechanisms through which they can influence social and political change. Furthermore, they noted a lack of clear and accessible information on the practical channels and opportunities available for youth engagement. Several participants stressed the importance of introducing civic and political education into the educational system from an early age, beginning in primary school, and adapted to different developmental stages. According to participants, fostering a culture of civic responsibility and democratic participation among young people is essential for building a society capable of achieving contemporary democratic values and long-term positive social change.

Similarly, participants in the *survey validation workshop* demonstrated a solid understanding of participatory processes and emphasized the need for greater youth involvement in public consultations related to legislative proposals. When asked about their familiarity with the concepts covered in the survey, the majority reported knowing government and legislative processes (approximately three-quarters of respondents), while around half indicated familiarity with the European Union.

Participants also proposed several measures to reduce corruption, including increasing budget transparency, ensuring greater transparency of investments, strengthening oversight of lobbying activities, improving the monitoring of EU funding, and reforming local government structures. In addition, they stressed the importance of introducing civic education in schools and expanding opportunities for extracurricular learning on civic engagement through youth organizations and associations.

With regards to familiarisation with **key concepts related to anti-corruption** (Figure 6), “disinformation” (83,81%), conflict of interest (80,95%) and corruption (73,33%) stand out as well-known

terms, extremely familiar or very familiar to ¾ or more of respondents. Terms such as whistleblowing (61,9%), rule of law (55,245), and lobbying (49,52%) are fairly well-known. Around one third of respondents report that they are familiar with concepts of good governance (36,19%), public procurement (35,24%), followed by EPPO and EU fraud (both 30,48%). Beneficial ownership is the least known term, with 22,86% respondents being extremely or very familiar, and 18% of respondents being not at all familiar with the concept. Overall, most of the terms are not familiar to 6,5-10,5% of respondents, except corruption and conflict of interest (only 0,95%) and disinformation (2,86%).

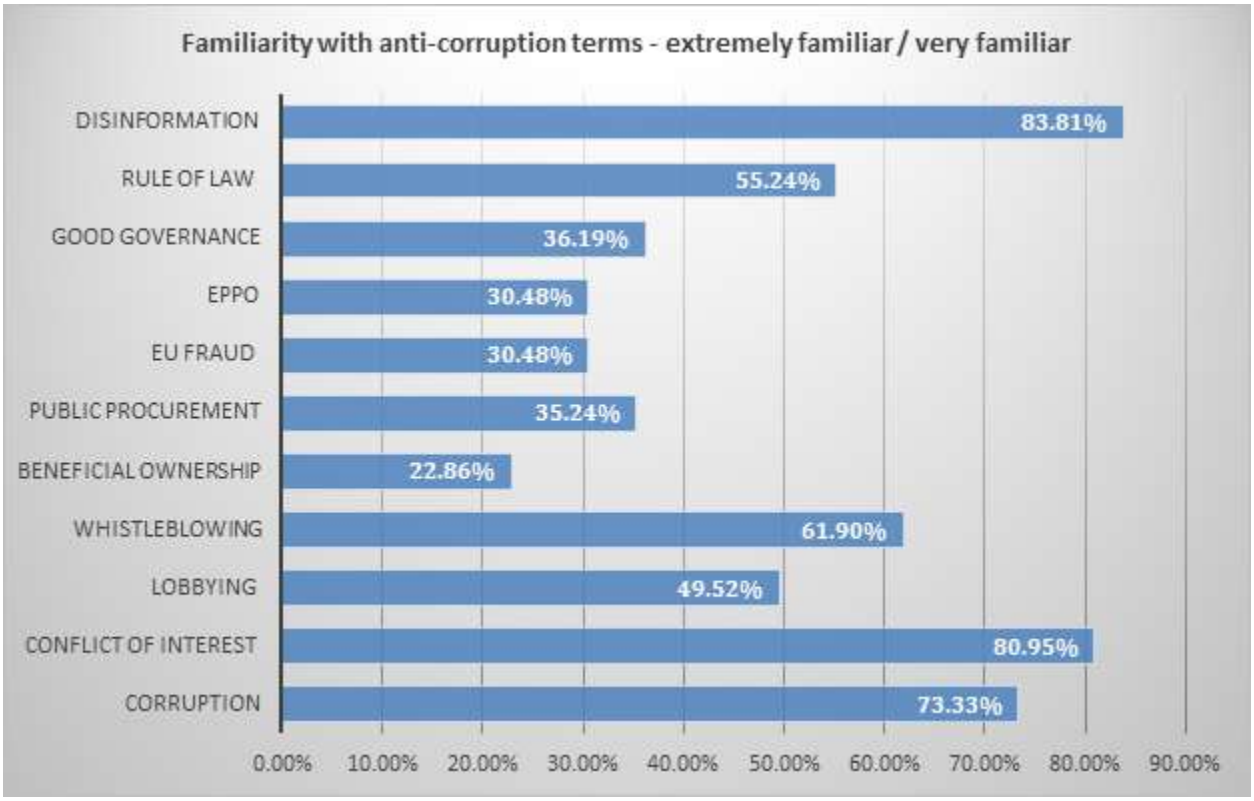


Figure 6 Familiarity with key terms

When asked whether they are aware of any **anti-corruption agencies or state authorities in Croatia**, 45,71% of respondents stated that they are aware and can name at least one. At the same time, 29,52% of respondents have heard of some but cannot name any, while 24,76% of them are not aware and could not name any of the anti-corruption institutions.

These findings suggest that, although nearly half of young people recognize and can name at least one institution responsible for combating corruption, a significant proportion of respondents possess only a superficial awareness of their existence or are not familiar with their role and activities at all.

7. Barriers and Enabling Factors

Youth participation

In relation to youth participation in public affairs, almost 9 out of 10 youngsters in Croatia are interested (moderately, very, or extremely) in participation, but 6 out of 10 are informed (moderately, very, or extremely) on the ways how to participate. When asked how interested they are in public issues and decision-making that affects their lives, **60% of respondents described themselves as "very interested" (36.19%) or "extremely interested" (23.81%)**, while 27,62% are moderately interested. Still there are 2,86% without any interest and 8,57% slightly interested. On the other hand, **20% of respondents are very informed (16,19%) or extremely informed (3,81%)** about ways young people can participate in public life, with 42,86% being moderately informed. Unaware of ways young people can participate are 38,15% of respondents, with 32,38% being slightly informed. At the same time, an overwhelming majority – 85,71% - had never participated in a public consultation process at any level of government, but one third (32%) would like to but does not know how, while 42% would like to if given the opportunity. Only **10,48% has no interest in participating in public consultations**.

When we have an initiative, it is very hard to mobilize other young people to engage…everybody looks at their own interest. FGD, female

In terms of their **participation in the year preceding the survey**, young respondents reported the that many of them voted in an election (66,67%), or signed a petition (51,43%). However, other channels of participation are less employed – one quarter volunteered in a community or social initiative (27,62%), while 16,2% participated in student, youth or university representation. Only 11,43% contacted a public authority, institution or representative, while 8,57% participated in an online campaign or discussion and 7,62% attended a civic, youth or community meeting. Still, 13,33% respondents report that they haven't participated in any type of activity. Focus group participants as well as validation workshop respondents reported that they voted in (local) elections last year, and signed petitions, with some of them being active in student organisations at their university

What are the sources of political and news information for young people in Croatia? As the respondents report (Figure 8), there are **four main sources of information** - online news websites (45,71%) and traditional TV news (40%) followed by TikTok videos and influencers (34.29%) and Instagram reels and stories (26,67%). Facebook is not especially relevant for young generations (9.52%), and Telegram even more so (other message groups were not mentioned, such as WhatsApp or Viber, which are mostly used in Croatia). However, strikingly, the classical channels of information are more or less irrelevant as sources of information for young people - around 5% of respondents receive information from newspapers (5,71%), radio (4,76%) and official government portals (4,76%).

The older generation might have been more active. Today, young people are demotivated and politically uneducated. FGD, female

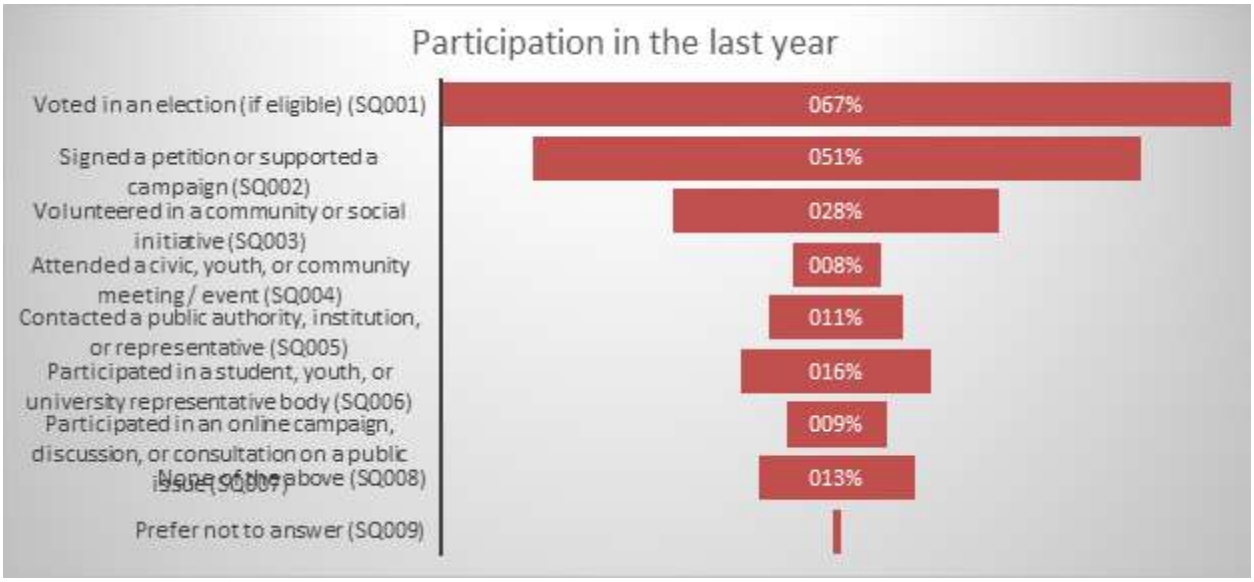


Figure 7 Participation in last 12 months

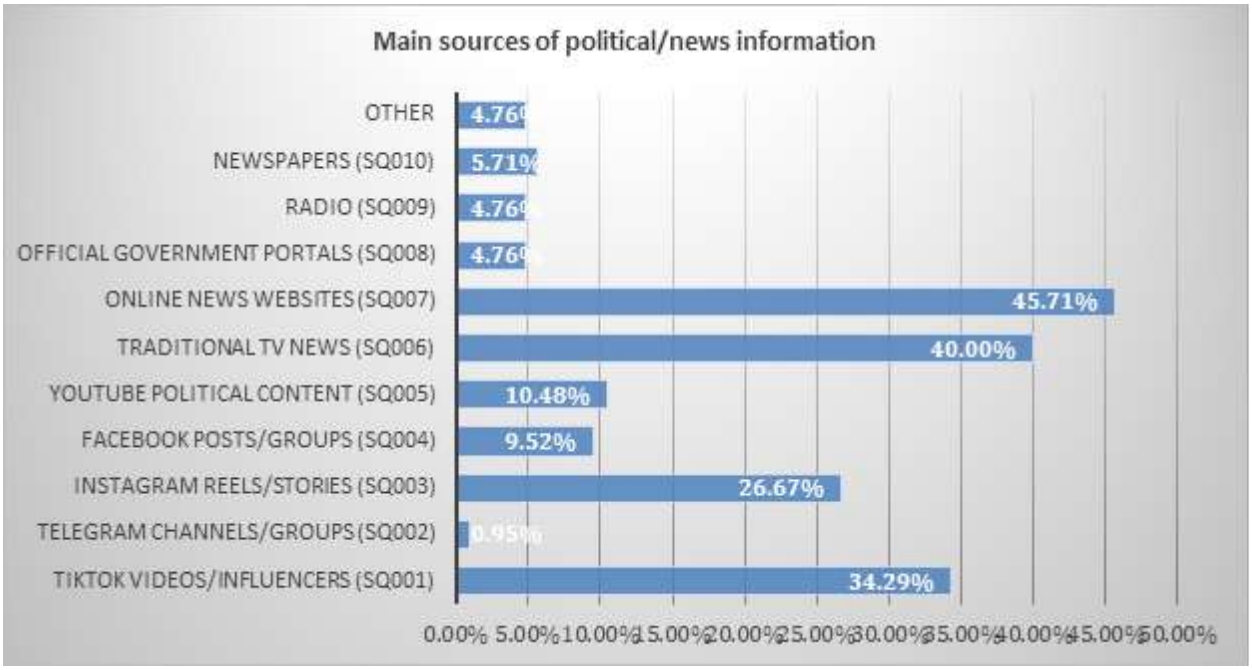


Figure 8 Main sources of information

The validation workshop attendees agreed that they receive information primarily on social media, with Instagram, TikTok and Reddit being the media mostly used. They are aware of challenges, but they also see social media as necessary for networking and public action. They underline the simplicity of use as one of the main advantages of social media.

The channels for participation should be designed in a way that they are simple to use, even for a person without any education. FGD participant, female

The validation workshop group has reported that the youth perspective on policy issues is often missing in the decision-making, especially in small municipalities, and they could suggest solutions. They think that young people in general do not know much about politics and that social media does not offer valid information. On the other hand, they perceive social media as being the most useful tool for enhancing participation level – **networking and participation, especially at the local level**, could be significantly **improved by using social media for participation**. They also expressed the concern that young people suffer from '*the feeling of disempowerment'* regarding the political sphere. Attendees believe that the institutions should try to engage youth in decision-making processes and that institutional support for youth initiatives is crucial to develop good practices as examples for others. Inclusion in parliamentary or local councils' debates should be the norm when it comes to getting young people interested in the political process.

Barriers

The research identifies a strikingly dominant barrier (Figure 9): **60,95%** of survey respondents cited **lack of clear information or the presence of disinformation** as a main reason why participation is difficult — a figure that dwarfs every other barrier on the list and that is almost four times higher than the share citing **lack of interest (16,19%)**. The second-placed barrier also indicates a systemic problem and a lack of trust – young people predominantly believe that their **engagement will not make any difference (52,38%).** Other responses also point out to the systemic issues, such as insufficient education on participation possibilities, because one third of respondents **do not know where to start (29,52%),** and the general perception of engagement as irritating combined with a lack of democratic discussion, since one fifth **fears negative reactions (20.95%)**. or they do not know where to start, fear negative reactions (20,95%). Still, as a second dominant response, the **lack of time (42,86%)** stands out, indicating that participation and engagement are not prioritized among personal goals. However, opportunities to participate (13,33%) or costs (7,62%), as well as lack of confidence (9,52%) do not present significant barriers. The lack of time and resources was accentuated by Focus group participants, but also a certain frustration with the ineffectiveness of institutional instruments.

'*We do not have time to engage; we study, work, and there is not much time to engage in student associations or other. Young people, they don't want to sacrifice their time and effort when there are formal institutions that have their duties.' (FGD participant, female)*

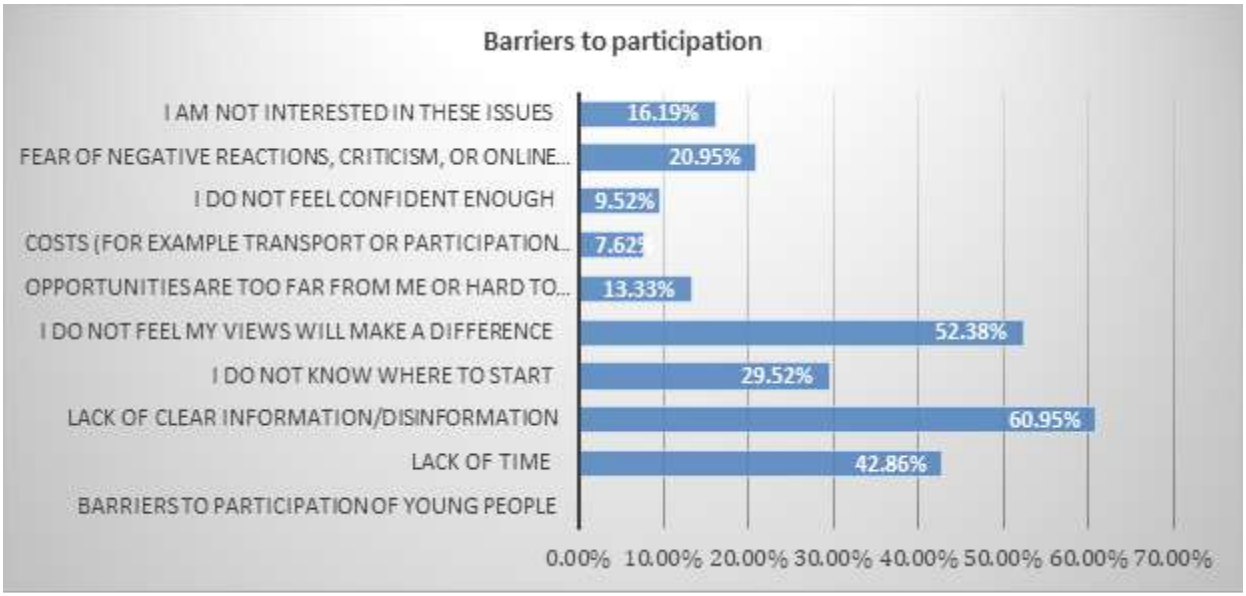


Figure 9 Barriers to youth civic participation

Only 13,33% of respondents easily find information on participation opportunities, but at the same time, **the lack of trust in new sources of information** is striking (Figure 10). Respondents reported very little or no trust at all in their main channels of information on social media – TikTok influencers (69,52%), Instagram memes and stories (54,29%), and Telegram channels (55,24%). On the other hand, when it comes to **traditional channels of information, the trust is fairly present**– journalists and government sources – no trust is practically close to zero, with 60% having complete or quite a lot of trust in official government sources and government election statements, followed by international news (58,10%)., but local journalists are not so trusted (24,76%) but majority of respondents has some trust in the local news.

Still, despite a lack of trust, social media such as TikTok and Instagram are precisely the platforms where they last **encountered political content that influenced their actions (35,24% and 39,05**%), followed by YouTube (10,48%) and Facebook (9,52%). This confirms the dominance of short-form visual platforms in the political information environment of Croatian youth.

The **effects of this exposure** reveal a pattern that is simultaneously concerning and nuanced. but mostly withdrawing or incidental. The most widely reported effect is signing petitions as a result of social media campaigns (45,71%) followed by attending protests due to the exposure to viral content (19,05%) and increased activism because of influencer calls (6,67%). Only a minority of respondents report effects of stopping donating to causes due to scandals (5,76%), while reduced volunteering due to corruption-related distrust and joining political groups on social media count for less than 1%.

These findings suggest that political content on social media can encourage certain forms of civic engagement; however, its impact is largely limited to occasional and less demanding forms of participation, while longer-term or more intensive political engagement remains considerably less common.

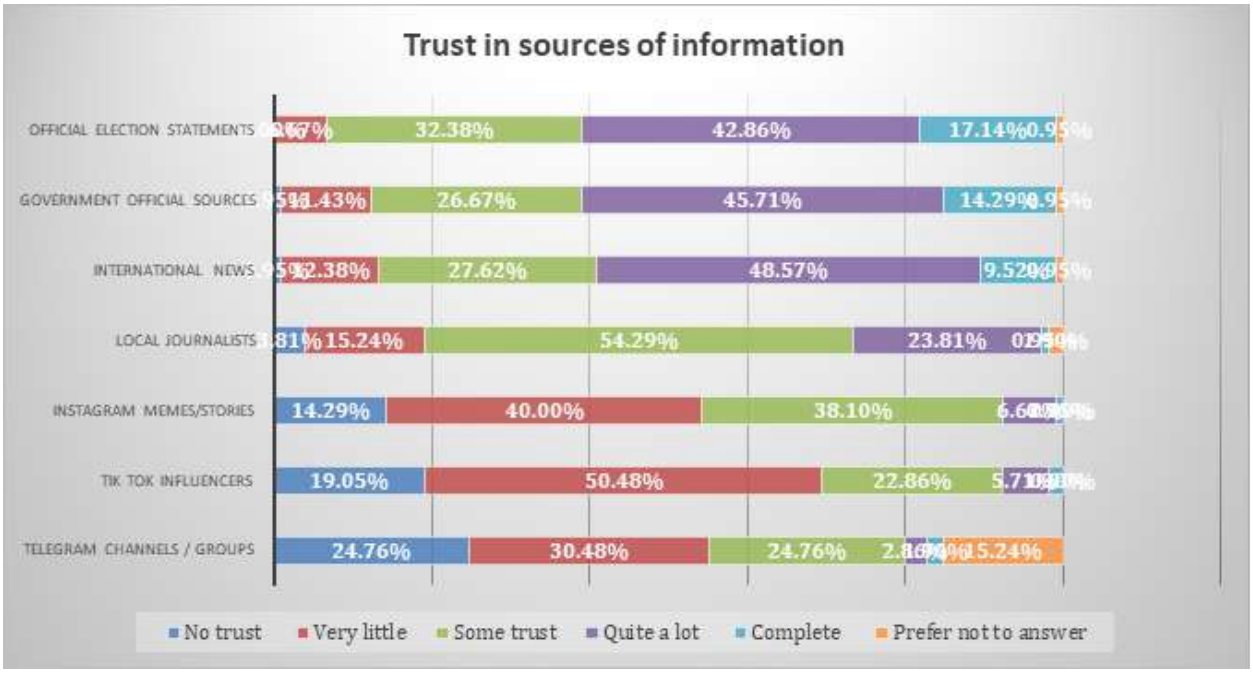


Figure 10: Trust in sources of information

The **electoral dimension** of the data is particularly significant. The most frequent effect is that respondents felt less likely to vote due to corruption claims leading to distrust (57,14%), followed by considering boycotting elections (22,86%) and changing candidate preference due to social media content (20%). Only a minor share voted differently due to influencer endorsement (1,90%) or registered late due to mobilization posts (2,86%, but this option is not so relevant n Croatia, where registration is automatic. A small portion reported having shared election fraud content (7,62%).

Respondents were asked **how frequently they encounter five categories of disinformation content in their general social media use** (Figure 11). The results reveal a landscape of pervasive exposure. Claims that corruption justifies political disengagement are the most frequently seen content: 20% encounter this "often", followed by the idea da that strong leaders are better than democracy (18,1%) and that election fairness is questionable, with 15,24% reporting these claims as seen often or always. Celebrities endorsing election boycotts is rare; only 6,67% report it as often or always, similar to the notion of foreign governance models promoted by the EU (8,57%).

These findings suggest that young people are most frequently exposed to disinformation that encourages political apathy, distrust in democratic institutions, and doubts about the integrity of electoral processes, while other types of political disinformation appear to be considerably less prevalent.

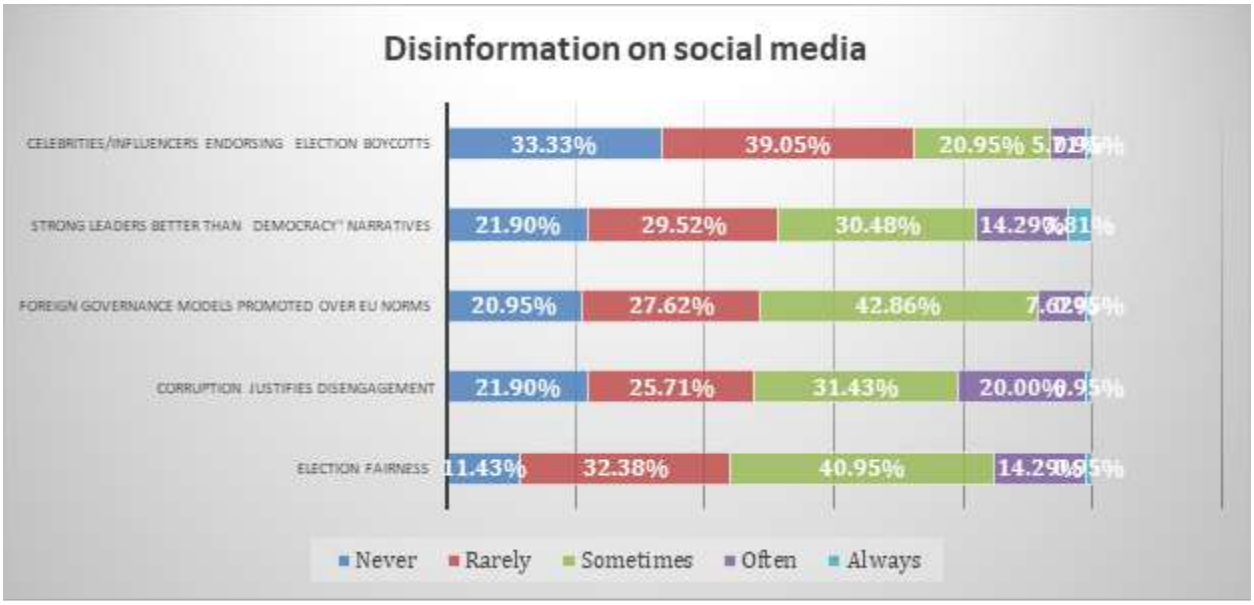


Figure 11: Disinformation on social media

The **pre-electoral disinformation** data is one of the most alarming sections of the dataset (Figure 12). Claims of alleged corruption in candidate selection processes are encountered "**often" or "always" by 41,90% of respondents**, followed by the allegation of manipulation of the electoral process (36,19%). Still, concerningly, a quarter of respondents report that they encounter deep fakes of candidates, and the claims that their vote does not matter always or often (24,76% in both cases). Approximately one-third of respondents report that they sometimes see all five examples of pre-election disinformation content on social media.

These findings point to a significant exposure of young people to various forms of pre-election disinformation, particularly those that undermine the integrity of candidates, the credibility of the electoral process, and the value of citizens' participation in elections.

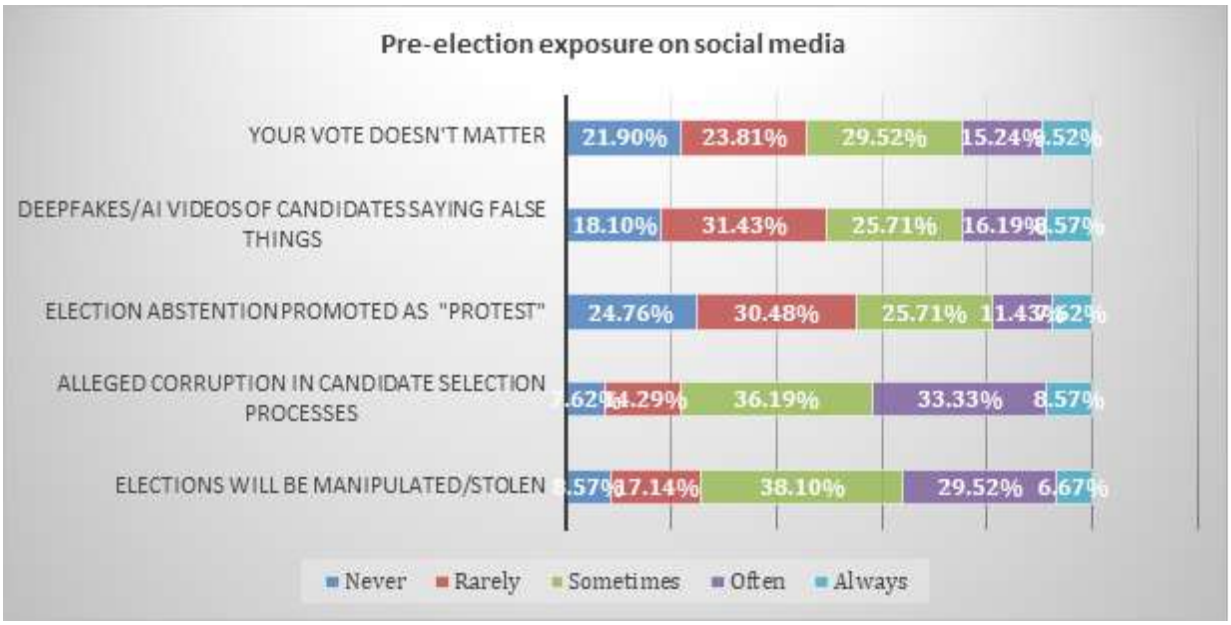


Figure 12 Pre-election exposure on social media

Should young people take over the burden of correcting those who are elected or appointed and should be capable of governing? (FGD participant, female)

The insights into young people's perception of barriers were collected through Focus group discussion. In addition to a lack of knowledge and understanding of the political process and possibilities of engagement, participants also perceived **public institutions as insufficiently supportive** of youth initiatives. This criticism referred both to institutions' performance within their official responsibilities and to the limited support they provide for youth-led activities and initiatives. In particular, participants highlighted the lack of meaningful financial support, noting that institutional involvement often remains symbolic, such as sponsorship through logo visibility at events, rather than substantial investment in youth-driven projects and initiatives promoting science, education, or civic engagement. Another important barrier identified during the discussion was the **difficulty of mobilizing peers around common goals and collective action**. Participants observed that many young people lack motivation to engage because they believe their efforts will not lead to visible results or meaningful impact. Others were perceived as uninterested in participation unless they could identify a direct personal benefit, while broader community improvement alone was often viewed as insufficient motivation for engagement.

When we engage, we are left to our own devices; we do not receive any support, which is frustrating and does not help motivate others. FGD, male

Validation workshop attendees expressed that the participation of youth should first start with their greater inclusion in elections. Trust in institutions could be strengthened through greater transparency and inclusion of young people in the decision-making process. For example, when asked about their participation in youth organisations or other type of associations, none of 62 respondents has responded positively. However, many participants supported the argument that in Croatian society being part of

association and work for the public cause immediately leads to suspicion and condemnation, because *'politics is dirty'*.

Enablers

When asked which actions they consider most effective for making young people's voices heard by decision-makers (Figure 13), respondents placed traditional channel as voting in elections as being the most effective one – **59% believe that their vote counts**. As the second most effective instrument seen by one third of respondents is **joining a youth organisation, NGO or initiative (29,52%).** Around 15-20% of respondents see **taking part in public consultations (19,05%)**, signing petitions/citizens' campaigns (17,14%), or participating in peaceful protests (14,29%) as the most effective instruments, followed by volunteering and community action (13,33%), while the traditional channel of contacting a representative is not perceived as being particularly effective (5,71%). Still, a striking finding is that sharing views through online campaigns is not reported as an effective means of civic engagement of young people – only 1 out of 10 young people believe so (9,52%). In sum, traditional channels such as election voting and joining organised interest associations are seen as most effective, while online democratic debate or direct contact with politicians is found to be ineffective.



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Figure 13 Most effective actions for making voices heard

When asked what would help them participate more (Figure 14), respondents identified **clear and simple information about how to get involved (60%)** as the most important enabler, followed by **trust in information about civic life (36,19%),** a factor of systemic relevance which is more complex than others. In the second group, ranging around 20-25% are factors which are much easier to achieve and organise, on the side of organisers of participation, such as flexible opportunities for participation (online, hybrid) or getting some visible outcomes, such as certificates or recognition (26,67%), followed by practical guidance or mentoring (24,76%) and more inclusive and welcoming environment (21,9%) or better feedback on how input is used (19,05%). Safety of civic spaces is not perceived as relevant (7,62%), nor are opportunities in the close environment (6,6%).

In sum, the respondents believe that **more information** on how to participate, followed by **flexibility of participation** in a welcoming environment, **seeing the results** of participation, **being guided** through the process, and getting some **practical benefits** are factors that would help them to engage more. On the other hand, trust in the information is the factor that results from the broader setting of actors' trustworthiness and the overall trust in the political system. Interestingly, two answers in the open-ended part of the question may be mirroring the overall positions of youth – one claims 'I am not interested in participating in civic life,' expressing the overall disinterest, while the other says 'My goodwill', indicating that youth would engage if they wanted to, so the issue of inner motivation and trust in the political system might be crucial. In the Focus group discussion, the participants strongly underlined better feedback and the effectiveness of the engagement.

Many young people engage in humanitarian work and volunteering; they see results there**.** *(FGD participant, male)*

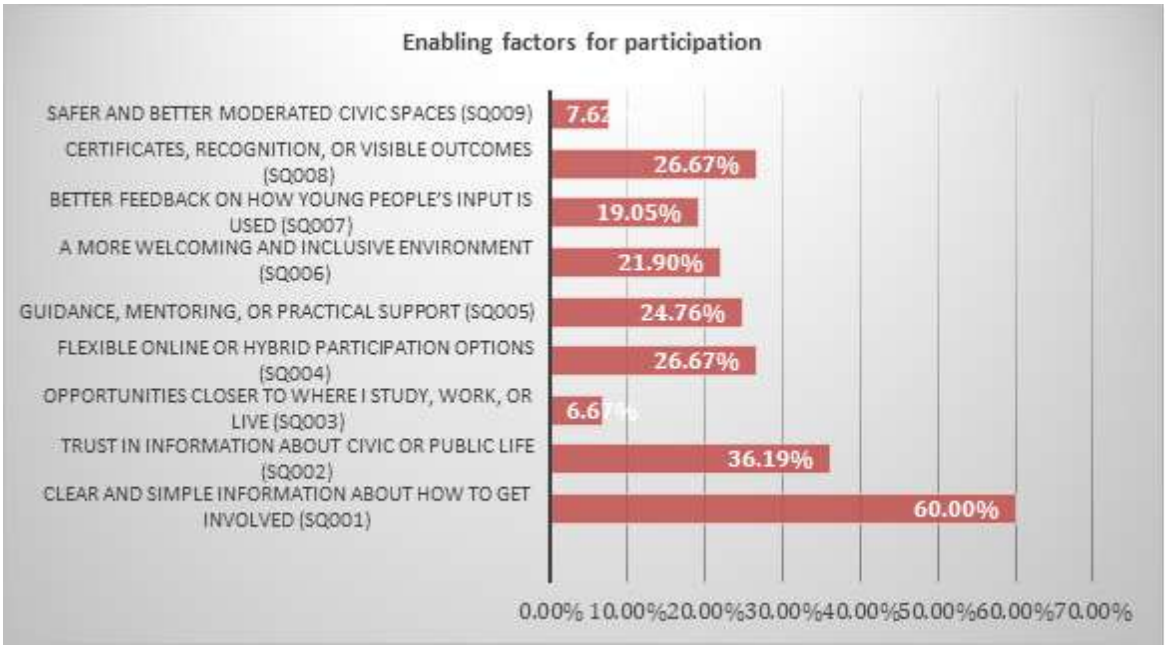


Figure 14 Enabling factors

Focus group participants noted that young people need to engage in actions where they can observe tangible impact and concrete results, in order to overcome the widespread narrative that 'nothing can change' — a belief that significantly depresses civic engagement if left unaddressed. So they emphasized the need for greater visibility of successful youth initiatives and participation outcomes. They believed that the goals, achievements, and positive impacts of youth-led actions should be communicated more clearly and made more visible to the wider public, as this could encourage greater trust, motivation, and participation among young people.

Should young people take over the burden of correcting those who are elected or appointed and should be capable of governing? FGD participant, female

8. Transparency, Integrity and Trust

Addressing corruption

Young people generally believe that their role in anti-corruption efforts might be relevant - when asked whether they believe **young people can make a difference in reducing corruption in Croatia**, a three-quarters (75,24%) of respondents answered affirmatively — 44.76% saying "probably yes" and 30.48% "definitely yes." Only 2.86% expressed extreme scepticism ("definitely not") but still a significant share thinks that they probably cannot make any difference in reducing corruption (20% "probably not".

When asked on the level of safety in reporting corruption, a large proportion of respondents **feel unsafe when reporting corruption** or unfair treatment involving a public institution. The highest percentage of respondents selected “Rather unsafe” (35.24%), followed by “Neither safe nor unsafe” (25.71%). Together with those who answered “Very unsafe” (13.33%), nearly half of the participants expressed negative perceptions about the safety of reporting such issues. In contrast, only a small share of respondents feel confident about reporting: 12.38% answered “Rather safe,” while just 1.90% selected “Very safe.” Additionally, 10.48% stated that they do not know where or how to report corruption, indicating a lack of awareness about reporting mechanisms. Overall, the findings highlight low public confidence in protection and support systems for whistleblowing and suggest the need for stronger reporting procedures, greater transparency, and better public information campaigns.

In terms of measures creating **a safer environment for reporting corruption**, the results show that young people believe stronger protection, clearer information, and more trustworthy support systems are essential to feel safer when reporting corruption or unfair treatment. The most frequently selected measure was **“Anonymous reporting options”** (78.10%), indicating that confidentiality and protection of identity are the greatest concerns among respondents. Another highly supported measure was “**Protection from negative consequences or retaliation”** (69.52%), suggesting that many young people fear punishment, discrimination, or other personal risks after reporting misconduct. In addition, 60.00% of respondents emphasized the importance of **“Clear guidance on where and how to report**,” highlighting the need for better communication and accessible reporting procedures. More than half of respondents (54.29%) also valued the presence of “**A trusted intermediary**,” such as an NGO, ombudsperson, or youth organization, which suggests that trust in independent support structures is important. Furthermore, 45.71% believed that **“Faster responses from institutions**” would improve confidence in reporting systems, while 34.29% wanted a **clearer follow-up process** and **updates after submitting a report**. One response under the ‘other’ option indicates that ‘all listed is relevant’ while the other claims *‘have no fear, just do it’*. Overall, the findings indicate that young people are more likely to report corruption when systems are confidential, transparent, responsive, and supported by trusted institutions. These results underline the importance of strengthening whistleblower protection, improving public awareness, and building institutional trust.

Knowledge of **where or how to report a corrupt act** (Figure 15) by a public official is strikingly limited across the sample. **Only 10.48% of respondents know exactly where to report**, while 40,95% have a general idea but are uncertain of the process. An alarming share (40,95%) would not report because they do not know where to go at all, and a further 5.71% would not report even if they did know, believing it would make no difference. As depicted in Figure 15, if they wanted to report a case of corruption, young

respondents indicated they would **most trust a specialised anti-corruption agency (50,48%)** followed to the same extent several other 'soft' mechanisms – NGOs (30,48%), media (27,62%), the ombudsperson (24,76%) or private lawyer (20,95%) and the EU institutions (19,95%). The traditional anti-corruption 'fighters' – police and justice system is selected by 1 out of 10 respondents – only 11,43% find police as the preferred channel for reporting, and prosecution and justice system 13,33%. Political representatives are not perceived as particularly relevant (4,75%).

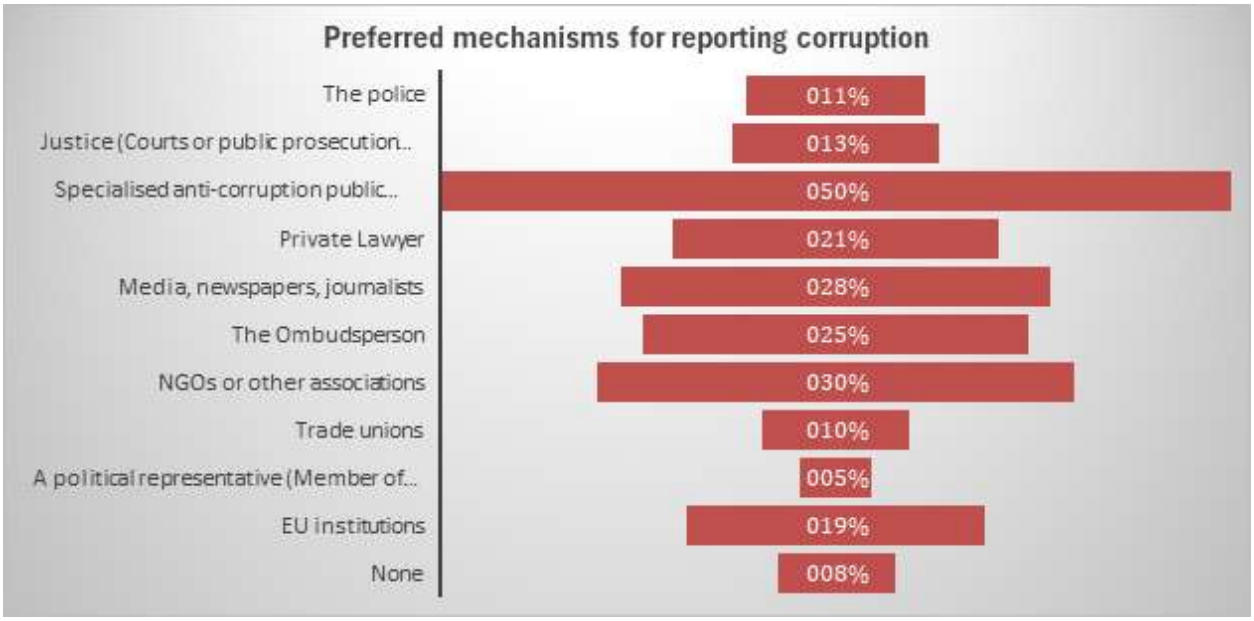


Figure 15 Preferred mechanisms for reporting corruption

9. Needs, preferred formats and Solutions

When asked what would most **increase their trust when dealing with a public service or institution**, (Figure 16) survey respondents identified **clear steps and processes explained in advance** as the most important factor (55,24%), followed by **equal treatment and consistent rules for everyone** (37,14%). The quality of the process and actors in terms of clear guidance, rules, and information is found important by many of the respondents, from clear decision criteria — how public decisions are actually made — which were cited by a quarter of respondents (25,71%), followed by clear timelines (17,14%) and clear costs (12,38%). The possibility of citizens to follow the process was found relatively important - the ability to track progress was selected by 15,24% of respondents, similarly to having an easy way to ask questions (12,38%). Under 'other' 3 respondents (2,86%) responded that all of the above is relevant. Focus group participants and validation survey attendees emphasised the need for institutional support and the need to be able to track results of their actions, as well as to see examples of good practices and successful initiatives.

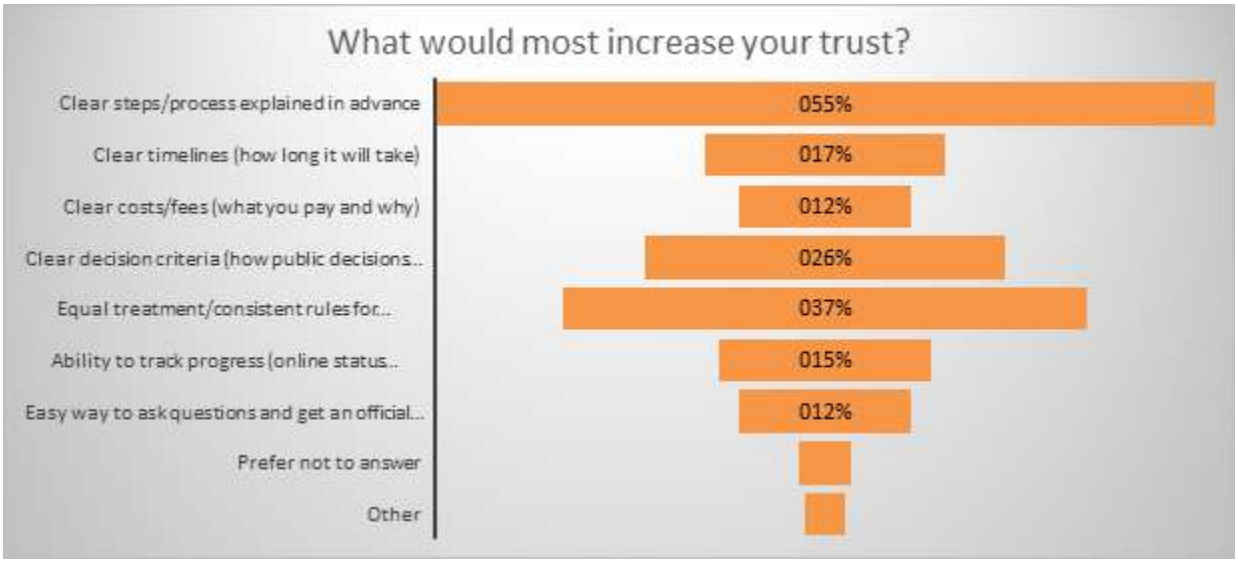


Figure 16 Factors increasing trust

On **EU priorities for the next five years**, the results show that young people consider economic issues to be the EU's most urgent priority. The most frequently selected topic was "**Rising prices and the cost of living,"** chosen by **62.86%** of respondents, indicating strong concern about inflation, affordability, and overall economic stability. The second most selected priority was "**Defence and peace" (32.38%),** reflecting growing awareness of security challenges and geopolitical instability in Europe. Environmental issues also remain important, with 22.86% of respondents identifying **"The environment and climate change"** as a key priority for the EU's future. Concerns related to social welfare were also evident. "**Social protection, welfare and access to healthcare"** was selected by 21.90% of respondents, showing that many young people value stronger social support systems and public services. Meanwhile, "**Unemployment and creation of jobs**" and "**Democracy and the rule of law"** were each selected by 13.33% of respondents, highlighting concerns about employment opportunities and democratic governance. **"Education and training"** was chosen by 10.48% of respondents, suggesting that while education remains important,

respondents currently place greater emphasis on economic and security-related issues. The responses provided under "Other" (4.76%) point to additional concerns such as **migration control, demographic decline, stronger cooperation among EU member states, and economic self-sufficiency**. One respondent emphasized that all listed priorities are equally important, illustrating the perception that today's challenges are closely interconnected. Overall, the findings suggest that young people see the rising cost of living as the EU's most pressing issue, while also recognizing the importance of security, environmental sustainability, social welfare, and democratic stability for the future of Europe.

Topics and participation formats

The survey results provide important insight into the interests, motivations, and support needs of young people regarding civic participation, democratic engagement, and access to trustworthy information. Overall, the findings suggest that young people are interested in learning practical ways to participate in society, but they also require clearer guidance, accessible tools, stronger institutional support, and greater trust in participatory processes.

In terms of **topics of interest**, practical civic engagement and transparency-related issues are among the strongest interests. The most selected topic was "**Integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption tools**" (40.00%), indicating strong interest in understanding accountability mechanisms and how corruption can be prevented. Similarly, 39.05% of respondents wanted to learn "**How to advocate for change in my community,**" suggesting that many young people are motivated to become more active in shaping local society. A significant proportion of respondents were also interested in understanding European institutions and civic rights. "**How the European Union works and how young people can participate**" was selected by 36.19% of respondents, while 35.24% wanted to learn more about **"Citizens' rights and access to information.**" Additionally, 27.62% expressed interest in learning "**How to participate in public consultations,"** and 23.81% wanted a better understanding of "**How decisions are made at local and national level."** The least selected topic was "**Youth councils, student representation, and local governance"** (17.14%), although it still reflects interest among a notable group of participants.

In terms of **participation formats** (Figure 17), the most popular option was "**Workshops / clinics**," selected by 42.86% of respondents, showing that young people value interactive and practical learning experiences. "**Online sessions/webinars**" were also popular (29.52%), indicating demand for flexible and digitally accessible participation formats, followed by **volunteering projects** (26.67%) and "**Storytelling / creative activities**" (20.00%). **Mentoring and simulations/bootcamps** (17.14%) suggest moderate interest in structured guidance and experiential learning. The "Other" responses highlighted additional preferences such as public discussions, plenary meetings open to everyone, and online petitions, showing that some respondents prefer more direct and open forms of participation and public dialogue. Overall, the findings suggest that young people are eager to acquire practical knowledge about civic engagement and democratic processes, particularly valuing interactive, flexible, and participatory forms of learning that enable them to become actively involved in societal processes.

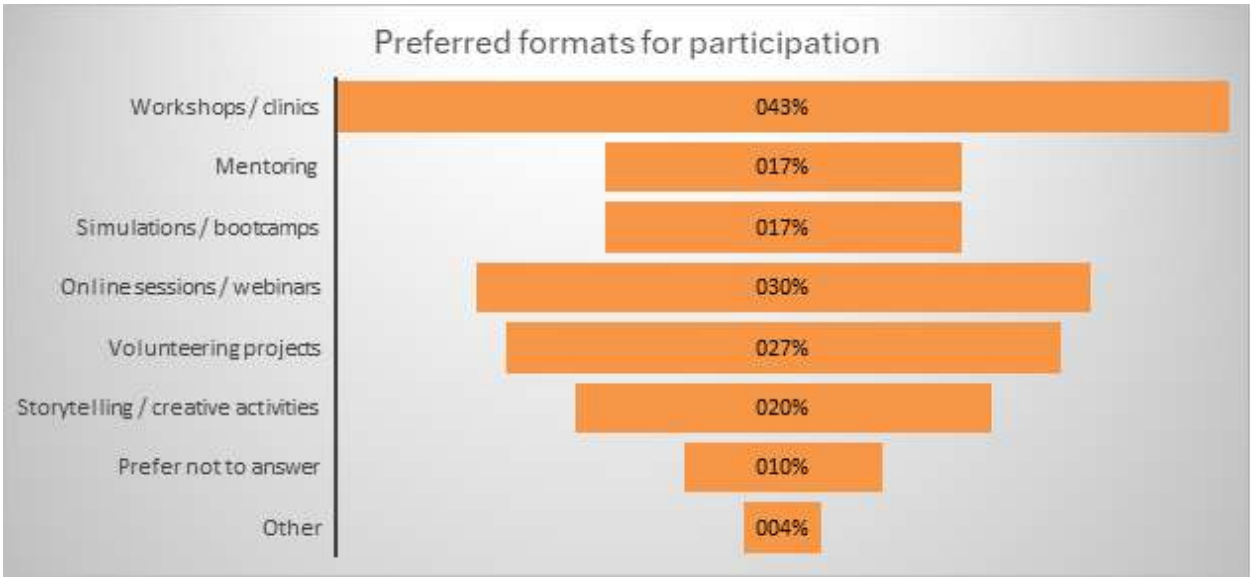


Figure 17 Preferred formats for participation

Survey participants also reflected on the **tools that would be most helpful to support their participation and access to trustworthy information and knowledge** (Figure 18). The strongest support was given to **"a youth-friendly digital platform**" (53.33%), indicating that accessible online spaces are considered crucial for engagement. "**A simple guide/toolkit on how to participate**" was also highly valued (41.90%), suggesting that many young people need clearer practical instructions and guidance. Furthermore, 36.19% supported "**Short explainers (videos/infographics**)," reflecting the importance of concise and visually accessible information formats. Less frequently selected but still relevant were **"A calendar of opportunities"** (22.86%) and **"Peer-to-peer support groups**" (18.10%). These results indicate that while information and digital accessibility are priorities, social support and awareness of opportunities also play an important role in encouraging participation.

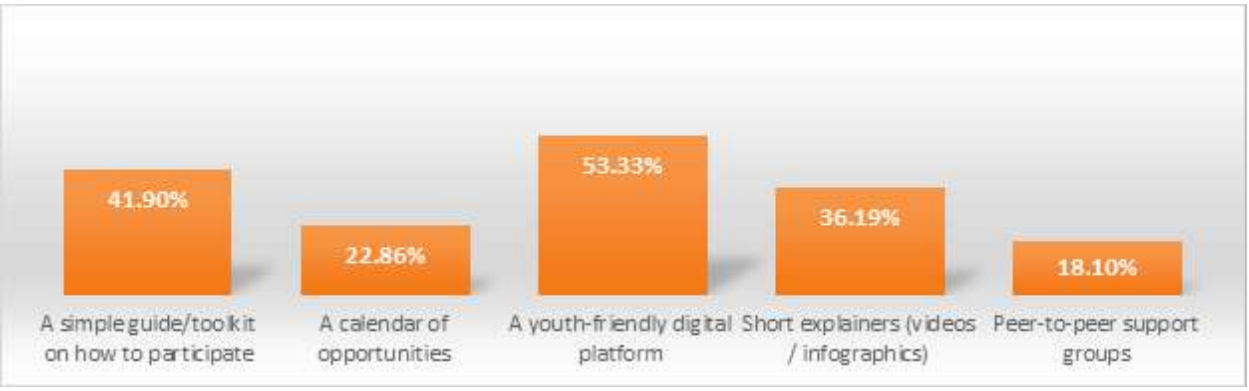


Figure 18: Preferred participation supporting tools

The final open-ended question provides deeper **qualitative insight** into what young people feel is missing to participate more actively in civic life. Although 81.90% did not provide an answer, the responses that were submitted reveal several recurring themes. Many respondents emphasized **the need for better**

education and practical guidance, including learning how to recognize corruption, understand financial misconduct, and navigate participation processes. Others stressed the **importance of mentorship and support** from experienced individuals who could guide them through civic engagement activities. Trust and safety also emerged as important themes. Some respondents stated that they would participate more if they felt safe from negative consequences or social judgment, while others highlighted the need for **visible results and real societal change** to stay motivated. Several responses emphasized the importance of supportive communities, stronger state support, and better organization of participatory activities and protests. At the same time, a few comments reflected frustration, distrust, or political disengagement. One respondent stated they did not intend to remain in Croatia and therefore did not currently see participation as relevant, while another criticized ideological polarization within NGOs and youth organizations. These responses suggest that some young people perceive civic participation spaces as politically divided or ineffective.

In the validation workshop, the participants expressed the opinion that **greater support and greater transparency** could be the most important instruments to enhance trust in institutions and to motivate young people to engage. The use of social media as a channel of communication by the institutions is recommended, and even promoted as main channel of communication with young people.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that young people are **interested in civic engagement and democratic participation**, particularly in areas related to transparency, anti-corruption, and community change. However, they also **require clearer information, practical support, safe participation environments**, and **evidence that participation can lead to meaningful outcomes**. The results highlight the importance of accessible educational tools, digital platforms, mentorship opportunities, and trustworthy institutions in strengthening youth participation and democratic involvement.

10. Conclusions

This overview reveals that young people in Croatia still face obstacles and a lack of motivation to engage in political decision-making, as well as a lack of information (only 20% are very or extremely informed). At the same time, they remain interested in public issues at the rate of 60% (very interested and extremely interested). Perceiving that their inclusion will not make any difference or without the support of institutions, they remain structurally disconnected from the formal channels through which civic and political decisions are made. However, they find themselves being knowledgeable in relation to the issue of government, legislative process, and participation channels. The summary of findings reflects the problem of trust in institutions and a kind of reluctance to engage, because of lack of a welcoming context.

Corruption is perceived as systemic: the vast majority of the sample (91,435%) described corruption in Croatia as "widespread" or "very widespread", and not a single respondent described it as "rare" or "very rare". Moreover, corruption is seen as systemic, a way things are done, although some sectors or groups seem to be perceived as less corrupted, such as education. Still,

- 43,81% agree or strongly agree that political connections are necessary for business success,
- 48,57% believes that young people cannot access public services fairly without personal connections.

The opposite attitudes are also present, so 44,76% respondents disagree or strongly disagree that young people cannot access public services fairly without personal connections. Survey results, as well as focus group discussion, confirmed the perception that corruption is prevalent across all major institutional domains, with the employment & recruitment process being the most critical, while at the same time, this issue is most relevant for young people.

With regard to **participation**, the voting in elections and signing petitions are the most used channels, while others remain disregarded – for example one quarter volunteered in a community or social initiative (27,62%), while 16,2% participated in student, youth or university representation. Their main sources of information are online news websites (45,71%) and traditional TV news (40%) followed by TikTok videos and influencers (34.29%) and Instagram reels and stories (26,67%). They think that young people in general do not know much about politics and that social media does not offer valid information, but at the same time they perceive social media as being the most useful tool for enhancing participation level – networking and participation, especially at the local level, could be significantly improved by using social media for participation. Still, participants of qualitative research questioned the meaningfulness of formal participation channels and expressed scepticism about whether their input would produce any tangible change.

The **barriers to participation** are mainly informational - 60,95% of survey respondents cited lack of clear information and lack of knowledge where to start (29,52%) as main reasons why participation is difficult, followed by motivational factor – half of the respondents believe that their engagement will not make any difference (52,38%) or they fear negative reactions (20,95%) Only 1 out of 7 young people has no interest in participating (16.19%). At the same time, the lack of trust in new sources of information is striking (Figure 10). Respondents reported very little or no trust at all in their main channels of information

on social media – TikTok influencers (69,52%), Instagram memes and stories (54,29%) and Telegram channels (55,24%). Disinformation is present in pre-electoral decisions on voting - claims of alleged corruption in candidate selection processes are encountered "often" or "always" by 41,90% of respondents, followed by the allegation on manipulation of the electoral process (36,19%). Respondents felt less likely to vote due to corruption claims leading to distrust (57,14%), followed by considering boycotting elections (22,86%). The qualitative research participants confirm that disinformation is omnipresent and demobilising, but at the same time they find it inevitable in the context of social media.

Still, young people in Croatia believe that **their voice should be heard and that they would engage more if there were sufficient information and institutional support**, meaning more active engagement of institutions to motivate and support youth voices. In addition to elections, they see themselves engaging in NGOs, signing petitions or citizens' campaigns, participating in protests and volunteering, more or less traditional channels of participation. On the other hand, they see social media and other digital tools as being useful for engagement and networking. They emphasized the need for greater visibility of successful youth initiatives and participation outcomes. They believed that the goals, achievements, and positive impacts of youth-led actions should be communicated more clearly and made more visible to the wider public, as this could encourage greater trust, motivation, and participation among young people.

11. Recommendations

For the RISE Balkans Programme

1. **Prioritise social media as the primary communication channel**. Both survey data and focus group and validation workshop participants identified social media as primary communication and information channels – Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and to a lesser extent, websites which might be overwhelming and too complex for the young generation.

2. **Present and explain the channels of participation**. Respondents would like to participate (60%), but basically do not know where to start or they lack information. Present modes of participation, possible outcomes, and examples of good practice in a clear, systematic and step-by-step approach.

3. **Develop youth-friendly digital materials and disseminate them through social media**. Survey respondents strongly believe in social media as a means for networking and engagement, although it is not used that much. They would like to see engagement through a youth-friendly digital platform, based on a plain-language guide to civic processes and a calendar of participation opportunities.

For Policymakers and Public Institutions

1. **Inform the youth on channel of participation, make them accessible and easy to follow and use good practice examples**. The various channels of participation – elections, petitions, NGOs, public consultations, youth councils and others, should be easily explained and promoted. A targeted campaign should be implemented to inform the youth and raise awareness on the importance and possibilities of participation. A youth platform should be established, as in other EU countries. Examples of successful youth initiatives should be promoted. With time and greater participation level, young people will not feel the unease because of engaging in political life.

2. **Launch a targeted national digital awareness campaign on anti-corruption reporting**. A campaign designed for young audiences, promoted via social media and TV, should explain in clear and simple language the phenomenon of corruption, main institutional actors and how (and why) to report corruption.

3. **Integrate practical civic education into secondary school curricula**. The lack of civic education in schools resulted in insufficient knowledge and motivation for engagement. Curricula should include knowledge and practical civic skills: how to participate in a consultation, how to verify information, how to recognise and report corruption, and how EU institutions affect daily life.

4. **Include youth representatives in the process of law**-making and preparation of strategic documents – the young people can be formally engaged already at the beginning of law drafting or strategy preparation, in addition to inclusion of NGOs in working groups. It especially concerns main areas of youth concern – employment, housing, health, environment.

For Civil Society and Youth-Serving Organisations

1. **Reach out to youth by speaking their language**. Youth wants to engage but needs support – civil society organisations should develop active support and means to include youth. The first step is to speak to them in their language, especially through peer voices, practical examples and good practice cases. Young people avoid joining civil society organisations if they find them aggressive or connected directly with political parties. So focus on youth, on their participation and/or reporting corruption, making institutions more transparent or less corrupt, with the helo of young people.

2. **Focus on issues that young people consider important.** Particular attention should be given to topics that young people identify as relevant, such as civic participation, reporting corruption, increasing institutional transparency, and reducing corrupt practices. These activities should be presented as opportunities for young people to become active agents of positive change and to contribute to building more open, accountable, and transparent institutions, especially in areas of their concern, such as employment, housing, health, environment and other.

Albanian National Report

Executive Summary

This National Report presents the findings of the WP1 research activities implemented in Albania within the framework of the RISE Balkans project. The purpose of the report is to examine young people's knowledge, perceptions and experiences regarding civic participation, democratic engagement, transparency, integrity and anti-corruption, and to identify the barriers and enabling factors that shape their participation in public life. The Albanian research combined desk research, an anonymous online survey, one focus group discussion and a validation workshop, allowing the findings to reflect both quantitative data and qualitative insights from young people.

The research shows that young people in Albania are interested in public affairs and willing to participate more actively in civic and democratic life. However, this willingness is not always translated into formal engagement. Participation is still largely associated with voting, volunteering, community initiatives and youth activities, while involvement in public consultations, policymaking and institutional decision-making remains limited. The findings reveal a clear gap between young people's interest in public issues and their practical knowledge of how to participate effectively.

A central finding of the report is the strong perception that corruption is widespread in Albania. Most respondents perceive corruption as a systemic issue affecting politics, public institutions, employment and recruitment, education, healthcare and public services. Young people also express low levels of trust in public institutions and decision-making processes, often linking this distrust to lack of transparency, unclear procedures, favouritism and limited institutional accountability. Although corruption is perceived as widespread, fewer young people report direct personal experience, suggesting that perceptions are shaped by both lived experience and broader public narratives, media exposure and social discussions.

The main barriers to youth participation identified by the research are lack of clear information, exposure to disinformation, limited accessibility of opportunities, logistical challenges, low trust in institutions and the perception that participation may not lead to visible impact. Young people often do not know where to start, how to access public consultations, or how their contributions will be used. At the same time, social media plays an important role in shaping youth awareness and opinions, particularly through Instagram and TikTok, even though young people often question the reliability of information found on these platforms.

Despite these challenges, the findings reveal strong potential for youth empowerment. A significant share of respondents believe that young people can contribute to reducing corruption and improving governance. However, they also stress that safe, anonymous and trustworthy reporting mechanisms are necessary, alongside protection from retaliation, clear guidance and faster institutional responses. Young people also express strong interest in learning more about how the European Union works, how young people can engage with institutions, and how integrity, transparency and anti-corruption tools

can be used in practice.

The report recommends strengthening civic education, youth-friendly communication, institutional transparency and inclusive participation mechanisms. RISE Balkans should prioritise practical, interactive and experiential learning formats such as workshops, clinics, mentoring, volunteering projects, simulations and bootcamps. Public institutions should improve communication with young people, make consultation and reporting procedures clearer, and ensure meaningful follow-up on youth input. Civil society and youth-serving organisations should continue acting as trusted intermediaries by providing accessible toolkits, peer-learning opportunities, awareness campaigns and practical guidance. Overall, the Albanian findings confirm the need for structured, transparent and inclusive civic engagement opportunities that can help young people move from awareness and willingness to meaningful democratic participation.

Introduction

The report **"Youth Civic Participation in Albania"** was prepared by Partners Albania for Change and Development within the framework of the EU funded project *RISE Balkans – Empowering Youth Voices: Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, and Civic Engagement in the Balkans*, implemented by a regional consortium of universities and organizations in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, and North Macedonia. The project aims to strengthen the participation of young people aged 18–26 in democratic life and supports youth-led integrity and anti-corruption action through civic education, experiential learning, mentoring, and regional cooperation.

This national report was developed under Work Package 1 (WP1) "Youth and Governance: Reality Check" and provides an overview of the current situation of youth civic participation, integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption perceptions in Albania. The report aims to better understand how young people perceive democratic participation, institutional trust, corruption, barriers to engagement, and opportunities for civic action, while also identifying recommendations and practical solutions to strengthen youth participation. The findings of this national report will contribute to the development of the comparative regional report across the five participating Balkan countries.

The report follows a mixed-methodology approach, combining desk research, quantitative research (online survey), and qualitative research (focus group discussions, and a validation workshop). The online survey collected responses from 146 young people aged 18–26 in Albania, while the focus group discussions and validation workshop provided qualitative insights into young people's experiences, perceptions, and recommendations regarding civic participation, transparency, trust, and engagement in public life.

The results from the report show that young people in Albania are highly aware and concerned about corruption, transparency, and integrity issues, while trust in institutions and decision-making processes remains relatively low. Although young people are interested in civic participation and public affairs, their engagement in formal policymaking and consultation processes remains limited, and participation is often understood mainly through volunteering and community engagement.

The report identifies that the main barriers to participation are linked to lack of clear information, limited accessibility of opportunities, disinformation, logistical challenges, and low trust that participation can lead to meaningful impact. At the same time, young people emphasize the importance of transparent communication, visible results, practical engagement opportunities, mentorship, and more youth-friendly and interactive participation formats.

Overall, the report shows that young people in Albania are willing to engage more actively in civic and democratic life when opportunities are meaningful, transparent, accessible, and connected to visible impact. The report therefore recommends strengthening civic education, youth-friendly communication, institutional transparency, and inclusive participation mechanisms to support stronger and more sustainable youth engagement.

1. Context of Youth Participation in Albania

Youth participation in decision-making processes in Albania remains an important but still challenging area of democratic development. In recent years, Albania has made progress in establishing legal and institutional mechanisms that encourage youth involvement in civic and political life, particularly within the framework of European integration and alignment with EU youth policies. However, despite increased attention to youth participation, research and monitoring reports consistently show that the actual involvement of young people in formal decision-making processes remains relatively low compared to their willingness and interest to engage.

From an institutional perspective, Albania has gradually integrated youth participation into national policy planning through instruments such as the National Youth Strategy 2022–2029[12] and the 75/2019 Law "On Youth." These frameworks formally recognize young people as stakeholders in governance processes and promote their inclusion in consultation, volunteering, and local development initiatives. In parallel, EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027[13]has influenced national approaches by emphasizing structured dialogue, civic engagement, and participation in democratic life. As an EU candidate country, Albania has increasingly aligned its policy discourse with these principles.

However, existing monitoring reports consistently highlight that this formal recognition has not translated into strong representation of young people in decision-making institutions. Findings from the annual monitoring reports on Youth Political, Social and Economic Participation[14] prepared by Partners Albania[15] highlight the low representation of young people in leadership and decision-making positions, including ministers, deputy ministers, mayors, and members of parliament. Although political parties often establish youth forums and youth structures, young people continue to have limited influence over party agendas and policymaking processes. As a result, youth participation in Albania is characterized by a gap between formal policy commitment and actual institutional inclusion.

At the local governance level, mechanisms such as Local Youth Councils as foreseen by the Albanian Law 75/2019 "On Youth[16]", have been established in all 61 municipalities of Albania to strengthen youth participation in municipal decision-making. While these structures formally exist across municipalities, monitoring reports and consultation meetings with young people indicate that they are not functioning effectively or fulfilling their intended mission. Their actual influence varies significantly and is often perceived as consultative rather than decision-making in nature. Recent initiatives by the National Youth Agency and partner organizations have focused on improving the functioning of these councils and aligning them with EU standards of participatory governance[17].

Public consultation processes related to youth policies have increased in recent years. For example, during the revision process of the Albanian Law "On Youth" in 2025, focus groups and consultation

[12] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SKR29_Anglisht.pdf
[13] https://youth.europa.eu/strategy_en?
[14] https://www.partnersalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Youth_Participation_Monitoring_Report_2024.pdf
[15] https://www.partnersalbania.org/
[16] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Ligji-Nr.75.Date-4.11.2019-Per-Rinine.pdf
[17] https://rinia.gov.al/en/lancohen-manuali-dhe-udhezuesi-per-ngritjen-dhe-funksionimin-e-keshillave-vendore-te-rinise/

meetings with young people were organized across the country to collect youth perspectives and recommendations[18]. This reflects a growing recognition of the importance of involving young people in policymaking processes. Nevertheless, participation in such consultations remains uneven, as information about opportunities is often fragmented, poorly communicated, and primarily reaches already active youth groups.

Another positive development in strengthening youth civic participation in Albania is the approval of the draft law "On Volunteering" by the Council of Ministers in 2025[19]. The draft law aims to create a clearer legal framework for volunteering, including the recognition of volunteering as work experience, support mechanisms for volunteer programs, insurance schemes for volunteers, and the creation of a national electronic volunteering platform and registry. As volunteering remains one of the main forms of participation among young people in Albania, this initiative represents an important step toward promoting active citizenship, Youth engagement, and alignment with EU standards on youth participation.

Voting continues to represent the main and most formal form of youth participation in Albania. However, youth electoral participation remains affected by distrust toward political institutions, perceptions of corruption, and limited confidence that political engagement can produce meaningful change.

In terms of participation patterns, young people in Albania tend to engage more actively in civic and social spheres than in formal political processes. Engagement is more visible in volunteering activities, youth-led initiatives, community projects, and digital expression rather than in structured political decision-making. The 2024 report on political and civic participation of young people in Has Region of Albania found relatively low engagement in conventional political activities and low interest in local decision-making, while participation in community initiatives and solidarity actions was comparatively higher[20].

Younger generations increasingly engage politically through digital platforms and online civic participation. According to Eurostat, in 2025, 24.3% of young Europeans aged 16–29 engaged in civic or political issues online, including expressing opinions, participating in online consultations, or online voting. Among the overall EU population, this figure was lower at 20.2%[21]. Meanwhile, Albania recorded significantly higher levels of online civic and political participation among young people. Around 46.49% of Albanian youth aged 16–29 reported using the internet for civic or political participation, compared to 28.52% among the general Albanian population[9]. This suggests that digital platforms and social media increasingly serve as important channels for youth expression, mobilization, and civic engagement in Albania.

Youth participation in Albania remains limited in terms of institutional influence and trust in democratic processes. Nevertheless, Albania has shown increasing commitment to strengthening youth

[18] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Ditari-Mujor-Muaji-Mars-2025..pdf
[19] https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/20250702102327873 4VULLNETARIZMI.pdf
[20] https://www.kas.de/en/web/albanien/single-title/-/content/politische-und-buergerschaftliche-beteiligung-junger-menschen-2024#
[21] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/edn-20260424-1

engagement through legal reforms, local participation mechanisms, and alignment with EU democratic and youth participation standards.

2.Forms of Young People Participation

Youth participation in Albania takes place through a diverse set of formal, non-formal, and informal mechanisms that reflect both institutional arrangements and emerging civic practices. While formal institutional participation structures exist, their effectiveness and actual use by young people vary significantly depending on the level of institutional commitment, awareness, accessibility, and trust. Young people increasingly engage through more flexible, and community-based forms of engagement, particularly through volunteering, activism, and digital participation.

Formal Participation Channels

Formal participation mechanisms are primarily embedded within institutional frameworks at local and national levels. One of the key formal structures is the **Local Youth Council (LYC)**, established under the Law 75/2019 "On Youth." These councils are intended to function as advisory bodies within municipalities, enabling young people to contribute to local policy discussions propose initiatives, and participate in discussions related to youth issues. The councils are designed to create structured dialogue between youth and local government institutions. In practice, however, their functionality varies significantly across municipalities, with some councils being active while others remain largely inactive or consultative without real influence. due to limited resources, insufficient institutional support, or low youth engagement. Young people also report that recommendations provided by these councils are not always reflected in final decisions, which affects trust and motivation to participate[22]. Recent efforts by the National Youth Agency and partner organizations have aimed to strengthen the functioning of these councils through manuals, guidelines, and capacity-building initiatives[23].

Another formal participation mechanism is **public consultation processes** organized by ministries, municipalities, and public institutions. Albania has a legal framework requiring public consultation on draft laws, strategies, and policies through the Law 146/2014 "On Notification and Public Consultation."[24] This allows citizens, including young people, to provide comments and recommendations on public policies. Public hearings, consultation meetings, online consultation platforms[25], and feedback mechanisms are used as tools to involve citizens in policymaking. However, youth engagement in these processes remains relatively limited and often concentrated among organized youth groups and civil society actors rather than the broader youth population, due to lack of information, low awareness, and perceptions that consultations are often formalities rather than genuinely influential processes.

Educational institutions also provide formal participation channels through student councils and student representation structures. **Student councils, student governments, and university forums** provide opportunities for youth to participate in decision-making related to educational policies and educational institution governance. Participation is often limited to a small group of highly active students, while broader student involvement remains low.

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[22] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2024/

[23] https://rinia.gov.al/en/lancohen-manuali-dhe-udhezuesi-per-ngritjen-dhe-funksionimin-e-keshillave-vendore-te-rinise

[24] https://qkb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/lgji-146_2014.pdf

[25] Link of 2 Online Public Consultation Platforms in Albania: https://www.konsultimipublik.al/ and https://www.konsultimipublik.gov.al/

At the national level, young people can also participate through the **National Youth Congress**, youth networks, and youth organizations that engage in policy dialogue and advocacy. Civil society organizations often serve as intermediaries between youth and institutions by organizing consultations, policy discussions, and advocacy campaigns.

Political participation through political parties and youth forums is another formal channel available to young people. Most political parties in Albania have youth wings or internal youth structures intended to involve young people in political processes and electoral campaigns. However, youth involvement within political parties often remains limited to campaign activities rather than substantive participation in policy development or decision-making[26].

Informal and Ad Hoc Participation

Alongside formal mechanisms, Albanian youth mostly engage through informal and non-traditional forms of participation. **Volunteering and community activism** is the most common form of informal participation, with young people involved in environmental campaigns, social support initiatives, awareness-raising activities, cultural events, and solidarity actions organized by civil society organizations or informal youth groups.

Digital participation and social media activism have become increasingly important. Young people use social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and online tools to express opinions, share information and engage in public discussions. Research on digital democracy highlights that social media has created new opportunities for youth voice and participation, especially for those who may not engage through traditional channels[27].

Ad hoc participation also occurs through **protests, demonstrations, and civic movements**. These activities are typically issue-based and emerge in response to specific social, educational, or governance concerns. While not continuous, they demonstrate the capacity of young people to mobilize collectively when needed. Another increasingly common form of participation is involvement in **project-based youth initiatives**, hackathons, innovation labs, training programs, and youth exchanges. Civil society organizations and international donors play a key role in facilitating such opportunities across Albania.

Albania has a growing number of tools and mechanisms to support youth participation. However, while formal participation channels exist, they are not always fully functional, inclusive, or trusted by young people. As a result, many youths prefer informal, digital, and community-based forms of engagement, which they perceive as more accessible, flexible, and impactful. Strengthening institutional responsiveness, improving awareness about participation opportunities, and ensuring meaningful inclusion of young people in decision-making processes remain essential for enhancing youth participation in Albania.

[26] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2023/
[27] https://eydr.scidevcenter.org/mapping-of-youth-participation-in-digital-democracy-case-of-albania/

3. Enabling Factors and Barriers of Youth Participation

Youth participation in Albania is shaped by a combination of structural enablers and persistent barriers that determine the extent and quality of engagement in civic and political life. These factors operate across institutional, economic, social, and cultural dimensions, influencing both opportunities for participation and the willingness of young people to engage.

Enabling Factors

One of the main enabling factors is the **gradual development of a formal policy and legal framework** that recognizes youth participation as a key component of governance. The National Youth Strategy 2022–2029 and the Law "On Youth" establish institutional commitments to youth inclusion in decision-making, volunteering, and civic engagement. These frameworks are further reinforced by Albania's alignment with EU youth policies, particularly the EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027, which promotes structured dialogue and participatory democracy.

Another important enabling factor is the **active role of civil society organizations and youth organizations in Albania.** Youth-focused NGOs and community organizations provide essential platforms for engagement, especially in contexts where institutional mechanisms are weak. These organizations support youth participation through training, advocacy, volunteering, and project-based initiatives. They also contribute to building civic competencies and leadership skills among young people, often serving as the primary entry point for participation in public life.

Young people generally demonstrate higher trust toward youth organizations compared to political institutions, as these organizations create more inclusive and youth-friendly participation spaces[28].

International programs and EU-supported initiatives also play a significant role in encouraging youth participation. Programs such as Erasmus+, the European Solidarity Corps, and EU4Youth offer opportunities for mobility, volunteering, non-formal education, capacity building, and civic engagement. These initiatives contribute to the development of skills, confidence, and exposure to democratic participation practices[29].

Digitalization has further expanded participation opportunities. **Social media platforms and online tools** enable young people to access information, express opinions, and engage in public debate with fewer structural barriers. Research on digital democracy in Albania highlights that 79.8% of youth regularly access information through social media and 19.6% engage in digital activism[30].

[28] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376805927_Youth_Engagement_in_Decision-Making_European_Approaches_to_Inclusive_Participation_and_Albanian_Perspective
[29] https://www.unicef.org/albania/eu4youth
[30] https://eydr.scidevcenter.org/mapping-of-youth-participation-in-digital-democracy-case-of-albania/

Barriers

Despite these enabling factors, numerous barriers continue to hinder effective youth participation in Albania. One of the most frequently identified barriers is the **low level of trust in institutions and public authorities.** Many young people feel that their voices are not genuinely considered in policymaking processes and perceive participation opportunities as symbolic rather than influential. This lack of trust discourages active engagement in formal political structures and decision-making mechanisms[31].

Institutional limitations also play a role. Participation mechanisms such as youth councils or consultation processes are not always fully functional or influential, which reduces their credibility among young people. In some cases, participation structures are perceived as formalities without real decision-making power.

Economic constraints and social challenges also significantly affect youth participation. High unemployment rates, poverty, and the large proportion of young people categorized as NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) limit the ability of youth to engage in civic and political activities[5]. Financial insecurity often forces young people to prioritize employment and economic survival over participation in volunteering, community engagement, or policymaking initiatives. Transportation costs, lack of financial resources, and inability to pre-finance participation in activities create additional obstacles, especially for youth from rural areas and disadvantaged backgrounds[32].

Limited access to information and awareness gaps represent another important challenge. Many young people are not adequately informed about participation opportunities, youth programs, public consultations, and institutional mechanisms available to them. At the same time, weak civic education and low awareness of democratic processes reduce motivation and confidence to participate actively in public life[33].

Cultural and social barriers further affect participation. Gender norms, family expectations, fear of criticism, and social pressure can discourage public engagement, particularly among young women and marginalized groups. They often face additional difficulties in accessing participation opportunities equally[6].

Digital participation also faces limitations despite the widespread use of social media. Research on youth participation in digital democracy notes that many young people engage only superficially online, often through passive sharing rather than sustained activism or advocacy. Fear of online harassment limited digital literacy, and lack of understanding of digital rights further reduce meaningful online engagement[3].

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[31] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2024/
[32] https://www.cbc.org.al/blog/research-assessment-of-participation-in-youth-projects-barriers-needs-and-opportunities-of-young-people-in-albania/
[33] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376805927_Youth_Engagement_in_Decision-Making_European_Approaches_to_Inclusive_Participation_and_Albanian_Perspective

4.Methodology

The study applies a mixed-methods approach, combining desk research, qualitative research, quantitative research, and validation activities in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of youth participation, civic engagement, integrity, and perceptions of corruption among young people in Albania and across the wider Balkan region.

The desk research component was used to provide national context regarding youth participation opportunities, democratic engagement mechanisms, and participation related challenges. It also served to summarize existing evidence, indicators, policy frameworks, and good practices related to civic participation, governance, transparency, and youth engagement.

The qualitative research component consisted of a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted with a closed group of 12 young participants aged 18–26 years old from different educational, social, and professional backgrounds. The focus group provided the opportunity to engage in in-depth discussions and better understand young people's experiences, perceptions, concerns, and expectations regarding civic participation, trust in institutions, corruption, and opportunities for engagement in public life. A validation workshop was conducted with approximately 65 young people to present and further discuss the preliminary findings of the report. The workshop served as a participatory space to validate key results, gather feedback, and ensure that the perspectives and experiences of young people were accurately reflected

The quantitative research component consisted of an anonymous online survey distributed primarily through the communication channels of *Partners Albania* in order to reach a broader audience of young people. The survey was also specifically disseminated among students of the Faculty of Law at Luarasi University, and University of Tirana, including the Faculty of Social Sciences, as well as participants of a youth-related event. The online questionnaire remained open for more than **20** days, allowing sufficient time for young people to contribute their opinions, experiences, and perspectives.

A total of 146 young people from Albania completed the online survey, making the highest proportion of the respondents in the Regional level (33.49%), followed by Croatia (24.08%), Greece (15.37%) and Bulgaria (14.22%) show moderate representation, while North Macedonia accounts for the smallest share (12.84%).

The demographic findings show that the survey sample in Albania is heavily dominated by younger respondents aged 18–20 years old, who represented 69.86% of participants, while participation decreases significantly in older groups, respondents aged 21–23 accounted for 22.60%, while only 7.53% belonged to the 24–26 age group. This indicates that the findings primarily reflect the perspectives of younger youth, particularly students and individuals at the early stages of civic awareness and participation.

The sample is predominantly female with women representing 83.56% of respondents, while males representing only 13.70%. This suggests that findings may strongly reflect female perspectives, particularly regarding civic engagement and perceptions of corruption. Also, this strong female participation may indicate that young women are more willing to engage in surveys and civic-related initiatives, which can itself be interpreted as an initial form of civic participation and engagement.

Regarding geographic distribution the majority of young respondents (77.40%) live in urban areas (cities or large towns), with limited representation from rural populations (4.11%), and semi-urban areas (16.44%) of the sample. This urban bias suggests that access to information, services, and participation opportunities reflected in the data may not fully capture rural challenges.

In terms of educational background, the sample is relatively well educated. The majority of the respondents (51.37%) reported Bachelor-level education (*including here many students currently pursuing Bachelor studies*). 36.99% of the young respondents had completed secondary education and were often continuing higher education studies (bachelor), while 8.22% were enrolled in or had completed Master-level studies.

An overwhelming majority of respondents identify as students (93.15%), confirming that the survey largely captures student perspectives. Smaller proportions reported being employed (15.75%), unemployed (2.05%), or engaged in training and apprenticeship programs. A number of respondents also combined student status with employment, 10.96% (16 respondents) identified themselves as both students and employed, while a smaller proportion, 0.68% (1 respondent), reported being unemployed and not engaged in studies. In contrast, 6.16% (7 respondents) indicated that they were employed and not students. These findings confirm that the sample is overwhelmingly composed of students, with relatively limited representation of young people fully integrated into the labour market. As a result, perceptions related to employment opportunities, recruitment processes, and labour market participation should be interpreted cautiously, as they primarily reflect the experiences and perspectives of students and young people still in education.

Overall, the sample is **young, well educated, predominantly female, urban, and student-based**, which shapes the interpretation of all subsequent findings. The results reflect the perceptions of **engaged youth with educational exposure**, rather than the broader youth population.

5.Youth Awareness and Understanding of Civic Participation, Anti-Corruption, Transparency and Policy Making

Youth Awareness and Understanding of Corruption

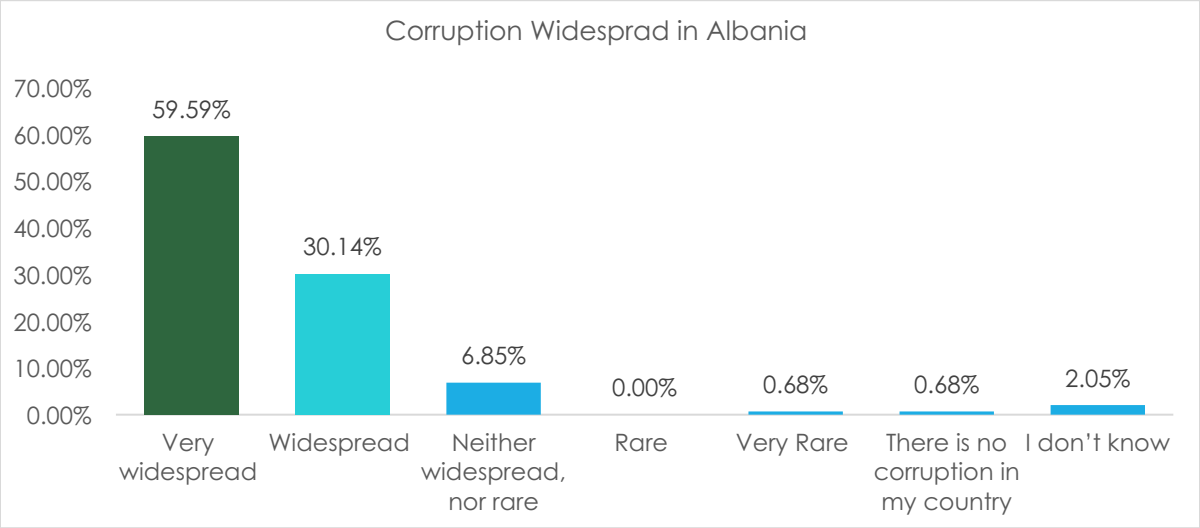


Figure 1: Corruption Widespread in Albania

As shown ***in Figure 1,*** the findings demonstrate an overwhelming **89.73%** of young respondents perceive corruption as widespread or very widespread. This means that 9 out of 10 young respondents perceive corruption as a major issue. The very high percentage of respondents expressing concern indicates a strong awareness among youth regarding corruption and integrity issues in the country. The findings also suggest a general climate of distrust toward governance systems and institutional transparency, with corruption seen as a normalized phenomenon.

A large majority of young respondents reveal a strong perception that corruption is present within both national (73.3%) and local institutions (70.55%). The findings demonstrate that corruption is not only perceived as a societal problem in general terms but is also directly associated with state institutions and governance structures. The small proportion of respondents selecting *"do not know"* may indicate limited interaction with national and local institutions, lack of information, or even unwillingness to provide a clear opinion.

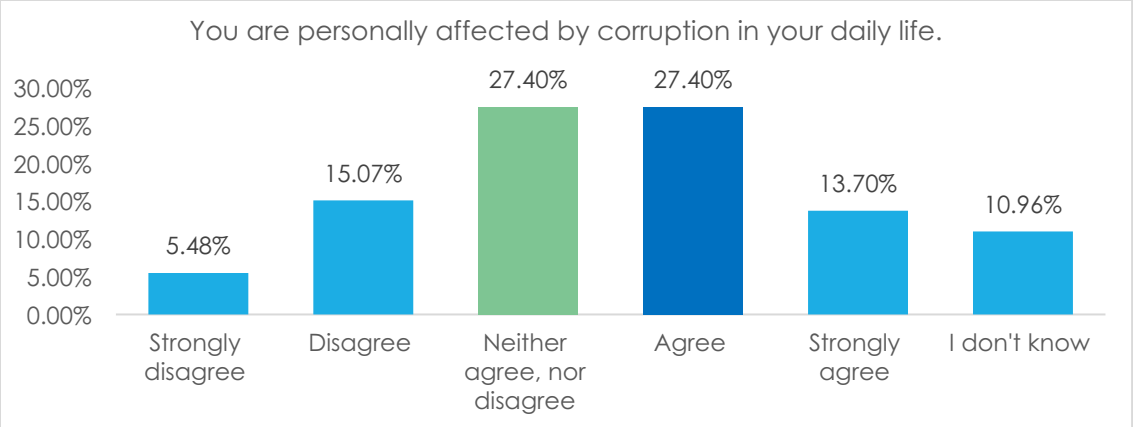


Figure 2: Young People Thoughts on if they are affected Personally by the Level of Corruption in Albania

Although corruption is widely perceived as a systemic issue, this perception is not fully reflected in personal experience. Only **41.10%** of the respondents report being personally affected by corruption in their daily lives ***(Figure 2),*** while a significant proportion **(27.4 %)** remain neutral and **20.55%** do not feel directly affected. This gap suggests that corruption is perceived as a widespread systemic issue, even though fewer individuals report direct personal exposure. The relatively high percentage of neutral responses (27.4%) may also indicate that young people perceive corruption as affecting society collectively rather than themselves individually. The data further suggest that awareness of corruption among youth is shaped not only by personal experience, but also by media exposure, public narratives, social discussions, and broader perceptions of political and institutional integrity.

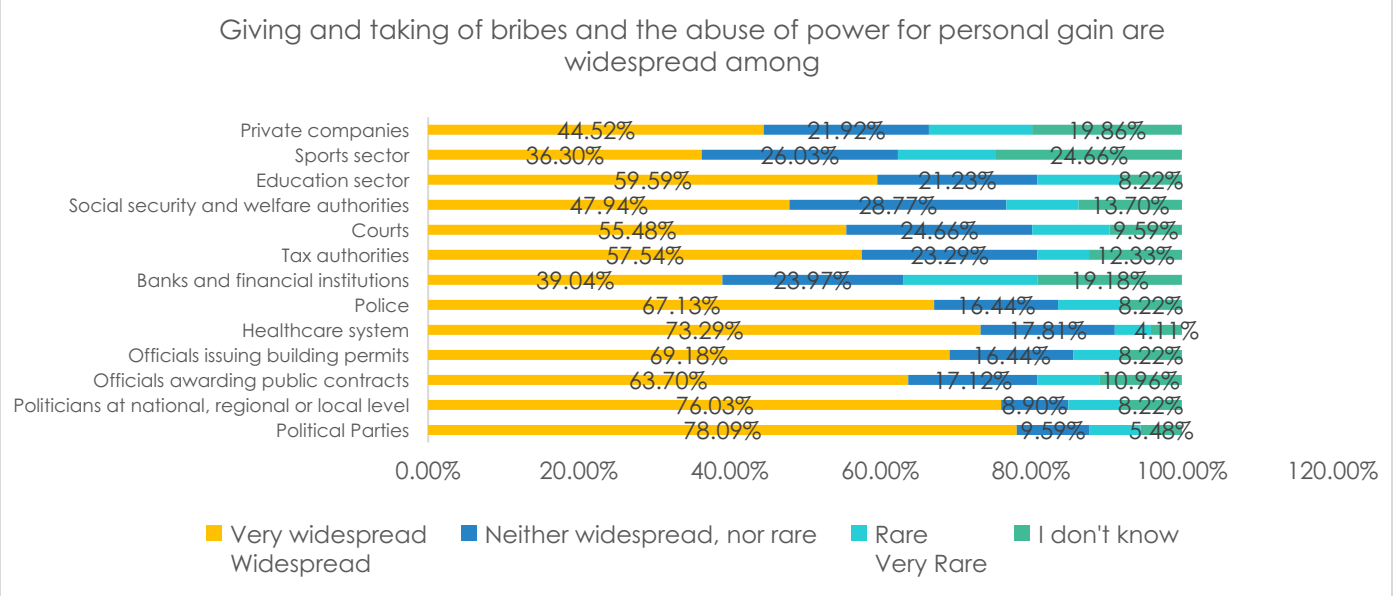


Figure 3: The Widespread of giving and Taking Bribes and the Abuse of Power for Personal Gain among the Actors

The findings as in the ***Figure 3*** indicate a strong perception that corruption defined as the giving and taking of bribes and the abuse of power for personal gain is widespread across multiple sectors,

particularly within politics and public institutions. The highest levels of perceived corruption are reported among **political parties** (78.09%) and **politicians at all levels** (76.03%), highlighting a significant lack of trust in political actors and governance structures. Similarly, key public service sectors such as the **healthcare system** (73.29%), **officials issuing building permits** (69.18%), **the police** (67.13%), and **officials awarding public contracts** (63.70%) are also viewed as highly affected. These findings suggest that sectors closely connected with public decision-making, resource allocation, and access to services are viewed as particularly vulnerable to corruption. Relatively lower levels are reported for social security and welfare institutions (47.94%), private companies (44.52%), banks and financial institutions (39.04%), and the sports sector (36.30%). However, these sectors also show higher levels of uncertainty and neutral responses, which might indicate lower level of interaction, public exposure or knowledge among respondents.

These findings were further confirmed during the Validation Workshop, where young participants emphasized the high levels of perceived corruption within institutions and politics. Participants also highlighted that corruption in sectors such as sports may be equally significant, although it often receives less public attention compared to political or institutional corruption. At the same time, participants expressed mixed opinions regarding corruption in the education sector. While some young people believed that favoritism and unfair practices exist within education, others stated that they had not personally encountered such situations, indicating varying experiences and perceptions across respondents.

The findings reveal that young people perceive strong links between politics, business interests, and corruption in Albania. A large majority of respondents (74%) believe that corruption distorts competition and creates unfair advantages, while 68.5% believe that high-level corruption cases are not sufficiently prosecuted.

At the same time, half of respondents (50%) agree that political connections are necessary for business success, indicating that many young people perceive informal networks and personal relationships as influential factors in economic opportunities. However, the fact that this percentage is lower than other corruption indicators may suggest some variation in experiences or uncertainty regarding the business sector.

Trust in institutional transparency appears relatively low. Only 37% of respondents believe that institutions clearly explain procedures and decisions, while just 31% think young people can access services fairly without relying on personal connections. These findings point to limited confidence in equal treatment and transparency within public administration.

High levels of neutral responses across several indicators point to uncertainty, a lack of transparency and limited understanding of institutional processes. This may indicate the need for greater transparency, civic education, and communication between institutions and young people.

Importantly, the findings also demonstrate a strong demand for reform, with 67% of respondents agreeing that public processes should be easier to understand and follow, highlighting young people's desire for more accessible, transparent, and accountable governance systems.

The survey additionally identified the sectors where young people most strongly perceive corruption, favoritism, and unfair treatment. **Employment and recruitment** stand out as the most affected sector, with 54.8% of respondents identifying it as a key area of concern, and a barrier to meritocracy. This finding is particularly significant, as employment represents one of the main concerns for young people transitioning into adulthood and the labour market.

However, these findings appear to reflect perceptions rather than direct personal experiences, as only a small percentage of respondents reported having employment experience. Most participants' views are therefore likely shaped by media, family discussions, social circles, and broader public discourse rather than direct interaction with recruitment processes. These perceptions were also discussed during the **Validation Workshop**, where participants confirmed concerns about favoritism and unfair recruitment practices, while at the same time some young people shared positive personal experiences, indicating that perceptions and experiences remain mixed and divided.

Education (31.51%) and healthcare/public services (23.97%) were also identified as major areas affected by corruption, implying that corruption is perceived to impact essential services and opportunities directly connected to young people's well-being and future development. Notably, none of the respondents indicated that corruption is "not a major issue," reinforcing the perception that corruption is seen as a widespread and systemic challenge affecting multiple dimensions of social, economic, and political life in Albania.

Youth Awareness and Understanding of Policy Making

The results show that young people report the highest levels of understanding of the national government (62.3%) and governance structures in their university or workplace (61.7%). This mainly because of the fact that most respondents are students and therefore more directly exposed to university governance structures and national political discussions. Knowledge of local governance is comparatively lower (47.95%), and with many indicating only partial understanding (34.3%), indicating partial familiarity rather than comprehensive knowledge, implying that local governance processes remain less visible or less engaging for young people.

While understanding of the EU is considerable, for a non-EU country with 52.7% of young respondents reporting a high level of understanding, 28.1 % moderate understanding and 17.8% low levels of understanding. This indicates that while young people are generally aware of the EU and its role, many may lack deeper knowledge of EU institutions and policymaking processes.

Young people demonstrate moderate to high familiarity to national legislative process, compared to the knowledge of EU processes which is significantly lower (only 17.12% high familiarity). This indicates a knowledge gap regarding EU governance, they remain relatively distant or difficult for young people to understand, even though the general understanding of EU is considerable.

Familiarity with the concept of public consultation remains relatively limited. While 41.8% reported moderate familiarity, only 24% expressed high familiarity with the concept. Around one-third of respondents (31.5%) demonstrated low familiarity, indicating that many young people are not fully aware of how formal consultation processes function in practice.

Meanwhile, respondents appear more informed about where to find participation opportunities within their communities or universities. Around 44.5% reported high familiarity with participation opportunities, while only 19.2% demonstrated low familiarity. From this we can understand that local and university-based participation channels may be more accessible and visible to young people than formal institutional consultation mechanisms.

The survey results indicate a relatively moderate understanding of how legislation can be proposed and influenced at the national level. More than half of respondents correctly identified Members of Parliament (56.9%) and the Government or Ministers (61.6%) as actors capable of proposing legislation. However, only 40.4% recognized that citizens can also propose initiatives through petitions when sufficient signatures are collected. Furthermore, 11.6% stated that they do not know who can propose legislation, indicating gaps in civic and institutional knowledge.

The findings also indicate moderate level of awareness regarding opportunities for citizen participation in lawmaking. Approximately 65.1% of respondents believe that citizens can provide feedback on proposed laws, while 20.6% reported that they do not know whether such opportunities exist.

When asked about the stage at which citizens can participate in legislative processes**,** just over half of respondents (52.1%) correctly identified the public consultation or hearing phase. Similarly, only 45.9 % of respondents demonstrated correct knowledge of national public consultation mechanisms, such as submitting written feedback during official government consultation periods. This pattern is consistent with the group that showed understanding of the concept of public consultation**.** Meanwhile the remaining of the respondents either lack awareness or hold incorrect perceptions regarding both the timing of participation (48% of respondents) and the appropriate mechanisms (54% of respondents) for engaging in public consultation.

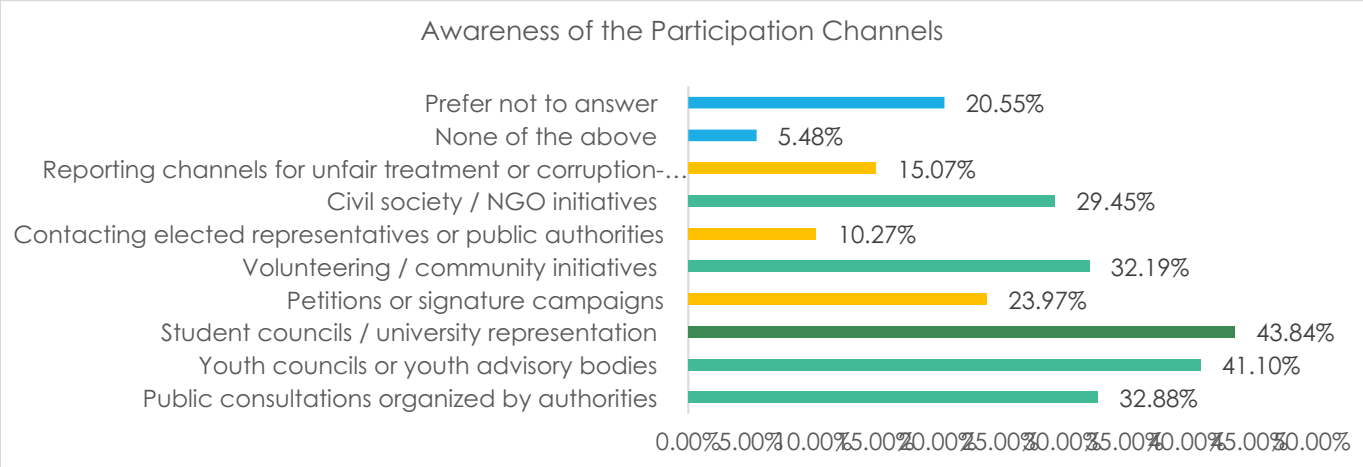


Figure 4: Awareness of the Participation Channels

The survey demonstrates varying levels of awareness regarding different civic participation channels among young people in Albania. Student councils and university representation mechanisms appear to be the most recognized forms of participation, with 43.8% of respondents indicating awareness of these structures. Youth councils and advisory bodies (41.1%), public consultations (32.9%), volunteering and community initiatives (32.2%), and NGO or civil society initiatives (29.5%) also demonstrate moderate

levels of recognition. However, awareness is significantly lower regarding more formal or institutional participation channels. Only 10.3% of respondents reported awareness of contacting elected representatives or public authorities, while just 15.1% were aware of reporting channels for unfair treatment or corruption-related concerns.

This data indicates that young people are more familiar with participation opportunities connected to education, volunteering, and youth engagement **activities (also confirmed during the focus groups, initiatives related to their interests)**, while institutional accountability and formal advocacy mechanisms remain less visible and less understood. General awareness is present, but practical and procedural knowledge is still weak.

Focus group participants confirmed that information about participation opportunities often circulates only within certain youth networks, universities, or organizations, limiting equal access to engagement opportunities for all young people.

Knowledge of EU institutions and participation mechanisms appears considerably weaker than knowledge of national structures. Only 38.4% of respondents correctly identified the European Commission as the institution primarily responsible for proposing new EU laws, while nearly one third (32.9%) stated that they do not know the answer. Similarly, awareness of EU consultation mechanisms remains low. Almost half of respondents (48.6%) were not aware of the European Commission's "Have Your Say" consultation platform, while only 28.1% correctly identified it.

As these findings suggest, and as was confirmed during the **Validation Workshop,** although young people may generally recognize the role of the European Union, they often lack practical knowledge regarding how EU policymaking functions and how citizens can engage with EU institutions.

The findings also indicate differing levels of familiarity with key anticorruption, governance and transparency concepts. Young people appear generally familiar with broad and commonly discussed concepts such as corruption, conflict of interest rule of law, and whistle blowing. However, more technical or institutional terms, including beneficial ownership, public procurement, lobbying, and the European Union's prosecutors Office, appear to be significantly less understood. The same patterns circulate throughout the report, the respondents are more exposed to general public discussions about corruption and governance, often through media or public discourse, while more specialized institutional concepts remain outside the everyday civic knowledge of many young people.

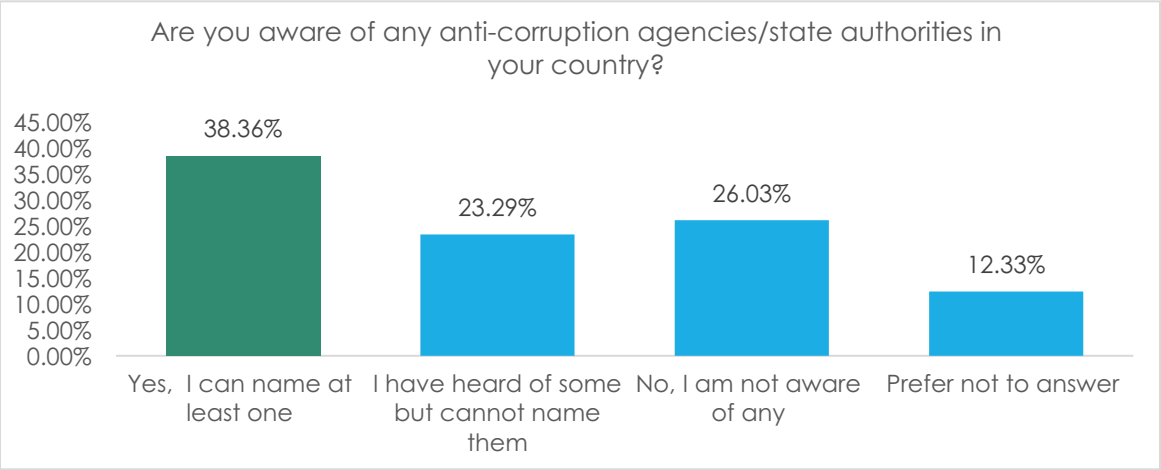


Figure 5: Awareness of Anticorruption Institutions

Similarly, the awareness among young people on the anticorruption institutions appears moderate, but incomplete. While 38.4% of the respondents stated that they could name at least one anticorruption institution in Albania, the remaining 60% of the respondents are not aware and cannot name any anticorruption bodies at all.

Youth Participation

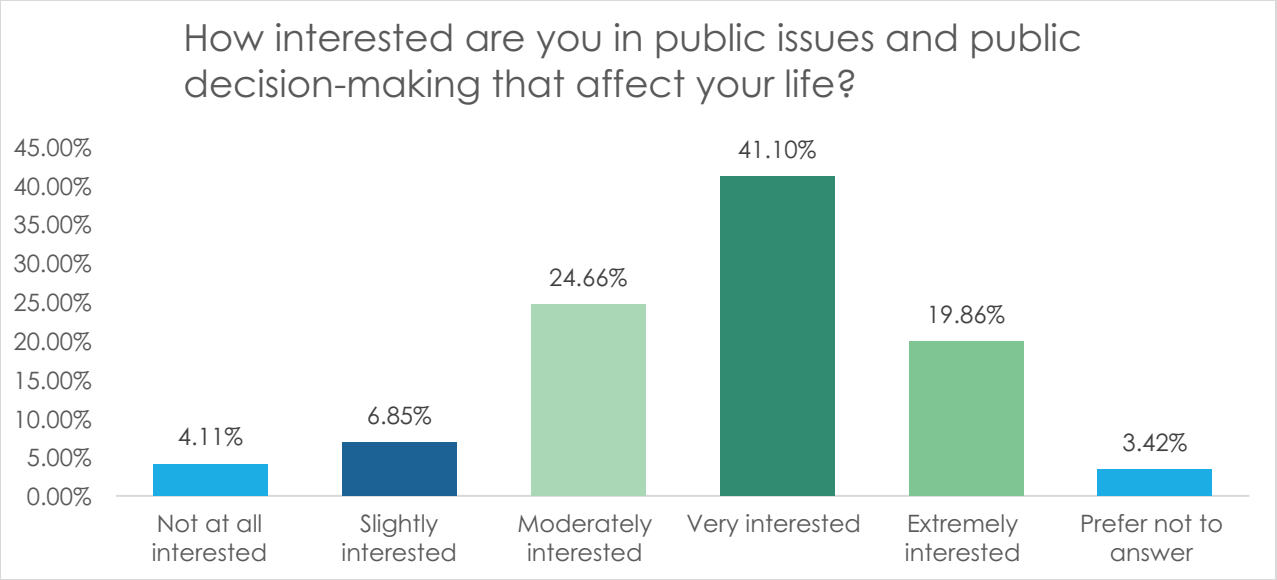


Figure 6: Interest in Public Issues and Public Decision Making

The survey findings show that young people show a strong interest in public issues and decision-making processes that affect their lives, with approximately 61% of respondents reporting a high level of interest in public issues, and around one-quarter of participants (24.7%) reported moderate interest. while only 11% express low levels of interest.

These findings show that Albanian youth are not disengaged from public life, as often perceived, but instead demonstrate a strong potential for engagement and considerable willingness to follow and understand issues that impact their communities, education, employment opportunities, and future prospects.

Despite relatively high interest in public affairs, the results reveal more moderate levels of awareness regarding concrete ways young people can participate in public life. Only 24% of respondents reported feeling informed about how to participate in public activities in Albania, while 45.9% described themselves as only moderately informed. In contrast, more than one-quarter of respondents (25.3%) reported feeling uninformed about how young people can engage in public life.

This gap between interest and information suggests that many young people may be willing to participate but lack accessible information about existing participation channels, consultation mechanisms, youth initiatives, or institutional opportunities for engagement. The findings point to a need for stronger communication, civic education, and outreach efforts aimed at increasing awareness of participation opportunities among youth. Focus Groups participants also emphasized that information should be communicated in clearer, more youth-friendly, and more direct ways, especially through universities, interactive activities, and social media platforms that young people actively use. They suggested that respective institutions should make all the efforts to convey the information to young people.

Traditional television news remains the most commonly used source used by young people to access news and political information (37.7%), followed closely by Instagram Reels and Stories (35.6%) and Tik Tok videos or influencers (30.8%). Online news websites are also relatively important sources of information (26%). Only 19.9% of respondents reported using official government portals as a source of information. This might indicate limited trust in institutions, or a lack of youth friendly communication by public authorities.

Generally, there is a trend of shifting towards fast, accessible, and visually oriented digital communication channels among young people. Social media might play an increasingly influential role in shaping political awareness, opinions and engagement. A counteracting effect of this trend, however, is the increased exposure to misinformation that comes with greater social media use.

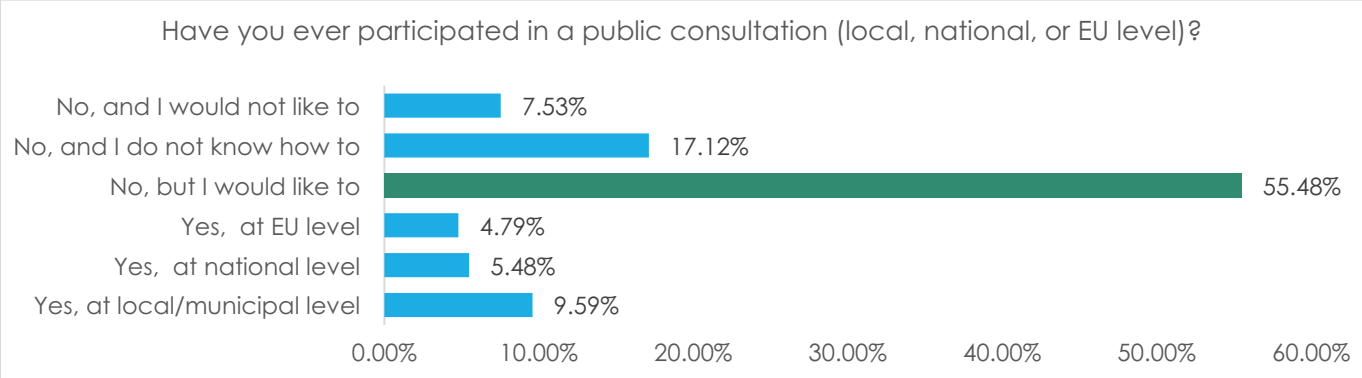


Figure 7: Participation in Public Consultation

The results demonstrate relatively low levels of direct participation in formal public consultation processes at local, national, or European level, with only small percentages of respondents report having participated in consultations at the municipal (9.6%), national (5.5%), or EU level (4.8%). In contrast, the majority of respondents (55.5%) state that they had never participated in a public consultation, but they show a high willingness to do so. These findings are particularly important because they reveal a high interest in participation among young people. While, 17.1% reported that they do not know how to participate in public consultations, while 7.5% indicated that they are not interested in participating. Although previous findings indicate that young people possess a certain level of awareness and knowledge regarding participation mechanisms and civic engagement opportunities, this knowledge is not reflected in active participation. Focus Group results indicate that participation is more likely when activities are directly linked to their personal interests, studies, or professional development, and when they can clearly see the practical value and impact of their engagement.

Low participation appears to be linked not to lack of interest, but rather to barriers such as limited trust in institutions, insufficient information, lack of accessible and youth-friendly opportunities, and perceptions that participation processes have little real impact. Validation workshop discussions further confirmed that many young people feel consultations are often conducted formally, without genuinely considering youth contributions, which discourages meaningful engagement.

The results in show that voting is the most common form of civic participation among young people in Albania, with 58.22% of them reporting they voted in an election during the past 12 months. Participation

in other activities is considerably lower, including attending civic or community events (27.40%), volunteering (19.86%), and participating in student or youth representative bodies (17.18%). More formal forms of engagement, such as contacting public institutions (12.33%), signing petitions or supporting campaigns (13.01%), and participating in online public discussions or consultations (10.28%) remain limited. Additionally, 10.27% of respondents reported not engaging in any civic activity. These results indicate that although a portion of young people demonstrate interest in community engagement, participation beyond electoral processes remains relatively limited.

6.Barriers and Enabling Factors

Barriers

The findings show that the most significant obstacle preventing young people from participating in civic and public life is **the lack of clear information** or **exposure to disinformation,** identified by **52.05%** of respondents. This implies that many young people feel insufficiently informed about participation opportunities, civic processes, or trustworthy sources of information. **Lack of time** was the second most common barrier (42.47%), indicating that academic, professional, or personal responsibilities may limit youth engagement. A considerable proportion of respondents also stated that they "**do not know where to start"** (20.55%) or **fear negative reactions, criticism, or online harassment** (19.86%). Additionally, 17.12% **believe that their views would not make a difference**, reflecting a degree of mistrust or political disillusionment among youth.

In contrast, relatively few respondents identified lack of confidence (7.53%), participation costs (8.22%), or lack of interest (3.42%) as barriers. This suggests that disengagement is not primarily caused by apathy, but rather by informational, structural, and trust-related obstacles that reduce young people's willingness or ability to participate. Focus Group participants described barriers such as unclear communication, lack of coordination, unsuitable schedules, and logistical challenges, particularly for youth outside Tirana, as major obstacles limiting participation.

Most respondents **(58.22%)** described access to information about civic participation opportunities **as neither easy nor difficult**, indicating a moderate level of accessibility but also uncertainty regarding where and how to engage. Meanwhile, **16.44%** considered finding such information **difficult**, compared to only **17.80%** who found it **easy**. These findings reinforce the previous results showing that lack of clear and targeted information remains one of the key barriers to participation. The data suggests that while some opportunities may exist, they are not communicated in a sufficiently accessible, visible, or youth-friendly manner.

There is a high level of distrust among young people on social media sources, with the majority of respondents expressing little or no trust in TikTok influencers (63.70%), Instagram memes and stories (60.28%), and Telegram channels or groups (50%). In contrast, **international news sources** are perceived as the most trustworthy, with **66.44%** expressing high trust. **Government-official sources** also show relatively high levels of trust (55.48%), followed by **official election statements** (45.20%) **and local journalists** (41.10%). These results indicate that although social media platforms remain highly used among youth *as* the main source of information, they are not necessarily perceived as reliable sources of political or civic information. Young people appear to distinguish between frequently consumed content and trustworthy information sources.

Although young people report relatively low levels of trust in information shared through platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Telegram, these **same platforms** remain the main channels through which political content influences their opinions and actions. Instagram has emerged as the platform where respondents most recently encountered political content that has influenced their actions (56.85%), followed by TikTok (21.92%) and YouTube (10.96%). Facebook (7.53%), Telegram (1.37%), and Twitter/X (1.37%) were significantly less influential among young people. This indicates that awareness of misinformation

risks does not necessarily reduce the influence of social media. Frequent exposure to political and civic content may still shape perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors, even when users question the reliability of the information itself.

The majority of respondents (60.27%) report that online content does not directly affect their civic engagement, stating that they were engaged in none of the listed options. However, some forms of influence were still visible. Around 13.01% attended protests due to viral content, while 12.33% reported increased activism because of influencer calls. Additionally, 11.64% stated that distrust caused by corruption reduced their willingness to volunteer. These indicate that online content can both encourage and discourage civic participation. While digital platforms may mobilize youth engagement and activism, they may also contribute to disinformation, distrust and disengagement when corruption-related narratives dominate public discourse.

The results indicate that corruption related narratives and social media content may significantly influence the voting behavior among young people. Half of respondents (50%) stated that corruption claims made them less likely to vote, while 25.34% reported changing candidate preferences due to social media influence. Other influences include fraud content, boycotting considerations, and influencer endorsements, though at lower levels. However, the findings should be interpreted with caution, as respondents noted during discussions that they were constrained by the absence of a "none of the above" option, which then led or might have led them to forced selections and an overestimation of actual effects.

The findings also show that 17.80% of respondents frequently encounter influencers or celebrities endorsing election boycotts, while 41.10% encounter such content occasionally. Overall, the results suggest that young people are regularly exposed to narratives that may weaken trust in democratic processes, political institutions, and electoral participation.

The findings demonstrate frequent exposure to disinformation related and anti-democratic narratives among young people, especially during election periods. Half of respondents reported often or always encountering claims that elections will be manipulated or stolen (50%) and messages stating that "your vote does not matter" (50%). Similarly, 44.52% frequently encountered allegations of corruption in candidate selection processes, while 40.41% were exposed to messages promoting election abstention as a form of protest. Exposure to deepfake or AI-generated false political content was lower but still notable, with 26.71% reporting frequent exposure.

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Enabling Factors

The findings indicate that young people perceive traditional, formal democratic participation mechanisms and organized civic engagement as the most effective ways to make their voices heard by decision-makers. **Voting in local, national, or European elections** was identified as the most effective action by 39.73% of respondents, highlighting the continued importance of electoral participation among youth. Participation in public consultations or hearings was the second most selected option (33.56%), suggesting that young people recognize the importance of direct consultation processes in influencing decision-making. Similarly, 26.71% believe that joining youth organizations, NGOs, or civic initiatives is an effective way to increase youth representation and influence.

Lower percentages were recorded for volunteering and community action (10.96%), contacting public authorities directly (13.70%), participating in peaceful demonstrations (13.70%), and signing petitions or campaigns (7.53%). Sharing views through online campaigns or social media received the lowest support (4.79%), despite social media being widely used by young people. This may indicate that online expression alone is not perceived as sufficient to create meaningful political or institutional change. Focus group participants stated that face-to-face and interactive formats such as discussions, debates, workshops, and community activities are perceived as more meaningful and impactful forms of participation compared to purely online engagement

When asked what actions could increase their participation young people state that **access to clear and simple information** is the most important factor that would encourage greater youth participation in civic and public life, selected by **51.37%** of respondents. This finding strongly aligns with previous sections of the survey, where lack of information and disinformation were identified as key barriers to participation. **Trust in information about civic or public life** was the second most important factor (32.88%), indicating that credibility and transparency of information sources play a crucial role in motivating engagement. Respondents also emphasized the importance of opportunities being closer to where they study, work, or live (21.92%), as well as the need for guidance, mentoring, and practical support (21.23%).

A more welcoming and inclusive environment was identified by 20.55% of respondents, suggesting that young people value participation spaces where they feel accepted, represented, and safe to express their views. Additionally, 17.12% highlighted the importance of receiving feedback on how youth contributions are used, reflecting a desire for more transparent and meaningful participation processes.

7.Transparency, Integrity, and Trust

Addressing Corruption

There is a strong belief among youth in their potential to address corruption, showing strong empowerment potential. Significant majority of the respondents believe that young people can contribute to reducing corruption in their country, with nearly half (48.63%) expressing strong confidence ("definitely yes"). Only 15.06% express skepticism, while a small proportion remain uncertain (4.11%) or prefer not to answer (2.74%). This demonstrates a high level of civic optimism and perceived empowerment among young people, suggesting that youth broadly view themselves as relevant actors in anti-corruption efforts.

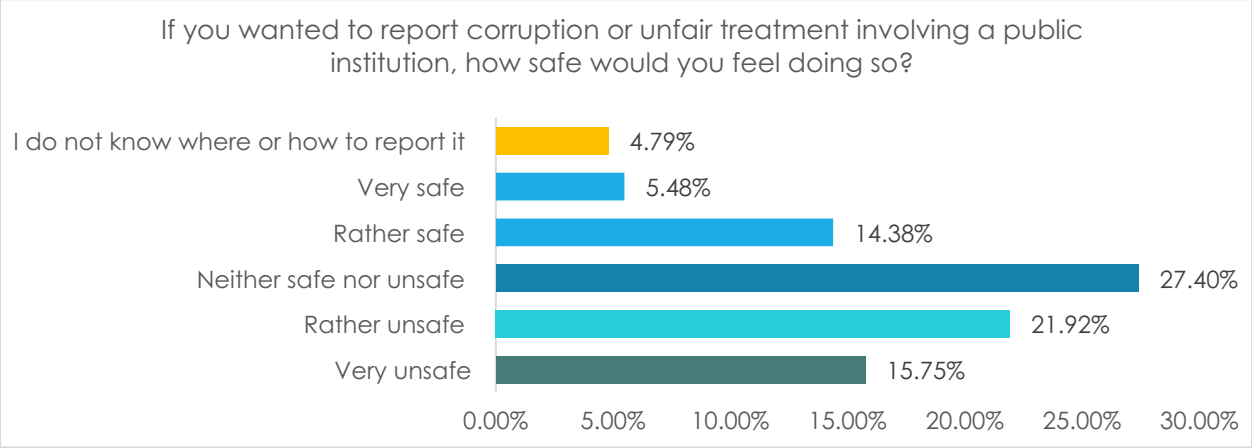


Figure 8: Perceived Safety in Reporting Corruption

Perceptions of safety in reporting corruption are mixed and generally cautious. Only 19.86% of respondents feel safe reporting corruption., while a significantly higher share feel unsafe, indicating serious concerns about retaliation and protection. While some level of confidence exists, fear of consequences and uncertainty about reporting systems remain major barriers to active civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts.

The largest share is neutral responses (27.40%), indicating uncertainty or lack of direct experiennce with reporting mechanisms. Additionally, 4.79% do not know how or where to report, and 10.27% prefer not to answer, further highlighting hesitancy.

When asked what would make reporting safer, respondents primarily emphasized anonymity and protection. The most selected option was **anonymous reporting mechanisms** (48.63%), followed by **protection from retaliation** (34.25**%), clear guidance on reporting procedures** (32.19%), and **faster institutional responses** (30.82%). These results indicate that the main concern is not only awareness but also trust, safety, confidentiality and institutional responsiveness. The strong preference for anonymity and protection highlights fear of negative consequences as a central barrier to reporting corruption.

Knowledge of how to report corruption is partial and unevenly distributed. Only 21.92% of respondents state that they know exactly where to report corruption, while the majority either have only a general idea (36.30%) or do not know at all (20.55%). Additionally, 8.90% believe that reporting would

not make a difference, reflecting a degree of institutional skepticism. The share of respondents who prefer not to answer (12.33%) might suggests discomfort or uncertainty regarding the topic. Young participants in the Focus Groups also highlighted that even when reporting mechanisms formally exist, many young people hesitate to use them because they are uncertain whether institutions will respond effectively or ensure protection and confidentiality.

Trust in institutions responsible for addressing corruption is uneven and concentrated primarily in formal **justice structures**, which is trusted by **43.15%** of respondents. This is followed by media and journalists (23.97%) and the police (20.55%). Trust in specialized anti-corruption agencies is moderate (17.12%), while trust in political representatives (4.11%), NGOs (7.53%), and other intermediaries remains low. While the justice system remains the primary trusted authority, overall trust is fragmented, with low confidence in political actors and other stakeholders. The relatively high trust in media suggests that young people perceive journalism as an important accountability mechanism.

8.Needs, Preferred Formats and Solutions

Findings show that transparency, clarity, and fairness are the most important drivers of trust in public institutions. The most selected factor to increase young people trust in public institutions is **having clear steps and procedures explained in advance** (49.32%), followed by **equal treatment and consistent rules for everyone** (36.30%). Other important elements include clear decision-making criteria (19.86%) and clear costs or fees (13.70%). Fewer respondents prioritize operational tools such as clear timelines (11.64%), the ability to ask questions and receive responses (8.90%), or online tracking of processes (7.53%). Overall, these results indicate that trust is primarily built through predictability, fairness, and transparency of procedures, rather than through digital tools or administrative convenience. Young people place strongest emphasis on understanding *how* decisions are made and ensuring that rules are applied equally to all citizens.

Respondents identified economic and security-related issues as the most important priorities for the EU, alongside governance concerns. The most frequently selected priority is rising prices and cost of living (36.99%), followed by defence and peace (29.45%) and unemployment and job creation (23.29%). Social protection (21.92%) and democracy and the rule of law (21.23%) also rank relatively high, while education and training (15.75%) and environmental issues (8.90%) receive lower levels of prioritization. These results suggest that young people are primarily concerned with immediate socio-economic pressures, particularly inflation and employment, while also maintaining awareness of broader governance and stability issues..

The data highlights a strong demand for knowledge on European integration, transparency, and civic participation mechanisms. The most requested topic is how the **European Union works and how young people can engage with it** (48.63%), followed by integrity, transparency, and anti-corruption tools (40.41%). Other highly ranked topics include citizens' rights and access to information (24.66%), participation in public consultations (21.92%), youth councils and governance structures (21.92%), and understanding decision-making processes at national and local level (21.23%). These findings indicate a clear interest in practical civic knowledge and institutional literacy, particularly regarding how systems function and how young people can actively engage with them. The emphasis on EU-related knowledge also reflects the relevance of the European integration process in Albania, as young people are continuously exposed to discussions around European integration, they appear to perceive EU-related knowledge and participation opportunities as increasingly important for their future, civic engagement, and role within society.

Respondents show a preference for interactive and experiential learning formats for activities related to youth participation and civic engagement. The most popular format is workshops or clinics (38.36%), followed by volunteering projects (28.77%) and creative or storytelling-based activities (23.29%). Mentoring (20.55%), simulations or bootcamps (14.38%), and online sessions/webinars (14.38%) are less frequently selected. These results suggest that young people prefer hands-on, participatory, and socially engaging learning experiences that allow direct interaction, collaboration, and practical involvement, rather than purely digital or passive learning environments.

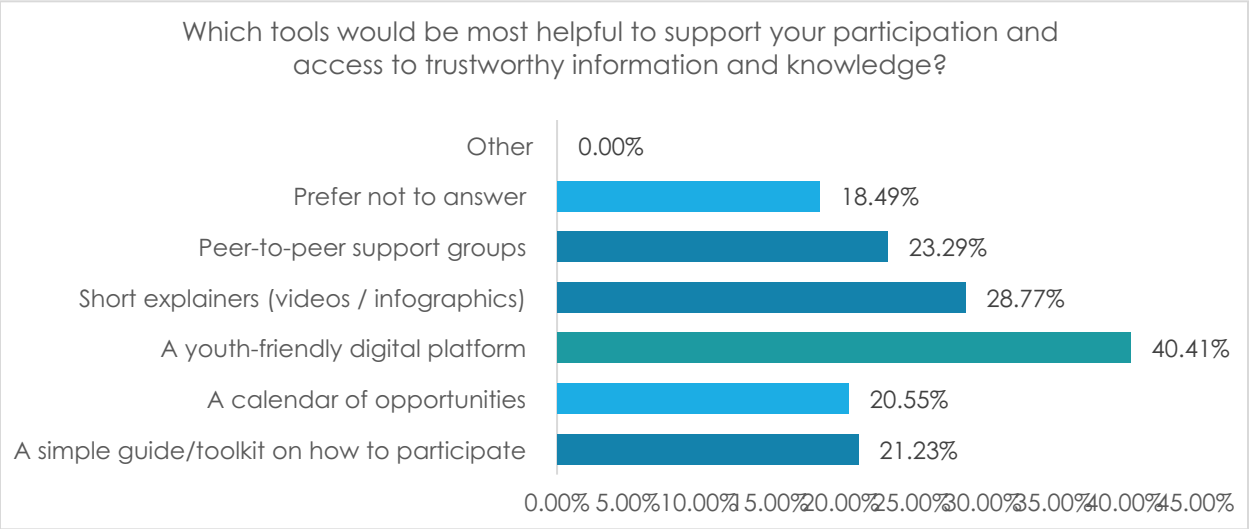


Figure 9: Tools Supporting Participation and Access to Information

The establishment of a youth-friendly digital platform was identified as the most helpful tool for facilitating access to trustworthy information and supporting youth participation (40.41%), reflecting a clear demand for centralized, easily accessible, and reliable information systems. This is followed by short explanatory content such as videos or infographics (28.77%), peer-to-peer support groups (23.29%), and simple practical toolkits or guides (21.23%). A calendar of participation opportunities was also considered useful by 20.55% of respondents.

These results suggest that young people want information that is quick to access, clearly explained, visually engaging, and easy to understand. At the same time, the interest in peer-to-peer support groups indicates that young people also value learning through collaboration, interaction, and exchange with other young people. Overall, the findings underline the importance of combining digital accessibility with participatory and community-based approaches to civic engagement.

9.Conclusions

The findings of this report show that young people in Albania demonstrate high awareness and concern regarding corruption and integrity issues. Corruption is widely perceived as a deeply rooted systemic problem, particularly within politics and public institutions, that continues to undermine trust in institutions, fairness, and opportunities for civic participation. Nearly **9 in 10** respondents **(89.73%)** perceive corruption as widespread or very widespread, while over **73%** believe corruption is present within national institutions and obstructs business and fair governance processes. Political actors and public administration are viewed as the sectors most affected by corruption, reflecting particularly low trust in governance structures and decision-making systems. Employment and recruitment processes are identified as the area most impacted by corruption **(54.79%),** followed by education **(31.51%),** suggesting that many young people feel meritocracy and equal opportunities are compromised.

Furthermore, only **30.82%** believe that young people can access public services fairly, reinforcing perceptions of systemic inequality and exclusion. Despite these concerns, the findings reveal that Albanian youth remain highly interested in public affairs and civic participation, more than **60%** of respondents report strong interest in public issues, and **55.48%** express willingness to participate in public consultations. However, this interest is not matched by actual participation levels. Civic engagement remains largely limited to voting (**58.22%),** while participation in formal policymaking and consultation processes remains low. This gap between willingness and action suggests that barriers to participation are primarily structural and informational rather than motivational.

Focus group discussions further revealed that participation is mainly understood through community engagement, volunteering, and awareness activities, rather than direct involvement in in governance and policymaking, indicating that participation is more common in informal and community-based activities than in institutional formal consultation mechanisms.

While respondents report relatively good understanding of national governance systems, practical knowledge of civic engagement tools, participation mechanisms and institutional procedures remains fragmented. **31.51%** of respondents cannot identify public consultation mechanisms, and only **38.36%** correctly identify anti-corruption institutions. Awareness of formal participation channels is also limited, with student councils and youth organizations being significantly more recognized than direct institutional engagement mechanisms.

Regarding transparency, integrity, and communication, the findings demonstrate that trust in institutions remains relatively low, influenced by perceptions of corruption, favoritism, lack of responsiveness, and limited institutional follow-up. Young people express strong interest in more transparent, accountable, and understandable public processes. *Around 67% of respondents reported that clear explanations of procedures and decision-making processes would significantly increase their trust in public institutions and services.*

Young people rely heavily on social media and digital platforms such as Instagram (35.62%) and TikTok (30.82%) for information. Although they remain cautious regarding the reliability of these sources and show greater trust in international news and official information channels. More than half of respondents (50%) reported frequently encountering political or socially related content online, indicating

frequent exposure to misleading content and disinformation and manipulation, particularly during the election period.

Importantly, the report also identifies significant potential for youth engagement and anti-corruption action. A large majority of respondents (78.08%) believe that young people can make a positive difference in addressing corruption and improving governance. However, concerns regarding safety and protection remain substantial. Only 19.86% feel safe reporting corruption, while many respondents emphasize the need for anonymous reporting mechanisms (48.63%), protection from retaliation (34.25%), and clearer guidance on reporting procedures (32.19%). These findings indicate that empowerment alone is insufficient without institutional safeguards and trust-building measures.

The report further identifies that the main barriers to participation are not linked to lack of interest, but rather to lack of clear information, disinformation, limited accessibility of opportunities, logistical constraints, and low trust that participation can produce meaningful results. Many participants emphasized that youth often do not participate because they do not believe their voices will influence decisions or create visible change.

At the same time, enabling factors identified by respondents include interactive and youth-friendly activities, practical engagement opportunities, mentorship, networking opportunities, and participation formats connected to personal or professional development.

The data further underline the importance of transparency, accessibility, and practical support in strengthening youth participation. Respondents identify clear processes and transparent procedures (49.32%) as the most important trust-building measures.

Finally, the findings demonstrate strong demand for more accessible and youth-friendly participation tools and formats. Young people prefer interactive, practical, and visually engaging approaches such as short explanatory formats, videos or infographics **(28.77%),** and youth friendly digital platforms **(40.41%)** providing centralized and trustworthy information. They also expressed preference for interactive and practical participation formats such as workshops, volunteering projects, debates, mentoring, and experiential learning opportunities. Participants further highlighted the importance of including young people from rural areas and creating more inclusive and accessible participation opportunities across the country.

Overall, the report presents a picture of a generation that is politically aware, critically engaged, and willing to contribute, yet constrained by low institutional trust, insufficient civic knowledge, limited participation opportunities, and concerns regarding fairness and safety. The findings suggest that strengthening youth participation in Albania requires a combination of improved civic education, transparent institutional practices and follow-up mechanisms, accessible participation mechanisms, protection for active citizens, and youth friendly reliable communication channels that can rebuild trust and increase youth civic participation.

10.Recommendations

Recommendations for the Rise Balkans Programme

- **Deliver Civic Skills and Knowledge through Interactive and Experiential Learning Methods**

The RISE Balkans Programme should prioritize hands-on and participatory learning approaches to strengthen young people's civic competences. These formats should actively engage young people in real-life civic scenarios, encourage reflection on personal experiences, and promote peer-to-peer learning and long-term participation habits.

- **Develop engaging digital information tools on EU functioning, governance, and youth engagement opportunities**

The programme should create short explainer videos, digital leaflets, and infographics explaining how the EU works, Albania's relationship with EU processes, the role of institutions, and opportunities for youth participation.

Recommendations for policy makers and public institutions

- **Establish safe and anonymous digital reporting platforms for corruption**

Public institutions should create secure and anonymous digital platforms where young people can safely report corruption and unethical practices without fear of retaliation. The platforms should ensure confidentiality, transparent follow-up procedures, and simple reporting mechanisms that build trust and accountability.

- **Improve institutional responsiveness and communication with youth**

Institutions should strengthen communication with young people by introducing mandatory response systems, designated youth focal points, and clear timelines for responding to youth concerns and reports. Transparent communication and visible follow-up mechanisms would help young people feel heard and supported.

- **Create a national or regional youth information platform**

A centralized and youth-friendly digital platform should be developed to provide verified information on civic participation, youth opportunities, public services, consultations, and educational resources. This would reduce fragmentation of information and improve accessibility and trust.

- **Ensure information reaches youth through trusted and structured channels**

Institutions should disseminate civic and anti-corruption information through trusted sources such as official institutional channels, journalists, schools, and universities. Since 52.05% of respondents identified lack of information or disinformation as a barrier to participation, structured civic information sessions and educational activities should be integrated into schools and universities.

- **Strengthen trustworthy digital communication and social media engagement**

Given the high use of Instagram and TikTok among young people, institutions should improve their social media communication by producing credible, transparent, and easily verifiable content. Collaboration with

journalists, educators, and trusted civic actors can help increase trust in institutional information and combat misinformation.

- **Institutionalize youth participation in public consultations**

Public institutions should introduce structured mechanisms that ensure meaningful youth participation in policymaking processes. This could include youth participation quotas, simplified consultation procedures, and transparent reporting on how youth input influenced final decisions.

- **Promote equal treatment and transparent participation processes**

Institutions should ensure fair and transparent participation opportunities for all young people by standardizing consultation procedures, publishing clear participation criteria, and introducing mechanisms to address exclusion or discrimination in participatory processes.

- **Address socio-economic barriers that limit youth participation**

Public institutions should strengthen policies related to affordable housing, financial support, and quality employment opportunities for young people. Rising living costs and economic insecurity reduce young people's ability to engage actively in civic and political life, making socio-economic support essential for stronger participation.

Recommendations for Civil Society and Youth Serving Organizations

1. **Develop clear, accessible toolkits and step-by-step guidelines for civic participation**

Civil society and youth organizations should create user-friendly toolkits and practical guides explaining how young people can participate in civic and public consultation processes. These materials should include clear instructions, timelines, examples of successful participation, and explanations of participation mechanisms. Civil society and youth organizations should strengthen civic education efforts through collaborative and participatory formats that combine peer learning with expert input, including peer support groups, creative workshops, exchanges, and mentoring opportunities. In addition, exchanges with experts and peers from EU countries and the wider region would help broaden perspectives, strengthen civic competences, and expose young people to diverse participation practices and experiences.

2. **Improve awareness on anti-corruption and national reporting mechanisms**

Youth-serving organizations should organize awareness campaigns and educational initiatives that help young people better understand corruption reporting systems, integrity tools, and participation rights. Since a significant majority of respondents reported not knowing how or where to report corruption, organizations should use accessible formats such as short videos, infographics, practical guides, and workshops to explain reporting mechanisms and civic rights. Awareness efforts should especially target schools, universities, and online youth communities.

North Macedonian Report

Executive Summary

The National Report on Youth Participation in North Macedonia, developed within the framework of the RISE Balkans project, aims to assess the level of youth civic engagement, awareness of anti-corruption mechanisms, and participation in democratic processes. It serves as a diagnostic tool to inform future interventions, policies, and capacity-building efforts targeting young people, civil society organizations, and decision-makers.

The report applies a mixed-methods approach, combining desk research, a quantitative online survey of 56 young people aged 18–26, and qualitative insights from focus group discussions and validation workshops involving a total of 88 participants. This methodology enabled both a broad overview and deeper understanding of youth perceptions, experiences, and needs related to civic participation, transparency, and governance.

The findings reveal a paradox: while young people demonstrate relatively high interest in public affairs and moderate awareness of key governance concepts, their actual participation in formal democratic processes remains low. Engagement is more prevalent in informal and digital forms, such as voting, volunteering, and social media activism. Major barriers include lack of clear and accessible information, distrust in institutions, perception that their voice does not make a difference, and fear of negative social reactions. Structural challenges—such as weak implementation of youth participation mechanisms, limited functionality of youth councils, and insufficient civic education—further constrain meaningful engagement.

The report also highlights low levels of trust in public institutions and significant concerns about corruption, which negatively influence youth motivation to participate. At the same time, civil society organizations and digital platforms emerge as key enablers of engagement, offering more accessible and flexible entry points for youth participation.

In conclusion, youth in North Macedonia are interested and willing to engage but face systemic, informational, and psychological barriers that limit their participation. Bridging the gap between awareness and action requires stronger institutional responsiveness, improved access to participation mechanisms, and increased trust in governance processes.

Key recommendations include strengthening civic education, enhancing visibility and accessibility of participation opportunities, improving the functionality and inclusiveness of youth councils, investing in youth-friendly digital tools, and fostering greater transparency and accountability in institutions. Additionally, targeted efforts are needed to build trust, empower young people with practical skills, and ensure that their contributions meaningfully influence decision-making processes.

Introduction

The EU funded «RISE Balkans project – Empowering Youth Voice: Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity and Civic Engagement in the Balkans» is a regional initiative that aims to strengthen youth participation in democratic life and support youth-led integrity and anti-corruption action through civic education, experiential learning, mentoring and cross-border cooperation.

North Macedonia, as a candidate country for accession to the European Union, is at a crucial juncture when the democratic transformation of the country depends not only on institutional reforms, but also on the active participation of its citizens, especially young people, in public life.

This report presents the findings of a survey on the opinion of young people in North Macedonia conducted in April and May 2026. The main findings are obtained from a survey researching young people's perceptions of corruption, awareness of the mechanisms of civic participation, level of engagement and needs for support and capacity building for greater participation and social engagement. The survey was conducted among 56 young people aged 18 to 26, with different levels of education, coming from different backgrounds and having different employment status. Additionally, prior to the survey, initial desk research was conducted to better understand the context, and after the survey was conducted, by two focus group discussions and validation workshops were organized, with a total of 88 participants.

The report is structured in several main segments, starting from the contextual overview and methodology, through the presentation of the survey findings, to specific conclusions and recommendations.

The report is intended as a diagnostic tool for the needs and future activities of the RISE Balkans project, i.e. to contribute to the creation of future training, awareness-raising and advocacy within the project, but also beyond. The report can also serve as a practical reference for CSOs, youth workers and policy makers seeking to encourage more engaged and informed young citizens in North Macedonia.

2. Context of youth participation

2.1 The European and regional environment

Youth participation in formal democratic processes has long been an important topic of interest in the European Union. Hence, several Eurobarometer surveys monitor the level of information and engagement of young people regarding the EU and its processes.

However, participation in consultative processes at national and local level remains low, especially among young people outside formal institutions. Only 23% of young people surveyed in the EU indicated that participating in public consultations on a political initiative is an effective way to make their voice heard, according to the results of the Flash Eurobarometer, Youth and Democracy in the European Year of Youth (2022).

Data shows that there is a strong interest in civic participation among young people when they are provided with accessible and meaningful mechanisms. According to the Flash Eurobarometer on Youth and Democracy (2024), 64% of young people expressed their intention to vote in the upcoming European elections, and 48% reported taking some concrete action to bring about change in society, such as signing a petition, participating in a protest or sending a letter to a politician.

In the Western Balkan countries, the EU accession process has created both opportunities and obstacles for youth participation. On the one hand, the accession agendas bring new mechanisms for citizen consultation and public accountability, while on the other hand, the slow progress of reforms and persistent challenges in governance have contributed to civic disillusionment, especially among young people who see little benefit from their participation.

Trust among young people in the Western Balkan region in public institutions is low. The regular annual regional survey Balkan Barometer of the Regional Cooperation Council consistently shows high levels of citizen distrust of institutions.

As many as 78% of young respondents in UNICEF's 2021 regional survey completely or partially disagreed with the statement that young people in their country have opportunities to be heard by politicians.

2.2 Youth participation in North Macedonia

The legal framework for youth participation in the country is set by the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies of 2020, which is a key legislative basis that provides for the establishment of so-called youth councils at the local and national levels and mandates the inclusion of the voice of youth in policy-making and decision-making processes.

In a broader context, the Council of Europe's Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (2003) is a key reference document for standards for enabling youth participation. Although the Charter is not legally binding, Council of Europe member states, such as North Macedonia, have a moral obligation to implement its principles.

However, in practice, youth participation in North Macedonia remains insignificant. A 2024 assessment by the National Youth Council of Macedonia shows that, despite being a legal obligation, youth

councils exist in less than half of the country's municipalities (42%), and where they do exist, their mandates are often advisory without binding influence on decision-making within the municipality.

National youth policy documents are rarely accompanied by meaningful implementation plans or budget allocations, and young people, especially those outside the capital, report limited awareness of formal channels for participation.

Research by national civil society organizations shows that young people express a high level of political interest but low trust in formal institutions, leading them to prefer informal or social media engagement over formal civic mechanisms. Turnout among first-time voters increased in recent elections, which is a positive indicator, but youth participation after election day remains rare.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated youth participation processes. School closures and cancellations of civic events have disrupted non-formal education programs, reduced youth participation, and contributed to a sense of social disconnection among young people. In the wake of the pandemic, civic organizations are engaging youth through digital tools and peer-led activities.

2.3 Comparative context with the EU

Compared to EU member states, North Macedonia presents a profile typical of countries on the path to accession: relatively high political awareness and concern about policies, combined with low formal participation and a significant lack of trust.

Data from the Flash Barometer on Youth and Democracy (2024) show that 64% of young people surveyed in the EU participated in the activities of at least one civil society organisation in the previous year.

Compared to young people in the Western Balkans, the gap is most pronounced in areas such as public consultation, contact with elected representatives and youth participation in youth representative bodies.

However, young people in North Macedonia show greater political engagement through social media than many of their peers in the EU, reflecting a digital activism that, while vibrant, is often detached from processes of formal political change.

3.Enabling factors and barriers of youth participation

3.1 Key factors enabling participation

Research across Europe and the Western Balkans consistently identifies factors that facilitate youth participation. These include accessible and well-communicated information about participation opportunities, supportive institutional environments that take youth contributions seriously, networks of peers and civil society organizations that lower the threshold for participation, and digital tools that enable flexible participation. At the individual level, civic literacy is among the strongest factors for sustainable civic participation.

In the context of North Macedonia, it is worth highlighting several factors that enable participation. First, the presence of an active civil society sector, especially organizations that provide structured pathways for youth participation. These organizations run civic education programs, manage youth advisory bodies, and connect young people with formal opportunities at local, national, and EU levels.

Second, the EU accession framework itself functions as an enabling mechanism. EU-funded programmes, including Erasmus Plus programmes, the European Solidarity Corps and sectoral programmes such as RISE Balkans, introduce young people to European participation standards and ensure concrete participation through civic engagement.

Third, despite their risks, social media has become a mobilizing force for young people in North Macedonia, especially in relation to campaigns on specific issues. Mobilizations for environmental causes, anti-corruption, and student rights have shown that digital platforms can foster civic participation.

3.2 Structural obstacles

Despite these enabling factors, structural obstacles remain significant. Regional research in the Western Balkans identifies several persistent obstacles such as insufficient funding for youth policy implementation activities, weak decentralization that limits the effectiveness of local youth councils, insufficiently transparent use of youth input by decision-makers, and a gap in civic education that leaves many people without basic knowledge about youth participation.

In North Macedonia, specifically, only 20% of municipalities have included young people in consultations on the development of local youth strategies. Young people in the country rank their trust in institutions between 1.6 and 2.2 on a scale where 1 is no trust at all and 4 is complete trust.

The political environment also plays a role in this context. North Macedonia has experienced prolonged political crises, electoral controversies, and challenges in the governance of the country. Young people who grow up witnessing corruption and impunity doubt that their voice can make a difference – a finding directly reflected in the RISE Balkans survey where 43% of respondents stated that one of the key obstacles to their participation is that they do not believe that their opinion matters.

3.3 Individual and social obstacles

At the individual level, the most frequently cited obstacles are lack of self-confidence, fear of negative social reactions and not having enough time. The RISE Balkans survey confirms these views: 29%

of respondents fear negative reactions or online harassment, 23% cited lack of time and 16% said they did not feel confident enough to participate.

Research on the gender dimensions of participation in the Western Balkans shows that young women and non-binary individuals often face additional societal barriers that include risks of online harassment and cultural norms that discourage public voice.

Disinformation and information overload are an increasingly prominent obstacle. Young people in North Macedonia are exposed to excessive political content via social media, much of it with uncertain credibility and often without the ability to distinguish reliable information from manipulation. This information environment erodes both civic knowledge and trust, creating a cycle in which disinterested citizens are unlikely to seek out reliable information, remaining completely influenced by distorted narratives.

4.Forms of young people participation

4.1 Formal channels for participation

Formal channels for participation are those built into the legal and institutional framework of governance. In North Macedonia, the primary formal mechanisms through which young people can engage include elections and referendums, youth councils at local and national levels, student unions and other representative bodies, public consultations on legislation and policies, parliamentary consultations, and advisory bodies within ministries or regulatory and other state institutions.

The Single National Electronic Register of Regulations (ENER) provides a digital platform through which citizens, including young people, can give their opinion on draft laws, although awareness of this tool is limited. In this context, the RISE Balkans survey shows that only 12% of respondents have ever participated in public consultations, while 46% have never done so but express a willingness to try. Despite this, 71% of respondents correctly identified the stages of public consultations, indicating a certain gap between knowledge and action.

Youth councils established under the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies exist at local and national levels. The National Youth Council serves as an umbrella organization representing young people and can convey to the Government issues of concern to young people. However, local youth councils exist in less than half of the municipalities, and their effectiveness is hampered by limited mandates, inadequate resources, and irregular meetings. The National Advisory Body for Youth Policies, as well as the National Youth Assembly, both bodies envisaged by the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, have not yet been established.

High school and student representative bodies provide another formal channel for participation. The RISE Balkans survey found that 46% of respondents are aware of high school/student councils as a mechanism for participation, and 25% have participated in a high school or student representative body in the last year.

4.2 Informal and ad-hoc participation

Informal participation encompasses a wide range of civic activities that occur outside formal and institutional structures. These include volunteering and community initiatives, signing petitions and supporting campaigns, attending protests and public demonstrations, online advocacy and social media campaigns, and engagement through civil society organizations.

The RISE Balkans survey provides a detailed picture of informal participation. Voting is reported as the most common youth activity (66%) in the last 12 months, followed by volunteering and attending civic events (both 32%). Petition signing is less common (14%), while participation in online campaigns was reported by 18% of respondents. These figures are in line with regional data, although the relatively high rate of volunteering likely reflects the concentration in the survey sample of youth and students with an already higher civic exposure.

Civil society organizations play a key role as facilitators of informal participation. The RISE Balkans survey found that 41% of respondents are aware of civil society initiatives as channels for participation, ranking them as the third most recognized mechanism after student councils and volunteering.

In North Macedonia, there are examples of civil society organizations providing informal “pathways” for participation through advocacy campaigns, training programs, and community projects.

4.3 Digital participation

The importance of digital participation has grown especially after the Covid-19 pandemic. Online petitions, social media campaigns and digital consultations represent new forms of civic participation, particularly relevant for younger people.

The RISE Balkans survey shows that online news websites (39%) and Facebook (34%) are the main sources of news and political information for young people, ahead of national television channels (32%). Instagram (30%) is particularly prominent among the youngest age group of 18 to 20 years old.

Social media significantly influences civic engagement, with 52% of respondents saying that content seen on social media made them less likely to vote due to allegations of corruption, while 32% considered boycotting elections based on some online content.

The potential of digital tools to support informal participation is recognised but appears to remain untapped. Half of respondents (50%) identified a youth-friendly digital platform as the most useful tool to support participation, followed by simple manuals (45%) and short videos (29%). This strong need for digital solutions suggests an opportunity to leverage existing platforms for more structured youth participation.

5.Methodology

5.1 Methodological approach

The RISE Balkans research adopted a mixed methods approach that included desk research, a youth survey as quantitative research, and qualitative insights gained through focus groups discussions and workshops to validate the survey results. This report draws primarily on quantitative survey data, complemented by qualitative insights gained through complementary research activities conducted within the project, such as youth focus group discussions and youth workshops to validate and validate the survey results.

The survey was designed to gather evidence on four thematic areas:

(1) youth awareness and understanding of civic participation, anti-corruption, transparency and policy-making,

(2) barriers and enabling factors of youth participation,

(3) perceptions of practical participation and associated aspects of transparency, integrity and institutional trust, and

(4) needs, preferred formats and desired support tools.

5.2 Desk research

The desk research provided information on the context of youth participation in the country and the region, as well as a summary of the situation and existing practices relevant to the research topics. In this context, domestic, regional, international and EU-level sources such as official reports, civil society reports, academic literature, as well as legal and policy documents were consulted.

5.3 Quantitative research – public opinion survey

A structured questionnaire was used for the quantitative component, administered online through Lime Survey. The questionnaire included nine thematic sections and approximately 50 questions, combining Likert-scale attitude questions as well as multiple-choice questions. The survey was distributed through civil society networks, youth networks and educational institutions in North Macedonia. Participation was voluntary, anonymous and based on consent. The survey was open to young people aged 18 to 26 from North Macedonia between March 31 and April 23, 2026.

5.4 Qualitative research – focus group discussions

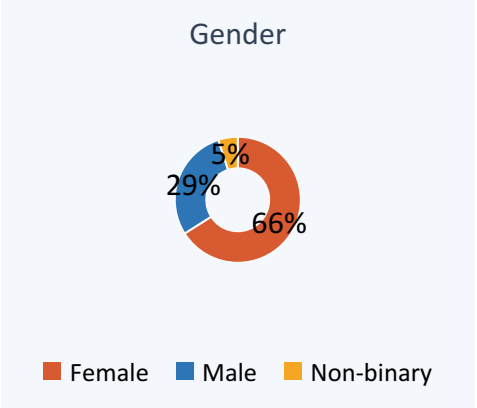
The aim of this research was to gain deeper and more direct insights into young people's experiences and perceptions of civic participation and their engagement in everyday social life. The relevance and clarity of key concepts and channels of participation (e.g. consultations, youth councils, student bodies) were also explored. The qualitative research was conducted through two focus group discussions held in May 2026 in Skopje and Kumanovo, with 15 young people aged between 18 and 26.

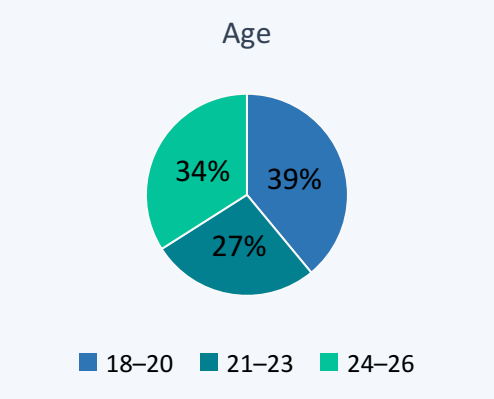
5.5 Validation workshops

After the completion of the research and the basic analysis of the results, two workshops for validation of the results were organized and held in May 2026, in Shtip and Kichevo, with the attendance of 73 participants. The aim was to collect feedback from the participants on the findings of the research.

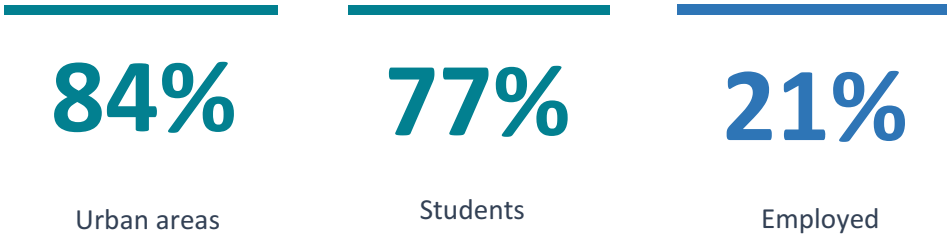
5.6 Sample profile

A total of 56 young people completed the survey, of whom 37 were women (66%), 16 were men (29%) and 3 were non-binary (5%). By age group, 22 respondents (39%) aged 18-20, 15 respondents (27%) aged 21-23 and 19 respondents (34%) aged 24-26 completed the survey. The majority of respondents were from urban areas (84%), with the remainder living in semi-urban and rural areas (7% each).





In terms of education, 27 respondents (48%) had completed secondary education, 11 respondents had vocational/technical classifications (20%), 11 had a bachelor degree (20%), and 3 (5%) were enrolled in doctoral studies. The majority were students 43 (77%), 12 employed (21%), 5 unemployed (9%), and two in training or apprenticeships.



Given the profiles, the survey findings can be interpreted as broadly representative of engaged youth in urban areas of North Macedonia, rather than the general youth population.

5.7 Research limitations

The methodology used does not represent a statistical sample of all young people in North Macedonia. Respondents recruited through civil society networks and educational institutions are likely to have higher levels of civic awareness and participation than the broader youth population, and thus the numbers for awareness and participation may be overestimated in this regard. The sample size limits the scope for further analysis of subgroups by gender, age, or region. These limitations are common for research of this type and are somewhat compensated for by the qualitative methods used, such as focus group discussions and workshops to validate the results, which were held outside the capital.

6. Youth awareness and understanding of civic participation, anti-corruption, transparency and policy-making

6.1 Awareness of governance and institutions

Responses on young people's knowledge of different levels of governance indicate a moderate to high level of knowledge about national and local governments, with lower knowledge about EU-level authorities. This is also in line with various regional surveys showing that EU institutions and processes remain relatively unknown to young people in the Western Balkans.

Feel you know / Understand about:	Very much/quite a lot	Some things	Not very much / Nothing at all
The national government	55%	34%	11%
Local/regional government	46%	36%	18%
University / Employer / Governance	55%	32%	7%
EU	38%	39%	20%

Knowledge of key concepts for the terms offered in the survey was generally high. This particularly applies to knowledge of "corruption" (77% of respondents reported being extremely or very familiar), "disinformation" (77%), "rule of law" (73%) and "conflict of interest" (71%).

Knowledge drops significantly when it comes to more "technical" or specific terms. Only 17% are extremely or very familiar with "EU fraud", 36% with beneficial ownership, and 25% with the institution of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.

Between these two groups of terms, their average knowledge includes terms such as "public procurement" and "good governance".

6.2 Knowledge of legislative and participatory processes

A series of questions in the survey are aimed at assessing respondents' actual understanding of participation mechanisms and legislative processes.

Respondents demonstrate reasonable knowledge of basic civil rights, but significant "gaps" appear in the knowledge of specific processes at the EU level. 73% of respondents identified MPs as those who can propose new regulations, and 68% also recognized citizens in this role through petitions, while 61% identified ministers and the Government, while only 5% mentioned municipal councils in this sense. Only 7% of respondents said they did not know.

75% of respondents correctly answered that citizens can provide feedback on proposed laws, and a high 71% also correctly identified the public consultation phase in this regard.

Knowledge at EU level is noticeably weaker. When asked which EU institution has the primary role in proposing new laws at EU level, only 50% of respondents correctly identified the European Commission. Regarding the "Have Your Say" portal, the EU's main tool for citizens' input into EU policies, only 23% identified it as such, and 36% said they did not know.

6.3 Awareness of anti-corruption institutions and channels

Awareness of anti-corruption institutions is relatively good. 54% of respondents said they could name at least one anti-corruption institution in North Macedonia, and 30% had heard of some such institutions without being able to name them. Only 14% were unaware of the existence of such bodies. This level of institutional awareness is higher than some regional comparisons and may reflect the visibility of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption in public discourse in recent years.

Awareness of channels for participation reveals significant gaps. The most recognizable channels for participation are student councils, i.e. university representation (46%), volunteering and community initiatives (45%) and civil society initiatives (41%). Public consultations organized by the authorities are recognized by only 30% of respondents, and channels for reporting unfair treatment or corruption are known to only 14%.

Students at the workshop to validate the survey results confirmed that they have a basic, but not in-depth, understanding of the mechanisms for reporting corruption. They believe that the topic of corruption is underrepresented in education and suggest that young people should be introduced to these issues through social media and student bodies. They also state that more public hearings, trainings, debates and digital channels for youth consultations are needed.

6.4 Interest in public issues and self-assessed participation

Despite knowledge gaps, interest in public issues and decision-making is high: 52% of respondents described themselves as very or extremely interested in public affairs, and an additional 34% as moderately interested. Only 1 respondent expressed no interest at all. This is in line with the responses to other questions: young people in North Macedonia are concerned about public issues, but lack the knowledge, confidence, or channels to turn that interest into action.

When asked how informed they are about youth participation opportunities, the picture is less positive. Only 21% of respondents described themselves as very or extremely informed, while 23% were slightly informed and 9% were not informed at all. The largest group of 46% of respondents considered themselves moderately informed, suggesting a partial awareness that could be rewarded by providing appropriate information.

7. Barriers and enabling factors

7.1 Main obstacles identified

Respondents were asked to select the main reasons that make it difficult for young people to participate in civic or public life. The results identify a clear hierarchy of obstacles, dominated by information-related obstacles.

Obstacle	Percentage of respondents
Lack of clear information/misinformation	62%
Views won't make a difference	43%
Fear of negative reactions/online harassment	29%
Don't know where to start	25%
Lack of time	23%
Not confident enough	16%
Costs (transportation, participation)	12%
Opportunities too far / hard to access	9%
Not interested in these issues	7%

The dominance of "lack of clear information/misinformation" (62%) as an obstacle is consistent with findings from comparable surveys across the Western Balkans. Young people describe an environment in which they are inundated with political content, much of which is distorted, partially or intentionally false, while reliable information about opportunities for participation is difficult to access. This reduces or does not build trust.

The second obstacle – the feeling that one's views will not make a difference (43%) reflects a deep-rooted lack of a kind of civic efficacy. When young people see corruption, they also see limited accountability for what has been done and hence rational skepticism that participation can make a difference is an understandable response.

Fear of negative reactions or online harassment (29%) is particularly worrisome for the functioning of democracy because, when potential civic actors fear reprisals, self-censorship suppresses diverse voices in public life.

Focus group participants highlighted that the failure to guarantee anonymity when reporting certain problems and incidents, and the failure to guarantee anonymity where it is said to be guaranteed, is one of the biggest obstacles. They cited specific examples that discouraged them from participating again due to the consequences of their reporting, simply because they were not fully guaranteed anonymity.

Also, especially in smaller communities, one of the factors that discourages participation is the reaction of the environment, especially the elderly. Fear, but also shame from the reaction of the environment, acts as an obstacle to the participation of young people.

7.2 Ease of finding information about civic participation

When asked how easy or difficult it is to find information about opportunities for civic participation, 54% of respondents described it as neither easy nor difficult, 28% as rather or very difficult, and only 14% as rather or very easy. This suggests that finding information about participation is not impossible, but it requires an effort that many young people are not willing to make, especially in the absence of visible benefits.

In this regard, participants in the validation workshops confirmed that they do not find information where they are looking for it. The majority say that despite the great attention that institutions pay to publishing information on their websites, young people rarely go to official websites to obtain information about the institution, hence the need for new ways and formats of informing young people.

7.3 Factors that enable participation

Respondents were also asked what would help them participate more in civic or public life. The most common answer they chose in this regard was "clear and simple information on how to get involved" (62%), followed by "trust in information about civic/public life" (54%). Better feedback on how young people's contributions are actually used is the third obstacle (34%) that respondents highlighted in terms of seeking visibility and accountability in the participation process.

Enabling factor for participation	Percentage of respondents
Clear and simple information on how to get involved	62%
Trust in information about civic/public life	54%
Better feedback on how young people's input is used	34%
Opportunities closer to where I study/work/live	20%
Guidance, mentoring or practical support	18%
Certificates, recognition or visible results	16%
Safer and better moderated civic spaces	12%
Flexible online or hybrid options	11%
A more welcoming and inclusive environment	7%

7.4 Effective actions to make the voice of young people heard

Respondents were asked which actions they consider most effective in making young people's voices heard by decision-makers. Voting in elections was mentioned most often (45%), followed by joining youth or civic organizations and initiatives (43%) and participating in public consultations or hearings (41%). This cluster suggests that respondents value both electoral and non-electoral mechanisms, and specifically recognize the role of civic organizations as channels for the voice of young people.

In contrast, signing petitions or citizen campaigns (7%) and sharing views via social media (7%) are ranked lowest. This is interesting given how present social media is in respondents' everyday lives and may reflect a realistic assessment among young people that social media activism, while visible, is less likely to produce policy change than structured engagement.

7.5 Participation in the last 12 months

Despite the barriers identified, the level of actual participation is significant. Voting as a form of civic participation is highlighted as the most common activity (66%), followed by volunteering and attending civic events (both 32%) and participating in student or youth representative bodies (25%). Only 12% of respondents reported not having done any of the listed activities in the previous year—a lower rate of non-participation than might be expected given the barriers reported, and likely a reflection of the higher civic engagement profile of the survey sample.

8. Transparency, integrity and trust

8.1. Perceptions of corruption

As many as 91% of respondents described corruption as widespread or very widespread in the country. Only one respondent stated that there is no corruption in the country. These figures are consistent and to some extent exceed previous regional data. In this sense, Balkan Barometer 2023 revealed that 84% of citizens in North Macedonia consider corruption to be widespread, placing it among the highest in the region.

There is almost complete agreement among respondents that corruption exists in national public institutions (93%). The same agreement is found for local and regional institutions (93%).

When it comes to the personal impact of corruption, 62% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they are personally affected by corruption in their daily lives, while 29% were neutral on this issue, and 9% disagreed. This points to a universal perception in countries with systemic corruption.

Participants in focus groups and workshops for validation of results highlighted numerous examples of corruption in the schools they study in situations related to the selection of students to participate in projects that include traveling abroad. They say that they are not selected according to a merit system, but that students whose parents are known in the local community or who are of some benefit to the school are selected, even though they do not meet the criteria for participation in the projects. Those students who objected to this method of selection or reported irregularities in this regard have suffered consequences and then have given up further reactions.

8.2 Most affected sectors

Respondents were asked to assess how widespread corruption and abuse of power are in thirteen sectors and groups. The sectors that respondents perceive as the most corrupt are political parties (89%), politicians at all levels (89%), the healthcare system (88%) and the police (86%). The courts are rated as very corrupt by 77% of respondents, as are officials who award public contracts (77%) and those who issue building permits (82%).

In comparison, private companies (46%), banks and financial institutions (43%) and the sports sector (52%) received relatively lower corruption scores, although these figures are also significant and indicate high perceptions of widespread corruption. Education was rated as corrupt by 68% of respondents, which is a particularly significant finding given that employment and education were identified as the two areas where young people personally encounter corruption and unfair treatment.

Sector	Widespread/very widespread Percentage of respondents
Political parties	89%
Politicians	89%
Healthcare system	88%
Police	86%
Building permit officials	82%
Courts	77%
Public contract awarding officials	77%
Tax authorities	68%
Education sector	68%
Social welfare bodies	61%
Sports sector	52%
Private companies	46%
Banks and financial institutions	43%

8.3 Structural corruption and political connections

A large proportion of respondents also agreed with statements about structural corruption and its relationship to business and political life.

85% agreed or strongly agreed that high-level corruption cases are not sufficiently prosecuted, and 80% agreed or strongly agreed that favoritism and corruption hinder business competition. Similarly, 77% agreed or strongly agreed that the connections between business and politics in North Macedonia lead to corruption.

Additionally, 53% agreed or strongly agreed that the only way to succeed in business in North Macedonia is to have political connections. This view is particularly damaging to civic culture, as it implies that formal rules and merit-based systems are dysfunctional and that working through the system is futile.

Regarding institutional transparency, perceptions are largely negative. Only 25% of respondents agreed that public institutions in North Macedonia usually clearly explain procedures and decisions, compared to 41% who disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement. Only 25% agreed that young people can usually access public services fairly, without personal connections, while 48% disagreed or strongly disagreed. These findings paint a picture of perceived systemic unfairness in which personal connections, rather than rights or merit, determine access to public services.

8.4 Trust in information sources

Trust in information sources varies significantly across different types of platforms. International news has the highest level of trust (52%), followed by official government sources (36%) and local journalists (27%). Social media platforms rank the lowest. Only 4% of respondents expressed trust in TikTok influencers, and only one respondent trusts Telegram channels.

Despite the low level of trust in social media, these platforms remained the primary information environment for most respondents. Facebook was identified as the platform where 34% of respondents encountered political content that affected their actions in terms of civic engagement, followed by Instagram (30%) and TikTok (11%). This paradox of consuming information from sources that are not trusted is a feature of the modern information environment and has significant consequences for the quality of civic decision-making.

8.5 Security and preparedness for reporting corruption

When asked how safe they would feel reporting corruption or unfair treatment by a public institution, the majority of respondents (43%) said they would feel very or rather unsafe. 30% would feel neither safe nor unsafe, while only 21% would feel very safe or rather safe. Three respondents did not know where or how to report.

In terms of knowledge of reporting mechanisms, only 27% said they knew exactly where to report corruption. 36% have a general idea but are unsure of the process, 27% do not know where to report, and 11% say they would not report even if they knew because they believe it would not make a difference. Taken together, these findings suggest that significant investment is needed in raising awareness, in protection mechanisms, and in building trust before significant increases in reporting corruption can be expected.

9. Needs, preferred formats and solutions

9.1 What do young people need most?

The survey asked respondents what would make them feel safer and more supported when reporting corruption or unfair treatment. Anonymous reporting options are the most common response (70%), reflecting a strong desire for protection from retaliation. Protection from negative consequences is in second place (57%), followed by having a trusted intermediary such as a civil society organization or ombudsman (41%). Clear guidance on where and how to report is ranked fourth (34%).

These findings fit into international good practice for mechanisms for reporting corruption, i.e. effective whistleblower systems that must be combined with guarantees of anonymity, independent oversight and clear procedural guidelines. The strong preference for a trusted intermediary, rather than direct interaction with institutions, reflects the low institutional trust that pervades the survey and highlights the importance of civil society organizations in bridging the gap between young people and formal accountability mechanisms.

9.2 What would increase trust in institutions?

Respondents identified equal treatment and consistent rules for everyone as the single most important factor in increasing trust in public services (52%). Clearly explained steps and processes in advance ranked second (41%), followed by clear decision-making criteria (27%) and clear timelines (20%). These preferences indicate clear demands for predictable, fair, understandable and public procedures.

In all discussions and workshops held with young people, the need for concrete results and feedback on their participation was almost unanimously emphasized. "We don't want them to see it as political points – we met with the young people, and that's it – no further processing, no feedback. We want to know what happened to what we discussed, what we said, what we asked for."

9.3 EU priorities

When asked which two topics should be priority areas for the EU in the next five years, respondents showed a relatively balanced distribution across the options, reflecting broad concerns rather than a focus on a single issue. Democracy and the rule of law (30%) and environment and climate change (30%) ranked first, followed by education and training (27%). Defence and peace and rising prices/cost of living each received 25%, reflecting the impact of regional security concerns and economic pressure on young people in North Macedonia.

9.4 Learning needs

The survey also assessed the topics that respondents would most like to learn about. Integrity, transparency and anti-corruption tools are the top learning priorities (38%), closely followed by how the EU works and how young people can get involved (36%). Citizens' rights and access to information (32%) and youth councils, student representation and local governance (30%) rank third and fourth.

Learning topics	Percentage of respondents
Integrity, transparency and anti-corruption tools	38%

How the EU works and how young people can engage	36%
Citizens' rights and access to information	32%
Youth councils, student representation, local governance	30%
How to advocate for change in my community	29%
How to participate in public consultations	25%
How decisions are made at local and national level	23%

"These issues are more complex than the education we receive and we need to have dedicated and additional training for them. We want to talk more broadly about the topic of corruption, to debate the topic, to talk about concepts and solutions," several participants in the validation workshops emphasized.

9.5 Preferred engagement formats

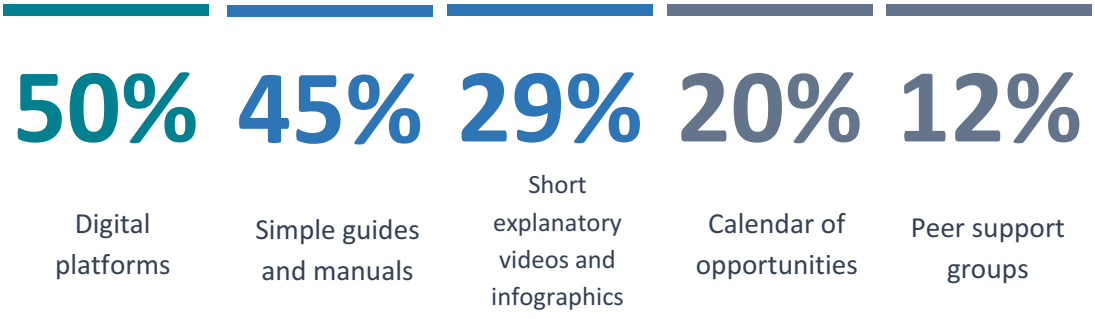
Respondents expressed clear preferences for how they would like to engage in youth participation and civic education activities. Workshops and clinics were the top choice (43%), followed by simulations and bootcamps (36%), online sessions and webinars (30%), and volunteering projects (30%). Mentoring was preferred by 14% of respondents, while storytelling and creative activities were preferred by only 12%.

The preference for workshops and simulations over exclusively online formats suggests that, while digital tools are valued for accessing information, face-to-face and hands-on learning formats remain the preferred way to build capacity.

This is consistent with research on effective civic education that shows that hands-on and interactive methods go beyond passive information transfer in building more lasting civic skills and motivations for participation.

9.6 Most helpful tools

When asked which tools would be most useful to support participation and access to reliable information, a youth-friendly digital platform was the first choice of respondents (50%), followed by simple guides or toolkit for participation (45%) and short explanatory videos or infographics (29%). A calendar of opportunities was identified by 20%, and peer-to-peer support groups by 12%.



The demand for a digital platform tailored for young people also reflects the digital nature of young people's everyday lives. It is also logical to request a combination of a digital platform with printed manuals and guides, as well as short multimedia content.

The answers to an open-ended question about what additional support respondents need are interesting in their consistency. Respondents are looking for clear and accessible information in their native language, reliable channels for reporting, mentoring and coaching, better communication from institutions, and a strong desire to feel that their voice is heard and valued. One respondent accurately summarized these needs as follows: "We need to feel protected and feel that our voice is heard."

Some of the suggestions from young people in the focus groups were to have a separate website for youth initiatives, with traceability of proposals and results; to have an application for civic engagement of young people with points collected for each activity and used for certain discounts and other forms of stimulation.

10. Good practices

10.1 Regional and European good practices

Several good practices from the EU and the Western Balkans region offer relevant models for North Macedonia. These examples demonstrate what is possible when the enabling conditions — political will, civil society capacity, and digital infrastructure — are aligned.

In Estonia, the e-participation portal Rahvaalgatus.ee allows citizens to submit legislative petitions online, which are automatically forwarded to parliament when they reach 1,000 signatures. The platform is tailored for a young audience and is integrated into civic education curricula, demonstrating how digital tools can create real pathways from citizen input to policy change. Estonia's broader e-governance framework is often cited as a global standard for transparent and accessible public administration.

In Croatia, a country with comparable governance challenges to North Macedonia that has been on the path to EU accession, the GONG Civic Education program developed a structured, long-term civic education curriculum for youth integrated into secondary schools. Evaluations of the program found significant improvements in civic knowledge, political efficacy, and willingness to participate among participating students. The curriculum's emphasis on practical skills—writing to elected officials, participating in mock public consultations, producing civic media—rather than passive knowledge transfer is a valuable model for adaptation to the Macedonian context.

In Serbia, the organization CRTA (Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability) developed a mobile application 'Vote', which provides youth-friendly information on elections, candidates and voting procedures, along with a platform for reporting electoral irregularities. The application was accompanied by peer-to-peer dissemination campaigns in high schools and universities, and received over 100,000 downloads in its first year. Its combination of information provision, civic skills building and reporting functionality offers a direct model for a comparable tool in North Macedonia.

10.2 Practices in North Macedonia

The National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM) is a union of youth associations founded in 2013 by 55 organizations. This "umbrella" organization of youth organizations in the country is a successful example of promoting and advocating for young people and their rights and interests. Since 2015, it has also been part of the European family of youth organizations, the European Youth Forum. The NYM is a successful example of their participation in the adoption of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, in the establishment of local youth councils, as well as in the promotion of youth standards in municipalities.

Local youth councils, whose formation at the municipal level is legally mandatory, as well as the budgeting of funds for their functioning, where they are formed and function, are a good practice of an organized and systemic form of youth participation at the local level. Youth councils are composed of young representatives of the various forms of youth organization in the municipality. Local youth

councils are advisory bodies of municipalities and municipal councils and they should represent the interests and needs of young people in the processes of creating local policies.

Another good practice that was particularly highlighted by the participants of the focus groups and validation workshops is youth projects and the participation of young people from North Macedonia in Erasmus Plus projects. Through this program, many young people from the country participate in international exchanges, transfer experiences and knowledge in the country, lead local projects and learn various forms of leadership and entrepreneurship.

The participants of the workshops and focus groups also mentioned good practices for the election of a school ombudsman and members of a school parliament, where each student or their representatives have the right to vote, and those elected then represent and advocate for the interests of students and initiate activities and proposals in the school.

The Metamorphosis Foundation's online portal 'Meta.mk' provides fact-checking and media literacy resources specifically designed for young audiences, addressing the challenge of disinformation highlighted in the findings of the RISE Balkans survey. Its approach of combining fact-checking tools with media literacy education in formal and informal settings offers a replicable model for building information critical skills among Macedonian youth.

11. Conclusions

The RISE Balkans Youth Civic Participation, Anti-Corruption Awareness and Transparency Survey in North Macedonia paints a nuanced picture of a generation of young people who are engaged, aware and deeply concerned about the governance of their country, but are hampered by a lack of clear information, a lack of trust in institutions and structural obstacles between concern and concrete action.

The following are the key conclusions that emerge from the survey results, contextualised in a broader sense:

First, perceptions of corruption among young people in North Macedonia are almost unanimous. 91% of respondents see corruption as widespread, 93% believe that it exists equally in national and local public institutions, and 62% feel personally affected by it. Political parties, politicians, healthcare services and the police are seen as the most corrupt areas and actors. The judiciary, tax administration and education also rank very highly. Additionally, young people single out employment and education as the two areas where they most often face unfair treatment. These perceptions are not just negative feelings, but they reflect rational responses to the reality in which young people live in the country and represent a serious obstacle to their meaningful civic engagement.

Second, knowledge of civic processes is uneven. Young respondents show reasonable awareness of fundamental civil rights and governance at the national level, but significant gaps exist in the areas of EU-level processes, formal consultation mechanisms and channels for reporting corruption. Only 30% of young people are aware of public consultations as a channel for participation, and only 14% know of specific channels for reporting corruption or unfair treatment.

Third, interest in civic issues among young people is high, and the majority of respondents have participated in at least one civic activity in the previous year. However, formal participatory mechanisms, especially public consultations and youth councils, remain marginal in young people's civic repertoire, while electoral participation and informal community activities dominate. The central problem seems to be not motivation but access. Young people lack clear and reliable pathways to formal participation, as well as feedback on how their voice has influenced decisions.

Fourth, although social media is the primary source of political information for most respondents, their trust in social media sources is very low. Young people are both over-informed and under-informed, i.e. inundated with political content of uncertain quality while lacking credible civic information that would enable them to participate more. Disinformation and lack of clear information together constitute the dominant barrier to participation (62%).

Fifth, young people's trust in institutions is critically low, but not irreparable. Despite widespread perceptions of corruption, 80% of respondents believe that young people can contribute to reducing corruption, and they also highlight clear preferences for what would restore trust: equal treatment, transparent procedures, and better feedback channels.

Sixth, young people know what they need. Demands for clear information, trusted intermediaries, anonymous reporting options, and youth-friendly digital tools show that young people in North Macedonia know what would help them engage more and build their civic capacities.

12. Recommendations

1. Develop digital platforms for civic participation tailored for youth in North Macedonia that consolidate information on participation opportunities, public consultations, youth councils and reporting mechanisms. The platforms should include short explanatory guides, manuals and a calendar of events, and be designed and maintained with active input from young people.
2. Design and implement targeted anti-corruption and transparency training programs for young people to build practical skills in recognizing corruption, knowing their rights, and using reporting mechanisms. Programs should use more practical formats and exercises, rather than just informational approaches.
3. Strengthen the role of trusted intermediaries for youth participation such as civil society organizations, ombudsmen's offices or youth councils that can receive, channel and follow up on corruption reports and civil complaints from young people. 57% of respondents state that protection from retaliation would be a condition for reporting corruption, and 41% want to do so through a trusted non-governmental intermediary.
4. - To invest in peer-to-peer models of civic education, training young representatives from different communities who will then serve as multipliers of civic information in their schools, universities and local communities.
5. Directly address misinformation as a major cited barrier to greater participation by including media and information literacy in civic education activities. Given that 62% of respondents cite a lack of clear information and misinformation as a primary barrier to participation, building young people's capacities to evaluate information sources and resist manipulation is a civic intervention in itself.
6. Increase the transparency and accessibility of public consultation procedures, with specific adaptations for young people, including simpler language, more available formats (online, in person, short video summaries) and visible tracking showing how young people's input has been used. 46% of respondents stated that they had never participated in a public consultation but would like to, indicating significant potential for participation.
7. Prioritize the full implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies by ensuring functional and equipped youth councils in all municipalities. These councils need to be given significant powers, as youth councils with only advisory roles that are never consulted undermine rather than support civic culture.
8. Create feedback channels that show young people how their input influenced decisions.
9. Introduce or strengthen in civic education curricula topics on governance at national and EU level, on opportunities and mechanisms for participation, on anti-corruption concepts and on media literacy. The current knowledge gaps on EU processes represent a significant deficit for a country on the path to EU accession.
10. Strengthen whistleblower protection regulations and practices and promote awareness among young people about existing protection mechanisms. Anonymous reporting channels, clear legal protection and public communication campaigns about safe reporting mechanisms are prerequisites for increasing reporting of corruption, especially among the 43% of respondents who expressed safety concerns when reporting.
11. Use the EU accession process as a lever for youth engagement by creating structured mechanisms for youth consultation within the reform agenda. The priorities cited by the majority of young

people in the survey, such as democracy, rule of law, environment and education, coincide with EU priorities and hence the voice of young people can significantly contribute to the accession process and building civic culture.

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National Versions

Ελληνική Έκδοση

Περίληψη

Η παρούσα Εθνική Έκθεση παρουσιάζει τα ευρήματα των ερευνητικών δραστηριοτήτων του Πακέτου Εργασίας 1 (WP1), οι οποίες υλοποιήθηκαν στην Ελλάδα στο πλαίσιο του έργου RISE Balkans. Σκοπός της έκθεσης είναι η αποτύπωση των γνώσεων, των αντιλήψεων και των εμπειριών των νέων σχετικά με τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά, τη δημοκρατική εμπλοκή, τη διαφάνεια, την ακεραιότητα και την καταπολέμηση της διαφθοράς, καθώς και ο εντοπισμός των εμποδίων και των παραγόντων που διευκολύνουν τη συμμετοχή τους στη δημόσια ζωή. Η ελληνική έρευνα συνδύασε βιβλιογραφική και δευτερογενή έρευνα, ανώνυμη διαδικτυακή έρευνα, μία συζήτηση ομάδας εστίασης και ένα εργαστήριο επικύρωσης, επιτρέποντας στα ευρήματα να βασιστούν τόσο σε ποσοτικά δεδομένα όσο και σε ποιοτικές αποτυπώσεις των ίδιων των νέων.

Η έρευνα δείχνει ότι οι νέοι στην Ελλάδα δεν είναι αδιάφοροι απέναντι στη δημόσια ζωή. Αντιθέτως, σημαντικό ποσοστό των συμμετεχόντων δήλωσε ότι ενδιαφέρεται πολύ ή εξαιρετικά για τα δημόσια ζητήματα και για τις διαδικασίες λήψης αποφάσεων που επηρεάζουν τη ζωή τους. Ωστόσο, το ενδιαφέρον αυτό δεν συνοδεύεται από επαρκή γνώση των επίσημων καναλιών συμμετοχής. Πολλοί νέοι παραμένουν μη εξοικειωμένοι με τις δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις, τις νομοθετικές διαδικασίες, τα εργαλεία συμμετοχής της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης και τους μηχανισμούς αναφοράς περιστατικών διαφθοράς. Αυτό δημιουργεί ένα σαφές χάσμα μεταξύ της προθυμίας για συμμετοχή και της πρακτικής δυνατότητας ουσιαστικής εμπλοκής.

Κεντρικό εύρημα της έκθεσης αποτελεί η ιδιαίτερα υψηλή αντίληψη περί διαφθοράς και η χαμηλή εμπιστοσύνη στους θεσμούς. Οι περισσότεροι συμμετέχοντες στην έρευνα χαρακτήρισαν τη διαφθορά στην Ελλάδα ως διαδεδομένη ή πολύ διαδεδομένη, ενώ οι συμμετέχοντες στην ομάδα εστίασης και στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης επιβεβαίωσαν ότι η διαφθορά γίνεται αντιληπτή ως συστημικό φαινόμενο, παρόν σε διάφορους τομείς της δημόσιας ζωής. Παράλληλα, πολλοί νέοι θεωρούν ότι οι δημόσιες διαδικασίες είναι ασαφείς, δύσκολες στην παρακολούθηση και ανεπαρκώς διαφανείς. Η αναφορά περιστατικών διαφθοράς γίνεται επίσης αντιληπτή ως μη ασφαλής και συγκεχυμένη διαδικασία, με τους συμμετέχοντες να τονίζουν την ανάγκη για ανωνυμία, προστασία από αντίποινα, σαφείς οδηγίες και αξιόπιστους διαμεσολαβητές.

Το βασικό εμπόδιο για τη συμμετοχή των νέων που ανέδειξε η έρευνα δεν είναι η έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος, αλλά η έλλειψη σαφούς πληροφόρησης και η παρουσία παραπληροφόρησης. Οι νέοι λαμβάνουν κυρίως πληροφορίες για κοινωνικά, πολιτικά και θεσμικά ζητήματα μέσω διαδικτυακών πλατφορμών, ιδιαίτερα του TikTok και του Instagram, ωστόσο συχνά δεν εμπιστεύονται τις πληροφορίες που συναντούν. Η έρευνα δείχνει επίσης ότι η παραπληροφόρηση και οι αφηγήσεις που σχετίζονται με τη διαφθορά μπορούν να αποθαρρύνουν τη συμμετοχή, να μειώσουν την εμπιστοσύνη και να ενισχύσουν την αίσθηση ότι η ενεργός εμπλοκή δεν μπορεί να επιφέρει ουσιαστική αλλαγή.

Παρά τις προκλήσεις αυτές, τα ευρήματα αναδεικνύουν σημαντικές δυνατότητες ενδυνάμωσης των νέων. Οι περισσότεροι συμμετέχοντες πιστεύουν ότι οι νέοι μπορούν να συμβάλουν στη μείωση της

διαφθοράς και στη βελτίωση της δημόσιας ζωής, υπό την προϋπόθεση ότι θα έχουν πρόσβαση σε κατανοητή πληροφόρηση, πρακτικά εργαλεία και ουσιαστικές ευκαιρίες συμμετοχής. Οι δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις, οι οργανώσεις νέων, ο εθελοντισμός, τα εργαστήρια, οι προσομοιώσεις και τα bootcamps αναδείχθηκαν ως σημαντικές μορφές μελλοντικής εμπλοκής. Η κατανόηση της λειτουργίας της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, τα εργαλεία καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς, οι μηχανισμοί διαφάνειας και η πρακτική εκπαίδευση του πολίτη αναδείχθηκαν ως βασικές μαθησιακές προτεραιότητες.

Η έκθεση προτείνει στο RISE Balkans και στους σχετικούς φορείς να δώσουν προτεραιότητα σε μορφές επικοινωνίας προσαρμοσμένες στους νέους, ιδίως μέσω του TikTok και του Instagram, να ενισχύσουν τη γνώση γύρω από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά, και να υλοποιήσουν δράσεις μέσα από πρακτικές και βιωματικές μεθόδους. Οι δημόσιοι θεσμοί θα πρέπει να καταστήσουν τους μηχανισμούς διαβούλευσης και αναφοράς πιο σαφείς, προσβάσιμους και ανταποκρινόμενους στις ανάγκες των νέων. Οι οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών θα πρέπει να λειτουργήσουν ως αξιόπιστοι διαμεσολαβητές και να υποστηρίξουν τη δημιουργία περιεχομένου για τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά από τους ίδιους τους νέους. Συνολικά, τα ελληνικά ευρήματα επιβεβαιώνουν την ανάγκη για δομημένη, πρακτική και συμπεριληπτική εκπαίδευση του πολίτη, η οποία μπορεί να βοηθήσει τους νέους να μεταβούν από το ενδιαφέρον και την ευαισθητοποίηση στην ενημερωμένη δημοκρατική δράση.

1. Εισαγωγή

Η ενίσχυση της συμμετοχής των νέων στη δημοκρατική ζωή αποτελεί άμεση προτεραιότητα σε ολόκληρη την Ευρώπη, ιδίως στην περιοχή των Βαλκανίων, όπου η δημοκρατική συμμετοχή αντιμετωπίζει συνεχείς προκλήσεις. Σε ολόκληρη την Ευρώπη —και ιδιαίτερα στην περιοχή των Βαλκανίων— τα νέα άτομα αναφέρουν μια ανησυχητική αποξένωση από τα πολιτικά όργανα και τις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες. Παρότι ο ακτιβισμός των νέων είναι ορατός μέσω διαδηλώσεων και διαδικτυακών κινημάτων, η επίσημη και οργανωμένη συμμετοχή στα δημοκρατικά και πολιτικά όργανα παραμένει πολύ περιορισμένη. Πρόσφατα στοιχεία από την Έρευνα για τη Νεολαία του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου του 2024 (Flash Eurobarometer) υπογραμμίζουν ένα κρίσιμο χάσμα μεταξύ των νέων και της δημόσιας διακυβέρνησης και των θεσμών σε ολόκληρη την Ευρώπη, με την κατάσταση να είναι ιδιαίτερα οξεία στην περιοχή των Βαλκανίων. Η αποστασιοποίηση των νέων δεν οφείλεται τόσο στην απάθεια, αλλά στη χαμηλή πολιτική παιδεία και κατανόηση των διαύλων πολιτικής συμμετοχής.

Το έργο «RISE Balkans - Ενδυναμώνοντας τις Φωνές των Νέων: Υπευθυνότητα, Ακεραιότητα, Αλληλεγγύη και Συμμετοχή στα Κοινά στα Βαλκάνια» αντιμετωπίζει αυτά τα κενά, ενδυναμώνοντας νέα άτομα ηλικίας 18–26 ετών στην Ελλάδα, τη Βουλγαρία, την Κροατία, την Αλβανία και τη Βόρεια Μακεδονία με δεξιότητες πολιτικής παιδείας και εργαλεία καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς. Το πρόγραμμα εστιάζει στην ενδυνάμωση των νέων όσον αφορά την πολιτική παιδεία, τη μείωση της εμπιστοσύνης στους θεσμούς και τις διαδεδομένες αντιλήψεις για τη διαφθορά, μέσω της πολιτικής εκπαίδευσης, της βιωματικής μάθησης, της καθοδήγησης και της υποστήριξης πρωτοβουλιών που αναλαμβάνουν τα ίδια τα νέα άτομα. Προωθώντας την ευθύνη, την ακεραιότητα, την αλληλεγγύη και τη συμμετοχή, στοχεύει να καλλιεργήσει μια νέα γενιά ενεργών, ενημερωμένων πολιτών, ικανών να ενισχύσουν τη δημοκρατική ανθεκτικότητα σε εθνικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο. Η δράση αυτή είναι επίσης επίκαιρη, καθώς ευθυγραμμίζεται με βασικές ευρωπαϊκές πρωτοβουλίες που αποσκοπούν στην υπεράσπιση της δημοκρατίας, την ενίσχυση των χώρων πολιτικής συμμετοχής και την αύξηση της συμμετοχής των νέων στη χάραξη πολιτικής, ιδίως στο πλαίσιο του Ευρωπαϊκού Σχεδίου Δράσης για τη Δημοκρατία και του Πακέτου για την Υπεράσπιση της Δημοκρατίας. Το RISE Balkans θα εξοπλίσει τα νέα άτομα όχι μόνο για να συμμετέχουν, αλλά και για να προωθήσουν τη δημοκρατική ανανέωση σε εθνικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο

Για την επίτευξη αυτών των στόχων, το πρόγραμμα θα εμπλέξει νέα άτομα σε πρακτικές πρωτοβουλίες, όπως προσομοιώσεις νομοθετικής διαδικασίας, δράσεις κατά της διαφθοράς και δομημένους διαλόγους με θεσμικά όργανα, παρέχοντάς τους τα απαραίτητα εφόδια ώστε να επηρεάζουν τη νομοθεσία, να συμβάλλουν στις μεταρρυθμίσεις των πολιτικών κατά της διαφθοράς και να προωθούν τη διαφανή διακυβέρνηση σε εθνικό και ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο. Το RISE Balkans θα δημιουργήσει επίσης εργαλεία ελεύθερης πρόσβασης, όπως ένα πολυγλωσσικό εγχειρίδιο πολιτικής αγωγής και μια ψηφιακή πλατφόρμα συμμετοχής, εξασφαλίζοντας τη βιωσιμότητα του έργου και μετά τη λήξη του.

Στο πλαίσιο της δράσης, οι συμμετέχοντες φορείς διεξήγαγαν ποιοτική και ποσοτική έρευνα, με στόχο τη διερεύνηση των αντιλήψεων και των εμπειριών των νέων σχετικά με τα εμπόδια, τις ευκαιρίες και τις γνώσεις που συνδέονται με τη χάραξη πολιτικής, τη συμμετοχή και τα πλαίσια καταπολέμησης

της διαφθοράς, τις νομοθετικές διαδικασίες και τους μηχανισμούς δημόσιας διαβούλευσης. Η παρούσα έκθεση συνοψίζει τα ευρήματα της έρευνας που διεξήχθη στην Ελλάδα.

2. Το πλαίσιο της συμμετοχής των νέων στα κοινά

Σύμφωνα με το Ειδικό Ευρωβαρόμετρο 548, η διαφθορά θεωρείται σχεδόν καθολική από τους/τις Έλληνες/ίδες πολίτες, με το 98% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων να την χαρακτηρίζουν ως διαδεδομένη — ποσοστό σημαντικά υψηλότερο από τον μέσο όρο της ΕΕ, που ανέρχεται στο 68%. Ταυτόχρονα, το 53% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων ανέφερε ότι η διαφθορά έχει αυξηθεί τα τελευταία τρία χρόνια. Τα υψηλότερα ποσοστά διαφθοράς μεταξύ των δημόσιων φορέων εντοπίστηκαν στο σύστημα υγείας (89%), στα πολιτικά κόμματα (71%), στους/στις πολιτικούς (68%), στους/στις υπαλλήλους που αναθέτουν δημόσιες συμβάσεις (67%) και εκδίδουν οικοδομικές (63%) και επιχειρηματικές άδειες (60%), στους/στις Επιθεωρητές/ριες (59%), στις φορολογικές αρχές (57%) και στην αστυνομία και τα τελωνεία (56%) (European Commission, 2024a).

Η προστασία των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων, της δημοκρατίας και της ειρήνης (45%) καθώς και η ελευθερία του λόγου και της σκέψης (41%) εξακολουθούν να συγκαταλέγονται στις κορυφαίες προτεραιότητες όσον αφορά τις αξίες των νέων ηλικίας 16-30 ετών στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση. Παρότι το κράτος δικαίου δεν θεωρείται τόσο υψηλή προτεραιότητα στην ΕΕ (15%), τα νέα άτομα από την Ελλάδα το θεωρούν αρκετά σημαντικό (23%) και πιστεύουν επίσης ότι θα πρέπει να αποτελεί προτεραιότητα στην ΕΕ τα επόμενα χρόνια (26%). Παράλληλα, η αντίληψη ότι η Ελλάδα ωφελείται από τη συμμετοχή της στην ΕΕ όσον αφορά την παροχή περισσότερων ευκαιριών σε νέα άτομα να επηρεάζουν τις πολιτικές που τα αφορούν (14%) παραμένει χαμηλότερη σε σύγκριση με τον ευρωπαϊκό μέσο όρο (17%) (European Parliament, 2025).

Παρότι πολλά νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα δηλώνουν ότι διαθέτουν επαρκείς γνώσεις για την τοπική ή περιφερειακή αυτοδιοίκηση (51%), λιγότερα δηλώνουν το ίδιο για την εθνική κυβέρνηση (43%), παραμένοντας κάτω από τον ευρωπαϊκό μέσο (56%). Παρόλα αυτά, τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα αναφέρουν υψηλότερα ποσοστά συμμετοχής στα κοινά, σε σύγκριση με τον μέσο όρο της ΕΕ, όσον αφορά την ψήφο στις τοπικές, εθνικές ή ευρωπαϊκές εκλογές (ΕΛ: 53%, ΕΕ: 39%), τη δημοσίευση απόψεων στο διαδίκτυο ή στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης σχετικά με πολιτικά ή κοινωνικά ζητήματα (ΕΛ: 23%, ΕΕ: 19%), τη συμμετοχή σε διαμαρτυρίες και διαδηλώσεις (ΕΛ: 22%, ΕΕ: 16%), την εθελοντική εργασία για φιλανθρωπικό οργανισμό (ΕΛ: 21%, ΕΕ: 20%), τη συμμετοχή σε οργανισμό νεολαίας (ΕΛ: 12%, ΕΕ: 11%) και την επικοινωνία με πολιτικό σχετικά με κάποιο ζήτημα (ΕΛ: 9%, ΕΕ: 8%). Αν και σε χαμηλότερο ποσοστό σε σύγκριση με την ΕΕ, τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα από την Ελλάδα ανέφεραν επίσης ότι έχουν δημιουργήσει ή υπογράψει μια αίτηση (ΕΛ: 24%, ΕΕ: 26%), έχουν μποϊκοτάρει ή αγοράσει συγκεκριμένα προϊόντα για πολιτικούς, ηθικούς ή περιβαλλοντικούς λόγους (ΕΛ: 18%, ΕΕ: 19%), έχουν συμμετάσχει σε δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις στο διαδίκτυο ή εκτός διαδικτύου (ΕΛ: 8%, ΕΕ: 10%), και έχουν χρησιμοποιήσει hashtags ή έχουν αλλάξει τη φωτογραφία προφίλ τους για να δείξουν την υποστήριξή τους σε ένα πολιτικό ή κοινωνικό ζήτημα (ΕΛ & ΕΕ: 16%) (European Parliament, 2025).

Παρά τις νομοθετικές προσπάθειες για την επέκταση των δικαιωμάτων επίσημης συμμετοχής στα κοινά — συμπεριλαμβανομένης της μείωσης του εκλογικού ορίου στα 17 έτη για τις εθνικές εκλογές και τις εκλογές για το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο — η πραγματική συμμετοχή στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες παραμένει σχετικά χαμηλή, ιδίως στα επίσημα κανάλια, με μια ανησυχητική τάση απομάκρυνσης από τις εκλογές. Σύμφωνα με τα μετεκλογικά στοιχεία της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής για τις εκλογές του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου του 2024, η Ελλάδα κατέγραψε ποσοστό συμμετοχής των νέων μόλις 26%

στις νεότερες ηλικιακές ομάδες (15–24), διατηρώντας ένα από τα χαμηλότερα ποσοστά στην ΕΕ. Σε ολόκληρη την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση, η συμμετοχή των νέων στις εκλογές του 2024 μειώθηκε κατά έξι ποσοστιαίες μονάδες σε σύγκριση με το 2019, από 42% σε 36% μεταξύ των κάτω των 25 ετών (Lavizzari, 2025).

Μεταξύ των νέων που δεν ψήφισαν, οι κύριοι λόγοι που αναφέρθηκαν σε επίπεδο ΕΕ ήταν η απασχόληση με άλλες υποχρεώσεις και η έλλειψη πληροφοριών για να κάνουν μια επιλογή (16%), ακολουθούμενοι από την απουσία υποψηφίου/ας ή πολιτικού κόμματος που να θεωρούν ότι σχετίζεται με εκείνους/ες, καθώς και από την έλλειψη εμπιστοσύνης προς πολιτικούς και τη γενική δυσαρέσκεια απέναντι στην πολιτική (15%). Από την άλλη πλευρά, τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο Έκτακτο Ευρωβαρόμετρο – Έρευνα Νέων 2024 (Flash Eurobarometer - Youth Survey 2024) από την Ελλάδα παρουσίασαν υψηλότερα ποσοστά άλλων υποχρεώσεων (36%), έλλειψης εμπιστοσύνης (18%), και έλλειψης υποψηφίου/ας ή πολιτικού κόμματος με το οποίο να ταυτίζονται (17%). Άλλοι λόγοι που αναφέρθηκαν περιελάμβαναν την έλλειψη πληροφόρησης για τη λήψη απόφασης (13%), τεχνικά ή διαδικαστικά ζητήματα και αποφυγή της ψήφου γενικά (8%), την αντίληψη ότι η ψήφος τους δεν θα έκανε τη διαφορά (7%), την αντίθεση προς την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση (4%), την έλλειψη κατανόησης του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και το γεγονός ότι ο φιλικός τους κύκλος δεν ψήφισε (3%), καθώς και την άγνοια για τις εκλογές (2%) (European Parliament, 2025).

3. Παράγοντες που ευνοούν τη συμμετοχή των νέων στα κοινά και εμπόδια

Οι παράγοντες που ευνοούν τη νεανική συμμετοχή και τα σχετικά εμπόδια κατηγοριοποιούνται συνήθως σε πρακτικούς και συμπεριφορικούς, ψυχολογικούς και σχεσιακούς. Οι πρώτοι αφορούν τις πρακτικές πτυχές της συμμετοχής τους, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της εγγύτητας, το κόστος και τη μεταφορά, ενώ οι δεύτεροι αναφέρονται στα ενδιαφέροντα, την αυτοπεποίθηση, τις αλληλεπιδράσείς τους με άλλα άτομα, και την ψυχολογική τους κατάσταση. Τα κοινά εμπόδια περιλαμβάνουν την έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος και εμπιστοσύνης στη διαδικασία και τα αποτελέσματα των σχετικών διαδικασιών, τον χρόνο και άλλες υποχρεώσεις, και τις αυξημένες πρακτικές δυσκολίες (SQW UK YOUTH, 2025).

Οι εκπαιδευτικές δομές και η εκπροσώπηση και τα όργανα εκπροσώπησης των φοιτητών/ριών και των μαθητών/ριών διευκολύνουν γενικά τη νεανική συμμετοχή στη χάραξη πολιτικής και στη λήψη αποφάσεων, μέσω των υφιστάμενων δομών στα αντίστοιχα ιδρύματα. Τα μαθητικά συμβούλια στα σχολεία δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης και τα αντίστοιχα συμβούλια στα πανεπιστήμια συγκαταλέγονται μεταξύ των πιο θεσμικά εδραιωμένων και ευρέως αναγνωρισμένων διαύλων συμμετοχής των νέων. Παράλληλα, το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο Νέων αποτελεί ένα επιπλέον φόρουμ που χρηματοδοτείται από το δημόσιο (European Commission, 2026).

Η υψηλή διείσδυση των smartphones και η χρήση των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης δημιουργούν ανεπίσημους διαύλους για την πολιτική ευαισθητοποίηση, την κινητοποίηση των συνομηλίκων και την ανταλλαγή πληροφοριών σχετικά με τα κοινά. Η έρευνα επιβεβαιώνει σταθερά μια θετική συσχέτιση μεταξύ της πολιτικής χρήσης των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης και της πολιτικής συμμετοχής, ιδίως μεταξύ των νεότερων ηλικιακών ομάδων. Αυτή η χρήση των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης και του διαδικτύου περιλαμβάνει την σταθερή ενημέρωση για την πολιτική ή την επικαιρότητα και τις εκλογές, την περιήγηση σε ιστοτόπους ή σελίδες υποψηφίων και κοινωνικών κινημάτων στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, τις συζητήσεις για την πολιτική, την υπογραφή αιτήσεων, τις θετικές αντιδράσεις σε δημοσιεύσεις πολιτικού περιεχομένου, και τον διαμοιρασμό πολιτικών απόψεων στο διαδίκτυο (Boulianne & Theocharis, 2018). Το Έκτακτο Ευρωβαρόμετρο (Flash Eurobarometer) 545 για τη Νεολαία και τη Δημοκρατία ανέδειξε, επίσης, ότι τα social media αποτελούν την πρωταρχική πηγή πληροφόρησης για την ΕΕ για το 56% των νέων Ευρωπαίων ηλικίας 15–30, αναδεικνύοντας τον ρόλο τους ως μία πύλη πολιτικής συμμετοχής ακόμη και όταν η εμπιστοσύνη στις πλατφόρμες παραμένει χαμηλή. Τα ποσοστά χρήσης των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης ως κύριου καναλιού ενημέρωσης μεταξύ των νέων στην Ελλάδα παραμένουν εξίσου υψηλά, με το 57% να δηλώνει ότι χρησιμοποιεί κυρίως αυτά τα μέσα, ακολουθούμενα από την τηλεόραση (41%), τον ηλεκτρονικό Τύπο, τα podcast και τις πλατφόρμες ειδήσεων (39%) και τις συζητήσεις με φιλικά και συγγενικά του πρόσωπα, καθώς και συναδέλφους/ισσες (35%) (European Commission, 2024).

Οι μη κυβερνητικές οργανώσεις και οι χώροι μη τυπικής εκπαίδευσης αναγνωρίζονται σταθερά ως βασικοί παράγοντες που διευκολύνουν τη συμμετοχή των νέων στα κοινά, ιδίως σε μορφές που δεν συνδέονται με θεσμικά πλαίσια. Ο ρόλος των φορέων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών δεν είναι απλώς συμπληρωματικός των επίσημων κρατικών δομών — συχνά αποτελεί το πεδίο όπου λαμβάνει χώρα η ουσιαστική συμμετοχή των νέων στα κοινά, λειτουργώντας εκτός των διοικητικών πλαισίων της κυβέρνησης και συχνά σε παραγωγική αντίθεση με αυτά. Τα μεγαλύτερα άτομα τείνουν να εμπλέκονται

περισσότερο σε επίσημες και συμβατικές μορφές συμμετοχής, ενώ οι νεότερες γενιές τείνουν να έλκονται περισσότερο από τον ακτιβισμό (Prof. Deželan, 2024).

Οι θετικές αντιλήψεις σχετικά με τη συμμετοχή επηρεάζουν επίσης την ενεργό εμπλοκή των νέων. Για παράδειγμα, στην περίπτωση της ψήφου, οι σχετικές αντιλήψεις περιστρέφονται γύρω από την ανάληψη ευθύνης για το μέλλον, την κατανόηση ότι η ψήφος αποτελεί καθήκον του πολίτη, την έκφραση της γνώμης, την αποτροπή της ανόδου ομάδων που δεν συμφωνούν με τις απόψεις των ατόμων στην εξουσία, και την ψήφο ως μέσο για πραγματική αλλαγή. Μια γενικότερη και πιο αφοσιωμένη αντίληψη της ιδιότητας του πολίτη επηρεάζει θετικά την εμπλοκή των νέων (DEŽELAN, 2023).

Από την άλλη, το πιο διαδεδομένο εμπόδιο είναι η έλλειψη εμπιστοσύνης στους θεσμούς, η οποία στην Ελλάδα φτάνει σε ιδιαίτερα ακραία επίπεδα. Παρότι το 68% των Ευρωπαίων θεωρεί ότι η διαφθορά είναι ευρέως διαδεδομένη στη χώρα τους, το αντίστοιχο ποσοστό για την Ελλάδα φτάνει το 98%. Επιπλέον, το 53% των Ελλήνων/ίδων πιστεύει ότι η διαφθορά έχει αυξηθεί τα τελευταία τρία χρόνια, σε σύγκριση με μόλις 5% που θεωρεί ότι η κατάσταση έχει βελτιωθεί — μια αντίληψη αυξανόμενης επιδείνωσης που μοιράζονται ευρέως όλες οι ηλικιακές ομάδες (European Commission, 2024a). Όταν η εμπιστοσύνη στους θεσμούς μέσω των οποίων υποτίθεται ότι πραγματοποιείται η συμμετοχή απουσιάζει τόσο ολοκληρωτικά, η επίσημη συμμετοχή των πολιτών στα κοινά γίνεται, κατά την αντίληψη πολλών νέων ατόμων, όχι απλώς αναποτελεσματική αλλά και εντελώς άσκοπη. Αυτό συνάδει με τα στοιχεία σε επίπεδο ΕΕ, καθώς η ανάλυση της Σύμπραξης ΕΕ και Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης για τη Νεολαία για τις ευρωπαϊκές εκλογές του 2024 ανέδειξε ότι μεταξύ των κύριων λόγων που ανέφεραν τα νέα άτομα σχετικά με την αποστασιοποίηση ήταν η γενική αδιαφορία για την πολιτική (19%), η πεποίθηση ότι η ψήφος δεν θα επιφέρει ουσιαστική αλλαγή (19%), η δυσπιστία στα πολιτικά συστήματα (17%) και η αντίληψη ότι η ΕΕ δεν αντιμετωπίζει ζητήματα που αφορούν τη ζωή τους (16%). Η Ελλάδα και η Ιταλία, συγκεκριμένα, κατέγραψαν το 2024 τη χαμηλότερη συμμετοχή στην ιστορία των ευρωεκλογών, η οποία έπεσε κάτω από το 50% (Lavizzari, 2025).

Στενά συνδεδεμένο με αυτό είναι το εμπόδιο της χαμηλής πολιτικής αποτελεσματικότητας και η αντίληψη ότι η ατομική συμμετοχή δεν θα επιφέρει ουσιαστική αλλαγή. Η μελέτη της Υπηρεσίας Ερευνών του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου σχετικά με τη συμμετοχή των νέων αναδεικνύει αυτό το ζήτημα ως ένα διαρθρωτικά ξεχωριστό πρόβλημα: τα νέα άτομα που δεν είναι απλώς αδιάφορα, αλλά αισθάνονται ότι οι χώροι δημοκρατικής έκφρασης δεν έχουν σχέση με την ιδιότητά τους ως πολίτες, αποτελούν μια ομάδα που δεν χρειάζεται περισσότερες πληροφορίες, αλλά ορατές αποδείξεις για τον αντίκτυπο της δράσης τους. Ταυτόχρονα, η αποχή από τις ευρωπαϊκές εκλογές είναι ιδιαίτερα υψηλή μεταξύ των νεότερων ομάδων των εκλογέων, υπερβαίνοντας το 70% σε ορισμένα κράτη μέλη, και το χάσμα μεταξύ νέων και μεγαλύτερης ηλικίας ψηφοφόρων έχει διευρυνθεί σημαντικά (DEŽELAN, 2023). Η αντίληψη ότι «η ψήφος δεν αλλάζει τίποτα» (15%) ήταν ένας από τους τέσσερις κύριους λόγους της αποχής στις ευρωεκλογές μεταξύ των νέων ηλικίας 15-24 ετών, καθώς και της ηλικιακής ομάδας 25-39 ετών (Lavizzari, 2025).

Η έλλειψη πληροφόρησης αποτελεί ένα τρίτο σημαντικό εμπόδιο, το οποίο λειτουργεί στο πλαίσιο ενός συγκεκριμένα ελληνικού περιβάλλοντος μέσων ενημέρωσης που χαρακτηρίζεται από εξαιρετικά χαμηλό επίπεδο εμπιστοσύνης στις ειδήσεις. Η μελέτη του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου

προσδιορίζει την παροχή πληροφοριών, την ικανότητα επεξεργασίας τους και την πρόσβαση στους δημοκρατικούς θεσμούς ως τους τρεις δομικούς τομείς που απαιτούν παρέμβαση (DEŽELAN, 2023). Εν τω μεταξύ, τα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης αποτελούν την κύρια πηγή πληροφοριών σχετικά με την ΕΕ για το 56% των νέων Ευρωπαίων, ακολουθούμενα από την τηλεόραση (49%) και τις διαδικτυακές πλατφόρμες ειδήσεων (33%), ενώ μόνο το 24% γνωρίζει την Ευρωπαϊκή Πύλη Νεολαίας (European Commission, 2024). Σε αυτό το περιβάλλον, η δομημένη πληροφόρηση των πολιτών — πώς να συμμετέχουν σε διαβουλεύσεις, πού να αναφέρουν παραβάσεις, ποια δικαιώματα έχουν οι πολίτες — βρίσκεται δομικά σε μειονεκτική θέση. Το Συμβούλιο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης αναγνωρίζει ρητά ότι η παραπληροφόρηση, οι διεθνείς πολιτικές εντάσεις και οι ένοπλες συγκρούσεις επιδεινώνουν τις ανισότητες και δημιουργούν εμπόδια που εμποδίζουν τα νέα άτομα να συμμετέχουν στις δημοκρατικές διαδικασίες (Council of the European Union, 2025).

4. Μορφές συμμετοχής των νέων στα κοινά

Τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα συμμετέχουν στην κοινωνική ζωή μέσω ενός πολυεπίπεδου πλέγματος επίσημων, ανεπίσημων και ad hoc διαύλων. Η Βουλή των Εφήβων αποτελεί ένα ετήσιο εθνικό πρόγραμμα που διοργανώνεται από το Ίδρυμα της Βουλής των Ελλήνων για τον Κοινοβουλευτισμό και τη Δημοκρατία, σε συνεργασία με το Υπουργείο Παιδείας, Θρησκευμάτων και Αθλητισμού. Αν και δεν αποτελεί μέρος της συνταγματικής τάξης, παραμένει μια επίσημα αναγνωρισμένη πρωτοβουλία εκπαίδευσης και πολιτικής συμμετοχής υπό την εποπτεία του Ιδρύματος της Βουλής των Ελλήνων, με στόχο τη διευκόλυνση της εκπροσώπησης των απόψεων των νέων, την προώθηση της πολιτικής εκπαίδευσης και την ανάπτυξη των δεξιοτήτων των συμμετεχόντων ατόμων στον δημοκρατικό διάλογο και τον δημόσιο λόγο (European Commission, 2026).

Σε πολλούς δήμους έχουν συσταθεί Δημοτικά Συμβούλια Νεολαίας βάσει τοπικών κανονισμών, τα οποία λειτουργούν σε τοπικό επίπεδο και υποστηρίζονται από τις δημοτικές αρχές. Λειτουργούν υπό την αιγίδα και την εποπτεία των αντίστοιχων δημοτικών υπηρεσιών ή τμημάτων νεολαίας και, σε πολλές περιπτώσεις, η νομική τους βάση ευθυγραμμίζεται με ευρύτερα πλαίσια πολιτικής για τη νεολαία που υποστηρίζονται από τις εθνικές αρχές. Σε αυτά, συμμετέχουν νέα άτομα ηλικίας 15 έως 28 ετών που είναι εγγεγραμμένα στο δημοτικό μητρώο και υποβάλλουν αίτηση συμμετοχής. Στόχος τους είναι να υποστηρίξουν τον εντοπισμό και την επικοινωνία των τοπικών αναγκών της νεολαίας, τις προτάσεις πρωτοβουλιών και τη συνεργασία με τα δημοτικά συμβούλια σε θέματα όπως ο πολιτισμός, η απασχόληση, η εκπαίδευση, η οικολογία και η κοινωνική ενσωμάτωση. Παρά το γεγονός ότι δεν έχουν δεσμευτική εξουσία λήψης αποφάσεων σχετικά με τη δημόσια πολιτική, μπορούν να υποβάλλουν προτάσεις και να συνεργάζονται με τους τοπικούς φορείς χάραξης πολιτικής (European Commission, 2026).

Η συμμετοχή των νέων εφαρμόζεται επίσης στο πλαίσιο των ιδρυμάτων τριτοβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης, υπό τη μορφή φοιτητικών συλλόγων, οι οποίοι διέπονται από την εθνική νομοθεσία για την εκπαίδευση και τα καταστατικά των ιδρυμάτων, και λειτουργούν ανεξάρτητα εντός των ιδρυμάτων τους. Εκπροσωπούν τα συμφέροντα των φοιτητών/ριών σε θέματα ακαδημαϊκής ποιότητας, ευημερίας, πανεπιστημιακής ζωής και ευρύτερων κοινωνικών ζητημάτων που αφορούν τους φοιτητές και τις φοιτήτριες. Συνεργάζονται με τα όργανα διοίκησης των πανεπιστημίων, συμμετέχουν σε εθνικά δίκτυα φοιτητών/ριών και μπορούν να συμμετέχουν σε διαβουλεύσεις σχετικά με την πολιτική για την τριτοβάθμια εκπαίδευση. Αν και δεν είναι δεσμευτική για την εθνική πολιτική, η ανατροφοδότησή τους αναγνωρίζεται στις συζητήσεις σχετικά με τα δικαιώματα των φοιτητών/ριών και τις σχετικές μεταρρυθμίσεις (European Commission, 2026).

Ομοίως, οι μαθητικές ενώσεις λειτουργούν και στο πλαίσιο των ιδρυμάτων δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης, σε επίπεδο μεμονωμένου σχολείου. Διέπονται από το πλαίσιο του Υπουργείου Παιδείας για τη σχολική διακυβέρνηση και εποπτεύονται από τις σχολικές διοικήσεις. Αποτελούνται από εκλεγμένους/ες εκπροσώπους των σχολείων δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης, με μέλη που προέρχονται από το μαθητικό σώμα, και έχουν ως στόχο να εκφράζουν τα αιτήματα των μαθητών/ριών εντός του σχολείου, να προωθούν τη συμμετοχή στη σχολική ζωή και να οργανώνουν δραστηριότητες. Συνεργάζονται με τα σχολικά συμβούλια και μπορούν να συνεισφέρουν σε θέματα εκπαίδευσης και κοινωνικής πρόνοιας, αλλά δεν έχουν δεσμευτική εξουσία όσον αφορά τη σχολική ή την εθνική πολιτική (European Commission, 2026).

Επιπλέον, το Εθνικό Συμβούλιο Νεολαίας αποτελεί μια ανεξάρτητη ομοσπονδία οργανώσεων νεολαίας στην Ελλάδα και αναγνωρίζεται επίσημα ως βασικός παράγοντας στην πολιτική για τη νεολαία. Το Συμβούλιο συγκεντρώνει ένα ευρύ φάσμα οργανώσεων νεολαίας, συμπεριλαμβανομένων μη κυβερνητικών οργανώσεων, πολιτικών νεολαιών και τοπικών συμβουλίων νεολαίας, συνεργάζεται με τις δημόσιες αρχές σε συμβουλευτικές πρωτοβουλίες για τη νεολαία και συμμετέχει σε εθνικά και διεθνή φόρουμ σχετικά με την πολιτική για τη νεολαία. Στόχος του είναι να διευκολύνει τη συμμετοχή των νέων σε εθνικές και διεθνείς συζητήσεις πολιτικής, να υποστηρίζει τις οργανώσεις νεολαίας σε θέματα προάσπισης των δικαιωμάτων, εκπαίδευσης και κατάρτισης, και να παρέχει συστάσεις στις δημόσιες αρχές σχετικά με ζητήματα νεολαίας, όπως η απασχόληση, η εκπαίδευση, η κοινωνική ενσωμάτωση, και η ενεργός συμμετοχή των πολιτών (European Commission, 2026).

Η συμμετοχή των νέων στη λήψη αποφάσεων ποικίλλει και εξαρτάται από τη φύση του θέματος. Οι οργανώσεις νεολαίας και οι μη κυβερνητικές οργανώσεις καλούνται να σχολιάσουν σχέδια νόμων ή πολιτικών του Ελληνικού Κοινοβουλίου ή των αρμόδιων υπουργείων, εάν η αρμόδια επιτροπή κρίνει ότι η συμβολή μιας οργάνωσης νεολαίας θα μπορούσε να βελτιώσει τον σχεδιασμό ή την αποτελεσματικότητα μιας πολιτικής. Αν και δεν υπάρχει επίσημος μηχανισμός για τη συμμετοχή συγκεκριμένων ενώσεων νεολαίας στη διαδικασία χάραξης πολιτικής, το Κοινοβούλιο Νέων συνήθως χωρίζεται σε θεματικές ομάδες και συνεδριάζει. Το έργο του ολοκληρώνεται με την παρουσία και τον χαιρετισμό του/της Προέδρου της Ελληνικής Βουλής, ο/η οποίος/α σχολιάζει εκτενώς τις προτάσεις των νέων προς την Ελληνική Βουλή σχετικά με διάφορα ζητήματα πέραν εκείνων που αφορούν αποκλειστικά τα νέα άτομα. Το πιο υψηλού επιπέδου και ευρέως διαδεδομένο πρόγραμμα που υπάρχει για την ενθάρρυνση της συμμετοχής των νέων σε συζητήσεις ή διαβουλεύσεις με δημόσιους λειτουργούς που χαράσσουν πολιτική είναι το Εθνικό Συμβούλιο Νεολαίας. Μεταξύ άλλων, το Συμβούλιο παρεμβαίνει και εκφράζει δημοσίως απόψεις σχετικά με θέματα πολιτικής για τη νεολαία, συνεργάζεται με άλλους κοινωνικούς φορείς (πανεπιστημιακά ιδρύματα, συνδικαλιστικές οργανώσεις, άλλες μη κυβερνητικές οργανώσεις κ.λπ.) και με φορείς του ελληνικού κράτους και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης, συμμετέχει σε εθνικά και διεθνή δίκτυα οργανώσεων, διοργανώνει δημόσιες εκδηλώσεις (συνέδρια, εργαστήρια, συζητήσεις, διαλέξεις κ.λπ.), διεξάγει εφαρμοσμένη έρευνα σε θέματα που σχετίζονται με τους στόχους του και αναλαμβάνει σχετικά ερευνητικά προγράμματα, καθώς και συγκροτεί επιτροπές και ομάδες εργασίας (European Commission, 2026b).

5. Μεθοδολογία

Στο πλαίσιο του έργου, διεξήχθη ποσοτική και ποιοτική έρευνα για τη διερεύνηση των εμπειριών και των αντιλήψεων των νέων σχετικά με την πολιτική συμμετοχή και την εμπλοκή στην καθημερινή ζωή, τη συνάφεια και τη σαφήνεια βασικών εννοιών και διαύλων συμμετοχής, καθώς και των παραγόντων που ευνοούν ή εμποδίζουν την ενεργό εμπλοκή των νέων. Το μεθοδολογικό πλαίσιο αναπτύχθηκε από το Πάντειο, σε συνεργασία με όλους τους εταίρους.

Η ποσοτική έρευνα περιελάμβανε ένα ηλεκτρονικό ερωτηματολόγιο που καταρτίστηκε με βάση υπάρχουσες έρευνες σχετικά με τα προαναφερθέντα θέματα, όπως το Ευρωβαρόμετρο και άλλες έρευνες της ΕΕ σχετικά με την πολιτική συμμετοχή, τις εμπειρίες και τις προκλήσεις που αντιμετωπίζουν τα νέα άτομα. Το ερωτηματολόγιο συμπληρώθηκε μέσω του εργαλείου LimeSurvey, το οποίο διασφαλίζει την ανωνυμία και την εμπιστευτικότητα. Πριν από τη συμπλήρωσή του, ζητήθηκε από τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα να δώσουν τη συγκατάθεσή τους για τη συμμετοχή τους· σε αντίθετη περίπτωση, το ερωτηματολόγιο έκλεινε αυτόματα και δεν καταγράφονταν απαντήσεις. Χρησιμοποιήθηκε δειγματοληψία ευκολίας, με τη διανομή της έρευνας στο πανεπιστήμιο μεταξύ τέλη Μαρτίου και τέλη Απριλίου 2026.

Το ερωτηματολόγιο συμπληρώθηκε από 67 άτομα από την Ελλάδα, στο πλαίσιο ενός ευρύτερου διεθνούς δείγματος 490 ερωτηθέντων ατόμων από όλες τις χώρες του προγράμματος RISE Balkans, αντιπροσωπεύοντας το 13,7% του συνολικού δείγματος. Το δείγμα αποτελείται κυρίως από γυναίκες (92,5%), ενώ το 7,46% είναι άνδρες. Περίπου τα μισά άτομα (49,25%) είναι ηλικίας 21-23 ετών, το 47,76% είναι ηλικίας 18-20 ετών και το 2,99% ανήκει στην ηλικιακή ομάδα 24-26 ετών. Η πλειονότητα (86,57%) ζει σε πόλη, το 11,94% σε ημιαστικές περιοχές και το 1,49% σε αγροτική περιοχή. Όσον αφορά το υψηλότερο επίπεδο εκπαίδευσης που έχουν ολοκληρώσει, η πλειονότητα των ατόμων (88,06%) έχει ολοκληρώσει τη δευτεροβάθμια εκπαίδευση, το 10,45% έχει πτυχίο και το 1,49% κατέχει μεταπτυχιακό. Το 97,01% δήλωσε ότι επί του παρόντος φοιτά στο πανεπιστήμιο και 38,81% εργάζεται.

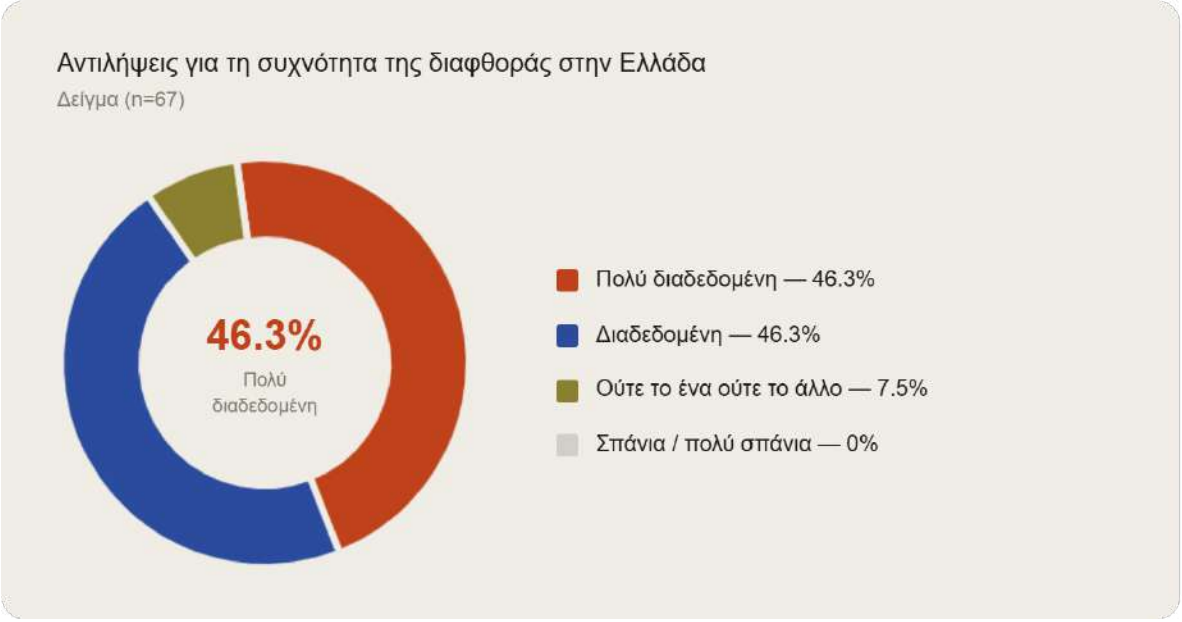
Στο πλαίσιο της ποιοτικής έρευνας, τον Απρίλιο διεξήχθη ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης με τη συμμετοχή εννέα ατόμων, ένα εκ των οποίων ήταν άνδρας και οκτώ γυναίκες. Ακολουθήθηκε δειγματοληψία ευκολίας, με ανοιχτή πρόσκληση προς φοιτητές/ριες πανεπιστημίου. Όλα τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα ενημερώθηκαν για το πεδίο και τους στόχους της έρευνας και υπέγραψαν έντυπο συγκατάθεσης, επιβεβαιώνοντας την εθελοντική συμμετοχή τους και την εμπιστευτικότητα των απαντήσεών τους. Η συζήτηση κάλυψε θέματα όπως η πολιτική παιδεία, η παιδεία στα μέσα επικοινωνίας, η εμπιστοσύνη, η πολιτική συμμετοχή, οι αντιλήψεις για τη διαφθορά και οι προτιμώμενες μορφές συμμετοχής.

Μετά την ολοκλήρωση των φάσεων της ποιοτικής και της ποσοτικής έρευνας, τον Απρίλιο του 2026 διοργανώθηκε εργαστήριο επικύρωσης με σκοπό την εξέταση των αρχικών ευρημάτων, τη συζήτηση σχετικά με το κατά πόσον αυτά ανταποκρίνονται στις εμπειρίες των συμμετεχόντων ατόμων και τον εμπλουτισμό της ανάλυσης μέσω πρόσθετων συλλογικών παρατηρήσεων. Οι παρατηρήσεις από το εργαστήριο και η επίσημη παρουσίαση των αποτελεσμάτων αποτέλεσαν τις κύριες πηγές για την ενσωμάτωση των ευρημάτων του εργαστηρίου σε όλα τα κεφάλαια της παρούσας έκθεσης. Στο εργαστήριο συμμετείχαν συνολικά 68 άτομα, εκ των οποίων πέντε άνδρες και 63 γυναίκες.

6. Ευαισθητοποίηση και κατανόηση των νέων σχετικά με την Πολιτική Συμμετοχή, την Καταπολέμηση της Διαφθοράς, τη Διαφάνεια και τη Χάραξη Πολιτικής

Αντιλήψεις για τη συχνότητα της διαφθοράς

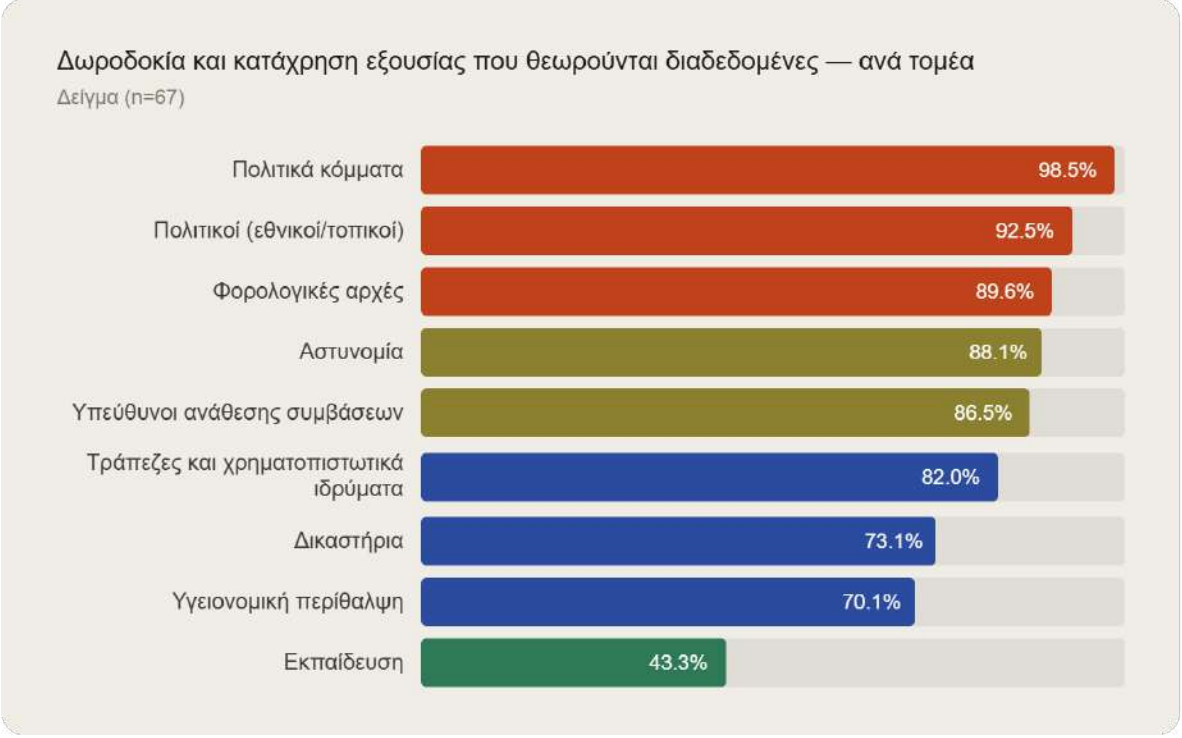
Τα αποτελέσματα της έρευνας αναδεικνύουν ότι η συντριπτική πλειονότητα του δείγματος (92,5%) χαρακτήρισε τη **διαφθορά στην Ελλάδα ως «διαδεδομένη» ή «πολύ διαδεδομένη»**, ενώ κανένα από τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα δεν την χαρακτήρισε ως «σπάνια» ή «πολύ σπάνια» (Σχήμα 1). Τα περισσότερα συμμετέχοντα άτομα συμφώνησαν ή συμφώνησαν απόλυτα ότι η διαφθορά υπάρχει στους εθνικούς (98,5%) και στους τοπικούς/περιφερειακούς δημόσιους φορείς (94,03%), ενώ λιγότερα (55,22%) δήλωσαν ότι επηρεάζονται προσωπικά από τη διαφθορά στην καθημερινή τους ζωή· το 37,31% δεν συμφώνησε ούτε διαφώνησε με τη σχετική δήλωση και το 5,97% παρέμεινε αβέβαιο. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδας εστιασμένης συζήτησης επιβεβαίωσαν αυτά τα ευρήματα, αναγνωρίζοντας ότι η διαφθορά είναι ευρέως διαδεδομένη.



Σχήμα 1 Αντιλήψεις για τη συχνότητα της διαφθοράς στην Ελλάδα

Τα **ευρήματα ανά τομέα** αναδεικνύουν ένα τοπίο σχεδόν καθολικής έλλειψης εμπιστοσύνης στους θεσμούς. Όπως φαίνεται στο Σχήμα 2, τα πολιτικά κόμματα συγκεντρώνουν τα υψηλότερα ποσοστά αντιλαμβανόμενης διαφθοράς, όσον αφορά τη δωροδοκία και την κατάχρηση εξουσίας για προσωπικό όφελος: το 98,5% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων χαρακτηρίζει τη δωροδοκία και την κατάχρηση εξουσίας για προσωπικό όφελος ως «διαδεδομένες» ή «πολύ διαδεδομένες» στα πολιτικά κόμματα. Οι φορολογικές αρχές (89,6%), η αστυνομία (88,1%), οι πολιτικοί σε όλα τα επίπεδα (92,5%) και οι υπάλληλοι που είναι αρμόδιοι για τις δημόσιες συμβάσεις (86,6%) συγκεντρώνουν σχεδόν καθολικές αντιλήψεις για τη συχνότητα της διαφθοράς. Σημαντικό μέρος των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων αναφέρει παρόμοια επίπεδα τέτοιων πρακτικών μεταξύ των υπαλλήλων που εκδίδουν οικοδομικές άδειες (76,12%)

και των ιδιωτικών εταιρειών (71,65%). Τέτοιες μορφές διαφθοράς δεν θεωρήθηκαν τόσο διαδεδομένες στις αρχές κοινωνικής ασφάλισης και πρόνοιας (56,72%) και στον τομέα του αθλητισμού (46,27%). Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης ανέφεραν ότι η διαφθορά διαπερνά όλους τους τομείς και τις πτυχές της καθημερινής ζωής, σε εθνικό, περιφερειακό και τοπικό επίπεδο. Αυτή η διάχυτη παρουσία συνδέεται, σύμφωνα με τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα, με την απουσία αποτελεσματικής κρατικής οργάνωσης και διαφάνειας, γεγονός που επιτρέπει στις πρακτικές διαφθοράς να συνεχίζονται ανενόχλητες. Μεταξύ των παραδειγμάτων που αναφέρθηκαν ήταν η διευκόλυνση αιτημάτων ψηφοφόρων εκ μέρους πολιτικών με σκοπό την εξασφάλιση περισσότερων ψήφων, καθώς και η απαίτηση παροχής χρημάτων σε δημόσια ιδρύματα υγείας προκειμένου να εκπληρώσουν τα καθήκοντά τους. Αν και παρατηρήθηκαν ορισμένες διαφορές στην κατάταξη των επιμέρους τομέων, τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης επιβεβαίωσαν ομόφωνα την αντίληψη ότι η διαφθορά είναι διαδεδομένη σε όλους τους καίριους θεσμικούς τομείς.



Σχήμα 2 Αντιλήψεις για τη συχνότητα της διαφθοράς ανά τομέα

Ο **ποιοτικός χαρακτήρας** της διαφθοράς αναδεικνύεται σαφώς από τις αξιολογήσεις των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων σχετικά με δομικές δηλώσεις. Το 97,0% συμφωνεί ή συμφωνεί απόλυτα ότι «η ευνοιοκρατία και η διαφθορά παρεμποδίζουν τον υγιή επιχειρηματικό ανταγωνισμό»· το 85,1% συμφωνεί ότι οι πολιτικές διασυνδέσεις είναι απαραίτητες για την επιχειρηματική επιτυχία· και το 77,6% συμφωνεί ότι οι στενοί δεσμοί μεταξύ επιχειρήσεων και πολιτικής οδηγούν σε διαφθορά. Μόνο το 4,5% συμφωνεί ότι οι δημόσιοι φορείς εξηγούν συνήθως τις διαδικασίες με σαφήνεια (το 68,65% διαφωνεί ή διαφωνεί απόλυτα, και το 25,37% ούτε συμφωνεί ούτε διαφωνεί), και το 79,1% πιστεύει ότι τα νέα άτομα δεν μπορούν να έχουν δίκαιη πρόσβαση στις δημόσιες υπηρεσίες χωρίς προσωπικές διασυνδέσεις· το

88,06% συμφώνησε ότι οι δημόσιες διαδικασίες θα έπρεπε να είναι πιο κατανοητές και πιο εύκολες στην εφαρμογή.

Τα άτομα που συμπλήρωσαν το ερωτηματολόγιο αναγνώρισαν, ακόμη, τους παρακάτω **τομείς στους οποίους τα νέα άτομα είναι πιο πιθανό να αντιμετωπίσουν διαφθορά, ευνοιοκρατία ή άδικη μεταχείριση**: απασχόληση και πρόσληψη (87,07%), πολιτική ζωή ή συμμετοχή σε πολιτικά κόμματα (34,33%), δημόσια διοίκηση, άδειες και έγγραφα (31,34%), υγειονομική περίθαλψη ή άλλες δημόσιες υπηρεσίες (16,42%), εκπαίδευση και πανεπιστήμια (13,43%) και τοπική αυτοδιοίκηση και δημοτικές υπηρεσίες (10,45%).

Γνώση και κατανόηση

Τα αποτελέσματα της έρευνας αναδεικνύουν **μια μερική και άνιση κατανόηση του τρόπου λειτουργίας της διακυβέρνησης**. Η πλειονότητα των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων έχει τουλάχιστον κάποια γνώση σχετικά με την εθνική κυβέρνηση — το 56,7% γνωρίζει «κάποια πράγματα» και το 37,3% γνωρίζει «αρκετά» ή «πολλά». Η κατανόηση μειώνεται δραστικά όταν πρόκειται για την τοπική αυτοδιοίκηση, με το 14,9% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων να δηλώνουν ότι γνωρίζουν πολλά, ενώ η γνώση για τα θεσμικά όργανα της ΕΕ είναι η πιο περιορισμένη από όλες, με το 41,8% να δηλώνει ότι γνωρίζει «όχι πάρα πολλά» ή «καθόλου».



Σχήμα 3 Πόσα γνωρίζουν τα νέα άτομα για τις δομές διακυβέρνησης

Η εξοικείωση με βασικούς μηχανισμούς της πολιτικής ζωής είναι περιορισμένη. Συνολικά, το 73,1% δηλώνει ότι δεν είναι «καθόλου» ή είναι μόνο «ελαφρώς» εξοικειωμένο με τον τρόπο λειτουργίας των εθνικών νομοθετικών διαδικασιών, ενώ το ποσοστό αυτό ανέρχεται στο 92,5% όσον αφορά τη νομοθετική διαδικασία της ΕΕ. Ομοίως, το 74,62% δήλωσε ελαφρώς ή καθόλου εξοικειωμένο με την έννοια και τις πτυχές μιας δημόσιας διαβούλευσης, ενώ το 13,44% ήταν εξαιρετικά ή πολύ εξοικειωμένο. Το 61,2% ανέφερε ότι ήταν ελαφρώς ή καθόλου εξοικειωμένο σχετικά με το πού μπορεί να βρει πληροφορίες αναφορικά με ευκαιρίες συμμετοχής στην κοινότητα ή στο πανεπιστήμιό του, ενώ το 30% ήταν μέτρια εξοικειωμένο.

Η έννοια της **δημόσιας διαβούλευσης** είναι ιδιαίτερα ελλιπώς κατανοητή: το 40,3% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων επέλεξε την «ψήφο σε εθνικές εκλογές» όταν κλήθηκε να προσδιορίσει έναν μηχανισμό δημόσιας διαβούλευσης, ενώ μόνο το 32,8% αναγνώρισε σωστά την υποβολή γραπτών σχολίων κατά τη διάρκεια μιας επίσημης περιόδου διαβούλευσης. Ένας μικρότερος αριθμός (5,97%) χαρακτήρισε τα σχόλια στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης σχετικά με μια κυβερνητική πολιτική ως μηχανισμό διαβούλευσης, ενώ το 17,91% δεν γνώριζε την απάντηση. Η γνώση των ειδικών εργαλείων της ΕΕ είναι ακόμη πιο περιορισμένη: μόλις το 16,4 % αναγνώρισε σωστά την πύλη «Have Your Say» της Επιτροπής ως μηχανισμό συλλογής σχολίων, ενώ η πλειονότητα (47,76 %) ανέφερε ότι τα δημοψηφίσματα σε κάθε χώρα της ΕΕ χρησιμοποιούνται συνήθως για τον σκοπό αυτό· το 32,84 % δεν γνώριζε.

Όσον αφορά τις **νομοθετικές διαδικασίες**, τα περισσότερα άτομα πιστεύουν ότι η εθνική νομοθεσία προτείνεται κυρίως από Μέλη του Κοινοβουλίου (85,07%), υπουργούς ή την κυβέρνηση (64,18%) και πολίτες μέσω αναφορών (petitions), σε περίπτωση που συγκεντρωθεί μεγάλος αριθμός υπογραφών (50,75%). Ορισμένα άτομα αναγνώρισαν επίσης τα δημοτικά συμβούλια (20,9%) ως φορείς που συμμετέχουν σε μια τέτοια διαδικασία. Αντίστοιχα, το 50,75 % δήλωσε ότι το Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο διαδραματίζει τον σχετικό ρόλο στις διαδικασίες της ΕΕ, το 17,91 % πιστεύει ότι η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή είναι ο κύριος φορέας που προτείνει την ευρωπαϊκή νομοθεσία, το 10,45 % ανέφερε το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και το 2,99 % το Δικαστήριο της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης ως κύριους φορείς· το 17,91 % δεν ήταν σίγουρο.

Παρότι τα περισσότερα ερωτηθέντα άτομα (67,16%) απάντησαν σωστά ότι οι πολίτες **μπορούν να υποβάλουν σχόλια ή προτάσεις σχετικά με μία πρόταση νέου νόμου**, το 7,46% απάντησε το αντίθετο και το 25,37% δεν γνώριζε. Από τα άτομα που απάντησαν θετικά, το 52,24% δήλωσε ότι αυτό μπορεί να γίνει κατά τη φάση της δημόσιας διαβούλευσης ή της ακρόασης, το 7,46% αναφέρθηκε σε διαδηλώσεις στους δρόμους και το 4,48% ανέφερε ότι αυτό μπορεί να γίνει μόνο μετά την ψήφιση ενός νόμου· το 19,4% δεν ήταν σίγουρο.

Όσον αφορά τα **κανάλια συμμετοχής**, τα άτομα που απάντησαν το διαδικτυακό ερωτηματολόγιο δήλωσαν ότι γνωρίζουν την ύπαρξη μαθητικών συμβουλίων και φοιτητικών εκπροσώπων (88,06%), εθελοντικών δραστηριοτήτων και κοινοτικών πρωτοβουλιών (64,18%), δράσεων που διοργανώνουν οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών (56,72%), τις αναφορές προς υπογραφή (50,75 %), τα συμβούλια νεολαίας και τα συμβουλευτικά όργανα (44,78 %), τις δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις που διοργανώνουν οι αρχές (32,84 %), την επικοινωνία με εκλεγμένους/ες εκπροσώπους ή δημόσιες αρχές (26,87 %) και τα κανάλια αναφοράς για περιπτώσεις δυσμενούς μεταχείρισης ή ανησυχιών σχετικά με τη διαφθορά (25,37 %). Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης περιέγραψαν τη συμμετοχή ως την ενεργό εμπλοκή σε διαδικασίες λήψης αποφάσεων και διάλογο μέσω διαφόρων καναλιών, συμπεριλαμβανομένου του δήμου, εθελοντικών πρωτοβουλιών – που οργανώνονται από τον δήμο και οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών –, πολιτιστικών συλλόγων, που έχουν ιδρυθεί για παράδειγμα σε επαρχιακές περιοχές, καθώς και άλλων συλλόγων που οργανώνονται από πολίτες, της ψήφου, του αθλητισμού, των διαδηλώσεων και της ενεργού εμπλοκής στις αντίστοιχες διαδικασίες εντός του πανεπιστημίου. Σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα μίλησαν για τις αναφορές που μπορούν να υποστηρίξουν την εισαγωγή νέων νομικών διατάξεων. Ένα συμμετέχον άτομο ανέφερε περιπτώσεις όπου έχει την ευκαιρία να συζητήσει με ομοτίμους εντός του ιδρύματος, ενώ ένα άλλο συμπλήρωσε ότι η

συμμετοχή συνεπάγεται ενασχόληση με ζητήματα που αφορούν την κοινωνία και τους πολίτες της. Μεταξύ των πιο χαρακτηριστικών παραδειγμάτων που αναφέρθηκαν ήταν οι πρωτοβουλίες ενός Δήμου για τη στήριξη ατόμων των οποίων τα σπίτια υπέστησαν ζημιές από πυρκαγιά, καθώς και η συμμετοχή στις διαμαρτυρίες για ένα σιδηροδρομικό ατύχημα που είχε ως αποτέλεσμα τον θάνατο 57 ατόμων. Μεταξύ των οργανώσεων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών που αναφέρθηκαν περιλαμβάνονται η Humanity Greece, οι Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα, το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού και η οργάνωση Γίνε Άνθρωπος. Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης επιβεβαίωσαν αυτά τα παραδείγματα και πρόσθεσαν την αναφορά περιπτώσεων διαφθοράς, καθώς και την εκπαίδευση και κατάρτιση σχετικά με τα παραπάνω.

Όσον αφορά την εξοικείωση με **βασικές έννοιες που σχετίζονται με την καταπολέμηση της διαφθοράς**, η «παραπληροφόρηση» ξεχωρίζει ως η πιο γνωστή, ακολουθούμενη από τη σύγκρουση συμφερόντων, τη διαφθορά και την καταγγελία παραβάσεων. Όροι όπως η πραγματική ιδιοκτησία (67,17 % μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση), οι δημόσιες συμβάσεις (68,65 % μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση), η Ευρωπαϊκή Εισαγγελία (79,1 % μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση), η άσκηση πίεσης (55,23 % μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση), η απάτη κατά της ΕΕ (64,18% μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση) και η χρηστή διακυβέρνηση (58,21% μικρή/καθόλου εξοικείωση) είναι σε μεγάλο βαθμό άγνωστοι.



Σχήμα 4 Εξοικείωση με βασικούς όρους

Αυτή η περιορισμένη εξοικείωση με βασικές έννοιες επιβεβαιώθηκε τόσο από την ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης όσο και από το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης. Για ορισμένους όρους, όπως το κράτος δικαίου, τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα μπορούσαν να δώσουν έναν γενικό ορισμό, αλλά δεν μπορούσαν να παράσχουν συγκεκριμένα παραδείγματα ή να αναλύσουν περαιτέρω τον όρο. Ομοίως, τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο αναγνώρισαν την παραπληροφόρηση ως την πιο ευρέως

αναγνωρισμένη έννοια και επιβεβαίωσαν τα χαμηλά επίπεδα γνώσης όλων των υπόλοιπων όρων που αφορούν τη διακυβέρνηση και την καταπολέμηση της διαφθοράς. Σημείωσαν επίσης ότι η έλλειψη διαφάνειας των διαδικασιών διακυβέρνησης βιώνεται όχι απλώς ως κάτι ενοχλητικό, αλλά ως ένα σκόπιμο χαρακτηριστικό των θεσμών που δεν επιθυμούν να λογοδοτούν.

Όταν ρωτήθηκαν αν γνωρίζουν την **ύπαρξη φορέων ή κρατικών αρχών καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς στην Ελλάδα**, το 49,3% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων απάντησε ότι δεν γνώριζε κανέναν. Ένα επιπλέον 29,9% είχε ακούσει για κάποιους, αλλά δεν μπορούσε να τους ονομάσει, ενώ μόνο το 19,4% μπόρεσε να ονομάσει τουλάχιστον έναν φορέα.

7. Εμπόδια και Παράγοντες που Ευνοούν τη Συμμετοχή

Συμμετοχή των νέων

Ένα από τα πιο εντυπωσιακά ευρήματα της παρούσας έρευνας είναι η βαθιά ασυμφωνία μεταξύ του ενδιαφέροντος των νέων για την κοινωνική ζωή και της γνώσης που έχουν σχετικά με τους τρόπους με τους οποίους μπορούν να συμμετάσχουν. Όταν ρωτήθηκαν πόσο ενδιαφέρονται για τα δημόσια ζητήματα και τη λήψη αποφάσεων που επηρεάζουν τη ζωή τους, **το 68,7% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων ανέφερε ότι «ενδιαφέρεται πολύ» (38,8%) ή «πάρα πολύ» (29,9%)**. Κανένα άτομο δεν επέλεξε την απάντηση «καθόλου». Ωστόσο, το 22,39% δήλωσε ότι **αγνοεί εντελώς τους τρόπους με τους οποίους τα νέα άτομα μπορούν να συμμετέχουν στη δημόσια ζωή**, το 31,34% αισθάνεται ελαφρώς ενημερωμένο και το 43,28% μέτρια ενημερωμένο· μόνο το 2,99% δήλωσε ότι είναι πολύ ενημερωμένο. Ταυτόχρονα, η πλειονότητα δεν είχε συμμετάσχει ποτέ σε δημόσια διαβούλευση: το 50,75% δήλωσε ότι δεν γνωρίζει πώς, το 38,81% εξέφρασε την προθυμία να συμμετάσχει εάν του δοθεί η ευκαιρία και το 4,48% δεν ενδιαφερόταν.

Όσον αφορά τη **συμμετοχή τους στα κοινά κατά το έτος που προηγήθηκε της έρευνας**, τα νέα άτομα ανέφεραν ότι ψήφισαν σε εκλογές (35,82%), παρακολούθησαν κάποια συνάντηση ή εκδήλωση πολιτών, νεολαίας ή της τοπικής κοινότητας (23,88%), υπέγραψαν κάποια αναφορά/αίτηση, υποστήριξαν κάποια εκστρατεία ή συμμετείχαν εθελοντικά σε κάποια κοινοτική ή κοινωνική πρωτοβουλία (17,91%), συμμετείχαν σε μαθητικό, νεανικό ή πανεπιστημιακό αντιπροσωπευτικό όργανο (16,42%), συμμετείχαν σε διαδικτυακή εκστρατεία, συζήτηση ή διαβούλευση σχετικά με ένα δημόσιο ζήτημα (13,43%) και επικοινώνησαν με δημόσια αρχή, ίδρυμα ή εκπρόσωπο (11,94%). Το 23,88% δεν είχε συμμετάσχει σε καμία από αυτές τις δραστηριότητες. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης πρόσθεσαν ότι είχαν υπογράψει αιτήσεις, αναφέροντας ως παράδειγμα μια εκστρατεία για τα δικαιώματα σχετικά με την άμβλωση.

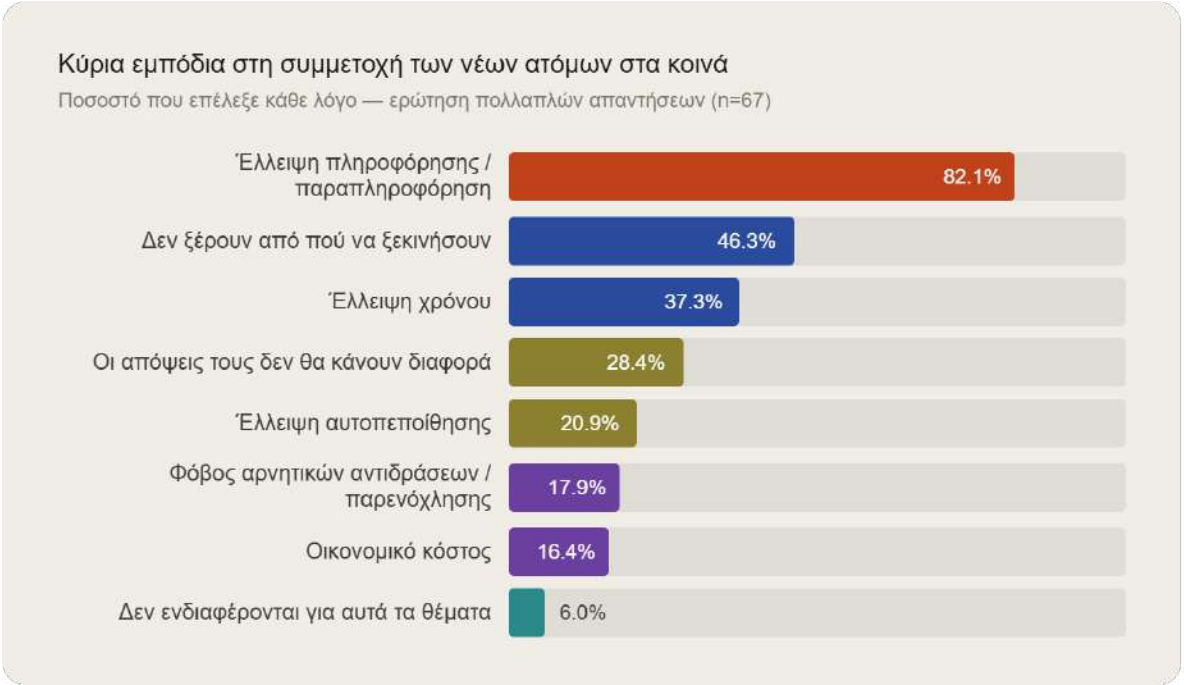
Τα άτομα που απάντησαν το ερωτηματολόγιο ανέφεραν τις διαδικτυακές ειδησεογραφικές ιστοσελίδες (58,21%) **ως την κύρια πηγή πολιτικής ενημέρωσης και ειδήσεων**, ακολουθούμενες από τα βίντεο στο TikTok και τους/τις influencers (34,33%), την τηλεόραση (31,34%), τα Reels και τα Stories στο Instagram (20,9%), τις επίσημες κυβερνητικές ιστοσελίδες (19,4%) και το πολιτικό περιεχόμενο στο YouTube (16,42%). Ορισμένα άτομα ανέφεραν επίσης αναρτήσεις και ομάδες στο Facebook (4,48%), κανάλια και ομάδες στο Telegram, καθώς και το ραδιόφωνο (2,99%). Οι τοποθετήσεις στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης σχετικά με τις πηγές πληροφοριών ήταν μία από τις πιο πλούσιες συζητήσεις της ομάδας. Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα εξέφρασαν αυτό που γρήγορα εξελίχθηκε σε ομαδική παραδοχή: τα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης — TikTok, Instagram, Facebook — αποτελούν το κύριο περιβάλλον πληροφόρησης για τη γενιά τους, όχι επειδή τα εμπιστεύονται χωρίς κριτική, αλλά επειδή εκεί φτάνουν οι πληροφορίες χωρίς να καταβάλλουν σκόπιμη προσπάθεια. Τα παραδοσιακά έντυπα μέσα ενημέρωσης έχουν ουσιαστικά πάψει να υπάρχουν ως πρωταρχική πηγή πληροφοριών.

> ***«Και από το Instagram και από το Facebook και από το TikTok πλέον κάνουν λογαριασμούς οι εφημερίδες, οι δημοσιογράφοι. [..] Και καλά κάνουν, γιατί δεν νομίζω ότι υπάρχει κάποιος στην ηλικία μας που θα πάει στο περίπτερο και θα πει, "δώστε μου μια εφημερίδα να δω τα νέα," ας πούμε.» Συμμετέχουσα στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης***

Ορισμένα συμμετέχοντα άτομα περιέγραψαν τη χρήση των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης ως έναυσμα και όχι ως πηγή. Όταν κάτι τραβά την προσοχή τους στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, όπως το TikTok, ανοίγουν διάφορους ειδησεογραφικούς ιστότοπους για να επαληθεύσουν αν είναι αληθινό, προβαίνοντας σε διασταύρωση πληροφοριών πριν διαμορφώσουν την άποψή τους. Εξήγησαν ότι ο μεγάλος αριθμός Likes δεν επηρεάζει το αν πιστεύουν κάτι, αλλά το αν το ερευνούν περαιτέρω, αντιμετωπίζοντας τη ιογενή διάδοση ως ένδειξη σχετικότητας και όχι αλήθειας. Ένα συμμετέχον άτομο παρέθεσε το πιο συγκεκριμένο παράδειγμα κρυφής πολιτικής επιρροής: περιέγραψε ότι ανακάλυψε τυχαία ότι ένας influencer στο TikTok τον οποίο ακολουθούσε, ο οποίος επαινούσε συνεχώς ένα συγκεκριμένο πολιτικό κόμμα, ήταν στην πραγματικότητα συγγενής ενός υψηλόβαθμου μέλους του κόμματος αυτού, χωρίς να έχει αποκαλύψει αυτή τη σχέση. Το παράδειγμα αυτό αποτυπώνει κάτι σημαντικό σχετικά με τις συνθήκες ενημέρωσης υπό τις οποίες τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα διαμορφώνουν τις πολιτικές τους απόψεις: η επιρροή είναι διάχυτη, η αποκάλυψη σπάνια, και το όριο μεταξύ αυθεντικού περιεχομένου και κρυφών πολιτικών μηνυμάτων συχνά παραμένει σκοπίμως θολό. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης διευκρίνισαν ότι το TikTok και το Instagram είναι οι δύο πιο διαδεδομένες πλατφόρμες που χρησιμοποιεί η νεολαία για να έχει πρόσβαση σε πληροφορίες.

Εμπόδια

Η έρευνα εντοπίζει ένα εντυπωσιακά κυρίαρχο εμπόδιο: **το 82,1% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων ανέφερε την έλλειψη σαφών πληροφοριών ή την ύπαρξη παραπληροφόρησης** ως κύριο λόγο για τον οποίο η συμμετοχή είναι δύσκολη — ένα ποσοστό που επισκιάζει τα λοιπά εμπόδια που τέθηκαν στο ερωτηματολόγιο ως παραδείγματα και που είναι πάνω από δεκατρείς φορές υψηλότερο από το ποσοστό όσων ανέφεραν έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος (6%). Το δεύτερο εμπόδιο, «Δεν ξέρω από πού να ξεκινήσω», αναφέρθηκε από το 46,3%, ακολουθούμενο από την έλλειψη χρόνου με 37,3%. Ένα άλλο 8,96% αναφέρθηκε σε ζητήματα προσβασιμότητας, όσον αφορά τις ευκαιρίες που είναι πολύ μακριά ή δύσκολα προσβάσιμες.



Σχήμα 5 Εμπόδια στην πολιτική συμμετοχή των νέων

Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης υπογράμμισαν την έλλειψη σαφών πληροφοριών και τη βαριά γραφειοκρατία που συχνά συνδέεται με τη συμμετοχή στα κοινά. Αναφέρθηκε επίσης η έλλειψη απτής επίδρασης, με το παράδειγμα της ψήφου, καθώς και η κοινή αντίληψη ότι αυτή η μορφή συμμετοχής δεν οδηγεί σε πραγματική, ουσιαστική αλλαγή. Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα περιέγραψαν επίσης ένα γενικό κλίμα απαισιοδοξίας που επικρατεί στη γενιά τους, επηρεασμένο από την κακή διαχείριση του εκλογικού συστήματος, για παράδειγμα, με τη μορφή οδηγιών προς τους ηλικιωμένους να ψηφίσουν ένα συγκεκριμένο κόμμα. Μια άλλη σημαντική πτυχή που τέθηκε ήταν η περιορισμένη διάδοση και επικοινωνία των σχετικών δράσεων, οι οποίες συχνά δεν φτάνουν στα νέα άτομα. Η έλλειψη εμπιστοσύνης, η οποία συσχετίζεται σε μεγάλο βαθμό με την έλλειψη διαφάνειας, ήταν ένα άλλο θέμα που τέθηκε. Ένα άτομο ανέφερε ότι σε πολλές δράσεις που συγκεντρώνουν χρήματα ή έχουν κόστος συμμετοχής, η εν λόγω έλλειψη διαφάνειας οδηγεί σε αμφισβήτηση της χρήσης των χρημάτων. Τέλος, τα νέα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστίασης δήλωσαν ότι η έλλειψη ενθάρρυνσης και κινήτρων έχει αρνητικές επιπτώσεις στα ποσοστά συμμετοχής.

Το εμπόδιο της έλλειψης πληροφοριών και της παραπληροφόρησης επιβαρύνεται επίσης από την **έλλειψη εμπιστοσύνης** σε διάφορα κανάλια, παρά τη χρήση τους για την πρόσβαση σε πληροφορίες. Τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα δήλωσαν ότι έχουν ελάχιστη ή καθόλου εμπιστοσύνη στους/στις influencers του TikTok και στα meme και τις ιστορίες του Instagram (76,12%), καθώς και στα κανάλια και τις ομάδες του Telegram (59,71%), στους/στις τοπικούς/ές δημοσιογράφους και στις επίσημες εκλογικές ανακοινώσεις (56,7%). Τα κανάλια που αναγνωρίστηκαν ως τα πιο αξιόπιστα ήταν τα διεθνή νέα (43,28% έχουν αρκετή ή πλήρη εμπιστοσύνη και 46,27% δείχνουν κάποια εμπιστοσύνη) και οι επίσημες κυβερνητικές πηγές (40,3% τις εμπιστεύονται πολύ ή πλήρως και 31,34% σε κάποιο βαθμό).

Τα στοιχεία σχετικά με το πλαίσιο στο οποίο τα νέα άτομα **ήρθαν για τελευταία φορά σε επαφή με πολιτικό περιεχόμενο που επηρέασε τις ενέργειές τους** επιβεβαιώνουν την κυριαρχία των πλατφορμών οπτικού περιεχομένου μικρού μήκους στο περιβάλλον πολιτικής ενημέρωσης της ελληνικής νεολαίας. Το TikTok αναδεικνύεται ως η κορυφαία πλατφόρμα με σημαντική διαφορά, καθώς το ανέφερε το 38,81% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων, ακολουθούμενο από το Instagram (28,36%) και το YouTube (13,43%). Το Facebook και το Twitter/X καταλαμβάνουν το 8,96% έκαστο, ενώ το Telegram καταγράφει μόλις 1,49%.

Οι **επιπτώσεις αυτής της έκθεσης** αποκαλύπτουν ένα μοτίβο που είναι ταυτόχρονα ανησυχητικό και πολυδιάστατο. Η πιο συχνά αναφερόμενη επίπτωση είναι η διακοπή των δωρεών σε φιλανθρωπικούς σκοπούς μετά την έκθεση σε σκάνδαλα, όπως ανέφερε το 52,24% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων — η μεγαλύτερη μεμονωμένη απάντηση μεταξύ όλων των επιλογών πολιτικής συμμετοχής. Η δεύτερη πιο συχνά αναφερόμενη επίπτωση είναι η συμμετοχή σε διαδηλώσεις ως αντίδραση σε περιεχόμενο που έγινε viral (28,36%), ακολουθούμενη από τη μείωση του εθελοντισμού λόγω της δυσπιστίας που σχετίζεται με τη διαφθορά (26,87%). Ένα επιπλέον 19,40% ανέφερε ότι έχει υπογράψει αιτήσεις ως απάντηση σε εκστρατείες στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, ενώ το 11,94% περιέγραψε αυξημένο ακτιβισμό μετά από εκκλήσεις για δράση από influencers.

Η **εκλογική διάσταση** των δεδομένων είναι ιδιαίτερα σημαντική. Το 35,82% δήλωσε ότι άλλαξε την προτίμησή του ως προς κάποιον/α υποψήφιο/α λόγω περιεχομένου στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης

— η υψηλότερη μεμονωμένη απάντηση —, ακολουθούμενο από το 31,34% που δήλωσε ότι αισθάνεται λιγότερο πιθανό να ψηφίσει λόγω ισχυρισμών σχετικά με τη διαφθορά, και το 23,88% που σκέφτηκε να μποϊκοτάρει τις εκλογές. Επιπλέον, το 16,42% ανέφερε ότι μοιράστηκε περιεχόμενο σχετικά με εκλογική απάτη, ενώ το 3% ότι εγγράφηκε αργά λόγω των σχετικών αναρτήσεων κινητοποίησης.

Τα άτομα που συμπλήρωσαν το ερωτηματολόγιο ρωτήθηκαν **πόσο συχνά συναντούν πέντε κατηγορίες περιεχομένου παραπληροφόρησης κατά τη γενική χρήση των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης**. Τα αποτελέσματα αποκαλύπτουν ένα τοπίο διαρκούς έκθεσης. Οι ισχυρισμοί ότι η διαφθορά δικαιολογεί την πολιτική αποστασιοποίηση αποτελούν το περιεχόμενο που συναντάται πιο συχνά: το 37,31% το συναντά «συχνά» και ένα επιπλέον 4,48% «πάντα», καθιστώντας το, το πιο επίμονο αφήγημα παραπληροφόρησης στα feed των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων. Περιεχόμενο που αμφισβητεί τη δικαιοσύνη των εκλογών παρατηρείται «συχνά» ή «πάντα» από το 29,85%, ενώ αφηγήσεις όπως «οι ισχυροί ηγέτες είναι καλύτεροι από τη δημοκρατία» συναντώνται τουλάχιστον μερικές φορές από το 52,24%. Μοντέλα διακυβέρνησης άλλων χωρών που προωθούνται έναντι των κανόνων της ΕΕ εμφανίζονται «μερικές φορές» ή συχνότερα στο 56,72% — ένα εύρημα που αξίζει να σημειωθεί δεδομένου του γεωπολιτικού πλαισίου. Αντίθετα, περιεχόμενο που σχετίζεται με το μποϊκοτάζ των εκλογών από διασημότητες ή influencers εμφανίζεται λιγότερο, με το 74,62% να αναφέρει ότι το βλέπει «ποτέ» ή «σπάνια» — γεγονός που υποδηλώνει ότι οι ρητές, ονομαστικές εκστρατείες μποϊκοτάζ έχουν χαμηλότερη διείσδυση από τις πιο διάχυτες αντιθεσμικές αφηγήσεις.

Τα **στοιχεία σχετικά με την προεκλογική παραπληροφόρηση** αποτελούν ένα από τα πιο ανησυχητικά τμήματα του συνόλου των δεδομένων. Οι ισχυρισμοί για υποτιθέμενη διαφθορά στις διαδικασίες επιλογής υποψηφίων συναντώνται «συχνά» ή «πάντα» από το 59,70% — σχεδόν έξι στα δέκα άτομα — γεγονός που καθιστά τέτοιου είδους περιεχόμενο την πιο διαδεδομένη μορφή προεκλογικής παραπληροφόρησης. Οι ισχυρισμοί περί νοθείας συναντώνται «συχνά» ή «πάντα» από το 47,77%, ενώ οι ισχυρισμοί ότι «η ψήφος σου δεν έχει σημασία» από το 47,76%. Περιεχόμενο που προωθεί την αποχή από τις εκλογές ως μορφή διαμαρτυρίας συναντάται τουλάχιστον μερικές φορές από το 68,66% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων, με το 35,82% να το βλέπει «συχνά» ή «πάντα». Τα deepfake βίντεο ή τα βίντεο που δημιουργούνται με τεχνητή νοημοσύνη, στα οποία υποψήφιοι/ες εκθέτουν ψευδείς δηλώσεις, παρατηρούνται «μερικές φορές» ή και περισσότερο από το 64,19%.

Παράγοντες που ευνοούν τη συμμετοχή

Όταν ρωτήθηκαν ποιες δράσεις θεωρούν πιο αποτελεσματικές για να ακουστούν οι φωνές των νέων από τους/τις υπεύθυνους/ες λήψης αποφάσεων, τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα έθεσαν τα επίσημα θεσμικά κανάλια σαφώς πάνω από τα άτυπα και τα ψηφιακά — ένα εύρημα που αμφισβητεί άμεσα την παραδοχή, κοινή τόσο στον πολιτικό λόγο όσο και στην ακαδημαϊκή βιβλιογραφία, ότι η νεολαία έχει απομακρυνθεί από την επίσημη συμμετοχή υπέρ του ψηφιακού ακτιβισμού. Οι δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις και ακροάσεις αναγνωρίζονται ως ο πιο αποτελεσματικός μηχανισμός από το 47,76%, ακολουθούμενες από την ψήφο στις εκλογές και τη συμμετοχή σε οργανώσεις νεολαίας, ΜΚΟ ή πρωτοβουλίες πολιτών, οι οποίες κατατάχθηκαν εξίσου στη δεύτερη θέση των πιο συχνά αναφερόμενων απαντήσεων, με ποσοστό 29,85% έκαστη. Ο εθελοντισμός και η κοινοτική δράση, καθώς και η άμεση επαφή με τις δημόσιες αρχές ή τους/τις εκλεγμένους/ες εκπροσώπους, ακολουθούν με 25,37% έκαστη, υποδηλώνοντας μια σχετικά συνεκτική εικόνα των θεσμικών και κοινοτικών διαύλων ως των μέσων που θεωρούνται αποτελεσματικά για την έκφραση της φωνής των νέων ατόμων. Το εντυπωσιακό εύρημα βρίσκεται στο κάτω μέρος της

κατάταξης. Η ανταλλαγή απόψεων μέσω διαδικτυακών εκστρατειών ή κοινωνικής δικτύωσης αναγνωρίζεται ως αποτελεσματική μόνο από το 7,46% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων — το χαμηλότερο ποσοστό από όλες τις επιλογές δράσης, χαμηλότερο ακόμη και από την υπογραφή αιτήσεων (11,94%) και τις ειρηνικές διαδηλώσεις (11,94%).

Όταν ρωτήθηκαν τι θα τους βοηθούσε να συμμετέχουν περισσότερο, τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα ανέφεραν ως σημαντικότερο παράγοντα την παροχή σαφών και απλών πληροφοριών σχετικά με τον τρόπο συμμετοχής (73,1%). Ακολούθησε η εμπιστοσύνη στις πληροφορίες σχετικά με την κοινωνική ζωή με ποσοστό 50,7% και η παροχή πρακτικών οδηγιών ή καθοδήγησης με 47,8%. Το 23,9% ανέφερε την ανάγκη για καλύτερη ενημέρωση σχετικά με τον τρόπο με τον οποίο αξιοποιούνται στην πράξη οι απόψεις τους.



Σχήμα 6 Παράγοντες που ευνοούν την νεανική συμμετοχή στα κοινά

Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης τόνισαν την ανάγκη για σαφείς κατευθυντήριες γραμμές και απλές, διαφανείς διαδικασίες. Επιπλέον, επεσήμαναν ότι τα νέα άτομα πρέπει να συμμετέχουν σε δράσεις όπου μπορούν να διαπιστώσουν απτό αντίκτυπο και συγκεκριμένα αποτελέσματα, προκειμένου να ξεπεραστεί η ευρέως διαδεδομένη αντίληψη ότι «τίποτα δεν μπορεί να αλλάξει» — μια πεποίθηση που, αν δεν αντιμετωπιστεί, μειώνει σημαντικά την κοινωνική συμμετοχή.

> ***'Θα έπρεπε να είναι μια βατή διαδικασία, να μπορεί οποιοσδήποτε να συμμετέχει. Να μην είναι μια διαδικασία που από μόνη της δυσκολεύει, γιατί ίσως αποθαρρύνει έτσι κάποιον αυτό και μόνο.' Συμμετέχουσα στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης***

Η προσβασιμότητα αναδείχθηκε ως ένα σημαντικό ζήτημα τόσο στην ομάδα εστίασης όσο και στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης. Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα υπογράμμισαν τη σημασία των επιλογών διαδικτυακής συμμετοχής και των φυσικά προσβάσιμων πλαισίων εκτός διαδικτύου, λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τις ανάγκες των ατόμων με αναπηρίες. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης ανέφεραν

συγκεκριμένα τις ανάγκες συμπερίληψης της ΛΟΑΤΚΙΑ+ κοινότητας, επισημαίνοντας τη χρήση συμπεριληπτικής ή ουδέτερης ως προς το φύλο γλώσσας, καθώς και τη διαθεσιμότητα χώρων ουδέτερων ως προς το φύλο, ως συγκεκριμένες προϋποθέσεις για μια πραγματικά συμπεριληπτική συμμετοχή. Η παροχή πληροφοριών επισημάνθηκε και στις δύο δράσεις: τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα στην ομάδα εστίασης εξήγησαν ότι η ενημέρωση σχετικά με τις ευκαιρίες συμμετοχής συνδέεται άρρηκτα με τις αποφάσεις των νέων να συμμετάσχουν και ότι θα πρέπει να διατηρείται και να παρέχεται συνεχώς σε διαφορετικά πλαίσια και μορφές, με απλή, προσβάσιμη γλώσσα και σε μορφές κατάλληλες για την ηλικία τους. Σημείωσαν επίσης ότι η μείωση του πρακτικού κόστους συμμετοχής αποτελεί σημαντικό παράγοντα διευκόλυνσης.

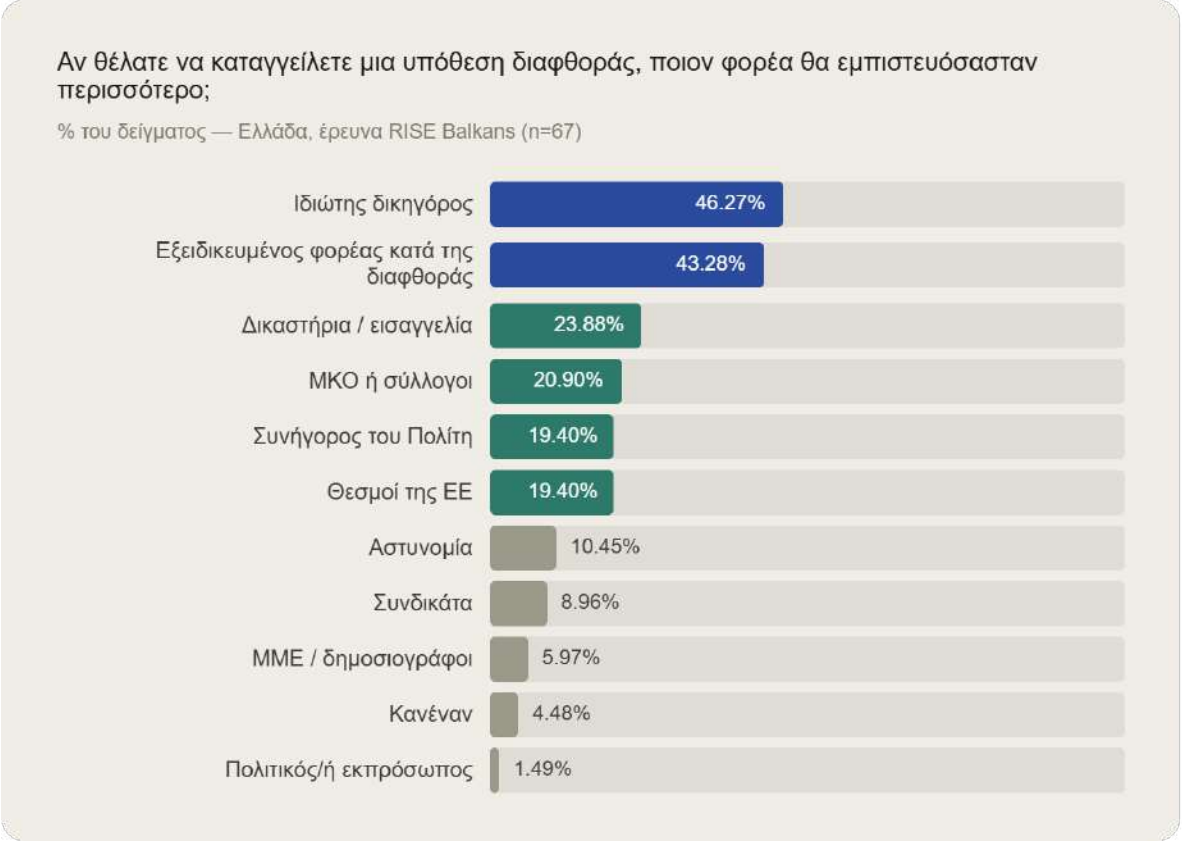
8. Διαφάνεια, Ακεραιότητα και Εμπιστοσύνη

Αντιμετώπιση της διαφθοράς

Παρά τις προκλήσεις που εντοπίστηκαν, όταν ρωτήθηκαν αν πιστεύουν ότι **τα νέα άτομα μπορούν να συμβάλουν στη μείωση της διαφθοράς στην Ελλάδα**, το 88,06% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων απάντησε θετικά — με το 47,76% να απαντά «πιθανώς ναι» και το 40,30% «σίγουρα ναι». Μόνο το 7,46% εξέφρασε σκεπτικισμό («πιθανώς όχι» στο 5,97% και «σίγουρα όχι» στο 1,49%), ενώ μόλις το 4,48% δήλωσε ότι δεν γνωρίζει.

Από την άλλη, περισσότερο από το μισό δείγμα (52,2%) δήλωσε ότι θα ένιωθε «πολύ **ανασφαλή**» και ένα επιπλέον 13,4% «αρκετά ανασφαλή» να **καταγγείλει περιστατικά διαφθοράς ή άδικης μεταχείρισης στα οποία εμπλέκεται δημόσιος φορέας**. Μόνο το 6% θα ένιωθε ασφαλές σε οποιοδήποτε βαθμό. Για την **υποστήριξη των νέων ατόμων να νιώθουν πιο ασφαλείς** σε μια τέτοια διαδικασία, τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα προσδιόρισαν μια σαφή ιεράρχηση αναγκών. Οι επιλογές ανώνυμης καταγγελίας επιλέχθηκαν από το μεγαλύτερο ποσοστό των ερωτηθέντων (79,10%), γεγονός που αντικατοπτρίζει τον βαθμό στον οποίο ο φόβος ταυτοποίησης αποτελεί το κύριο εμπόδιο στην καταγγελία. Η σαφής καθοδήγηση σχετικά με το πού και πώς να γίνει η καταγγελία και η προστασία από αρνητικές συνέπειες ή αντίποινα (67,16%) κατατάχθηκαν εξίσου ως οι δεύτερες πιο συχνά αναφερόμενες ανάγκες. Ένας/Μία αξιόπιστος/η μεσάζων — όπως ΜΚΟ, ο Συνήγορος του Πολίτη, ή μια οργάνωση νεολαίας — αναγνωρίστηκε ως απαραίτητη προϋπόθεση από το 65,67%, ενώ μια σαφής διαδικασία παρακολούθησης με τακτικές ενημερώσεις και περισσότερη εκπαίδευση σχετικά με την ακεραιότητα και τις επιλογές καταγγελίας επιλέχθηκαν από το 56,72% των ερωτηθέντων. Η ταχύτερη θεσμική ανταπόκριση, αν και αναφέρθηκε από το 44,78%, κατατάχθηκε τελευταία μεταξύ των επιλογών. Η ανώνυμη καταγγελία αναγνωρίστηκε και από την ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης ως καίρια για τη δημιουργία ενός πραγματικά ασφαλούς περιβάλλοντος καταγγελίας. Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα σημείωσαν, ωστόσο, ότι η ακριβώς αντίθετη προσέγγιση — ένα πολύ οικείο, βασισμένο στην εμπιστοσύνη περιβάλλον στο οποίο το άτομο που κάνει την καταγγελία βρίσκεται σε ένα ασφαλές πλαίσιο και λαμβάνει εξατομικευμένη υποστήριξη – θα μπορούσε εξίσου να ενισχύσει την εμπιστοσύνη. Η βασική προϋπόθεση είναι είτε η πλήρης ανωνυμία είτε μια πραγματικά αξιόπιστη σχέση: ο συμβιβασμός που συνιστούν οι απρόσωπες, γραφειοκρατικές διαδικασίες είναι αυτό που αποθαρρύνει περισσότερο τα νέα άτομα.

Η γνώση σχετικά με το **πού ή πώς να καταγγείλει ένα άτομο μια πράξη διαφθοράς** από δημόσιο/α λειτουργό είναι εντυπωσιακά περιορισμένη στο σύνολο του δείγματος. Μόνο το 4,48% των ερωτηθέντων γνωρίζει ακριβώς πού να καταγγείλει, ενώ το 32,84% έχει μια γενική ιδέα αλλά δεν είναι σίγουρο για τη διαδικασία. Τα περισσότερα άτομα (59,70%) δεν θα ήξεραν καθόλου πού να απευθυνθούν, ενώ ένα επιπλέον 2,99% δεν θα κατήγγειλε ακόμη και αν το ήξερε, πιστεύοντας ότι δεν θα είχε καμία διαφορά. Όπως απεικονίζεται στο Σχήμα 6, εάν ήθελαν να καταγγείλουν μια υπόθεση διαφθοράς, τα νέα άτομα δήλωσαν ότι θα εμπιστεύονταν περισσότερο έναν/μία ιδιωτικό/ή δικηγόρο (46,27%) ή μια εξειδικευμένη υπηρεσία καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς (43,28%) — παρακάμπτοντας σχεδόν εξ ολοκλήρου την αστυνομία (10,45%) και τους/τις εκλεγμένους/ες εκπροσώπους (1,49%).



Σχήμα 7 Εμπιστοσύνη σε φορείς για την καταγγελία υπόθεσης διαφθοράς

9. Ανάγκες, προτιμώμενες δράσεις και Λύσεις

Όταν ρωτήθηκαν τι θα **ενίσχυε περισσότερο την εμπιστοσύνη τους κατά τη συναλλαγή με μια δημόσια υπηρεσία ή έναν δημόσιο φορέα**, τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα ανέφεραν ως σημαντικότερο παράγοντα τη σαφή επεξήγηση των βημάτων και των διαδικασιών εκ των προτέρων (62,69%), ακολουθούμενη από την ίση μεταχείριση και τους συνεπείς κανόνες για όλους τους ανθρώπους (55,22%). Τα σαφή κριτήρια λήψης αποφάσεων —δηλαδή ο τρόπος με τον οποίο λαμβάνονται στην πράξη οι δημόσιες αποφάσεις— αναφέρθηκαν από το 28,36%, ενώ τα σαφή κόστη και τέλη από το 20,90%. Η δυνατότητα παρακολούθησης της προόδου, με ηλεκτρονικές ενημερώσεις κατάστασης (11,94 %) και σαφή χρονοδιαγράμματα (8,96 %), κατατάχθηκε χαμηλότερα, όπως και η ύπαρξη ενός εύκολου τρόπου υποβολής ερωτήσεων και λήψης επίσημης απάντησης (7,46 %). Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης τόνισαν την ανάγκη για διαφανείς διαδικασίες, συμπεριλαμβανομένης της σαφούς επικοινωνίας της προόδου, του αντίκτυπου και των αποτελεσμάτων. Υπογραμμίστηκε περαιτέρω ότι η εμπιστοσύνη στους θεσμούς εξαρτάται ουσιαστικά από τη διαφάνεια και τις τακτικές ενημερώσεις καθ' όλη τη διάρκεια οποιασδήποτε διαδικασίας στην οποία συμμετέχουν τα νέα άτομα.

Όσον αφορά τις **προτεραιότητες της ΕΕ για τα επόμενα πέντε χρόνια**, η άμυνα και η ειρήνη κατέλαβαν την πρώτη θέση με σημαντική διαφορά (55,22%), αντανακλώντας το κλίμα αυξημένης περιφερειακής ανασφάλειας. Ακολούθησαν η ανεργία και η δημιουργία θέσεων εργασίας (34,33%), και στη συνέχεια η κοινωνική προστασία, η κοινωνική πρόνοια και η υγειονομική περίθαλψη (31,34%). Η δημοκρατία και το κράτος δικαίου αναφέρθηκαν από το 26,87% των ερωτηθέντων —ένα αξιοσημείωτο εύρημα, δεδομένων των ευρύτερων στοιχείων της έρευνας σχετικά με τη διαφθορά και την εμπιστοσύνη — και ακολούθησαν με μικρή διαφορά η αύξηση των τιμών και το κόστος διαβίωσης (25,37%). Το περιβάλλον και η κλιματική αλλαγή (17,91%) καθώς και η εκπαίδευση και η κατάρτιση (8,96%) κατατάχθηκαν σε χαμηλότερες θέσεις.

Θέματα και μορφές συμμετοχής

Σχετικά με τα **θέματα που παρουσιάζουν ενδιαφέρον**, η γνώση για την ΕΕ κατέχει την πρώτη θέση στην ατζέντα μάθησης με σημαντική διαφορά: το 68,7% επιθυμεί να μάθει περισσότερα για τον τρόπο λειτουργίας της ΕΕ και για τον τρόπο που τα νέα άτομα μπορούν να συμμετέχουν σε αυτήν. Τα εργαλεία καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς και διαφάνειας επιλέχθηκαν από το 44,8%, ακολουθούμενα από τον τρόπο λήψης αποφάσεων σε τοπικό και εθνικό επίπεδο, καθώς και τα δικαιώματα των πολιτών και την πρόσβαση στην πληροφόρηση (41,8%). Περίπου το 30% επιθυμεί να μάθει περισσότερα για το πώς να προωθήσει την αλλαγή στην κοινότητά του, το 23,88% για το πώς να συμμετέχει σε δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις και το 14,93% επιθυμεί να εμβαθύνει σε θέματα που αφορούν τα συμβούλια νεολαίας, την εκπροσώπηση των φοιτητών/ριών και την τοπική διακυβέρνηση. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης επιβεβαίωσαν τα προαναφερθέντα θέματα ως σημαντικές πτυχές στις οποίες πρέπει να επενδύσουν, υπογραμμίζοντας τη χρηστή διακυβέρνηση, το κράτος δικαίου, την παραπληροφόρηση, το ελληνικό και το ευρωπαϊκό νομικό πλαίσιο και τις διαδικασίες, καθώς και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο επηρεάζουν τη ζωή τους. Επισημάνθηκε επίσης το νομικό πλαίσιο σχετικά με τη διαφθορά. Η νομιμοποίηση εσόδων από παράνομες δραστηριότητες αναγνωρίστηκε επίσης ως θέμα που πρέπει να διερευνηθεί.

Όσον αφορά τις **μορφές συμμετοχής**, τα εργαστήρια και τα εθελοντικά προγράμματα προτιμώνται εξίσου, με το 43,3% των ερωτηθέντων να επιλέγει το καθένα από αυτά. Οι προσομοιώσεις και τα bootcamps συγκέντρωσαν το 37,3%, ενώ οι διαδικτυακές συνεδρίες το 29,9%.



Σχήμα 8 Προτιμώμενες μορφές συμμετοχής

Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης τόνισαν ότι οι μορφές συμμετοχής χρειάζεται να ενσωματώνουν πρακτικές και βιωματικές διαστάσεις, να αναπτύσσουν τις δεξιότητες και τις ικανότητες των νέων ατόμων, συμπληρώνοντας την απόκτηση θεωρητικών γνώσεων. Τέτοιες δράσεις θα πρέπει να έχουν συνέχεια και να μην υλοποιούνται ως μεμονωμένες δραστηριότητες.

Τα άτομα που συμπλήρωσαν το ερωτηματολόγιο ρωτήθηκαν, επίσης, σχετικά με τα **εργαλεία που θα ήταν πιο χρήσιμα για να υποστηρίξουν τη συμμετοχή και την πρόσβασή τους σε αξιόπιστες πληροφορίες και γνώσεις**. Η επιλογή που κατέλαβε την πρώτη θέση ήταν ένα ημερολόγιο ευκαιριών (52,24%), ακολουθούμενη από μια ψηφιακή πλατφόρμα φιλική προς τα νέα άτομα (46,27%) και έναν απλό οδηγό/εργαλείο για το πώς να συμμετέχουν (40,3%). Ορισμένα άτομα θα προτιμούσαν επίσης ομάδες αλληλοϋποστήριξης (25,37%) και σύντομα επεξηγηματικά υλικά, όπως βίντεο και ενημερωτικά γραφήματα (20,9%).

Τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα της ομάδας εστιασμένης συζήτησης καλέστηκαν, επίσης, να μοιραστούν συστάσεις για το πρόγραμμα RISE Balkans. Αυτές περιελάμβαναν την αύξηση των δράσεων διάχυσης και επικοινωνίας των επικείμενων δραστηριοτήτων. Πρότειναν, ακόμη, ότι τα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης θα πρέπει να αποτελούν το κύριο μέσο διάχυσης, με το TikTok να αναγνωρίζεται ως το κύριο μέσο που αξιοποιούν τα νέα άτομα. Αναγνωρίστηκαν, επίσης, τα podcasts ως μια δημιουργική ιδέα που θα κέντριζε το ενδιαφέρον ατόμων της ηλικίας τους. Επιπλέον, αναφέρθηκε ότι οι ενημερωτικές δράσεις και οι διαδικτυακές εκδηλώσεις θα πρέπει να ενσωματωθούν στις δράσεις του έργου.

10. Συμπεράσματα

Η έρευνα αποκαλύπτει ότι τα νέα συμμετέχοντα άτομα ενδιαφέρονται πραγματικά για τη δημόσια ζωή — το 68,7% αναφέρει ότι ενδιαφέρεται «πολύ» ή «εξαιρετικά» για τα δημόσια ζητήματα — ωστόσο παραμένουν δομικά αποκομμένα από τα επίσημα κανάλια μέσω των οποίων λαμβάνονται οι πολιτικές και οι αποφάσεις που αφορούν τους πολίτες. Αυτό το βασικό παράδοξο, το οποίο επιβεβαιώνεται από τα δεδομένα της έρευνας, της ομάδας εστιασμένης συζήτησης και του εργαστηρίου επικύρωσης, διατρέχει κάθε εύρημα της παρούσας έκθεσης και αποτελεί το κεντρικό της συμπέρασμα: το πρόβλημα δεν είναι η απάθεια των νέων, αλλά η ανεπάρκεια της πολιτικής υποδομής.

Η διαφθορά θεωρείται σχεδόν καθολική και συστημική. Το 92,5% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων περιγράφει τη διαφθορά ως «διαδεδομένη» ή «πολύ διαδεδομένη» στην Ελλάδα, γεγονός που είναι σύμφωνο με τα αποτελέσματα του Ειδικού Ευρωβαρόμετρου 548 (2024), το οποίο καταγράφει ότι το 98% των Ελλήνων πολιτών — το υψηλότερο ποσοστό στην ΕΕ — θεωρεί τη διαφθορά διαδεδομένη. Είναι σημαντικό να σημειωθεί ότι τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης δεν χαρακτήρισαν τη διαφθορά ως ατομική παρανομία: την περιέγραψαν ως ένα διαρθρωτικό και κανονικοποιημένο χαρακτηριστικό της δημόσιας ζωής, ενσωματωμένο στα πολιτικά κόμματα, στις δημόσιες συμβάσεις, στην υγειονομική περίθαλψη και στην απασχόληση. Αυτή η συστημική προσέγγιση συνάδει με τη βιβλιογραφία για τη διαρθρωτική διαφθορά και υποδηλώνει ότι οι εκστρατείες ευαισθητοποίησης που στοχεύουν σε μεμονωμένες πράξεις είναι ανεπαρκείς χωρίς μια ευρύτερη θεσμική μεταρρύθμιση.

Η εμπιστοσύνη στους θεσμούς βρίσκεται σε εξαιρετικά χαμηλά επίπεδα σε όλους τους βασικούς τομείς. Από τα πολιτικά κόμματα (με το 98,5% να αντιλαμβάνεται τη δωροδοκία και την κατάχρηση εξουσίας ως διαδεδομένη) έως τις φορολογικές αρχές, την αστυνομία, τα δικαστήρια και την υγειονομική περίθαλψη, τα νέα άτομα εκφράζουν μια διάχυτη δυσπιστία. Το εύρημα αυτό συνάδει με τη βιβλιογραφία σχετικά με την εμπιστοσύνη στους θεσμούς, η οποία καταγράφει μια διαρκή αποστασιοποίηση από τους επίσημους θεσμούς μεταξύ της γενιάς μετά την κρίση, καθώς και μια αντίστοιχη στροφή προς την άτυπη και εκφραστική πολιτική δράση. Η ποιοτική έρευνα επιβεβαίωσε αυτό το μοτίβο: τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα αμφισβήτησαν τη σημασία των επίσημων καναλιών συμμετοχής και εξέφρασαν σκεπτικισμό ως προς το αν η συμβολή τους θα επέφερε κάποια απτή αλλαγή. Ωστόσο, τα άτομα που απάντησαν στο διαδικτυακό ερωτηματολόγιο έδειξαν αυξημένο ενδιαφέρον για τις επίσημες μορφές συμμετοχής.

Το κύριο εμπόδιο στη συμμετοχή δεν αφορά τόσο τα κίνητρα, όσο την πληροφόρηση. Το 82,1% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων ανέφερε την έλλειψη σαφών πληροφοριών ή την ύπαρξη παραπληροφόρησης ως το κύριο εμπόδιο — ποσοστό πάνω από δεκατρείς φορές μεγαλύτερο από εκείνο που ανέφερε έλλειψη ενδιαφέροντος (6%). Η παραπληροφόρηση πριν από τις εκλογές είναι διαδεδομένη: το 59,7% συναντά «συχνά» ή «πάντα» περιεχόμενο που ισχυρίζεται ότι υπάρχει διαφθορά στην επιλογή των υποψηφίων, ενώ το 47,8% συναντά τακτικά περιεχόμενο που ισχυρίζεται ότι η ψήφος του δεν έχει σημασία. Το TikTok (38,81%) και το Instagram (28,36%) κυριαρχούν στην έκθεση σε πολιτικό περιεχόμενο, αλλά η πιο διαδεδομένη αναφερόμενη επίδραση αυτής της έκθεσης στους πολίτες είναι η αποχή — η διακοπή των δωρεών (52,24%) και η αίσθηση ότι είναι λιγότερο πιθανό να ψηφίσουν (31,34%). Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ποιοτική έρευνα επιβεβαίωσαν αυτή την εικόνα, περιγράφοντας ένα περιβάλλον στο οποίο η καθοδήγηση των πολιτών είναι αόρατη, ενώ η παραπληροφόρηση κυριαρχεί και αποθαρρύνει ενεργά τη συμμετοχή.

Παρά τα εμπόδια αυτά, τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα εξακολουθούν να πιστεύουν ακράδαντα στη συλλογική τους ικανότητα δράσης: το 88,06% πιστεύει ότι τα νέα άτομα μπορούν να συμβάλουν ουσιαστικά στη μείωση της διαφθοράς, ένα εύρημα που επιβεβαιώθηκε από τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης, τα οποία δήλωσαν ότι έχουν κίνητρα να δράσουν, αλλά στερούνται γνώσεων, εργαλείων και διαρθρωτικής υποστήριξης. Αυτό το χάσμα μεταξύ της υψηλής συλλογικής αποτελεσματικότητας και της χαμηλής ατομικής πολιτικής παιδείας είναι θεωρητικά σημαντικό.

Τα επίσημα κανάλια θεωρούνται ως τα πιο αποτελεσματικά, αλλά παραμένουν απρόσιτα. Το 47,76% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων χαρακτήρισε τις δημόσιες διαβουλεύσεις ως τον πιο αποτελεσματικό μηχανισμό για να ακουστεί η φωνή τους, ενώ μόνο το 32,84% είναι αρκετά ή πολύ εξοικειωμένο με τον τρόπο λειτουργίας τους. Ο ακτιβισμός στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης θεωρήθηκε αποτελεσματικός μόνο από το 7,46%. Τα νεαρά άτομα στην Ελλάδα δεν αποστρέφονται την επίσημη συμμετοχή επειδή δεν πιστεύουν σε αυτήν — δεν συμμετέχουν τόσο ενεργά επειδή στερούνται των γνώσεων και των διαύλων πρόσβασης σε αυτήν. Τα αποτελέσματα του εργαστηρίου επικύρωσης ενίσχυσαν αυτό το εύρημα, τονίζοντας τη διαφάνεια των διαδικασιών, την ανατροφοδότηση σχετικά με τα αποτελέσματα και τους αξιόπιστους μεσάζοντες ως προϋποθέσεις για την εμπιστοσύνη στην επίσημη συμμετοχή.

Η καταγγελία περιστατικών διαφθοράς θεωρείται τόσο επικίνδυνη όσο και ασαφής. Το 52,2% θα ένιωθε μεγάλη ανασφάλεια αν κατέθετε καταγγελία για διαφθορά, ενώ το 59,7% δεν θα ήξερε πού να απευθυνθεί. Τα ερωτηθέντα άτομα θα εμπιστεύονταν περισσότερο έναν/μία ιδιωτικό/ή δικηγόρο (46,27 %) ή μια εξειδικευμένη υπηρεσία καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς (43,28 %) — και σχεδόν κανένα (1,49 %) έναν/μία πολιτικό/ή εκπρόσωπο. Η ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης τόνισαν επανειλημμένα την ανωνυμία, τη διαφάνεια των διαδικασιών, την προστασία από αντίποινα και τους αξιόπιστους μεσάζοντες ως ελάχιστες προϋποθέσεις για οποιοδήποτε κανάλι αναφοράς θα χρησιμοποιούσαν στην πράξη.

11. Συστάσεις

Για το έργο RISE Balkans

5. **Προτεραιοποίηση του TikTok και του Instagram ως κύρια κανάλια επικοινωνίας**. Τόσο τα στοιχεία της διαδικτυακής έρευνας όσο και τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης τα χαρακτήρισαν ως τις κυρίαρχες πλατφόρμες μέσω των οποίων τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα έχουν πρόσβαση σε πληροφορίες. Το περιεχόμενο θα πρέπει να αξιοποιεί δημιουργούς της ίδιας ηλικιακής ομάδας, επαληθευμένους λογαριασμούς οργανισμών και μορφές βίντεο μικρού μήκους. Τα podcast — τα οποία προτάθηκαν ανεξάρτητα στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και επιβεβαιώθηκαν στο εργαστήριο — θα πρέπει να αναπτυχθούν ως συμπληρωματική μορφή, ιδανικά να συνδιαμορφωθούν με νέα άτομα.
6. **Ανάδειξη της γνώσης σχετικά με την ΕΕ ως κεντρικό πυλώνα του προγράμματος**. Το 68,7% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων επιθυμεί να μάθει περισσότερα για τον τρόπο λειτουργίας της ΕΕ και για το πώς τα νέα άτομα μπορούν να συμμετέχουν στις δραστηριότητές της — η υψηλότερη ζήτηση μάθησης σε σχέση με όλα τα θέματα που διερευνήθηκαν. Πρακτικές ενότητες σχετικά με τα θεσμικά όργανα της ΕΕ, την πύλη «Have Your Say» και τις ευκαιρίες που χρηματοδοτούνται από την ΕΕ για τη νεολαία στην Ελλάδα, καθώς και τον τρόπο με τον οποίο το ευρωπαϊκό νομικό πλαίσιο επηρεάζει τα εθνικά πλαίσια, θα πρέπει να ενσωματωθούν σε όλες τις δραστηριότητες του προγράμματος. Το συμπέρασμα αυτό επιβεβαιώθηκε και θεωρήθηκε προτεραιότητα τόσο από την ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης όσο και από το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης.
7. **Ανάπτυξη πολιτικών δεξιοτήτων μέσω βιωματικών δραστηριοτήτων**. Τα εργαστήρια και τα εθελοντικά προγράμματα (43,3% έκαστο) καθώς και οι προσομοιώσεις και τα bootcamps (37,3%) αποτελούν τις προτιμώμενες μορφές συμμετοχής, γεγονός που επιβεβαιώνει ότι οι προβλεπόμενες δραστηριότητες του προγράμματος ανταποκρίνονται στις ανάγκες των νέων ατόμων. Η ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης ανέδειξαν αντίστοιχα τη μάθηση μέσω της πράξης έναντι της παθητικής μεταφοράς πληροφοριών. Οι δραστηριότητες του προγράμματος θα πρέπει να σχεδιαστούν ως προοδευτικές ακολουθίες — εισαγωγική συνεδρία, εργαστήριο, προσομοίωση, πραγματική συμμετοχή — ενισχύοντας σταδιακά τις πολιτικές ικανότητες και διασφαλίζοντας ότι τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα βιώνουν απτά αποτελέσματα σε κάθε στάδιο.
8. **Ανάπτυξη, όπου είναι δυνατόν, ενοποιημένων ψηφιακών υλικών προσαρμοσμένων στις ανάγκες των νέων**. Τα άτομα που συμπλήρωσαν το ερωτηματολόγιο κατέταξαν ως τα πιο χρήσιμα εργαλεία ένα ημερολόγιο ευκαιριών συμμετοχής (52,24%), μια ψηφιακή πλατφόρμα προσαρμοσμένη στις ανάγκες των νέων (46,27%) και έναν οδηγό για τις διαδικασίες πολιτικής συμμετοχής γραμμένο σε απλή γλώσσα (40,3%). Αυτός ο κόμβος ανταποκρίνεται άμεσα στο 82,1% των ερωτηθέντων ατόμων που ανέφεραν την έλλειψη πληροφοριών ως το κύριο εμπόδιο και έτυχε ενθουσιώδους υποστήριξης στην ομάδα εστιασμένης συζήτησης και το εργαστήριο επικύρωσης, στο οποίο αναφέρθηκε η ανάγκη για προσβάσιμες, συνεχώς ενημερωμένες και κατάλληλες για τη νεολαία πληροφορίες σχετικά με τα θέματα πολιτικής συμμετοχής.

Για Υπεύθυνους/ες Χάραξης Πολιτικής και Δημόσια Ιδρύματα

4. **Ανασχεδιασμός των μηχανισμών δημόσιας διαβούλευσης με βασική προϋπόθεση την προσβασιμότητα για τα νέα άτομα**. Η πλατφόρμα opengov.gr θα πρέπει να προωθηθεί μέσω

των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης, να επανασχεδιαστεί με διεπαφές απλής γλώσσας και, κυρίως, να εξοπλιστεί με συστηματικούς μηχανισμούς ανατροφοδότησης που θα ενημερώνουν τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα για το τι συνέβη με την ανατροφοδότησή τους. Το 88,06% συμφώνησε ότι οι δημόσιες διαδικασίες θα πρέπει να είναι πιο εύκολο να παρακολουθηθούν, ενώ το 62,69% χαρακτήρισε τα σαφή βήματα που εξηγούνται εκ των προτέρων ως τον σημαντικότερο παράγοντα για την οικοδόμηση εμπιστοσύνης. Η απουσία ανατροφοδότησης σχετικά με τα αποτελέσματα αναφέρθηκε επανειλημμένα ως ο κύριος λόγος για τη διακοπή της συμμετοχής, τόσο στην ομάδα εστίασης όσο και στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης.

5. **Ανάπτυξη και διάχυση μιας στοχευμένης εθνικής ψηφιακής εκστρατείας ευαισθητοποίησης σχετικά με την καταγγελία περιστατικών διαφθοράς**. Το 49,3% των νέων Ελλήνων δεν μπορεί να ονομάσει κανέναν φορέα καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς. Μια εκστρατεία σχεδιασμένη για το νεανικό κοινό, που θα προωθείται μέσω των TikTok και Instagram, και θα εξηγεί με απλό τρόπο τι κάνουν ο Γενικός Επιθεωρητής Δημόσιας Διοίκησης, ο Συνήγορος του Πολίτη και οι εξειδικευμένες υπηρεσίες, καθώς και πώς μπορεί το κοινό να επικοινωνήσει μαζί τους, θα αντιμετώπιζε άμεσα ένα από τα πιο σημαντικά κενά γνώσης που διαπιστώθηκαν στην έρευνα. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης αναγνώρισαν αυτό το θέμα ως επείγουσα προτεραιότητα.
6. **Ενσωμάτωση της πρακτικής πολιτικής αγωγής στα προγράμματα σπουδών της δευτεροβάθμιας εκπαίδευσης**. Η σχεδόν πλήρης άγνοια των νομοθετικών διαδικασιών, των δημόσιων διαβουλεύσεων και των εννοιών της καταπολέμησης της διαφθοράς υποδηλώνει μια συστηματική αποτυχία της πολιτικής αγωγής σε σχολικό επίπεδο. Τα προγράμματα σπουδών θα πρέπει να περιλαμβάνουν πρακτικές δεξιότητες πολιτικής αγωγής: πώς μπορεί να συμμετέχει ένα άτομο σε μια διαβούλευση, πώς να επαληθεύει πληροφορίες, πώς να αναγνωρίζει και να καταγγέλλει τη διαφθορά, καθώς και πώς οι θεσμοί της ΕΕ επηρεάζουν την καθημερινή ζωή. Τα άτομα που συμμετείχαν στο εργαστήριο επικύρωσης προσδιόρισαν συγκεκριμένα το σχολικό σύστημα ως τον πιο δομικά αποτελεσματικό δίαυλο για τη διάδοση ευρείας πολιτικής γνώσης.

Για την Κοινωνία των Πολιτών και Οργανώσεις Νεολαίας

3. **Τοποθέτηση των ΜΚΟ και των οργανώσεων της κοινωνίας των πολιτών σε θέση αξιόπιστου μεσάζοντα στα θέματα πολιτών**. Η έρευνα καταδεικνύει ότι τα νέα άτομα στην Ελλάδα εμπιστεύονται τις ΜΚΟ και τον Συνήγορο του Πολίτη περισσότερο από την αστυνομία ή τους/τις πολιτικούς/ές εκπροσώπους όσον αφορά τη διαχείριση καταγγελιών για διαφθορά. Οι οργανώσεις της κοινωνίας των πολιτών θα πρέπει να αναπτύξουν ενεργά δομημένες διαδρομές υποστήριξης των νέων που ασχολούνται με τις διαδικασίες πολιτικής συμμετοχής — από τη συμμετοχή σε διαβουλεύσεις έως την καταγγελία παραβάσεων — και να καταστήσουν αυτόν τον ρόλο ορατό και προσβάσιμο μέσω των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης. Οι οργανώσεις που αναφέρθηκαν αυθόρμητα από τα συμμετέχοντα άτομα στην ομάδα εστίασης (Humanity Greece, Γιατροί Χωρίς Σύνορα, Το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού, Γίνε Άνθρωπος) καταδεικνύουν την πραγματική εξοικείωση και εμπιστοσύνη που ήδη υπάρχει και η οποία πρέπει να αξιοποιηθεί.
4. **Υποστήριξη της δημιουργίας περιεχομένου για την πολιτειότητα από ομοτίμους**. Η έρευνα έδειξε ότι οι φωνές των ομοτίμων αποτελούν τον πιο αξιόπιστο τρόπο προσέγγισης των νέων Ελλήνων. Οι οργανώσεις που προσφέρουν υπηρεσίες στα νέα άτομα θα πρέπει να επενδύσουν στην ενδυνάμωσή τους ώστε να δημιουργούν και να μοιράζονται περιεχόμενο για την

πολιτειότητα με δικές τους μορφές και στις δικές τους πλατφόρμες — σύντομα βίντεο, podcast, infographics και αναρτήσεις στα μέσα κοινωνικής δικτύωσης που εξηγούν τις διαδικασίες διακυβέρνησης, τις ευκαιρίες συμμετοχής και τα εργαλεία κατά της διαφθοράς με προσιτούς και αυθεντικούς όρους. Αυτή η προσέγγιση καλλιεργεί ταυτόχρονα τις δεξιότητες πολιτειότητας στους/στις δημιουργούς και γνώσεις πολιτειότητας στο κοινό.

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Българска версия

Резюме

Настоящият Национален доклад за България е изготвен в рамките на Работен пакет 1 „Младежи и управление: проверка на реалността“ по проект RISE Balkans. Основната му цел е да представи българския контекст на младежкото гражданско участие, осведомеността относно антикорупцията, прозрачността и доверието в институциите, като същевременно идентифицира практическите бариери, които ограничават участието на младите хора в демократичните процеси и процесите на управление.

Докладът се основава на комбинация от документален анализ, данни от проучване и валидационни дейности. Документалният анализ включва преглед на национални и европейски стратегически и политически документи, сред които Националната стратегия за младежта 2021–2030 г., Докладът за младежта за периода 2023–2024 г., източници, свързани с политиките на ЕС за младежта, както и релевантни проектни материали. Емпиричната част на изследването е реализирана чрез онлайн анкета, проведена в България в периода 5–12 април 2026 г. Събрани са общо 62 валидни отговора от млади хора на възраст 18–26 години, което представлява 12,65% от общата извадка на RISE Balkans от 490 респонденти. Констатациите бяха допълнително обсъдени и валидирани чрез две работилници, организирани в България, включително национална валидационна работилница, проведена от Университета за национално и световно стопанство на 4 май 2026 г. с участието на 36 студенти.

Резултатите показват, че младите хора в България като цяло са запознати с основни понятия като корупция, конфликт на интереси и подаване на сигнали за нередности. В същото време практическите им познания относно каналите за участие остават по-ограничени. Много от респондентите разбират значението на гражданската ангажираност, но не се чувстват достатъчно уверени как да участват в обществени консултации, как да се свързват с институции или къде и по какъв начин да подават сигнали за корупция. Това очертава ясно изразена разлика между осведомеността и реалното участие.

Проучването също така потвърждава, че корупцията се възприема като сериозен и широко разпространен проблем. Общо 95,16% от българските респонденти определят корупцията като разпространена или много разпространена. Доверието в институциите се отслабва от неясни процедури, съмнения относно равнопоставеното третиране и ниска увереност, че случаите на корупция по високите етажи на властта се преследват ефективно. Подаването на сигнали за корупция също се възприема като чувствителен въпрос: много от респондентите не се чувстват сигурни да докладват за корупция и не са достатъчно информирани относно наличните процедури.

Основните бариери пред младежкото участие са липсата на ясна информация, недоверието в реалния ефект от участието, ограничената увереност и несигурността как practically да се включат в процесите. Най-силно изразената бариера е липсата на ясна информация и

дезинформацията, посочена от 66,13% от респондентите. В същото време 40,32% заявяват, че не са участвали в обществени консултации, но биха искали да го направят, а 17,74% не знаят откъде да започнат. Това показва, че проблемът не е просто липса на интерес, а липса на достъпни и разбираеми входни точки за участие.

Докладът заключава, че младите хора в България имат потенциал и желание да участват по-активно, но се нуждаят от по-ясни насоки, по-видими възможности и по-силна обратна връзка от институциите. Участието следва да бъде направено по-практично, по-разбираемо и по-смислено. Основните препоръки включват разработване на младежки ориентирани информационни материали, кратки ръководства и визуални обяснителни материали, по-достъпни обществени консултации, по-ясни процедури за подаване на сигнали за корупция, по-силна защита на подаващите сигнали, както и създаване на централизирано дигитално пространство, в което младите хора да намират информация за възможности за участие, граждански инициативи и антикорупционни инструменти.

1. Въведение

Настоящият национален доклад за България е изготвен в рамките на Работен пакет 1 „Младежта и управлението: проверка на реалността“ от проекта RISE Balkans – „Укрепване на гласа на младежта: отговорност, почтеност, солидарност и гражданско участие на Балканите“. Проектът се реализира в Гърция, България, Хърватия, Албания и Северна Македония и има за цел да засили участието на младежта в демократичния живот, като същевременно подкрепя водени от младежта действия за почтеност и борба с корупцията чрез гражданско образование, учене чрез опит, менторство и трансгранично сътрудничество. РП1 е замислен като начална изследователска фаза на проекта и има за цел да създаде база от факти за гражданската ангажираност, участието, изготвянето на политики, прозрачността и борбата с корупцията сред младежта в участващите държави. Съгласно Протокола за изследване, WP1 съчетава документално проучване, качествено и количествено изследване и дейности по национална валидация с цел да идентифицира съществуващите бариери, възможности и възприятия, свързани с участието на младежта в процесите на управление.

Българският национален доклад се фокусира върху настоящата ситуация на младите хора в България по отношение на гражданското участие, осведомеността за демократичните процеси, доверието в институциите, възприятията за корупцията и предпочитаните форми на ангажираност. Докладът съчетава контекстуален анализ, основан на национални и европейски политически документи, с емпирични констатации от проучването на RISE Balkans, проведено в България. Количественият компонент на изследването беше реализиран чрез онлайн анкета, разпространена между 5 и 12 април 2026 г. Бяха събрани общо 62 валидни отговора от България, представляващи 12,65% от общата извадка от 490 респонденти. Проучването беше насочено към младежи на възраст 18–26 години и обхвана въпроси като познаване на каналите за участие, възприятия за корупцията и прозрачността, доверие в институциите, медии и източници на информация, бариери пред участието и предпочитани формати за бъдещи дейности за гражданско участие.

Националният контекст на младежкото участие в България се определя от стратегическата политическа рамка на страната за младите хора. Националната стратегия за младежта 2021–2030 г. определя младите българи като способни, ангажирани и овластени лица, които трябва да бъдат подкрепяни, за да развият пълния си потенциал и да допринесат съзнателно за развитието на страната в европейския и глобалния контекст[34] . Официалният Доклад за младежта за 2023–2024 г., изготвен в съответствие със Закона за младежта, потвърждава, че младежката политика в България обхваща ключови области като образование, заетост, здраве и благосъстояние, равенство и приобщаване, информационни и дигитални умения, младежки организации и младежи от малки населени места. Същият доклад определя насърчаването на ангажираността, участието и овластяването на младежта като един от централните приоритети на националната младежка политика.

На институционално равнище България е разработила няколко механизма за участие на младежта в процесите на вземане на решения, включително консултативни и съвещателни формати на национално и местно равнище. Те включват структури като Обществения съвет по въпросите на младежта, Националния консултативен съвет по въпросите на младежта, общинските младежки консултативни съвети, националните работни групи, свързани с Диалога на ЕС за младежта, и други формати, подкрепящи участието на младежта. Последните изменения в Закона за младежта допълнително укрепиха тази рамка, като уредиха състава и функциите на Обществения съвет по въпросите на младежта и въведоха задължения за общините с население над 45 000 жители да създадат местни младежки консултативни съвети с участието на млади хора. Тези механизми са от значение за настоящия доклад, тъй като представляват официалната инфраструктура за участие, чрез която младите хора в България могат да допринесат за вземането на публични решения.

Целта на този доклад е двойна. На първо място, той предоставя обща картина на контекста на младежкото участие в България, включително съществуващата политическа рамка, институционалните канали, благоприятстващите фактори и трайните пречки. Второ, той анализира емпиричните резултати от проучването на RISE Balkans в България, като акцентира върху осведомеността на младежта, моделите на участие, възприятията за прозрачност и почтеност, както и практическите нужди за бъдещо ангажиране. Докладът също така идентифицира добри практики и формулира препоръки, насочени към укрепване на младежкото участие, подобряване на институционалната прозрачност и подкрепа на демократични и антикорупционни инициативи, ръководени от младежи в България.

2. Контекст на младежкото участие в България

Участието на младежта в България е официално признато като важен компонент на националната младежка политика и демократичното управление. Българската политическа рамка определя младите хора не само като бенефициенти на публични мерки, но и като активни участници в социални, граждански и институционални процеси. Този подход е отразен в

[34] Република България. (2023). Национална стратегия за младежта 2021–2030. Strategy.bg. https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1587

Националната стратегия за младежта 2021–2030 г., която представя младите българи като способни, ангажирани и овластени лица, които трябва да бъдат подкрепяни, за да развият пълния си потенциал и да допринесат за развитието на страната в европейския и глобалния контекст. Стратегията поставя особен акцент върху ангажираността, участието и овластяването, като същевременно засяга образованието, заетостта, приобщаването, младежката работа, дигиталните умения, здравето, културата и европейската принадлежност[35] .

Официалният Доклад за младежта за 2023–2024 г. потвърждава, че българската младежка политика е структурирана около няколко ключови тематични области: образование, заетост, здраве и благосъстояние, равенство и приобщаване, информационни и дигитални умения, младежки организации и младежи от малки населени места. Докладът е изготвен съгласно Закона за младежта и е приет от Народното събрание по предложение на Министерския съвет. Той предоставя обзор на политиките, мерките и дейностите, изпълнявани от отговорните институции в подкрепа на младите хора в България. Важно е, че докладът изрично определя насърчаването на ангажираността, участието и овластяването на младежта като един от централните приоритети на националната младежка политика[36] .

В българския контекст участието на младите хора в процеса на вземане на решения се разглежда като необходимо условие за изграждане на демократична култура, граждански компетенции и доверие в институциите. Националните политически документи подчертават, че качественото участие на младежта трябва да бъде подкрепяно на всички нива на управление: местно, национално и европейско. Това е особено важно за младите хора с по-малко възможности, включително тези от малки населени места, икономически неравностойни среди, уязвими групи и младежи, които не учат, не работят и не се обучават. Включването на младежите, които не учат, не работят и не се обучават (NEETs), е определено като конкретен политически приоритет, тъй като ограниченият им достъп до образование, заетост и възможности за участие може да задълбочи социалното изключване и да отслаби гражданското участие.

България е разработила набор от официални механизми, чрез които младите хора и младежките организации могат да бъдат включени в процесите на консултации и вземане на решения. Те включват Обществения съвет по въпросите на младежта, Националния консултативен съвет по въпросите на младежта, общинските младежки консултативни съвети, Националната работна група за изпълнение на Диалога на ЕС по въпросите на младежта и други работни формати, свързани с работата с младежи и младежката политика. Тези механизми предоставят възможности за консултации, политически диалог и представяне на интересите на младежта пред публичните власти. Тяхната роля е особено важна, тъй като те създават институционални канали,

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[3535] Република България. (2023). Национална стратегия за младежта 2021–2030. Strategy.bg. https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1587

[36] Министерски съвет на Република България. (2025). Постановление № 675 от 26 септември 2025 г. за приемане на Доклада за младежта за периода 2023–2024 г. Правна информационна система на Министерския съвет. https://pris.government.bg/document/acd72b7ca6fbb1392c9a2d3de2d265c1

чрез които младите хора могат да изразяват позиции, да допринасят за политическите дискусии и да участват във формулирането и прилагането на мерки, свързани с младежта.

Последните изменения в Закона за младежта допълнително укрепват формалната рамка за участие. Те уреждат състава и функциите на Обществения съвет по въпросите на младежта като консултативен орган към министъра на младежта и спорта, включващ представители на младежки организации и организации, работещи с и за младите хора. На местно равнище законодателните промени въведоха задължение за кметовете на общини с население над 45 000 жители да създават местни младежки консултативни съвети с участието на млади хора. Тази реформа е значима, тъй като разширява институционалната основа за младежко участие отвъд националното равнище и създава правно очакване по-големите общини да включват младите хора в процесите на местно управление.

Наред с консултативните органи, националните младежки програми са важен инструмент за подкрепа на младежкото участие в България. Тези програми осигуряват финансова подкрепа на младежки организации и други участници за реализиране на младежки дейности и проекти. Те насърчават неформалното учене, кампаниите за повишаване на осведомеността, инициативите и събитията по теми, които са от значение за младите хора. Такива програми допринасят за личностното развитие на младите хора и подпомагат превръщането им в активни граждани. Те обръщат специално внимание на младите хора с по-малко възможности и на младежите, които не учат, не работят и не се обучават (NEETs), като ги поставят сред приоритетните целеви групи на младежките проекти.

Младежката инфраструктура е друг важен фактор в контекста на участието в България. Националната рамка за младежката политика признава, че гражданските пространства, младежките центрове и общностните среди са от съществено значение за развитието на потенциала на младите хора и подкрепата на участието. Докладът за младежта 2023–2024 г. подчертава значението на младежката инфраструктура, включително младежките центрове, младежките пространства, общностните центрове и други места, където могат да се организират младежки дейности. В България вече има осем младежки центъра, създадени с подкрепата на Норвежкия финансов механизъм, а Националният план за възстановяване и устойчивост предвижда създаването на още 20 младежки центъра и Национален фокусен център до 2026 г. Това развитие е важно, тъй като физическите пространства за работа с младежи могат да улеснят местното участие, неформалното учене, диалога с институциите и ангажираността на общността.

На европейско равнище участието на българската младеж се влияе от по-широката рамка на младежката политика на ЕС. Стратегията на ЕС за младежта 2019–2027 г. е структурирана около принципите „Ангажирай се, свържи се, овласти се“, които имат за цел да насърчат младите хора да участват в демократичния живот, да се възползват от възможностите за мобилност и доброволчество и да развиват компетентности чрез качествена работа с младежи. Според Европейската комисия ЕС и държавите членки си сътрудничат за подкрепа на младите хора чрез

тези три области на действие, като ангажираността е насочена конкретно към насърчаване на младите хора да бъдат активни в обществото и[37] да участват във вземането на решения[38] .

Контекстът на ЕС показва също, че младите хора все по-често участват чрез комбинация от формални и неформални канали. Според информация на ниво ЕС, базирана на Евробарометър „Младежта и демокрацията“ от 2024 г., 64 % от младите хора в ЕС са участвали в дейности на неправителствени организации през предходните 12 месеца, докато 48 % са предприели действия за промяна на обществото, като подписване на петиция, участие в митинг или изпращане на писмо до политик[39] . Друго обобщение на „Евробарометър“ сочи, че младите хора считат гласуването в местни, национални или европейски избори за най-ефективния начин да бъдат чути от лицата, вземащи решения, следвано от изразяване на мнения чрез социалните медии и онлайн форми на ангажираност. Тези тенденции са от значение за България, защото показват, че участието на младежта вече не се ограничава до традиционните институционални канали, а все повече включва хибридни форми на гражданска активност, дигитална ангажираност и мобилизация по конкретни въпроси[40] .

В същото време данните от Европа сочат, че структурираното участие на младежта остава предизвикателство. Проучване от 2024 г. на Европейския икономически и социален комитет относно структурираното и значимо участие на младежта отбелязва, че макар намеренията за включване на младите хора често да са положителни, реализацията може да бъде ограничена от недостатъчни ресурси, слаби стратегии за ангажираност и липса на разбиране за нуждите на младите хора. Проучването подчертава, че участието на младежта трябва да бъде структурирано и смислено, а не да се разглежда като допълнителен или символичен елемент от политическите процеси. Това наблюдение важи и за българския контекст: макар да съществуват институционални механизми, тяхната ефективност зависи от достъпността, видимостта, обратната връзка и степента, в която младите хора ги възприемат като способни да окажат реално влияние[41] .

В България младите хора имат достъп до комбинация от възможности за участие: гласуване на избори, участие в обществени консултации, членство в ученически и младежки съвети, ангажираност в младежки организации и НПО, доброволчество, граждански кампании,

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[37] Европейска комисия. (2024). Flash Eurobarometer 545: Младежта и демокрацията. Европейска комисия. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3181

[38] Европейска комисия. (2025). Доклад за младежта в ЕС 2024: Как младежта оформя бъдещето. Европейски портал за младежта. https://youth.europa.eu/news/eu-youth-report-2024-looking-how-youth-are-shaping-future_en

[39] Европейска комисия. (2024). *Младежта и демокрацията – Flash Eurobarometer*. Европейска комисия. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3373

[40] Европейски парламент. (2025). Flash Eurobarometer: Проучване сред младежта 2024. Европейски парламент. https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3373

[41] Европейски икономически и социален комитет. (2024). Структурирано и значимо участие на младежта в демократичния и социалния живот в ЕС. Европейски икономически и социален комитет. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/publications-other-work/publications/structured-and-meaningful-youth-participation-democratic-and-social-life-eu

петиции, местни инициативи и участие в програми на ЕС като „Еразъм+“ и „Европейски корпус за солидарност“. Членството на България в ЕС разшири възможностите за мобилност на младежите, междукултурен обмен, доброволчество и участие в европейски инициативи. Тези възможности подпомагат развитието на граждански компетенции и укрепват връзката на младите хора с европейското публично пространство.

Въпреки това, наличието на формални механизми и програми не гарантира автоматично високи нива на ефективно участие. По-широкият контекст показва, че все още съществуват предизвикателства по отношение на осведомеността, достъпността, доверието, качеството на цифровата информация и възприеманата отзивчивост на институциите. Младите хора може да проявяват интерес към обществени въпроси, но все още им липсват практически познания за това как да участват, къде да намерят надеждна информация или как ще бъде използвано тяхното мнение. Поради тази причина контекстът на младежкото участие в България може да бъде характеризиран с относително развита формална рамка, разрастваща се младежка инфраструктура и достъп до възможностите на ЕС чрез, съчетани с продължаващи пропуски в видимостта, доверието и практическото ангажиране.

3. Фактори, благоприятстващи и възпрепятстващи младежкото участие

Участието на младежта в България се определя от съчетание от благоприятни фактори и трайни пречки. От една страна, страната е разработила стратегическа и институционална рамка, която формално подкрепя ангажираността, участието и овластяването на младите хора. От друга страна, наличните доклади сочат, че участието остава неравномерно, особено на местно равнище, и че много от съществуващите механизми все още не са достатъчно видими, достъпни или влиятелни за младите хора.

Ключов благоприятстващ фактор е наличието на национална стратегическа рамка за младежката политика. Националната стратегия за младежта 2021–2030 г. определя насърчаването на ангажираността, участието и овластяването на младите хора като един от основните си приоритети. Това създава формална политическа основа за разработване на програми, консултативни механизми и инициативи, насочени към младежта, на национално и местно равнище. Докладът за младежта за 2023–2024 г. също потвърждава, че младежката политика в България е структурирана около няколко тематични области, включително образование, заетост, равенство и приобщаване, информация и дигитални умения, младежки организации и младежи от малки населени места. Тези области са от значение за участието на младежта, тъй като засягат както гражданските, така и социално-икономическите условия, които оказват влияние върху това дали младите хора могат да поемат активна роля в обществения живот.

Младежките организации и структурите на гражданското общество също са важен фактор, който подпомага това. Те могат да действат като посредници между младите хора и институциите, да осигуряват гражданско образование, да организират консултации и кампании и да подкрепят развитието на младежкото лидерство. Националният младежки форум, като най-голямата платформа на младежките организации в България, играе важна роля в представянето на

интересите на младежта и участието в процесите на структуриран диалог. На местно равнище младежките организации и неформалните групи могат да допринесат за идентифицирането на нуждите на общността, реализирането на младежки инициативи и гарантирането, че местните власти получават обратна връзка от младите хора.

Общинската подкрепа за младежките инициативи е друг положителен елемент. Според Доклада за младежта за 2023–2024 г. 97 общини, или 74 % от общините, отговорили на съответното проучване, са заявили, че подкрепят младежките инициативи по различни начини. Тази подкрепа включва предоставяне на помещения и пространства, финансиране на събития и проекти, логистична и методологична помощ, участие в организирането на инициативи и подкрепа за участие в национални и международни проекти. Това показва, че в много общини местните власти признават стойността на младежките инициативи и са готови да предоставят практическа подкрепа.

Въпреки тези благоприятни фактори, няколко пречки продължават да ограничават качеството и последователността на младежкото участие в България. Една от основните пречки е неравномерното териториално разпределение на младежките организации и структурите за участие. Докладът за младежта за 2023–2024 г. показва, че само 51 общини, или 39 % от анкетираните, са посочили, че на тяхна територия действат регистрирани младежки организации. В много общини няма регистрирани младежки организации или активни неформални групи, което води до липса на устойчиви партньори за местните администрации. Това е особено видимо в по-малките населени места и селските общини, където младите хора често имат по-малко възможности да се включват в организирани граждански дейности.

Втора пречка е ограниченото присъствие и ефективност на младежките съвети и консултативните органи на местно равнище. Същият доклад посочва, че само 36 общини, или 27 % от анкетираните, разполагат с младежки съвет, младежки парламент или друг консултативен орган, чрез който младите хора могат да участват в процеса на вземане на решения. Дори там, където съществуват такива структури, тяхното влияние често е ограничено от липсата на ясни процедури, слабо институционално проследяване или недостатъчна интеграция в общинското планиране. Това подсказва, че съществуването на консултативен орган не гарантира автоматично значимо участие.

Допълнителна пречка е липсата на структурирани и устойчиви механизми за подкрепа на младежките инициативи. Общините могат да предоставят спорадична подкрепа, но тя често не е институционализирана чрез ясни правила, специални схеми за финансиране или вътрешни програми. В Доклада за младежта се отбелязва, че общинската подкрепа е значителна, но често е неструктурирана, и че често липсват ясни механизми, регламенти или вътрешни програми за финансиране на младежки инициативи. В резултат на това участието на младежта може да зависи от индивидуалния капацитет на общината, политическата воля или неформалните отношения, а не от предвидими и прозрачни процедури.

Участието на младежките организации в процеса на вземане на решения също остава ограничено. Наличните данни сочат, че тяхното включване в планирането и прилагането на младежката политика все още е по-скоро изключение, отколкото обичайна практика. В

общинското проучване, цитирано в Доклада за младежта, само 56 от 132 общини са посочили, че включват младежки организации в планирането и прилагането на младежката политика. Това сочи към разминаване между формалното признаване на младежкото участие и неговото практическо приложение в местното управление.

Друга важна пречка се отнася до информацията, гражданската грамотност и възприеманата ефективност на участието. Предложението на RISE Balkans, основаващо се на данни от европейско проучване сред младежите, подчертава, че ниската гражданска грамотност, ограниченото разбиране за каналите за участие и липсата на достъпна информация са сред основните причини за ниската гражданска ангажираност. В случая с България данните показват сравнително по-добро разбиране на управленските структури в сравнение с някои други държави, но формалното участие остава ограничено: само 10 % от българската младеж са участвали в обществени консултации, а едва 6 % са се свързвали с избрани политици. Това показва, че познаването на институциите не води непременно до активно използване на механизмите за участие.

Възприятието, че гласът на младите хора не се чува или не води до реална промяна, е друга значителна пречка. Данните на европейско равнище, цитирани в документацията по проекта, показват, че 34 % от българските младежи смятат, че контактът с политик няма да доведе до промяна. Въпреки че този дял е по-нисък от средния за ЕС, той все пак представлява съществена пречка за значимо участие. Когато младите хора не очакват институциите да отговорят на техните предложения, те може да предпочетат неформални или онлайн форми на изразяване или изобщо да се откажат от участие.

Социално-икономическите и териториалните неравенства също оказват влияние върху участието. Младите хора от малки населени места, уязвими групи или икономически неблагоприятни среди могат да се сблъскат с допълнителни пречки, включително ограничен достъп до младежки организации, по-малко местни инициативи, транспортни затруднения, по-слаб достъп до цифрови технологии или по-ниско доверие в общуването с институциите. Националната политическа рамка признава необходимостта от подкрепа за младите хора с по-малко възможности и за младежите, които не учат, не работят и не се обучават (NEETs), но ефективното включване изисква целенасочени дейности за достигане до тях и достъпни формати, които съответстват на реалностите на тези групи.

В обобщение, България разполага със сравнително развита стратегическа и институционална рамка за младежко участие, подкрепена от национални програми, европейски възможности, младежки организации, общински инициативи и разширяваща се младежка инфраструктура. Основните пречки обаче са свързани с неравномерното териториално покритие, недостатъчно институционализираните местни механизми, ограниченото реално влияние на младежките съвети, липсата на структурирано финансиране и подкрепа, пропуските в информацията и гражданската грамотност, както и ниското доверие, че участието ще доведе до конкретни резултати. Тези предизвикателства показват необходимостта от преминаване от формални възможности за участие към по-видими, достъпни, прозрачни и отзивчиви механизми, които позволяват на младите хора да видят практическото въздействие на своето участие.

4. Форми на младежко участие

Участието на младите хора в България се осъществява чрез комбинация от формални институционални канали, консултативни органи, структури за студентско представителство, младежки организации, доброволчески инициативи, обществени консултации, европейски програми, инструменти за цифрово участие и неформални граждански действия. Съществуващата рамка предоставя възможности за участие на национално, местно и европейско равнище, но реалното използване на тези механизми остава неравномерно. Наличните данни показват, че участието е по-развито в по-големите градски центрове и общини с активни младежки организации, докато по-малките общини често не разполагат със стабилни младежки структури, специално предназначени средства и институционализирани канали за диалог.

Един от основните официални канали за младежко участие в България е системата от консултативни и съвещателни органи в областта на младежката политика. На национално равнище младите хора и младежките организации могат да бъдат представлявани чрез Националния консултативен съвет по въпросите на младежта, Обществения съвет по въпросите на младежта, Националната работна група за изпълнение на Диалога на ЕС по въпросите на младежта и други работни формати, свързани с младежката политика и младежката работа. Тези механизми предоставят възможности за диалог между публичните институции, младежките организации и представителите на младите хора, като позволяват младежките перспективи да бъдат включени в дискусиите относно младежката политика, гражданското участие, социалното приобщаване, образованието, заетостта, доброволчеството и развитието на услугите за младежта.

На местно равнище общинските консултативни съвети по въпросите на младежта, младежките съвети и младежките парламенти са сред най-преките форми на участие в процеса на вземане на решения. Тяхната роля е да подпомагат местните власти при идентифицирането на нуждите на младежта, изготвянето на общински политики за младежта, предлагането на инициативи и подобряването на комуникацията между младите хора и общините. Териториалният обхват на тези органи обаче остава ограничен. Според Доклада за младежта за 2023–2024 г. само 36 общини, или 27 % от общините, участвали в проучването, са посочили, че разполагат с младежки съвет, младежки парламент или друг консултативен орган, в който младите хора участват в процеса на вземане на решения. Това показва, че макар да съществуват местни структури за младежко участие, те все още не са стандартна практика в цялата страна.

Неотдавнашните изменения в Закона за младежта въведоха задължение за кметовете на общини с население над 45 000 жители да създават местни младежки консултативни съвети с участието на млади хора. Това е важна правна стъпка, тъй като създава по-ясна институционална основа за включването на младите хора в процеса на вземане на решения на общинско равнище. В същото време практическото въздействие на тази реформа ще зависи от това дали тези съвети се свикват редовно, дали младите хора се подбират и включват по смислен начин и дали общинските власти предоставят обратна връзка за това как се разглеждат предложенията на младежта.

Младежките организации и неформалните младежки групи са друг важен канал за участие. Те действат като посредници между младите хора и институциите, организират кампании, обучения, консултации, инициативи за застъпничество и дейности за гражданско образование.

Въпреки това присъствието на такива организации е неравномерно. Докладът за младежта за 2023–2024 г. показва, че само 51 общини, или 39 % от анкетираните, са съобщили, че на тяхна територия действат регистрирани младежки организации. В много общини няма регистрирани младежки организации или функциониращи неформални групи, което ограничава възможността на местните администрации да работят със стабилни партньори от младежката среда.

Конкретен пример за ролята на младежките организации в България е дейността на Националния младежки форум. През 2026 г. организацията продължи да участва в инициативи за застъпничество, обществени консултации и национални работни групи, свързани с младежката политика. Примери за това са Декларацията към 52-рото Народно събрание, публикувана по време на кампанията „Дай глас“ и „Лигата на младите гласоподаватели“, както и позиции по проекти на наредби и законодателни предложения, засягащи младежките организации и младежките програми. Националният младежки форум допринесе и за диалога на ЕС с младежта чрез публикуването на препоръки от заключителната национална младежка конференция „Свързване на ЕС с младежта“, в които се разглеждат местната младежка политика, прозрачността и доверието в институциите, както и достъпът до програми за мобилност. Тези примери показват, че младежките организации могат да функционират като посредници между младите хора и лицата, вземащи решения, превръщайки приоритетите на младежта в предложения за политики, публични позиции и застъпнически действия[42] .

Въпреки това ограничено организационно присъствие, много общини осигуряват практическа подкрепа за младежки инициативи. Според същия доклад 97 общини, или 74 % от отговорилите общини, са заявили, че подкрепят младежките инициативи по различни начини. Тази подкрепа включва предоставяне на помещения и пространства, финансиране на събития и проекти, логистична и методологична помощ, участие в организацията на инициативи и подкрепа за участие в национални и международни проекти. Това показва, че общинските власти често признават важността на младежките дейности дори когато официалните младежки структури са слаби или липсват.

Въпреки това включването на младежки организации в реалното планиране на политиките остава ограничено. Въпреки че 132 общини попълниха общинското проучване, цитирано в Доклада за младежта, само 56 от тях съобщиха, че включват младежки организации в планирането и изпълнението на младежката политика. Посочените примери са разнообразни: някои общини включват младежки представители в комисии и работни групи, докато други сътрудничат главно чрез единични кампании или събития. Това показва, че диалогът между общините и младите хора често съществува, но често е епизодичен, а не институционализиран.

Обществените консултации представляват друг формален канал за младежко участие. Чрез тях младите хора могат да дават обратна връзка по законопроекти, стратегии, общински планове и политически документи. По принцип този механизъм позволява на младите граждани да участват в вземането на решения извън изборите и партийната политика. На практика обаче обществените

[42] Национален младежки форум. (2026). *Актуална информация за дейностите по застъпничество, Диалога на ЕС по въпросите на младежта, националните работни групи и инициативите за участие на младежта*. Бюлетин на Националния младежки форум, май 2026 г.

консултации често се използват недостатъчно от младите хора, тъй като могат да се възприемат като прекалено технически, бюрократични или отдалечени от ежедневните им проблеми. Проектът RISE Balkans, позовавайки се на данни от европейско проучване сред младежите, отбелязва, че само 10 % от българските младежи са участвали в обществени консултации, докато едва 6 % са се свързвали с избрани политици. Това показва, че формални механизми за участие съществуват, но все още не се използват широко от младите хора.

Представителството на студентите също е важна форма на участие в България. На университетско ниво студентските съвети осигуряват формален механизъм, чрез който студентите могат да представляват своите интереси, да участват в академичното управление и да допринасят за дискусиите относно благосъстоянието на студентите, качеството на образованието, мобилността, живота в кампуса и институционалното развитие. На национално равнище Националното представителство на студентските съвети в Република България представлява студенти, докторанти и стажанти в акредитирани висши учебни заведения. То функционира като национален орган, който защитава правата и интересите на студентите и подкрепя студентското самоуправление, междууниверситетското сътрудничество и участието в обществени дискусии, свързани с висшето образование и младежката политика.

Доброволчеството е друга широко разпространена и практична форма на участие. То позволява на младите хора да се ангажират със социални, хуманитарни, културни, екологични, образователни и общностни каузи. Доброволчеството е особено важно, защото съчетава гражданска ангажираност с видими резултати и практически действия. Чрез доброволчеството младите хора могат да развият солидарност, отговорност, комуникативни умения и чувство за принадлежност към своята общност. Тази форма на участие се подкрепя както чрез национални младежки програми, така и чрез европейски инструменти като Европейския корпус за солидарност.

Младежката инфраструктура също е пряко свързана с участието. Младежките центрове, младежките пространства, общностните центрове и подобни среди осигуряват физически места, където младите хора могат да се срещат, да учат, да участват и да развиват граждански умения. Докладът за младежта за 2023–2024 г. подчертава, че две трети от общините разполагат с някаква форма на пространство за младежки дейности, но в много случаи това са по-скоро многофункционални помещения, отколкото специализирани младежки центрове. В доклада се отбелязва също, че често липсват стандарти за поддръжка, достъпност и управление. Това означава, че младежката инфраструктура съществува на много места, но нейното качество, достъпност и капацитет да подкрепя значимо участие се различават значително между общините[43] .

[43] Министерски съвет на Република България. (2025). Постановление № 675 от 26 септември 2025 г. за приемане на Доклада за младежта за периода 2023–2024 г. Правна информационна система на Министерския съвет.
https://pris.government.bg/document/acd72b7ca6fbb1392c9a2d3de2d265c1

Европейските програми предоставят допълнителни възможности за младежко участие. „Еразъм+“, Европейският корпус за солидарност и Диалогът на ЕС по въпросите на младежта дават възможност на младите хора в България да участват в международна мобилност, доброволчество, младежки консултации, междукултурен обмен и дейности, свързани с проекти. Тези програми укрепват гражданските компетенции и подкрепят развитието на европейска идентичност сред младите хора. Те също така предоставят възможности за ангажираност с въпроси като демокрация, приобщаване, права на човека, опазване на околната среда, солидарност и активно гражданство.

В обобщение, България разполага с разнообразен набор от канали за младежко участие, включително консултативни органи, обществени консултации, студентско представителство, младежки организации, доброволчество, младежки пространства и европейски програми. Основното предизвикателство не е липсата на механизми, а неравномерното им териториално покритие, ограничената им видимост и недостатъчното институционално проследяване.

5. Методология

Съгласно Протокола, РП1 има за цел да създаде база от факти за гражданското участие на младежта в участващите държави чрез идентифициране на бариери, възможности и възприятия, свързани с участието, изготвянето на политики, прозрачността и борбата с корупцията. Дизайнът на изследването включва документално проучване, качествено и количествено проучване, както и дейности по национална валидация, като резултатите се включват в националните доклади и доклада за сравнителен анализ.

Документалното проучване беше използвано, за да се представи националният и европейският контекст за младежкото участие в България. То включваше преглед на национални политически документи, институционални доклади и източници на европейско ниво, свързани с младежкото участие, гражданското участие, прозрачността и борбата с корупцията. Особено внимание беше отделено на Доклада за младежта в България за периода 2023–2024 г., Националната стратегия за младежта 2021–2030 г., документите на ЕС за младежката политика, данните от Евробарометър и съответните материали по проекта. Тази част от изследването послужи като основа за контекстуалните раздели на доклада, особено тези, отнасящи се до националната рамка за младежката политика, официалните канали за участие, благоприятстващите фактори, пречките и съществуващите добри практики.

Количественият компонент беше реализиран чрез анонимно онлайн проучване, проведено на български език между 5 и 12 април 2026 г. Проучването беше насочено към млади хора на възраст 18–26 години, живеещи в България, и беше предназначено да проучи тяхната осведоменост, нагласи и опит по отношение на гражданското участие, борбата с корупцията, прозрачността, доверието в институциите и изготвянето на политики. Бяха събрани общо 62 валидни отговора от България, което представлява 12,65 % от общата извадка на проучването RISE Balkans от 490 респонденти в участващите държави. По този начин българската извадка предоставя описателна картина на възприятията на младежта в страната, без да претендира за статистическа представителност за цялото младежко население.

Таблица 1. Профил на извадката от проучването – България

Категория	Основен резултат
Общо валидни отговори	62 респонденти
Период на проучването	5–12 април 2026 г.
Целева група	Младежи на възраст 18–26 години
Дял от общата извадка на проучването RISE Balkans	12,65% от 490 респонденти
Най-голяма възрастова група	21–23 години – 56,45%

Категория	Основен резултат
Разпределение по пол	Мъже – 50%; Жени – 43,55%; Небинарни – 4,84%; Предпочитат да не отговорят – 1,61%
Място на пребиваване	Градски – 74,19%; Полуградски – 17,74%; Селски – 8,06%
Най-разпространено ниво на образование	Средно образование – 54,84%
Основен настоящ статус	Студенти – 77,42%
Допълнителни категории статус	Заети – 30,65%; В обучение/стаж – 11,29%; Безработни – 6,45%

Източник: Автор

Въпросът за настоящото положение позволяваше да се дадат няколко отговора; поради това общият процент надвишава 100 %.

Поради това извадката е предимно градска и ориентирана към студенти, което трябва да се има предвид при интерпретирането на резултатите, особено по отношение на младите хора от селските райони, малките населени места и уязвимите групи.

Въпросникът на проучването включваше въпроси с затворени отговори и въпроси с възможност за повече от един отговор, петстепенна скала от типа на Ликерт и избрани въпроси с отворени отговори. Той обхващаше няколко тематични области: демографски профил; възприятия за корупцията, прозрачността и почтеността; познания за управлението и законодателните процеси; осведоменост за каналите за участие; опит за гражданско участие; пречки и благоприятстващи фактори; доверие в източниците на информация; сигнализиране за корупция; и предпочитани формати и инструменти за бъдещо младежко участие. Анкетата беше проведена на български език, за да се гарантира достъпност, разбираемост и по-автентични отговори от целевата група.

Качественият компонент на анализа се основава на писмени отговори с отворени въпроси, предоставени от участниците в проучването. Общо 19 респонденти, представляващи 30,65 % от българската извадка, предоставиха писмени коментари към последния въпрос относно допълнителните нужди от подкрепа за активно гражданско участие. Тези отговори бяха анализирани тематично и използвани за допълване на количествените резултати. Те предоставиха информация за възприятията на младите хора относно информационните пропуски, институционалната непрозрачност, нуждата от по-ясни процедури, менторство, защита при

сигнализиране на корупция и видими резултати от участието. Където е уместно, анонимизирани и преведени извадки от тези отговори са включени в аналитичните раздели на доклада.

Като част от процеса на валидиране на РП1 в България бяха организирани два валидационни семинара. Националната студентска конфедерация (НСК), в качеството си на български партньор по проекта, организира валидационен семинар през предходната седмица с участието на 34 младежи. Освен това Университетът по национално и световно стопанство организира национален валидационен семинар на 4 май 2026 г. с участието на 36 студенти. Семинарите предоставиха възможност да се представят и обсъдят предварителните резултати от българското проучване, да се провери дали идентифицираните тенденции съответстват на опита на участниците и да се съберат допълнителни мнения относно бариерите, благоприятстващите фактори, прозрачността, почтеността и участието на младежта. Получената обратна връзка по време на валидационните семинари беше включена в аналитичните части на доклада, където това беше уместно.

Анализът е предимно описателен. Количествените резултати са представени чрез честоти, проценти и тематична интерпретация на моделите на отговорите. Качествените коментари се използват за контекстуализиране на числовите констатации и за идентифициране на повтарящи се възприятия, опасения и очаквания. Докладът не прави твърдения на ниво население, тъй като проучването се основава на конкретна извадка и размерът на извадката е ограничен. Следователно констатациите трябва да се тълкуват като показателни за възприятията на анкетираната група младежи, а не като напълно представителни за всички млади хора в България.

Следва да се отбележат няколко ограничения. Първо, извадката е предимно градска и ориентирана към студенти, което може да доведе до недостатъчно представяне на младите хора от селските райони, икономически неравностойни среди, младежи, които не учат, не работят и не се обучават (NEETs), и други уязвими групи. Второ, данните бяха събрани онлайн, което може да е изключило младите хора с ограничен достъп до интернет или по-малък интерес към граждански и обществени въпроси. Трето, качествените данни се основават на отворени въпроси в анкетата, а не на голям брой задълбочени интервюта. Въпреки тези ограничения, изследването предоставя ценна информация за връзката между осведомеността на младежта, доверието в институциите, възприятията за корупция и практическите бариери, които оформят гражданското участие в България.

Аналитичната интерпретация на резултатите от проучването също е поставена в по-широкия европейски контекст на младежкото участие. Последните данни на ниво ЕС показват, че младите хора все по-често съчетават формалното участие, като гласуване и консултации, с неформални и дигитални форми на ангажираност. В същото време европейските проучвания подчертават, че значимото участие на младежта зависи не само от наличието на формални механизми, но и от това дали тези механизми са достъпни, разбираеми и последвани от видима институционална реакция. Тази перспектива е релевантна за констатациите за България, където

осведомеността по граждански и антикорупционни въпроси е относително висока, но практическото познание за каналите за участие остава по-ограничено[44] .

[44] Европейски икономически и социален комитет. (2024). *Структурирано и значимо участие на младежта в демократичния и социалния живот в ЕС*. Европейски икономически и социален комитет. https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/our-work/publications-other-work/publications/structured-and-meaningful-youth-participation-policy-and-decision-making-processes-mapping-local-national-eu-and

6. Осведоменост и разбиране на младежта относно гражданското участие, борбата с корупцията, прозрачността и изготвянето на политики

Резултатите от проучването показват, че младите респонденти в България демонстрират сравнително силна осведоменост по отношение на основните концепции, свързани с борбата с корупцията и почтеността, но по-неравномерно разбиране на изготвянето на политики, механизмите за обществени консултации и каналите за практическо участие. Това подсказва, че младите хора може да са запознати с общата гражданска и антикорупционна терминология, но все още им липсват достатъчно практически познания за това как да взаимодействат с институциите и процесите на вземане на решения.

6.1 Познания за концепциите за борба с корупцията и почтеността

Най-високи нива на запознатост бяха регистрирани по отношение на основни понятия като корупция, конфликт на интереси и сигнализиране/докладване на корупция. Разбирането на корупцията като концепция постигна най-високите нива на запознатост: 37,10% от анкетираните (n=23) заявиха, че са „много запознати“ с термина, докато 38,71% (n=24) посочиха, че са „изключително запознати“. Това означава, че повече от три четвърти от анкетираните млади хора заявиха високо ниво на запознатост с концепцията за корупцията.

Подобен силен резултат беше отчетен и за понятието „конфликт на интереси“. Общо 38,71% от анкетираните (n=24) посочиха, че са „много запознати“ с термина, докато 43,55% (n=27) отбелязаха, че са „изключително запознати“. Това е важно заключение, тъй като конфликтът на интереси е една от основните концепции в по-широката сфера на обществената почтеност и антикорупционната политика. Запознатостта с концепцията предполага, че респондентите имат поне основно разбиране за ситуации, в които частни интереси могат да се намесват в публичните отговорности.

Сигнализирането за нередности и корупция също показа сравнително високи нива на осведоменост. Общо 38,71% от анкетираните (n=24) заявиха, че са „много запознати“ с понятието, докато 35,48% (n=22) посочиха, че са „изключително запознати“. Този резултат е значим, тъй като сигнализирането за корупция е пряко свързано с активно гражданско поведение и институционална отчетност. Въпреки това, както е показано в по-крайните раздели на доклада, осведомеността за концепцията не означава непременно, че младите хора се чувстват сигурни или достатъчно информирани за това къде и как да сигнализират за корупция.

Като цяло данните сочат, че българските респонденти не са незапознати с основния речник на корупцията и почтеността. Те могат да разпознават ключови понятия и, изглежда, разбират общото им значение. В същото време тази осведоменост е по-скоро концептуална, отколкото практическа. Резултатите от проучването сочат, че знанието какво означават корупция, конфликт на интереси или сигнализиране за нередности не се превръща автоматично в увереност при използването на наличните канали за сигнализиране или участието в механизми за отчетност.

6.2 Познания за процесите на управление и законодателство

Познанията за законодателните и управленските процеси изглеждат по-умерени. На въпроса за запознатостта с националния законодателен процес 40,32 % от респондентите (n=25) отговориха, че са „умерено запознати“, 27,42 % (n=17) заявиха, че са „много запознати“, а 14,52 % (n=9) се считат за „изключително запознати“. Тези резултати показват, че мнозинството от анкетираните имат поне някаква представа за това как се разработва националното законодателство, но делът на тези с много висока увереност остава ограничен.

Процесите на обществени консултации показаха подобна тенденция. Общо 40,32 % от анкетираните (n=25) посочиха, че са умерено запознати с обществените консултации, докато само 9,68 % (n=6) се описаха като много запознати. Това сочи към конкретна празнина в практическата гражданска грамотност. Обществените консултации са един от основните формални механизми, чрез които гражданите могат да дават обратна връзка по законопроекти, стратегии и документи за политики, но изглежда, че много млади хора нямат ясно разбиране за това как този механизъм работи на практика.

Същото заключение се подкрепя и от отговорите относно достъпа до информация за възможностите за участие. По-голямата част от анкетираните, 51,61% (n=32), заявиха, че намирането на информация за възможностите за гражданско участие не е нито лесно, нито трудно. В същото време 19,35 % (n=12) го намират за доста трудно, докато само 3,23 % (n=2) го считат за лесно. Тези констатации сочат, че проблемът не е непременно в пълната липса на информация, а по-скоро в нейната фрагментираност, ограничената ѝ видимост и недостатъчното ѝ адаптиране към нуждите на младите хора.

На въпроса кой може да внася предложения за ново законодателство на национално равнище 66,13 % от анкетираните (n=41) правилно посочиха членовете на парламента, докато 61,29 % (n=38) посочиха правителството. Резултатите обаче сочат и несигурност или непълни познания по отношение на другите участници и канали. По отношение на законодателната власт на Европейския съюз 46,77 % от анкетираните (n=29) правилно посочиха Европейската комисия като институцията с основна роля при предлагането на нови закони на ЕС, докато 33,87 % (n=21) погрешно избраха Европейския парламент. Това показва, че макар много от анкетираните да имат основни познания за институциите на ЕС, все още съществува объркване относно конкретните им функции в законодателния процес.

6.3 Разбиране на възможностите за обществено участие и консултации

Проучването разгледа също така дали младите хора разбират кога и как гражданите могат да дават мнение по предложени закони. На въпроса дали гражданите могат да дават обратна връзка или мнение по предложен нов закон, 67,74 % от анкетираните (n=42) отговориха утвърдително. Въпреки това 17,74 % (n=11) заявиха, че гражданите не могат да дават такова мнение, докато 14,52 % (n=9) не бяха сигурни. Това показва, че почти една трета от анкетираните или не знаят, или не вярват, че гражданите могат да участват в процесите на обратна връзка по законодателството.

По отношение на етапа, на който гражданите могат да дават обратна връзка, 64,52 % от анкетираните (n=40) правилно посочиха фазата на общественото обсъждане или изслушване. Въпреки това 11,29% (n=7) смятат, че гражданите могат да повлияят на процеса само чрез улични протести, докато 6,45% (n=4) заявяват, че гражданите не могат да повлияят на законодателния процес. Тези отговори сочат ясна нужда от по-практическо гражданско образование, особено относно функционирането на обществените консултации, изслушванията и институционалните механизми за обратна връзка.

Това заключение е важно, защото показва разминаване между общото демократично съзнание и практическото процедурно знание. Младите хора може да подкрепят демократичното участие по принцип, но не винаги знаят кои формални механизми съществуват, кога могат да бъдат използвани, и какъв вид принос се очаква от гражданите. Това създава пречка за смислено участие, защото участието изисква не само мотивация, но и процедурна яснота.

6.4 Качествени наблюдения

Качествените отговори подкрепят количествените констатации и предоставят допълнителен контекст. Няколко респонденти подчертаха, че се нуждаят от по-ясна, по-опростена и по-достъпна информация за това как да участват. Един респондент заяви, че младите хора се нуждаят от „ясна и проста информация за това как да се включат“. Друг респондент обясни, че се нуждаят от „по-достъпна и разбираема информация за законодателните процеси, повече възможности за участие в обществени консултации и по-ясни канали за комуникация с институциите“.

Тези коментари сочат, че основното предизвикателство не е пълната липса на интерес или осведоменост, а трудността да се превърне осведомеността в действие. Младите хора може да разбират основните граждански концепции, но често им липсват практически насоки за това какви стъпки да предприемат, къде да намерят надеждна информация и как да общуват с институциите. Това създава разминаване между информацията и действието: знанието съществува на общо ниво, но не винаги е свързано с конкретни пътища за участие.

Отговорите с отворен характер също показват, че самото осведомяване не е достатъчно. Респондентите свързаха участието с необходимостта от по-ясни процедури, по-добра комуникация и практически насоки за това как да се използват съществуващите канали.

Семинарите за валидиране, организирани в България, потвърдиха тези констатации. Участниците признаха, че младите хора като цяло са наясно с важността на гражданското участие, прозрачността и борбата с корупцията, но често им липсват практически познания за това как да използват официалните канали за участие. Дискусиите подчертаха също така необходимостта от обяснения, достъпни за младите хора, видими възможности за участие и примери, показващи, че приносът на младежта може да доведе до конкретни резултати.

7. Пречки и благоприятстващи фактори

Резултатите от проучването в България показват, че основните пречки пред участието на младежта не са свързани с липса на интерес, а по-скоро с липса на ясна информация, недоверие в ефективността на участието, ограничено самочувствие и несигурност относно това как да се включат на практика. Най-силната пречка, посочена от респондентите, беше липсата на ясна информация и дезинформацията, избрана от 66,13% от респондентите (n=41). Това показва, че достъпът до разбираема, надеждна и достъпна за младежите информация е предпоставка за смислено участие.

Втората по значимост пречка беше възприятието, че личните мнения няма да променят нищо, избрано от 40,32 % от респондентите (n=25). Това заключение сочи към проблем с възприеманото като ниско въздействие. Младите хора може да са наясно с възможностите за участие, но ако не вярват, че институциите ще вземат мнението им на сериозно, е по-малко вероятно да се ангажират. Това беше потвърдено и в отговорите с отворен характер, където един от анкетираните заяви, че трябва да „види резултати“, за да почувства, че участието има смисъл.

Налице бяха и практически и социални бариери, макар и по-малко доминиращи. Липсата на време беше посочена от 29,03 % от анкетираните (n=18), докато страхът от негативни реакции, критика или тормоз в интернет беше посочен от 25,81 % (n=16). Още 20,97% (n=13) посочиха липсата на увереност, а 11,29% (n=7) заявиха, че възможностите са твърде далеч или труднодостъпни. Финансовите разходи бяха споменати само от 6,45% (n=4), което предполага, че за тази извадка информационните и психологическите бариери са по-важни от преките икономически пречки.

Действителните модели на участие показват, че младите хора са по-склонни да се ангажират чрез познати или леснодостъпни форми на участие, отколкото чрез преки институционални канали. През последните 12 месеца 67,74% от анкетираните (n=42) са гласували на избори, когато са имали право на това; 46,77% (n=29) са подписали петиция или са подкрепили кампания; 41,94% (n=26) са били доброволци в общностна или социална инициатива; и 38,71% (n=24) са присъствали на гражданска, младежка или общностна среща или събитие. За сметка на това само 12,90 % (n=8) са се свързвали с публичен орган, институция или представител, докато 17,74 % (n=11) са участвали в студентски, младежки или университетски представителен орган.

Участието в обществени консултации остава особено ограничено. Само 9,68 % от анкетираните (n=6) са участвали в консултация на местно или общинско равнище, 8,06 % (n=5) – на национално равнище, а 6,45 % (n=4) – на равнище ЕС. В същото време 40,32 % (n=25) са заявили, че не са участвали, но биха искали да го направят, докато 17,74 % (n=11) са посочили, че не знаят откъде да започнат. Това показва ясна разлика между интереса и действителното участие: много млади хора са отворени към ангажираност, но се нуждаят от по-ясни насоки и по-достъпни входни точки.

Факторите, които според анкетираните биха подпомогнали участието, потвърждават този извод. Най-често посочваната мярка, която би помогнала на младите хора да участват повече, е „ясна и проста информация за това как да се включат“, избрана от 61,29 % от анкетираните (n=38). Доверието в информацията за гражданския и обществения живот беше избрано от 48,39% (n=30),

докато 29,03% (n=18) посочиха възможности, по-близки до мястото, където учат, работят или живеят. Насоките, менторството или практическата подкрепа също бяха подчертани в качествените отговори като необходими за превръщането на интереса в действие.

На въпроса кои действия са най-ефективни за това гласът на младите хора да бъде чут, анкетираните поставиха на първо място гласуването на избори, избрано от 59,68 % (n=37). Присъединяването към младежка организация, НПО или гражданска инициатива следваше с 41,94 % (n=26). Други форми, като онлайн кампании, петиции и демонстрации, бяха избрани по-рядко. Това подсказва, че младите респонденти все още признават важността на формалните и организационните форми на участие, дори ако често срещат пречки за ефективното им използване.

Семинарите за валидиране потвърдиха същата тенденция. Участниците признаха, че младите хора не са непременно апатични, но често им липсва достъпна информация, практически примери и увереност, че тяхното участие ще доведе до видими резултати. Те също така подчертаха важността на обратната връзка от институциите, тъй като младите хора са по-склонни да останат ангажирани, когато могат да видят как е бил взет предвид техният принос.

8. Прозрачност, почтеност и доверие

Резултатите от проучването в България показват, че възприятията за корупция са много високи сред младите респонденти. Общо 67,74 % от респондентите (n=42) описаха корупцията в България като „много разпространена“, докато 27,42 % (n=17) я сметнаха за „разпространена“. Като цяло 95,16 % от българската извадка възприемат корупцията като разпространена или много разпространена. Това показва, че корупцията не се разглежда като изолиран проблем, а като структурен проблем, засягащ обществения живот и доверието в институциите.

Това възприятие е видимо и по отношение на конкретни институции и сектори. Корупцията сред политиците на национално, регионално и местно ниво е оценена като „много разпространена“ от 61,29% от анкетираните (n=38) и като „разпространена“ от 30,65% (n=19). Подобни резултати бяха отбелязани и за полицията, където 58,06% (n=36) са избрали „много разпространена“, а 33,87% (n=21) – „разпространена“. Тези резултати сочат, че младите респонденти свързват корупцията както с политиката на високо равнище, така и с институции, които пряко засягат ежедневните взаимодействия на гражданите с държавата.

Проучването разкрива също така ниско доверие в механизмите за отчетност. На въпроса дали случаите на корупция на високо равнище се разследват достатъчно, 51,61% от респондентите (n=32) изразиха силно съгласие, че това не е така, докато 30,65% (n=19) се съгласиха. Това означава, че повече от четири пети от респондентите изразяват скептицизъм по отношение на ефективното преследване и проследяване на случаите на корупция на високо равнище.

Прозрачността на институционалните процедури е друга важна тема, която буди загриженост. Едва 12,90 % от анкетираните (n=8) са съгласни, че държавните институции обикновено обясняват процедурите ясно, докато 41,94 % (n=26) не са съгласни и 25,81 % (n=16) остават неутрални. По същия начин 46,77 % от анкетираните от (n=29) не са съгласни, че младите хора могат да получат справедлив достъп до публични услуги без лични връзки, докато само 16,13 % (n=10) са съгласни. Тези констатации сочат, че доверието е отслабено не само от възприятията за корупция, но и от неясните процедури и съмненията относно равното третиране. Анкетираните свързват доверието главно с практическата прозрачност, включително ясни стъпки, срокове и критерии за вземане на решения.

Сигнализирането за корупция изглежда е особено чувствителен въпрос. Само 6,45 % от анкетираните (n=4) заявиха, че биха се почувствали „много сигурни“, ако сигнализират за корупция или несправедливо третиране, докато 32,26 % (n=20) биха се почувствали „по-скоро несигурни“, а 9,68 % (n=6) – „много несигурни“. Още 38,71 % (n=24) остават неутрални. Това показва, че сигнализирането за корупция не се възприема като обикновен административен акт, а като процес, свързан с личен риск, несигурност и липса на доверие в институционалната защита.

Познанията за каналите за сигнализиране също са ограничени. Общо 45,16 % от анкетираните (n=28) заявиха, че имат обща представа къде и как да сигнализират за корупция, но не са сигурни в процеса. Други 27,42% (n=17) не биха знаели къде да отидат, докато само 12,90% (n=8) заявиха, че знаят точно къде да подадат сигнал. Това потвърждава, че осведомеността за

корупцията като проблем е много по-висока от практическото познание за механизмите за сигнализиране.

На въпроса какво би накарало младите хора да се чувстват по-сигурни при сигнализиране на корупция, анкетираните посочиха като приоритет анонимността и защитата. Възможностите за анонимно сигнализиране бяха избрани от 59,68% от анкетираните (n=37), докато защитата от негативни последствия или репресии беше избрана от 50% (n=31). Ясни указания за това къде и как да се подаде сигнал бяха избрани от 38,71% (n=24). Тези резултати показват, че механизмите за сигнализиране трябва не само да са формално налице, но и да бъдат надеждни, конфиденциални и лесни за разбиране.

Доверието във възможните субекти за подаване на жалби за корупция е фрагментирано. Специализираните антикорупционни агенции бяха избрани от 30,65 % от респондентите (n=19), журналистите – от 29,03 % (n=18), а адвокатите – от 20,97 % (n=13). Полицията е избрана от 19,35% (n=12), докато съдилищата или прокуратурата са избрани от 14,52% (n=9). Забележително е, че 11,29% (n=7) са избрали „никой“, което показва пълна липса на доверие в някой от изброените субекти.

9. Нужди, предпочитани формати и решения

Най-често посочваната нужда беше „ясна и проста информация за това как да се включат“, избрана от 61,29 % от респондентите (n=38). Това потвърждава едно от основните заключения на доклада: младите хора не са непременно нежелаещи да участват, но често им липсва ясна и практична информация откъде да започнат. Доверието в информацията за гражданския и обществения живот беше вторият по важност фактор, избран от 48,39 % от анкетираните (n=30). Това показва, че информацията трябва не само да е достъпна, но и да е надеждна, разбираема и да се възприема като достоверна.

Достъпността също има значение. Общо 29,03 % от анкетираните (n=18) посочиха, че възможности, които са по-близо до мястото, където учат, работят или живеят, биха им помогнали да участват повече. Гъвкави онлайн или хибридни варианти за участие бяха избрани от 17,74 % (n=11). Тези резултати сочат, че възможностите за участие трябва да бъдат проектирани по начин, който отразява ежедневните навици, учебните задължения, ангажиментите по работа и географското местоположение на младите хора.

В проучването беше зададен и въпросът какво би повишило доверието, когато младите хора взаимодействат с публични услуги или институции. Най-често избраният отговор беше „ясни стъпки/процес, обяснени предварително“, избран от 61,29 % от анкетираните (n=38). След това се нареждат ясните срокове, избрани от 33,87 % (n=21), и ясните критерии за вземане на решения, избрани от 30,65 % (n=19). Тези констатации показват, че младите хора разбират прозрачността в много практичен смисъл: те трябва да знаят каква е процедурата, колко време ще отнеме, какви критерии ще бъдат приложени и как ще получат обратна връзка.

По отношение на нуждите от обучение респондентите изразиха най-силен интерес към Европейския съюз и участието на младежта. Тази тема беше избрана от 50 % от респондентите (n=31). Втората най-предпочитана тема беше интегритетът, прозрачността и инструментите за борба с корупцията, избрани от 41,94 % (n=26). Правата на гражданите и достъпът до информация бяха избрани от 33,87% (n=21), докато 32,26% (n=20) изразиха интерес към това как се вземат решения на местно и национално ниво. Тези резултати показват, че младите хора се интересуват не само от абстрактни демократични ценности, но и от практически знания за институциите, правата, процеса на вземане на решения и механизмите за борба с корупцията.

Предпочитаните формати за бъдещи дейности са относително разнообразни, което предполага, че нито един формат сам по себе си не би бил достатъчен. Работни срещи и семинари бяха избрани от 32,26% от анкетираните (n=20), докато доброволчески проекти бяха избрани от 30,65% (n=19). Онлайн сесиите са харесани от 29,03% (n=18), докато менторството и симулациите/бууткемповете са избрани от по 27,42% (n=17). Това разпределение показва, че младите хора ценят както практичните формати с лично присъствие, така и гъвкавите дигитални възможности. То също така подсказва, че бъдещите проектни дейности трябва да комбинират няколко метода, вместо да разчитат на лекции или еднопосочни информационни сесии.

Респондентите посочиха и конкретни инструменти, които биха им помогнали да получат достъп до информация и да участват по-лесно. Най-предпочитаният вариант беше дигитална платформа, подходяща за младежи, избрана от 67,74% от респондентите (n=42). Кратки обяснения във видео или инфографичен формат бяха избрани от 33,87% (n=21), а същият дял избра прост наръчник или набор от инструменти за това как да се участва. Календар с възможности беше избран от 17,74 % (n=11), докато групи за взаимна подкрепа бяха избрани от 14,52 % (n=9). Тези резултати показват, че младите хора предпочитат достъпни, визуални, практични и централизирани информационни инструменти.

Качествените отговори подкрепят тези констатации. Няколко респонденти заявиха, че се нуждаят от по-достъпна и разбираема информация, по-ясни канали за комуникация с институциите и повече възможности за участие в обществени консултации. Други подчертаха важността на виждането на конкретни резултати от участието. Един респондент заяви, че трябва да „вижда резултати“, за да почувства, че участието има смисъл. Това сочи към важността на механизмите за обратна връзка: младите хора са по-склонни да останат ангажирани, когато разбират как се използват техните мнения.

Семинарите за валидиране потвърдиха необходимостта от практични и подходящи за младежите формати. Участниците подчертаха, че информацията трябва да се представя на прост език, чрез примери, визуални материали и интерактивни формати. Те също така подчертаха, че младите хора се нуждаят от конкретни указания за това как да участват, как да се свързват с институциите, как да подават предложения или обратна връзка и как да сигнализират за корупция или несправедливо отношение. Семинарите потвърдиха също, че дигиталните инструменти трябва да се комбинират с дейности на живо, тъй като някои млади хора предпочитат директната дискусия и взаимодействието с връстници.

10. Заключения

Проучването, проведено в България в рамките на WP1 на проекта RISE Balkans, показва, че младите хора не са безразлични към въпросите на гражданското участие, прозрачността и борбата с корупцията. Напротив, резултатите от проучването сочат сравнително високо ниво на осведоменост по ключови понятия като корупция, конфликт на интереси и сигнализиране за нередности, както и силна убеденост, че младите хора могат да допринесат за намаляване на корупцията. Това осъзнаване обаче не се превръща автоматично в активно и структурирано участие. Основното предизвикателство, идентифицирано от проучването, е разминаването между гражданската осведоменост и практическото гражданско участие.

Едно от основните заключения е, че младите хора в България се сблъскват с разминаване между информация и действие. Респондентите като цяло са запознати с основните граждански и антикорупционни понятия, но често им липсват практически познания за това как да участват, къде да намерят надеждна информация, как функционират обществените консултации, как да се свържат с институциите и къде да сигнализират за корупция или несправедливо отношение. Това подсказва, че проблемът е не само образователен в широк смисъл, но и процедурен. Младите хора се нуждаят от практическа гражданска грамотност, включително насоки стъпка по стъпка, ясни примери и достъпни обяснения на институционалните процеси.

Второ важно заключение се отнася до възприеманата ефективност на участието. Значителна част от анкетираните смятат, че техните мнения може да не променят нищо. Това не означава непременно апатия, а по-скоро ниско доверие в способността на институциите да реагират. Качествените отговори и валидиращите семинари потвърдиха, че младите хора са по-склонни да се ангажират, когато виждат конкретни резултати, получават обратна връзка и разбират как е бил използван техният принос. Следователно смисленото участие изисква не само достъп до канали за консултации, но и видимо последващо действие.

Сред анкетираните млади хора възприятието за корупция е много високо. Общо 95,16 % от анкетираните описват корупцията в България като широко разпространена или много широко разпространена. Корупцията се възприема не като изолиран проблем, а като структурен проблем, засягащ политическите институции, публичната администрация и ежедневните взаимодействия с държавата. Това възприятие оказва силно влияние върху доверието в институциите и определя готовността на младите хора да се ангажират с официалните механизми.

Сигнализирането за корупция остава особено чувствителна област. Въпреки че анкетираните са запознати с понятията „разкриване на нередности“ и „сигнализиране за корупция“, много от тях не се чувстват в безопасност да сигнализират за корупция и не са сигурни къде и как да го направят. Възможностите за анонимно сигнализиране, защитата от репресии и ясните указания относно процедурите за сигнализиране бяха посочени като ключови изисквания. Това подсказва, че антикорупционната политика трябва да постави по-голям акцент върху механизми за сигнализиране, които са удобни за младите хора, върху поверителността и практическата защита.

Като цяло, резултатите от проучването в България сочат ясен извод: младите хора имат потенциал и желание да участват, но се нуждаят от по-добра гражданска инфраструктура. Това включва надеждна информация, практически насоки, достъпни канали за участие, сигурни механизми за подаване на сигнали, обратна връзка от институциите и видими резултати. Предизвикателството не е просто да се насърчат младите хора да бъдат активни, а да се направи участието разбираемо, безопасно, смислено и свързано с реалните процеси на вземане на решения.

11. Препоръки

За проектаRISE Balkans

1. Да се даде приоритет на практическата гражданска грамотност.

Дейностите на RISE Balkans в България трябва да се фокусират върху практическите умения, а не само върху теоретичните знания. Младите хора се нуждаят от ясни насоки за това как да участват в обществени консултации, как да се свързват с институциите, как да подават обратна връзка, как да изискват публична информация и как да сигнализират за корупция или несправедливо отношение.

2. Да се разработят дигитални материали, подходящи за младежи.

Тъй като липсата на ясна информация и дезинформацията бяха определени като основните пречки за участието, проектът трябва да създаде кратки, достъпни и визуални материали, включително инфографики, кратки видеоклипове, контролни списъци и ръководства. Тези материали трябва да обясняват гражданското участие и инструментите за борба с корупцията на прост език и с конкретни примери.

3. Използване на интерактивни и експериментални формати.

Следва да се даде приоритет на семинари, симулации, обучителни лагери, менторски и доброволчески проекти. Тези формати съответстват на предпочитанията, изразени от респондентите, и позволяват на младите хора да учат чрез практика, дискусии и примери от реалния живот.

4. Създаване на централизирано информационно пространство, подходящо за младежите.

Цифрова платформа или онлайн център трябва да събира информация за възможности за участие, обществени консултации, проектни дейности, младежки инициативи, доброволчество, възможности по програмите „Еразъм+“ и „Европейски корпус за солидарност“, както и канали за подаване на сигнали. Това би отговорило пряко на предпочитанията на респондентите за достъпна и централизирана информация.

За политиците и публичните институции

1. Превръщане на обществените консултации в по-достъпни за младите хора.

Публичните консултации трябва да се популяризират чрез канали, подходящи за младежите, и да бъдат придружени от кратки обяснения за това какво се предлага, как младите хора могат да допринесат и какво ще се случи с техния принос. Техническият и правният език трябва да се опростяват, където е възможно.

2. Предоставяне на обратна връзка след процесите на участие.

Младите хора са по-склонни да участват, когато виждат, че техните мнения се вземат на сериозно. Институциите трябва да предоставят кратки доклади с обратна връзка след консултации, срещи с младежи и консултативни процеси, в които да обясняват кои предложения са били приети, отхвърлени или ще бъдат разгледани по-нататък.

3. Подобряване на прозрачността на административните процедури.

Публичните институции трябва да предоставят ясни стъпки, срокове, критерии за вземане на решения и контактни точки за процедурите, засягащи младите хора. Проучването показва, че практическата прозрачност е от съществено значение за изграждането на доверие в институциите.

4. Укрепване на сигурни и ясни механизми за сигнализиране на корупция.

Институциите трябва да предоставят достъпна за младежите информация за това къде и как да сигнализират за корупция, включително възможности за анонимно сигнализиране, защита от репресии и ясни процедури за последващи действия.

За гражданското общество и младежките организации

1. Роля на доверени посредници между младите хора и институциите.

Младежките организации и НПО трябва да помагат на младите хора да разберат каналите за участие, да подготвят обратна връзка, да подават предложения и да следят институционалните отговори. Тази роля е особено важна там, където доверието в институциите е ниско.

2. Достигане до повече от вече активните млади хора.

Инициативите на гражданското общество трябва да са насочени не само към студенти и вече ангажирани младежи, но и към младежи от малки населени места, селски райони, уязвими групи и тези с по-ниско самочувствие или по-малко възможности.

3. Използване на социалните медии стратегически.

Младежките организации трябва да използват кратки видеоклипове, инфографики, подкасти и интерактивни публикации, за да обясняват възможностите за участие, гражданските права, обществените консултации и механизмите за борба с корупцията. Дигиталната комуникация трябва да се съчетава с елементи на медийна грамотност и проверка на фактите.

4. Подкрепа на инициативи, ръководени от младежи, с видими резултати.

Проектите трябва да водят до конкретни резултати, като предложения на младежи, местни кампании, публични дискусии, препоръки за политики или материали за повишаване на осведомеността. Видимите резултати могат да помогнат за преодоляване на възприятието, че участието не води до промяна.

12. Източници

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Hrvatska verzija

Sažetak

Istraživački izvještaj kombinira rezultate anketnog istraživanja među mladima od 18 do 26 godina u Hrvatskoj, diskusije na fokus grupi te validacijske radionice u razdoblju travanj-svibanj 2026.

U cjelini, rezultati istraživanja ukazuju na paradoksalan položaj mladih u Hrvatskoj: s jedne strane iskazuju visok interes za društvena i politička pitanja te prepoznaju važnost vlastitog sudjelovanja, dok s druge strane osjećaju nepovjerenje prema institucijama, sumnjaju u učinkovitost participativnih mehanizama i često smatraju da njihov angažman neće dovesti do stvarnih promjena. Korupcija se pritom doživljava kao duboko ukorijenjen i sustavan problem koji negativno utječe na povjerenje u institucije, demokratske procese i spremnost mladih na aktivno sudjelovanje u javnom životu.

Istraživanje također pokazuje da prepreke sudjelovanju nisu prvenstveno povezane s nedostatkom interesa, već s nedostatkom informacija, podrške, povjerenja i vidljivih rezultata građanskog angažmana. Mladi iskazuju jasnu potrebu za pristupačnijim informacijama, kvalitetnijim građanskim obrazovanjem, većom transparentnošću institucija i konkretnim dokazima da njihovo sudjelovanje može imati stvaran učinak.

Posebno je značajno da mladi, unatoč skepticizmu prema političkim institucijama i prisutnosti dezinformacija, i dalje prepoznaju vrijednost demokratskog sudjelovanja te izražavaju spremnost za uključivanje kroz izbore, građanske inicijative, volontiranje i rad organizacija civilnoga društva. To upućuje na postojanje značajnog participativnog potencijala koji bi, uz odgovarajuću institucionalnu podršku, jačanje povjerenja i razvoj uključivijih mehanizama sudjelovanja, mogao doprinijeti aktivnijoj ulozi mladih u oblikovanju demokratskog i otpornijeg društva.

Konačno, nalazi sugeriraju da buduće politike usmjerene prema mladima trebaju istodobno jačati građanske kompetencije, otpornost na dezinformacije, antikorupcijsku svijest i mogućnosti stvarnog uključivanja u procese donošenja odluka. Samo kombinacijom obrazovanja, transparentnosti, odgovornosti institucija i otvorenog dijaloga moguće je stvoriti okruženje u kojem će mladi osjećati da je njihov glas važan, uvažen i sposoban pokrenuti pozitivne društvene promjene.

1. Uvod

Jačanje uključivanja mladih u demokratski život hitan je prioritet diljem Europe, osobito u regiji Balkana, gdje se demokratsko sudjelovanje suočava s trajnim izazovima. Diljem Europe – a posebno na Balkanu – mladi prijavljuju zabrinjavajuću udaljenost od političkih institucija i demokratskih procesa. Iako je aktivizam mladih vidljiv kroz prosvjede i online pokrete, formalno i strukturirano sudjelovanje u demokratskim i političkim institucijama i dalje je vrlo ograničeno. Najnoviji podaci iz Istraživanja Europskog parlamenta među mladima iz 2024. godine (Flash Eurobarometar) ukazuju na značajan jaz između mladih ljudi i sustava javnog upravljanja te institucija diljem Europe, pri čemu je situacija posebno izražena u regiji Balkana. Nedostatak angažmana mladih nije prvenstveno posljedica apatije, već niske razine građanske pismenosti i slabog poznavanja kanala građanskog sudjelovanja.

Projekt RISE Balkans (Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, Engagement – Youth Voices from the Balkans) odgovara na te izazove osnaživanjem mladih u dobi od 18 do 26 godina u Grčkoj, Bugarskoj, Hrvatskoj, Albaniji i Sjevernoj Makedoniji kroz razvoj građanske pismenosti i alate za borbu protiv korupcije. Projekt je usmjeren na osnaživanje mladih u području građanske pismenosti, jačanje povjerenja u institucije te suzbijanje raširenih percepcija korupcije putem građanskog obrazovanja, iskustvenog učenja, mentorstva i potpore inicijativama koje vode mladi. Poticanjem odgovornosti, integriteta, solidarnosti i angažmana projekt nastoji razviti novu generaciju aktivnih i informiranih građana sposobnih za jačanje demokratske otpornosti na nacionalnoj i europskoj razini. Ova je inicijativa pravodobna jer je usklađena s ključnim europskim politikama usmjerenima na zaštitu demokracije, jačanje građanskog prostora i povećanje sudjelovanja mladih u oblikovanju javnih politika, osobito u okviru Europskog akcijskog plana za demokraciju i Paketa za obranu demokracije. RISE Balkans mladima neće omogućiti samo sudjelovanje u demokratskim procesima, već i aktivno pokretanje demokratske obnove na nacionalnoj razini i na razini Europske unije.

Kako bi ostvario navedene ciljeve, projekt će uključiti mlade u praktične aktivnosti poput simulacija zakonodavnih procesa, antikorupcijskih akcija i strukturiranih dijaloga s institucijama, osposobljavajući ih da utječu na zakonodavstvo, pridonose reformama antikorupcijskih politika te promiču transparentno upravljanje na nacionalnoj i europskoj razini. RISE Balkans također će razviti otvoreno dostupne alate, uključujući višejezični priručnik za građansko obrazovanje i digitalnu platformu za sudjelovanje, čime će se osigurati održivost rezultata i nakon završetka projekta.

U okviru projekta partnerske organizacije provele su kvalitativna i kvantitativna istraživanja s ciljem utvrđivanja percepcija i iskustava mladih vezanih uz prepreke, prilike i znanja povezana s oblikovanjem politika, sudjelovanjem, antikorupcijskim okvirima, zakonodavnim procesima i mehanizmima javnog savjetovanja. Ovo izvješće predstavlja rezultate istraživanja provedenog u Hrvatskoj.

2. Kontekst participacije mladih

Sudjelovanje mladih u Hrvatskoj značajno se razvilo tijekom posljednjeg desetljeća kroz institucionalne reforme, okvire javnih politika za mlade i jačanje suradnje između javnih institucija i organizacija civilnog društva. Istodobno, dostupna istraživanja i podaci anketa i dalje ukazuju na relativno niske razine političkog sudjelovanja, ograničeno povjerenje u institucije te nedovoljno poznavanje demokratskih procesa među mladima. Stoga je područje sudjelovanja mladih u Hrvatskoj obilježeno istodobnim rastom mogućnosti za angažman (v. pogl. 3 i 4) i postojanjem trajnih strukturnih izazova.

Unatoč postojećim okvirima, istraživanja dosljedno pokazuju relativno niske razine građanskog i političkog sudjelovanja hrvatskih mladih. Prema platformi YouthWiki Europske komisije, mladi u Hrvatskoj pokazuju nižu razinu političkog angažmana i sudjelovanja u usporedbi s mnogim svojim vršnjacima u Europskoj uniji. Također se navodi da je Hrvatska, zajedno s drugim državama uključenima u projekt RISE Balkans, među rijetkim zemljama koje nemaju digitalnu platformu namijenjenu mladima. Političko sudjelovanje često se svodi na glasovanje na izborima, dok je uključenost u političke stranke, zagovaračke inicijative i organizacije civilnog društva razmjerno niska. Istraživanja političke pismenosti među mladima u Hrvatskoj također ukazuju na nedostatke u demokratskom znanju, kritičkom mišljenju te razumijevanju političkih institucija i procesa.

Ipak, postoje znakovi rastućeg interesa za demokratsko sudjelovanje, osobito u vezi s europskim pitanjima. Istraživanja Eurobarometra provedena uoči izbora za Europski parlament 2024. godine pokazala su povećani interes hrvatskih građana za europske izbore, pri čemu je Hrvatska zabilježila jedan od najvećih porasta interesa u odnosu na prethodne izborne cikluse. Europska istraživanja također pokazuju da mladi diljem Europske unije, uključujući Hrvatsku, smatraju glasovanje najučinkovitijim načinom da njihov glas dopre do donositelja odluka. Istraživanje Europskog parlamenta među mladima iz 2024. godine dodatno je pokazalo da se mladi sve više uključuju kroz digitalno sudjelovanje, rasprave na društvenim mrežama i aktivizam usmjeren na pojedine teme, posebno klimatske promjene, socijalnu pravdu i mentalno zdravlje.

Prema istraživanju Eurobarometra za mlade (2024.), hrvatski mladi uglavnom dijele prioritete i stavove svojih vršnjaka iz drugih država Europske unije. Međutim, gospodarska pitanja kod hrvatskih su mladih još izraženija nego u prosjeku EU-a. Najvažnijim pitanjima smatraju gospodarsku situaciju i mogućnosti zapošljavanja, koje navodi 41 % ispitanika, u usporedbi s 31% na razini EU-a. Slijede rast cijena i troškovi života (41 % u Hrvatskoj, 40 % prosjek EU-a), socijalna zaštita, socijalna skrb i zdravstvo (37 % prema 29 % u EU-u), okolišna i klimatska pitanja (28 % prema 33 % u EU-u) te obrazovanje i osposobljavanje (23 % prema 27 % u EU-u). Ovi rezultati ukazuju na to da hrvatski mladi posebnu važnost pridaju ekonomskoj sigurnosti i socijalnoj zaštiti, što odražava šire socioekonomske izazove s kojima se zemlja suočava.

Stavovi prema Europskoj uniji općenito su pozitivni. Slično svojim europskim vršnjacima, hrvatski mladi uglavnom podupiru članstvo u Europskoj uniji i europske integracije, premda mnogi izražavaju određeno nezadovoljstvo načinom na koji Unija trenutačno funkcionira. Dok je 28 % hrvatskih ispitanika izjavilo da bezrezervno podupire EU (u usporedbi s 31 % na razini EU-a), veći udio ispitanika (41 %) naveo je da podržava Europsku uniju, ali nije zadovoljan njezinim sadašnjim djelovanjem.

Protivljenje Europskoj uniji među hrvatskim mladima vrlo je ograničeno. Samo 3 % mladih iskazuje negativan stav prema Europskoj uniji, dok je prosjek na razini EU-a 6 %.

Unatoč općenito pozitivnim stavovima prema Europskoj uniji, izborna participacija ostaje relativno niska. Među mladim Hrvatima koji nisu glasovali na posljednjim izborima za Europski parlament, najčešće navođen razlog bio je nedostatak informacija o izborima ili postupku glasovanja (24 %, u usporedbi s 26 % u EU-u). Drugi su ispitanici isticali nepostojanje kandidata ili političke stranke koja zastupa njihove interese (18 %, prema 15 % na razini EU-a). Nepovjerenje prema političarima i nezadovoljstvo politikom bili su nešto manje izraženi razlozi nego među mladima u EU-u općenito (13 % u Hrvatskoj prema 15 % u EU-u).Ipak, Hrvatska i dalje bilježi jednu od najnižih stopa izborne participacije u Europskoj uniji. Prema podacima Europskog parlamenta, izlaznost na izbore za Europski parlament 2019. godine iznosila je 29,85 %, a nižu izlaznost imale su samo Slovačka, Slovenija i Češka (Deželan, 2023).. Nadalje, 2024. godine Hrvatska je ponovno imala najnižu izlaznost, a među mladima je ona bila znatno niža nego u drugim državama: 9 % među mladima od 15 do 24 godine te 17 % među osobama od 25 do 39 godina (Lavizzari, 2025).

Kada je riječ o širem građanskom sudjelovanju, podaci Eurobarometra (2024.) pokazuju da hrvatski mladi pokazuju obrasce koji su djelomično usklađeni, a djelomično različiti od europskih trendova. Sudjelovanje na izborima približno je jednako europskom prosjeku (38 % u Hrvatskoj prema 39 % u EU-u). Međutim, mladi u Hrvatskoj nešto su manje skloni uključivanju u tradicionalne oblike građanskog djelovanja, poput potpisivanja peticija (23 % prema 26 % u EU-u). S druge strane, pokazuju iznadprosječnu uključenost u volonterske aktivnosti, pri čemu 27 % ispitanika navodi sudjelovanje u volontiranju, dok je prosjek EU-a 20 %.

Mladi u Hrvatskoj u velikoj se mjeri oslanjaju na digitalne izvore informiranja, osobito na društvene mreže. Gotovo polovica ispitanika (48 %) navodi društvene mreže kao svoj glavni izvor informacija, u usporedbi s 42 % na razini EU-a. Televizija ostaje drugi najvažniji izvor informacija (40 % u Hrvatskoj, 39 % u EU-u), a slijede internetski portali i online mediji (32 % prema 26 % u EU-u). Kada je riječ o pojedinim društvenim mrežama, Facebook je i dalje najraširenija platforma među hrvatskim mladima, za razliku od europskog prosjeka gdje zauzima četvrto mjesto. Nakon Facebooka slijede YouTube, Instagram, TikTok i X (nekadašnji Twitter). Ovakav obrazac upućuje na to da bi strategije informiranja i građanskog angažmana usmjerene prema mladima u Hrvatskoj trebale naglašeno koristiti digitalne komunikacijske kanale, uz istodobno uvažavanje važnosti tradicionalnih medija poput televizije. Izloženost dezinformacijama i lažnim vijestima pritom je visoka – 41 % mladih građana Hrvatske navodi da su u posljednjih sedam dana često ili vrlo često bili izloženi takvim sadržajima (44% prosjek EU).

Općenito, nalazi pokazuju da su hrvatski mladi snažno usmjereni na pitanja gospodarske sigurnosti, da uglavnom podupiru europske integracije te da su visoko povezani putem digitalnih medija. Istodobno, relativno niske razine izborne participacije i građanskog angažmana ukazuju na potrebu za snažnijim građanskim obrazovanjem, boljim pristupom političkim informacijama i učinkovitijim mehanizmima uključivanja mladih u demokratske procese donošenja odluka.

Jedan od glavnih čimbenika koji utječu na sudjelovanje mladih i povjerenje u institucije jest percepcija korupcije i političke neučinkovitosti. Istraživanja i ankete javnog mnijenja pokazuju da korupcija i dalje predstavlja ozbiljnu zabrinutost među hrvatskim građanima, posebno među mladima. To

pridonosi političkoj apatiji, skepticizmu prema institucijama i manjoj motivaciji za uključivanje u formalne političke procese.

Istovremeno, udruge civilnog društva i inicijative mladih sve više se usmjeravaju na antikorupcijsku edukaciju, građansku pismenost, medijsku pismenost i instrumente aktivnog građanstva kako bi se ojačala demokratska snaga mladih.

Posebni Eurobarometar 548 iz 2024. godine pokazuje da čak 92 % hrvatskih građana smatra korupciju raširenom pojavom, što je znatno iznad prosjeka Europske unije od 68 %. Iako je riječ o padu od četiri postotna boda u odnosu na 2023. godinu, 41 % ispitanika smatra da se korupcija dodatno povećala. Korupcija se najčešće percipira među političkim strankama (52 %) i političarima (53 %), zatim među službenicima koji dodjeljuju javne natječaje (46 %) i izdaju građevinske dozvole (44 %). Policija, carina i sudovi također se percipiraju kao područja u kojima je korupcija prisutna (42 % i 43 %), što je znatno iznad prosjeka Europske unije (24% i 18%). Iskustvo izravnog susreta s korupcijom prijavljuje 14 % ispitanika, dok je prosjek EU-a 5 %. U usporedbi s europskim prosjekom, hrvatski građani češće smatraju da prijavljivanje korupcije nije vrijedno truda (32%, EU prosjek 16%) zbog teškoća dokazivanja, izostanka sankcija i nepovjerenja u postupak. Povjerenje u policiju pri prijavljivanju korupcije relativno je nisko (39%, EU prosjek 60% EU),, dok je povjerenje u specijalizirana antikorupcijska tijela više (37%, EU prosjek 12% EU) (European Commission 2024).

Jedno od rijetkih novijih istraživanja percepcije korupcije među mladima u Hrvatskoj (Roksandić, 2024.) daje vrijedan uvid u razumijevanje korupcije, povjerenja u institucije te stavove mladih prema anti-korupcijskim mjerama. Temeljeno na anketiranju 525 mladih ispitanika u rujnu 2025 istraživanje pokazuje da je svijest o korupciji relativno visoka. Gotovo četiri od deset ispitanika (39 %) navode da vrlo dobro razumiju pojam korupcije, dok dodatnih 38 % smatra da ga razumije prilično dobro. Unatoč tome, zabrinjava podatak da gotovo četvrtina ispitanika (24 %) djelomično ili u potpunosti smatra kako je korupcija neizbježna pojava u društvima i demokracijama.

Na pitanje o glavnim uzrocima korupcije u Hrvatskoj, ispitanici najčešće ukazuju na naglašenost neformalnih mreža i patronaže. Šest od deset mladih (60%) istaknulo je da “svatko svakog poznaje” te da je zapošljavanje u javnom sektoru često temeljeno na osobnim vezama nego na sposobnostima, stručnosti ili kvalifikacijama. Dodatno je 34% ispitanika istaknulo nedostatak integriteta među javnim službenicima I akterima iz privatnog sektora kao faktor koji značajno doprinosi korupciji.

Navedeno istraživanje također pokazuje izraženu zabrinutost mladih u vezi s transparentnošću institucija. Gotovo polovica ispitanika (48 %) smatra da institucije uključene u sprječavanje i suzbijanje korupcije – uključujući ministarstva, Hrvatski sabor, javne bolnice i sveučilišta – ne djeluju dovoljno transparentno, dok dodatnih 26 % smatra da njihov rad uopće nije transparentan. To znači da gotovo tri četvrtine mladih percipira ozbiljne nedostatke u transparentnosti javnih institucija.

Stavovi mladih o ulozi medija također su podijeljeni. Većina ispitanika smatra da su mediji umjereno učinkoviti u otkrivanju korupcije (42 %), dok ih samo 19 % smatra učinkovitim. S druge strane, 27 % ispitanika procjenjuje da su mediji tek malo učinkoviti u razotkrivanju koruptivnih pojava. Istodobno su izražene sumnje u neovisnost medija. Više od trećine ispitanika (38 %) smatra da većina

medija nije neovisna te da je podložna koruptivnim utjecajima, dok 9 % vjeruje da nijedan medij nije u potpunosti neovisan.

Istraživanje također ukazuje na važnu razliku između povjerenja u institucije i percepcije njihove učinkovitosti. Ispitanici su ključnim antikorupcijskim institucijama pripisali visoku razinu odgovornosti za borbu protiv korupcije, uključujući Ured za suzbijanje korupcije i organiziranog kriminaliteta (USKOK) (4.69 out of 5), Državno odvjetništvo Republike Hrvatske(4.39 out of 5), i policiju(4.03 out of 5), ukazujući na to da mladi te institucije prepoznaju kao središnje aktere u borbi protiv korupcije. Međutim, procjene njihove stvarne učinkovitosti bile su znatno niže: USKOK -ova učinkovitost dobila je prosječnu ocjenu 2.7 od 5, Državno odvjetništvo 2.29, a policija 2.1. To pokazuje da mladi prepoznaju institucionalne odgovornosti, ali nisu uvjereni u sposobnost tih institucija da postignu konkretne rezultate u suzbijanju korupcije.

Posebno je važno da rezultati istraživanja pokazuju snažnu potporu preventivnim i obrazovnim pristupima. Više od dvije trećine ispitanika (68 %) smatra da bi antikorupcijsko obrazovanje trebalo biti uključeno u školske kurikulume. To jasno ukazuje na potrebu za jačanjem obrazovanja i podizanja svijesti o integritetu, odgovornosti i razumijevanju korupcije od najranije dobi.

Općenito gledano, istraživanje Roksandić (2024.) pokazuje da mladi u Hrvatskoj imaju relativno visoku razinu svijesti o korupciji i njezinim uzrocima, ali istodobno izražavaju ozbiljnu zabrinutost zbog transparentnosti institucija, neovisnosti medija i učinkovitosti antikorupcijskih aktivnosti. Njihova snažna podrška antikorupcijskom obrazovanju sugerira razumijevanje da dugoročne promjene zahtijevaju i institucionalne reforme i ulaganja u građanski i etički odgoj i obrazovanje.

Digitalno sudjelovanje postaje sve važnije u Hrvatskoj, posebno među mlađim generacijama. Društvene mreže, internetske kampanje i digitalni aktivizam otvorili su nove kanale uključivanja mladih, omogućujući raspravu o političkim i društvenim pitanjima izvan tradicionalnih institucionalnih okvira. Međutim, taj trend također otvara pitanja dezinformacija, političke polarizacije i medijske pismenosti. Zbog toga Nacionalni program za mlade i povezani strateški dokumenti sve veći naglasak stavljaju na razvoj digitalnih vještina, kritičkog mišljenja i građanskog obrazovanja.

Sveukupno, kontekst sudjelovanja mladih u Hrvatskoj odražava tranzicijsko demokratsko okruženje u kojem su institucionalni mehanizmi sudjelovanja relativno dobro razvijeni, ali razine povjerenja, političke učinkovitosti i dugoročnog građanskog angažmana mladih ostaju ograničene.

3. Poticaji i prepreke participaciji mladih

Na sudjelovanje mladih u Hrvatskoj utječe kombinacija poticajnih čimbenika i strukturnih prepreka koje oblikuju razinu njihove uključenosti u demokratske, građanske i političke procese. Tijekom posljednjeg desetljeća Hrvatska je razvila sve poticajniji institucionalni i politički okvir za sudjelovanje mladih, no i dalje postoje značajni izazovi u osiguravanju smislenog i trajnog uključivanja mladih u društvo.

Jedan od glavnih poticajnih čimbenika jest postojanje sveobuhvatnog okvira javnih politika usmjerenih na mlade. Nacionalni program za mlade 2023.–2025. prepoznaje aktivno građanstvo, sudjelovanje u donošenju odluka i demokratski angažman kao ključne prioritete politike za mlade. Hrvatska je također uspostavila institucionalne mehanizme sudjelovanja, poput lokalnih i regionalnih savjeta mladih, vijeća učenika, studentskih zborova, javnih savjetovanja putem platforme e-Savjetovanja te savjetodavnih tijela na nacionalnoj razini. Ovi mehanizmi pružaju formalne mogućnosti mladima da izraze svoja mišljenja i utječu na javne politike koje utječu na njihove živote.

Drugi važan poticajni čimbenik jest snažna uloga organizacija civilnog društva i organizacija mladih. Organizacije poput Mreže mladih Hrvatske i brojnih lokalnih udruga mladih pružaju mogućnosti za volontiranje, zagovaranje, neformalno obrazovanje i sudjelovanje u javnom dijalogu. Kroz te aktivnosti mladi razvijaju liderske vještine, demokratske kompetencije i iskustvo građanskog angažmana.

Međunarodne i europske inicijative, osobito EU dijalog s mladima, Erasmus+ i Europske snage solidarnosti, dodatno potiču sudjelovanje mladih kroz mobilnost, međukulturno učenje i izravno uključivanje u procese oblikovanja politika na europskoj razini.

Digitalne tehnologije i društvene mreže također su proširile mogućnosti sudjelovanja. Mladi se sve češće uključuju kroz online aktivizam, kampanje podizanja svijesti, peticije i pokrete usmjerene na pitanja klimatskih promjena, mentalnog zdravlja, rodne ravnopravnosti i ljudskih prava. Digitalni alati učinili su sudjelovanje dostupnijim te omogućili mladima organiziranje i komunikaciju izvan tradicionalnih institucionalnih struktura.

Istraživanja specifično usmjerena na sudjelovanje mladih u Hrvatskoj relativno su rijetka. Međutim, važno je uzeti u obzir kontekst i vrijeme u kojem se procjenjuju poticajni čimbenici i prepreke. Ilišin i Spajić (2015.) ističu da političko sudjelovanje mladih treba promatrati u širem okviru političke kulture, građanstva i demokratskog angažmana. Politička kultura obuhvaća odnos pojedinaca prema političkim vrijednostima, institucijama i oblicima sudjelovanja, dok demokratsko građanstvo naglašava pripadnost, jednakost, odgovornost i aktivno uključivanje u javni život. Angažman mladih oblikuju ne samo institucionalne mogućnosti nego i društveni, kulturni i generacijski čimbenici.

Istraživanja pokazuju da su politički stavovi i ponašanja mladih rezultat kombinacije učinaka životnog ciklusa, specifičnih generacijskih iskustava te širih društvenih i političkih promjena. Postojeće društvene i ideološke podjele prisutne u društvu odražavaju se i među mladima, no sama dob također predstavlja važan čimbenik koji oblikuje političke vrijednosti i obrasce sudjelovanja. Zbog toga se mladi često razlikuju od starijih generacija u svojim političkim pogledima i oblicima angažmana.

U zemljama poput Hrvatske, koje su prošle tranziciju iz socijalističkog jednopartijskog sustava u višestranačku demokraciju i tržišno gospodarstvo, paralelno s globalizacijom, europeizacijom i digitalnom revolucijom, kontekst sudjelovanja mladih ima specifična obilježja.

U novijem istraživanju Ilišin i Baketa (2024.) utvrdili su da samo manjina učenika završnih razreda srednjih škola (17–18 godina) bezrezervno podržava liberalno-demokratske vrijednosti poput poštovanja ljudskih prava, slobode i jednakosti. Također su utvrdili nastavak trenda smanjenja potpore temeljnim liberalno-demokratskim vrijednostima, kao što su vladavina prava i višestranački demokratski sustav. Kada je riječ o povjerenju u institucije, većina ispitanika iskazala je povjerenje prvenstveno u vojsku i znanstvenike, dok relativno visoko povjerenje imaju i prema policiji te vjerskim institucijama. Istodobno, većina mladih ne vjeruje političkim strankama ni medijima.

Drugo istraživanje provedeno među mladima u dobi od 15 do 25 godina (Ilišin i Gvozdanović, 2020.) pokazalo je da su mladi skloniji opravdavati nego osuđivati korištenje osobnih veza i neformalnih mreža, kako u zapošljavanju tako i u odnosima s javnim institucijama. Rezultati sugeriraju određenu normalizaciju klijentelističkih praksi među mladima, što odražava šire društvene obrasce i percepcije o tome kako se pristupa prilikama i donose odluke. Istraživanje također pokazuje da mladi koji veću važnost pridaju društvenoj odgovornosti, građanskom angažmanu i demokratskim vrijednostima imaju kritičniji odnos prema takvim praksama te su manje skloni prihvaćati osobne veze kao legitiman način ostvarivanja osobnih ili profesionalnih ciljeva.

Nedavno istraživanje provedeno među mladima od 13 do 25 godina (Kovačić i sur., 2025.) pokazalo je da je glasovanje radi rješavanja društvenih problema najistaknutiji oblik formalnog političkog sudjelovanja mladih. Rezultati ukazuju na pozitivnu povezanost između dobi i izborne participacije, pri čemu stariji ispitanici pokazuju veću spremnost za glasovanje od mlađih sudionika. Istraživanje je također utvrdilo rodne razlike u političkom sudjelovanju, pri čemu su mlade žene iskazivale manju sklonost glasovanju od mladih muškaraca. Nadalje, potvrđeno je da više čimbenika značajno predviđa spremnost mladih za sudjelovanje na izborima, uključujući dob, razgovore o aktualnim društvenim pitanjima s prijateljima, sudjelovanje u prosvjedima, usklađenost osobnih i obiteljskih vrijednosti te praćenje društveno angažiranih i političkih sadržaja na društvenim mrežama (npr. lajkanje političkih objava na društvenim mrežama). Ukupnost ovih nalaza ukazuje na važnost i socijalizacije i digitalne uključenosti u oblikovanje ponašanja mladih u pogledu političke participacije i izbornog ponašanja.

Istodobno, niz prepreka i dalje ograničava sudjelovanje mladih u Hrvatskoj.

Jedan od najznačajnijih izazova jest niska razina povjerenja u političke institucije i političke aktere. Istraživanja i podaci Eurobarometra dosljedno pokazuju da mladi često politiku doživljavaju kao neučinkovitu, nedovoljno odgovornu i udaljenu od njihovih svakodnevnih problema. Percepcije korupcije, političkog klijentelizma i nedostatka transparentnosti dodatno pridonose političkoj apatiji i skepticizmu prema formalnim demokratskim procesima.

Druga važna prepreka jest nedovoljna građanska i politička pismenost. Iako postoje inicijative građanskog obrazovanja, demokratske kompetencije i znanje o političkim procesima među mladima i dalje su neujednačeni. Mnogi mladi navode da imaju ograničeno razumijevanje načina funkcioniranja

institucija i mogućnosti utjecaja na procese donošenja odluka izvan samog glasovanja na izborima. To smanjuje samopouzdanje za sudjelovanje i umanjuje motivaciju za dugoročan građanski angažman.

Socioekonomski čimbenici također značajno utječu na razinu sudjelovanja. Ekonomska nesigurnost, nezaposlenost, nesigurni oblici rada, stambene poteškoće i trendovi iseljavanja utječu na prioritete mladih i njihove mogućnosti sudjelovanja u javnom životu. Mladi iz ruralnih područja, nepovoljnijih socioekonomskih sredina ili marginaliziranih zajednica često se suočavaju s dodatnim preprekama povezanima s nejednakim pristupom obrazovanju, mogućnostima sudjelovanja, organizacijama mladih i javnim uslugama. Mehanizmi sudjelovanja često su dostupniji u većim urbanim središtima nego u manjim ili slabije razvijenim područjima.

Nadalje, i sami mehanizmi sudjelovanja mladih ponekad se suočavaju s određenim ograničenjima. Savjeti mladih i procesi savjetovanja mogu biti nedovoljno vidljivi, imati ograničene resurse ili stvarni utjecaj na oblikovanje javnih politika. Mladi ponekad sudjelovanje doživljavaju kao simbolično, a ne kao stvarno i smisleno, osobito kada njihove preporuke nisu na odgovarajući način uzete u obzir u konačnim odlukama. Ograničene povratne informacije od institucija i nedovoljna komunikacija o rezultatima javnih politika mogu smanjiti motivaciju i povjerenje u participativne procese.

Naposljetku, digitalno sudjelovanje, iako proširuje mogućnosti uključivanja, istodobno stvara izazove povezane s dezinformacijama, političkom polarizacijom, uznemiravanjem na internetu te površnim oblicima angažmana koji se ne moraju pretvoriti u trajno građansko djelovanje. Stoga jačanje medijske pismenosti i kritičkog mišljenja ostaje važan prioritet.

MEHANIZMI GRAĐANSKE PARTICIPACIJE. Sudjelovanje građana u Hrvatskoj osigurano je kroz više institucionalnih i neinstitucionalnih kanala na nacionalnoj, regionalnoj i lokalnoj razini. Ustav Republike Hrvatske, člankom 44., jamči građanima pravo sudjelovanja u demokratskim procesima i javnim poslovima.

Glavni formalni kanal sudjelovanja jesu *izbori*, putem kojih građani biraju predstavnike u Hrvatski sabor, tijela lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave (555 lokalnih I 20 regionalnih jedinica), Europski parlament, kao u tijela mjesne samouprave, oblika sudjelovanja u lokalnim poslovima - vijeća mjesnih odbora, te vijeća nacionalnih manjina.

Građani mogu izravno sudjelovati i putem *referenduma* (čl. 87 Ustava za nacionalni referendum te *građanskih inicijativa* (čl. 46 Ustava), koje omogućuju predlaganje zakonodavnih ili ustavnih promjena uz prikupljanje dovoljne javne potpore. Od 1990. godine u Hrvatskoj su održana samo tri nacionalna referenduma: o neovisnosti, o pristupanju Europskoj uniji i o ustavnoj definiciji braka.

Javna savjetovanja predstavljaju važan participativni mehanizam koji omogućuje građanima, organizacijama civilnog društva, stručnjacima i drugim dionicima davanje komentara i preporuka na nacrte zakona, strategija i javnih politika prije njihova donošenja. Ona su regulirana Zakonom o pravu na pristup informacijama Zakonom o pravu na pristup informacijama kojih ih određuje kao obavezne za zakone, podzakonske akte, opće akte lokalne samouprave te strateške dokumene od 2013. godine te Zakonom o instrumentima politike boljih propisa. Na nacionalnoj razini provode se putem platforme

e-savjetovanja, dok lokalne i regionalne jedinice te javne ustanove javna savjetovanja organiziraju putem svojih mrežnih stranica.

Na lokalnoj razini, u skladu sa Zakonom o lokalnoj i područnoj (regionalnoj) samoupravi građani mogu sudjelovati putem vijeća mjesnih odbora, lokalnih referenduma, zborova građana, vijeća nacionalnih manjina i savjeta mladih, koji savjetuju općine, gradove i županije o pitanjima koja se odnose na mlade. Posljednjih godina mnoge jedinice lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave uvele su participativno budžetiranje, primjerice u glavnom gradu Zagrebu. Lokalni referendumi i zborovi građana rijetko se koriste, no većina jedinica lokalne samouprave uspostavila je mjesnu samoupravu (vijeća mjesnih odbora gradskih kotare i/ili gradskih četvrti), dok veće jedinice imaju vijeća nacionalnih manjina.

Organizacije civilnog društva, uključujući udruge (oko 46.000 registriranih udruga), organizacije mladih, sindikate i zagovaračke skupine, također imaju ključnu ulogu u zastupanju interesa građana i poticanju građanskog angažmana. Dodatni oblici sudjelovanja uključuju peticije, prosvjede, volontiranje, digitalne platforme za sudjelovanje građana te članstvo u školskim, studentskim ili strukovnim predstavničkim tijelima. Ured za udruge Vlade Republike Hrvatske nadležan je za potporu razvoju civilnog društva. U pravilu su predstavnici udruga uključeni u savjetodavna tijela i radne skupine u tijelima državne uprave te u saborskim odborima (kao vanjski članovi, bez prava glasa).

Posljednjih godina Hrvatska, dugogodišnja članica Open Government Partnership, sve više promiče participativno upravljanje i dijalog između javnih institucija i građana, osobito putem digitalnih alata, mehanizama sudjelovanja mladih i suradnje s organizacijama civilnog društva. Nadalje, od 2015. godine Savjet za sprječavanje korupcije Vlade Republike Hrvatske, kao kolegijalno tijelo sastavljeno od predstavnika institucija, socijalnih partnera, udruga lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave te udruga civilnog društva, izrađuje akcijske planove za sprječavanje korupcije i prati njihovu provedbu.

4. Oblici participacije mladih

Mladi u Hrvatskoj definirani su kao osobe **u dobi od 15 do 30 godina** te predstavljaju heterogenu, ali vrlo značajnu društvenu skupinu. Prema podacima Popisa stanovništva iz 2021. godine, koji je proveo Državni zavod za statistiku, mladi čine 15,8 % ukupnog stanovništva Republike Hrvatske. Karakteriziraju ih različite društvene, obrazovne i ekonomske okolnosti, pri čemu dijele zajedničku težnju da postanu aktivni, odgovorni i ravnopravni članovi društva. Istodobno, mladi se suočavaju s brojnim izazovima koji proizlaze iz brzih društvenih, gospodarskih i tehnoloških promjena suvremenog društva. Osiguravanje odgovarajuće potpore, prilika i resursa za mlade zajednička je odgovornost cijelog društva, uključujući tijela državne uprave i javne vlasti. Takva je potpora ključna za omogućavanje njihova aktivnog sudjelovanja u društvu, jačanje svijesti o vlastitoj ulozi u zajednici te poticanje njihova doprinosa društvenom razvoju i napretku.[45]

Politika za mlade u Hrvatskoj temelji se na nekoliko instrumenata: (a) institucionalnom okviru u obliku upravne jedinice nadležne za mlade – uprave za mlade (čija se nadležnost tijekom godina premještala između različitih ministarstava, a trenutno djeluje u okviru Ministarstva znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih); (b) predstavničkim i savjetodavnim tijelima (savjeti mladih, Savjet za mlade Vlade Republike Hrvatske, studentski zborovi i udruge, vijeća učenika, savjetodavno tijelo pravobranitelja za djecu te predstavnik mladih pri Ujedinjenim narodima); (c) udrugama mladih i za mlade; te (d) nacionalnim strateškim dokumentom za mlade (Nacionalni program za mlade).

SAVJETI MLADIH. Poseban oblik sudjelovanja mladih u javnim poslovima predstavljaju savjeti mladih, koji su uvedeni na lokalnoj i područnoj (regionalnoj) razini Zakonom o savjetima mladih 2014. godine, a na nacionalnoj razini 2023. godine. Njihova je svrha omogućiti sudjelovanje mladih u donošenju odluka o javnim pitanjima od interesa i značaja za mlade, uključivanje mladih u javni život, informiranje i savjetovanje mladih u jedinicama lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave te praćenje i promicanje interesa mladih iz svih dijelova Hrvatske na nacionalnoj razini.

Članovi savjeta mladih mogu biti osobe u dobi od 15 do 30 godina. Na lokalnoj i područnoj (regionalnoj) razini biraju ih predstavnička tijela putem javnog poziva, dok kandidate mogu predlagati udruge mladih i za mlade, škole, studentske organizacije, nevladine organizacije i neformalne skupine mladih. Konačno imenovanje provode predstavnička tijela lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave, poput gradskih vijeća i županijskih skupština. Nacionalni savjet mladih osniva ministarstvo nadležno za mlade (pri čemu se nadležnost za područje mladih tijekom godina često premještala između različitih ministarstava), na temelju prijedloga savjeta mladih na regionalnoj razini.

Glavna uloga savjeta mladih jest savjetodavna. Oni predlažu inicijative, daju mišljenja o politikama za mlade, organiziraju radionice i javne rasprave te potiču građansko sudjelovanje mladih. Njihove aktivnosti često su usmjerene na obrazovanje, zapošljavanje, kulturu, sport, volontiranje i socijalnu uključenost. Iako mogu utjecati na lokalne politike, savjeti mladih nemaju izvršne ni zakonodavne ovlasti, što znači da nadležna tijela nisu pravno obvezna prihvatiti njihove prijedloge.

[45] Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih https://mzom.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/mladi/6485

Nedavne izmjene Zakona o savjetima mladih donijele su određene promjene, uključujući smanjenje minimalnog broja članova, ukidanje zamjenika članova te jačanje uloge nacionalnog Savjeta mladih Republike Hrvatske. Cilj tih izmjena bio je povećati učinkovitost i koordinaciju rada savjeta, iako su neke organizacije mladih kritizirale promjene smatrajući da bi mogle smanjiti neovisnost lokalnih oblika sudjelovanja mladih. Mreža mladih Hrvatske, zajedno s 44 zastupnika u Hrvatskom saboru, podnijela je zahtjev za ocjenu ustavnosti izmjena Zakona o savjetima mladih kojima je predviđeno osnivanje nacionalnog savjeta mladih, smatrajući da se time zadire u pravo na lokalnu samoupravu.

U praksi, posljednje dostupno izvješće (za 2022. godinu; Državni ured za demografiju i mlade, 2023.) pokazuje da je od ukupno 575 jedinica lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave savjete mladih osnovalo samo 140 jedinica, dok su aktivna bila svega 73 savjeta mladih (39 u gradovima, 20 u općinama, 13 u županijama te jedan u Gradu Zagrebu). Iako izvješće navodi nekoliko primjera dobre prakse (primjerice sportske događaje i kampanje podizanja svijesti o pitanjima važnima za mlade), većina savjeta mladih suočavala se s nedostatkom institucionalne potpore, ali i s nedovoljnim interesom samih mladih za sudjelovanje. Nacionalni Savjet mladih djeluje od početka 2026. godine, a njegova će se uloga i učinkovitost tek trebati ocijeniti. Općenito gledano, Zakon o savjetima mladih predstavlja važan mehanizam za promicanje demokratskog sudjelovanja i građanskog angažmana mladih u Hrvatskoj. Njegova stvarna učinkovitost, međutim, uvelike ovisi o razini potpore lokalnih vlasti te o aktivnom uključivanju samih mladih građana.

SAVJET ZA RAZVOJ POLITIKA ZA MLADE. Savjet za razvoj politika za mlade Vlade Republike Hrvatske međuresorno je savjetodavno tijelo koje sudjeluje u oblikovanju, praćenju i unapređivanju javnih politika koje se odnose na mlade u Hrvatskoj. Njegova je uloga povezivanje predstavnika državnih institucija, organizacija mladih i stručnjaka kako bi se potrebe i interesi mladih uključili u procese donošenja odluka. Prvi put osnovan 2012. godine, Savjet u svojem posljednjem sastavu uključuje 15 predstavnika državnih institucija, 4 predstavnika nacionalnih vijeća i udruga jedinica lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave, 4 predstavnika drugih organizacija mladih te do 8 predstavnika udruga mladih i za mlade.

Savjet prati provedbu politika za mlade te Vladi Republike Hrvatske daje preporuke i mišljenja o zakonima, strategijama i mjerama važnima za položaj mladih. Također promiče suradnju između javnih institucija i organizacija civilnog društva, jača sudjelovanje mladih i dijalog s donositeljima odluka te doprinosi razvoju kvalitetnijih mjera u područjima obrazovanja, zapošljavanja, stanovanja, zdravstva i socijalne uključenosti. U razdoblju od 2018. do 2022. godine Savjet za razvoj politika za mlade Vlade Republike Hrvatske organizirao je aktivnosti usmjerene na poticanje sudjelovanja mladih, uključujući dvije godišnje konferencije savjeta za mlade. Cilj tih konferencija bio je osnaživanje mladih, razmjena primjera dobre prakse u radu savjeta mladih te povećanje vidljivosti njihove uloge i djelovanja u Republici Hrvatskoj.

STUDENTSKE ORGANIZACIJE. Studentski zbor službeno je izabrano predstavničko tijelo studenata na sveučilištima, fakultetima, veleučilištima i visokim školama u Hrvatskoj (primjerice, Studentski zbor Sveučilišta u Zagrebu). Njegova je osnovna zadaća zaštita interesa studenata, sudjelovanje u procesima donošenja odluka na visokim učilištima te predstavljanje studenata unutar sustava visokog obrazovanja.Pravni okvir za djelovanje studentskih zborova utvrđen je Zakonom o

studentskom zboru i drugim studentskim organizacijama, koji je Hrvatski sabor donio 2007. godine (iako su studentski zborovi prvi put uspostavljeni 1996. godine). Zakonom se uređuju studentsko predstavljanje, studentski izbori, rad studentskih organizacija te institucija studentskog pravobranitelja.

Studentski zborovi organizirani su na razini pojedinih visokih učilišta, dok se na nacionalnoj razini koordiniraju putem Hrvatskog studentskog zbora. Njihova organizacijska struktura u pravilu uključuje skupštinu, predsjednika, odbore te izabrane studentske predstavnike u sveučilišnim senatima i fakultetskim vijećima. Glavne zadaće studentskih zborova uključuju predstavljanje studenata pred upravama visokih učilišta i javnim institucijama, unapređenje kvalitete studiranja i studentskog standarda, zaštitu studentskih prava, organizaciju izvannastavnih i kulturnih aktivnosti, poticanje studentskog sudjelovanja te imenovanje studentskih predstavnika i studentskih pravobranitelja (svako visoko učilište ima studentskog pravobranitelja, sukladno članku 17. Zakona).

U Hrvatskoj je na visokim učilištima upisano više od 150.000 studenata, a studentski zborovi djeluju na svim javnim sveučilištima i na brojnim privatnim visokim učilištima. Studentski predstavnici sudjeluju u tijelima upravljanja visokim učilištima, pri čemu je zastupljenost studenata zajamčena hrvatskim zakonodavstvom o visokom obrazovanju. Uz studentske zborove i srodne organizacije, visoka učilišta omogućuju djelovanje studentskih udruga različitih interesa, uključujući sportske, kulturne, zagovaračke, strukovne i organizacije za razvoj karijere, podružnice međunarodnih studentskih organizacija, znanstvene udruge, humanitarne organizacije i druge oblike studentskog organiziranja.

NACIONALNO VIJEĆE UČENIKA REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE. Nacionalno vijeće učenika Republike Hrvatske (NVURH) najviše je predstavničko tijelo učenika osnovnih i srednjih škola na nacionalnoj razini u Hrvatskoj. Osnovano je 2005. godine kao savjetodavno tijelo ministarstva nadležnog za obrazovanje te zastupa interese, prava i stavove učenika u pitanjima vezanima uz obrazovni sustav i sudjelovanje mladih. Vijeće čine predstavnici županijskih vijeća učenika iz cijele Hrvatske, čime se osigurava nacionalna zastupljenost učenika u procesima donošenja odluka i savjetovanja. Njegov pravni temelj proizlazi iz hrvatskog zakonodavnog okvira u području obrazovanja, osobito iz Zakona o odgoju i obrazovanju u osnovnoj i srednjoj školi, kojim se uređuju sudjelovanje učenika i rad vijeća učenika u osnovnim i srednjim školama.

Glavni ciljevi NVURH-a su jačanje sudjelovanja učenika u školskom životu, zaštita njihovih prava i interesa, promicanje demokratskih vrijednosti i dijaloga unutar škola te doprinos unapređenju obrazovnih uvjeta i obrazovnih politika. Vijeće se zalaže za pitanja poput dostupnosti obrazovanja, poboljšanja učeničkog standarda, zaštite mentalnog zdravlja, subvencioniranog prijevoza, uključivosti te sudjelovanja učenika u reformama obrazovnog sustava. Aktivnosti NVURH-a uključuju savjetovanja s Ministarstvom znanosti, obrazovanja i mladih, sudjelovanje u javnim raspravama o obrazovnim politikama, suradnju s vijećima učenika i organizacijama mladih te predstavljanje hrvatskih učenika u nacionalnim i međunarodnim inicijativama vezanima uz sudjelovanje mladih i demokratski angažman.

MREŽA MLADIH SAVJETNIKA PRAVOBRANITELJICE ZA DJECU. Mreža mladih savjetnika (MMS) i Forum mladih 16+ savjetodavna su tijela Pravobranitelja za djecu Republike Hrvatske, osnovana s ciljem jačanja sudjelovanja djece i mladih u pitanjima koja utječu na njihova prava i

dobrobit. Mreža mladih savjetnika djeluje od 2010. godine, dok je Forum mladih 16+ usmjeren na mlade osobe koje se približavaju punoljetnosti. Njihovi članovi djeluju kao savjetnici, suradnici i ambasadori dječjih prava. Promiču prava djece među svojim vršnjacima te Pravobranitelju za djecu pružaju uvid u izazove i probleme s kojima se djeca i mladi suočavaju u svojim lokalnim zajednicama.

Šesta generacija Mreže mladih savjetnika, koja je djelovala 2025. godine, brojila je 25 članova, dok je Forum mladih 16+ imao 16 članova. Aktivnosti su uključivale nacionalne i online sastanke, rasprave o umjetnoj inteligenciji i obrazovanju, tjelesnom zdravlju djece te uvođenju modela zaštite djece Barnahus u Hrvatskoj. Članovi su izrađivali preporuke za unapređenje prava djece na tjelesno zdravlje te sudjelovali u savjetovanjima s nacionalnim dionicima. Ove su skupine bile aktivne i na međunarodnoj razini kroz inicijative UNICEF-a, Platformu Europske unije za sudjelovanje djece (Children's Participation Platform – CPP) te Europsku mrežu mladih savjetnika (European Network of Young Advisors – ENYA), koja djeluje u okviru Europske mreže pravobranitelja za djecu (European Network of Ombudspersons for Children – ENOC).Hrvatska je 2025. godine bila domaćin Foruma ENYA-e, a model Mreže mladih savjetnika predstavljen je na međunarodnoj razini kao primjer dobre prakse u području sudjelovanja djece i mladih.

UDRUGE MLADIH. Mreža mladih Hrvatske nacionalna je krovna organizacija udruga mladih u Hrvatskoj, osnovana 2002. godine radi zastupanja i promicanja interesa i prava mladih na nacionalnoj i međunarodnoj razini. Okuplja organizacije mladih i organizacije koje rade s mladima i za mlade te predstavlja platformu za suradnju, dijalog i koordinirano zagovaranje u području politika za mlade. Trenutačno okuplja 77 udruga mladih i povezuje velik broj raznolikih organizacija koje djeluju u područjima zagovaranja, kulture, zaštite okoliša, prava manjina i drugim područjima, a koje dijele zajednički interes za razvoj politika za mlade na nacionalnoj, regionalnoj i lokalnoj razini. Mreža djeluje kao nevladina i neprofitna organizacija usmjerena na jačanje sudjelovanja mladih, promicanje demokratskih vrijednosti, socijalne uključenosti, ljudskih prava i jednakih mogućnosti. Njezino članstvo čine lokalne i nacionalne organizacije mladih, studentske udruge te organizacije civilnog društva koje se bave radom s mladima i građanskim sudjelovanjem.

Glavni ciljevi organizacije su unapređenje položaja mladih u društvu, poticanje aktivnog građanstva i sudjelovanja u procesima donošenja odluka, jačanje kapaciteta organizacija mladih te zagovaranje kvalitetnih i uključivih politika za mlade. Aktivnosti Mreže uključuju zagovaranje javnih politika, istraživanja i analize, obrazovne programe i osposobljavanja, javne kampanje, savjetovanja s mladima, međunarodnu suradnju te pružanje potpore razvoju civilnog društva i rada s mladima. Mreža mladih Hrvatske aktivno sudjeluje u brojnim europskim i međunarodnim inicijativama i mrežama, uključujući Europski forum mladih, putem kojega doprinosi raspravama o europskim politikama za mlade i predstavlja hrvatske organizacije mladih na međunarodnoj razini. Također surađuje s institucijama Republike Hrvatske, jedinicama lokalne i područne (regionalne) samouprave te međunarodnim partnerima na razvoju i provedbi politika i programa za mlade.

NACIONALNI PROGRAM ZA MLADE. Posljednji strateški dokument u području mladih, Nacionalni program za mlade 2023. – 2025. definira šest prioritetnih područja politike za mlade, među kojima je i sudjelovanje mladih, s ciljem jačanja uključenosti mladih u procese donošenja odluka. U okviru tog cilja predviđeno je deset mjera koje se odnose na rad savjetodavnih tijela, stvaranje poticajnog

okruženja za sudjelovanje mladih, potporu lokalnim i regionalnim politikama za mlade te sektorske inicijative povezane s održivim razvojem, politikama zaštite okoliša i umjetnošću. U 2025. godini Ministarstvo znanosti, obrazovanja i sporta dodijelilo je financijska sredstva za 142 organizacije mladih.

5. Metodologija

Podaci su prikupljeni korištenjem kvantitativnih i kvalitativnih istraživačkih instrumenata – ankete, fokusne grupe i radionice za validaciju rezultata ankete. Cilj istraživanja bio je ispitati iskustva i percepcije mladih o građanskom sudjelovanju i angažmanu u svakodnevnom životu, relevantnost i razumljivost ključnih pojmova i kanala sudjelovanja te čimbenike koji potiču ili otežavaju aktivno uključivanje mladih. Metodološki okvir razvijen je u obliku Istraživačkog protokola od strane Sveučilišta Panteion, u suradnji sa svim projektnim partnerima.

Kvantitativno istraživanje provedeno je putem ***online upitnika*** izrađenog na temelju postojećih istraživanja navedenih tema, poput Eurobarometra i drugih istraživanja Europske unije o političkom sudjelovanju, iskustvima i izazovima s kojima se mladi suočavaju. Upitnik je administriran putem alata LimeSurvey, pri čemu je isti upitnik preveden na pet jezika i distribuiran u pet zemalja koje su sudjelovale u istraživanju. Postupak anketiranja osmišljen je tako da osigura anonimnost i povjerljivost ispitanika i prikupljenih podataka. Prije ispunjavanja upitnika ispitanici su morali dati informirani pristanak za sudjelovanje; u slučaju da ga nisu dali, upitnik se automatski zatvarao i odgovori nisu bili pohranjeni. Primijenjen je prigodni uzorak, a anketa je distribuirana na sveučilištu od kraja ožujka do kraja travnja 2026. godine putem uobičajenih komunikacijskih kanala (društvene mreže, elektronička pošta, platforme za e-učenje i osobne mreže kontakata).

Ukupno je 105 mladih osoba u Hrvatskoj ispunilo anketu, od ukupnog međunarodnog uzorka od 490 ispitanika iz svih zemalja uključenih u projekt RISE Balkans, što predstavlja nešto više od jedne petine odnosno 21,4 % ukupnog skupa podataka.

- Prema spolu, uzorak čine pretežno žene (70,48 %), dok muškarci čine 27,62 % ispitanika.

- Prema dobi, najzastupljenija skupina su mladi u dobi od 21 do 23 godine (47,62 %), zatim mlađa skupina od 18 do 20 godina (33,33 %), dok najmanji udio čine ispitanici u dobi od 24 do 26 godina (19,05 %).

- Prema mjestu stanovanja, većina ispitanika živi u urbanim područjima (gradovi i veća naselja) – 65,1 %, slijede oni koji žive u poluurbanim područjima (manji gradovi i prigradska naselja) – 21,9 %, dok 12,38 % živi u ruralnim područjima.

- Prema obrazovanju, najveći udio ispitanika završio je srednjoškolsko obrazovanje (52,38 %), nakon čega slijede osobe sa završenim prijediplomskim studijem (35,24 %), dok 3,81 % ispitanika ima završen diplomski studij.

- Prema statusu, 90,48 % ispitanika izjavilo je da su trenutačno studenti, 13,33 % da su zaposleni (studenti diplomskih studija često rade uz studij), dok je 5,71 % nezaposleno.

U okviru **kvalitativnog dijela istraživanja**, 27. travnja 2026. godine na Pravnom fakultetu provedena je **rasprava fokus grupe**. I u ovom je slučaju korišten prigodni uzorak, uz otvoreni poziv studentima sveučilišta za sudjelovanje. Fokusna grupa održana je u hibridnom obliku, pri čemu je većina sudionika prisustvovala uživo (8 sudionika), dok su se dodatna 4 sudionika uključila online.

U raspravi fokusne grupe sudjelovalo je ukupno 12 osoba prosječne dobi od 21,6 godina; među njima je bilo pet muškaraca i sedam žena, dva učenika srednje škole, devet studenata i jedna nezaposlena osoba. Tri sudionika pripadala su nacionalnim manjinama. Jedan sudionik trenutačno živi u manjem gradu, dok je još pet sudionika, iako sada žive u većim gradovima, podrijetlom iz manjih sredina. Pet od ukupno dvanaest sudionika dolazi iz drugih dijelova Hrvatske. Također, pet sudionika navelo je da ima iskustvo rada ili volontiranja u organizacijama civilnog društva.

Svi sudionici bili su upoznati s opsegom i ciljevima istraživanja te su potpisali obrazac informiranog pristanka kojim su potvrdili svoje dobrovoljno sudjelovanje i povjerljivost svojih odgovora. Rasprava je obuhvatila teme građanskog znanja, medijske pismenosti, povjerenja u institucije, političkog angažmana, percepcije korupcije i preferiranih oblika sudjelovanja u društvu.

Rasprava u fokus grupi	**27 travnja 2026 / hibridno**
sudionici	12 / 8 u učionici, 4 online
spol	5 M, 7 Ž
prosječna dob (raspon)	21,6 (18-25)
status	9 studenata 2 učenika srednje škole 1 nezaposlenih (ali aktivisti OCD)
zastupljenost manjinskih grupa	3
iskustvo u OCD	5
moderatori	1 online 1 u učionici
administratori	1 online 1 u učionici



Fokus grupa – rasprava - 27 April 2026

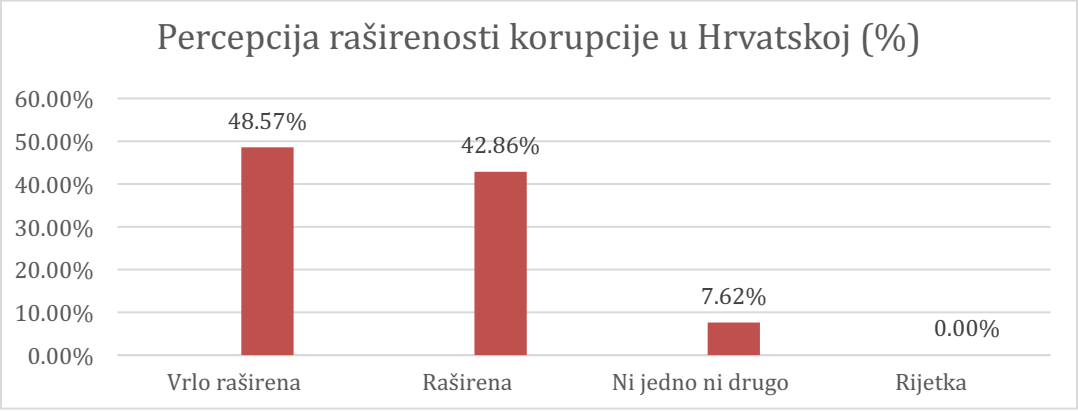
Po završetku kvalitativne i kvantitativne faze istraživanja, 4. svibnja 2026. godine na Pravnom fakultetu održana je **radionica za validaciju rezultata** s ciljem pregleda preliminarnih nalaza, rasprave o njihovoj usklađenosti sa stvarnim iskustvima sudionika te obogaćivanja analize dodatnim zajednički oblikovanim uvidima. Bilješke s radionice i formalna prezentacija rezultata poslužile su kao primarni izvori za uključivanje nalaza radionice u sve dijelove ovog izvješća. Na radionici su sudjelovala ukupno **62 sudionika**, od čega su tri četvrtine činile žene (47 ili 75,81 %), a jednu četvrtinu muškarci (15 ili 24,19 %). Svi sudionici bili su hrvatski državljani, a većinom su bili studenti javne uprave, prava, socijalnog rada, politologije i novinarstva.



6. Svijest i razumijevanje mladih o građanskoj participaciji, anti-korupciji, transparentnosti i oblikovanju javnih politika

Percepcija raširenosti korupcije

Rezultati istraživanja pokazuju da je **velika većina ispitanika (91,44 %)** opisala **korupciju u Hrvatskoj kao „raširenu" ili „vrlo raširenu"**, dok nijedan ispitanik nije ocijenio korupciju kao „rijetku" ili „vrlo rijetku" (Slika 1). Većina sudionika također se složila ili u potpunosti složila s tvrdnjom da korupcija postoji u nacionalnim te lokalnim/regionalnim javnim institucijama (93,33 % u oba slučaja), dok dvije trećine ispitanika (67,62 %) smatra da korupcija osobno utječe na njihov svakodnevni život, a 11,43 % ne slaže se s tom tvrdnjom.



Slika 1 Percepcija raširenosti korupcije u Hrvatskoj

Kako je vidljivo iz podataka **po sektorima** prikazanih na Slici 2, političari i političke stranke percipiraju se kao skupine s najvišom razinom korupcije, osobito kada je riječ o podmićivanju i zlouporabi položaja radi osobne koristi. Odgovori koji se odnose na 13 sektora i skupina pokazuju sljedeće rezultate u pogledu percepcije da su podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja rašireni:

- Kada je riječ o političarima, 89,5 % ispitanika smatra da su podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja radi osobne koristi „rašireni" ili „vrlo rašireni", dok isto mišljenje o političkim strankama dijeli 88,57 % ispitanika.

- Mladi smatraju da su podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja radi osobne koristi „rašireni" ili „vrlo rašireni" među službenicima koji dodjeljuju javne ugovore (77,14 %) te među službenicima koji izdaju građevinske dozvole (79,05 %). Slijed zdravstveni sektor, za koji tako smatra 73,33 % ispitanika.

- Nešto niža razina korupcije percipira se u sportu (65,71 %), policiji (60 %) i privatnom sektoru (60 %).

- Više od polovice ispitanika smatra da su podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja radi osobne koristi raširenи ili vrlo raširenи u poreznoj upravi (58,1 %) i sudstvu (52,38 %).

- Nešto povoljnija slika vidljiva je u sektorima bankarstva (41,9 %), obrazovanja (34,29 %) i socijalne skrbi (29,52 %).

Međutim, gotovo trećina ispitanika smatra da su podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja rijetki ili vrlo rijetki u sektoru obrazovanja (28,57 %) i socijalne skrbi (27,62 %), a zatim slijede banke (18,1 %), sudstvo (16,19 %), privatni sektor (10,48 %), sport (9,52 %) i porezna uprava (9,52 %).

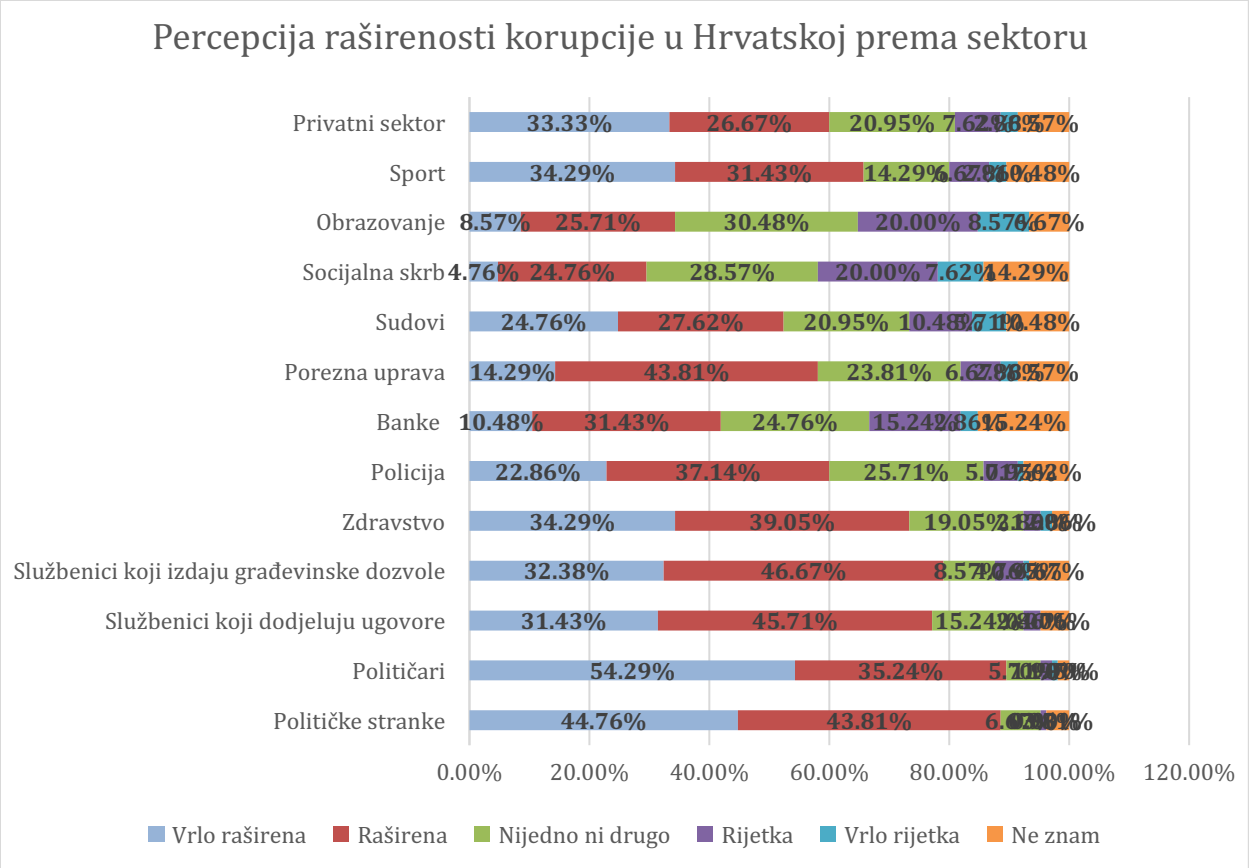
Zanimljivo je da određeni udio ispitanika ne zna procijeniti jesu li podmićivanje i zlouporaba položaja raširenи. Najveći udio odgovora „Ne znam" zabilježen je za socijalnu skrb (14,29 %), banke (15,24 %) i sudstvo (10,48 %), dok je u obrazovanju, sektoru s kojim ispitanici imaju najviše iskustva, taj udio iznosio 6,67 %. Nasuprot tome, odgovor „Ne znam" zabilježen je kod samo 1,9 % ispitanika kada je riječ o političarima te 2,86 % kada je riječ o zdravstvu, temama s kojima se često susreću u medijima i svakodnevnom životu.

Kvalitativna obilježja korupcije pružaju opću sliku svijesti o problemima strukturne korupcije:

- 72,38 % ispitanika slaže se ili se u potpunosti slaže s tvrdnjom da bliske veze između gospodarstva i politike dovode do korupcije.

- 75,24 % ispitanika slaže se ili se u potpunosti slaže s tvrdnjom da „favoriziranje i korupcija ometaju tržišno natjecanje".

- 84,76 % ispitanika slaže se ili se u potpunosti slaže s tvrdnjom da se slučajevi korupcije na visokoj razini ne procesuiraju dovoljno učinkovito.



Slika 2 Percepcija raširenosti korupcije prema sektoru

Međutim, manje od polovice ispitanika koruptivno ponašanje smatra sredstvom za postizanje osobnog uspjeha ili ostvarivanje pristupa uslugama:

- 43,81 % ispitanika slaže se ili se u potpunosti slaže s tvrdnjom da su političke veze nužne za poslovni uspjeh, dok se 20 % s tom tvrdnjom ne slaže ili se uopće ne slaže.
- 48,57 % smatra da mladi ne mogu ostvariti pravedan pristup javnim uslugama bez osobnih veza, dok se 44,76 % ispitanika s tom tvrdnjom ne slaže ili se uopće ne slaže, a 27,62 % niti se slaže niti se ne slaže.

Ipak, mladi u Hrvatskoj ne smatraju da su jasni, transparentni i razumljivi postupci te dostupne informacije standard u radu javnih institucija. Samo 10,48 % ispitanika slaže se s tvrdnjom da javne institucije obično jasno objašnjavaju postupke i odluke (35 % ispitanika niti se slaže niti se ne slaže), dok 88,57 % mladih smatra da bi javni procesi trebali biti jednostavniji za razumijevanje i praćenje.

Velika većina ispitanika – 88,57 %, odnosno gotovo devet od deset – prepoznala je **zapošljavanje** i postupke zapošljavanja kao područje u kojem se mladi **najvjerojatnije susreću s korupcijom, pogodovanjem ili nepravednim postupanjem** (Slika 3). Slijedi politički život i sudjelovanje u političkim strankama, gdje tako smatra 29,52 % ispitanika. To pokazuje da put prema zaposlenju ili političkom angažmanu, iako u manjoj mjeri, uključuje izazove povezane s uključivošću i

jednakim mogućnostima. Situacija je nešto povoljnija u drugim područjima, budući da ih kao prostore u kojima se mladi najvjerojatnije susreću s korupcijom, pogodovanjem ili nepravednim postupanjem navodi petina ili manje ispitanika: javna uprava, dozvole i dokumenti (20,95 %), zdravstvo i druge javne usluge (18,10 %), obrazovanje i sveučilišta (16,19 %) te lokalna samouprava i komunalne usluge (7,62 %).

Rasprava u fokus grupi, provedena s 12 sudionika, otkrila je nekoliko važnih spoznaja o mogućnostima sudjelovanja mladih. Sudionici su građansko sudjelovanje u velikoj mjeri povezivali s političkim angažmanom te su smatrali da se glas mladih može čuti uglavnom kroz pripadnost određenoj političkoj opciji ili stranci. Međutim, istodobno su izrazili skepsu prema stvarnoj učinkovitosti takvog angažmana. Čak i kada se mladi učlane u političke stranke, sudionici smatraju da se od njih očekuje prihvaćanje načela, ideologije i vrijednosti te političke strukture, dok njihove vlastite perspektive i „glas mladih" ne uspijevaju doprijeti do viših razina odlučivanja niti potaknuti značajne promjene unutar hijerarhijskih sustava.

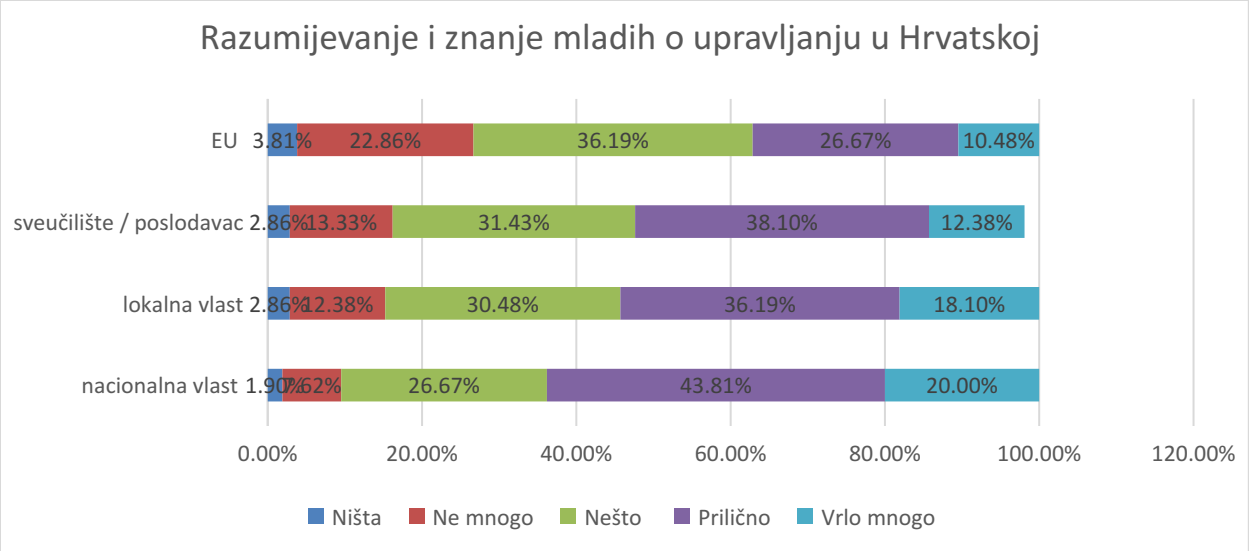
Sudionici *validacijske radionice* izrazili su zadovoljstvo rezultatima istraživanja i njihovom vjerodostojnošću, potvrđujući da je korupcija prisutna u svim ključnim institucionalnim područjima, pri čemu je proces zapošljavanja i odabira kandidata za njih najkritičnije područje, s obzirom na to da su mladi u potrazi za prilikama za zaposlenje. Također smatraju da je korupcija vrlo izražena u sportu, području u kojem su mladi intenzivno uključeni, što se podudara s nedavnim skandalima u nacionalnim sportskim savezima. Ipak, sudionici smatraju da je korupcija još raširenija nego što to pokazuju rezultati istraživanja, osobito u ruralnim sredinama, budući da podaci ne razlikuju urbana i ruralna područja. Smatraju da institucionalni odgovor na korupciju nije dovoljno snažan te zagovaraju strože antikorupcijske mjere. Također izražavaju zabrinutost da tako visoka percepcija korupcije negativno utječe na razinu društvenog i građanskog sudjelovanja mladih. Kako je jedan od sudionika istaknuo:

> *„Nažalost, sve to zvuči vrlo poznato. Korupcija se ne može uvijek izravno vidjeti, ali imamo osjećaj da veze i poznanstva često igraju veću ulogu od znanja i marljivog rada."*

Slika 3: Područja u kojima se mladi najviše suočavaju s korupcijom, favoriziraranjem i nejdnakim tretmanom u Hrvatskoj

Znanje i razumijevanje

Rezultati istraživanja ukazuju na **relativno zadovoljavajuću razinu znanja i razumijevanja načina funkcioniranja sustava upravljanja** (Slika 4), iako bi raspodjela rezultata mogla djelomično biti posljedica većeg udjela studenata prava, javne uprave i političkih znanosti u uzorku. Većina ispitanika navodi da zna „vrlo mnogo" ili „prilično mnogo" o funkcioniranju upravljanja na nacionalnoj razini (63,81 %), dok 9,52 % ispitanika navodi da zna „ne baš mnogo" ili „uopće ništa". Kada je riječ o lokalnoj samoupravi, razina razumijevanja pada na 54,29 % ispitanika koji navode da znaju „vrlo mnogo" ili „prilično mnogo". Slična je razina znanja zabilježena i u odnosu na upravljanje sveučilištima ili organizacijama poslodavaca (50,48 %). S druge strane, razumijevanje upravljanja na razini Europske unije manje je izraženo. Samo 37,14 % ispitanika navodi da zna „vrlo mnogo" ili „prilično mnogo" o tom području, dok 26,67 % navodi da zna „ne baš mnogo" ili „uopće ništa".



lika 4: Razumijevanje i znanje mladih u Hrvatskoj o upravljanju (N=105)

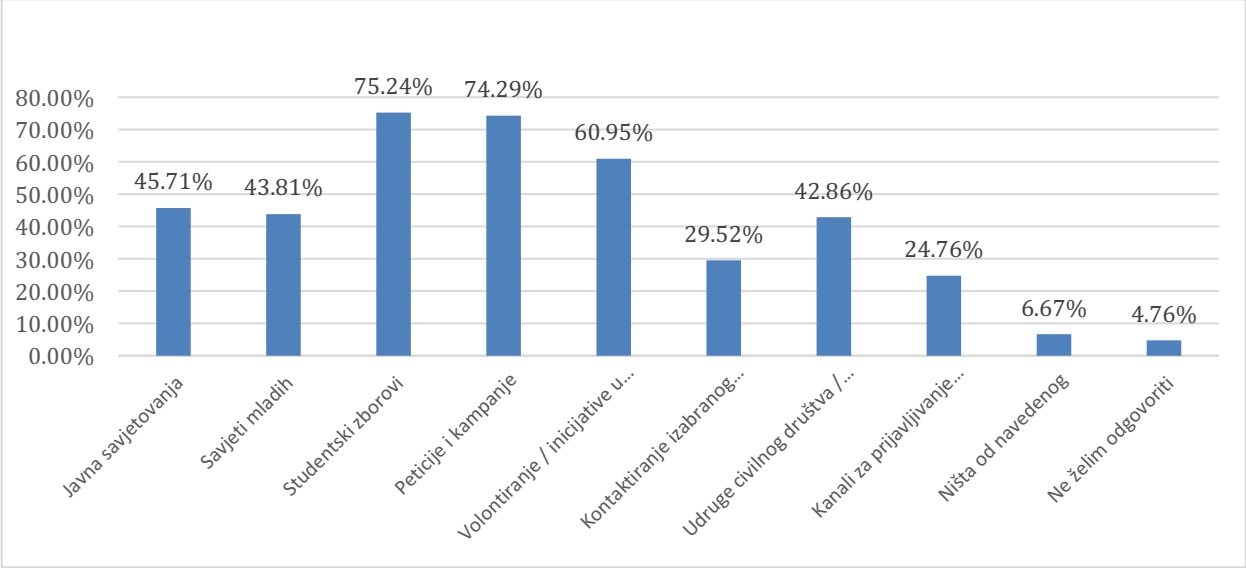
Poznavanje ključnih mehanizama građanskog sudjelovanja među ispitanicima je relativno dobro. Ukupno 37,14 % ispitanika navodi da je **iznimno ili vrlo dobro upoznato sa zakonodavnim postupkom** u Hrvatskoj, dok je dodatnih 41,9 % umjereno upoznato s tim procesom, što vjerojatno odražava njihovo područje obrazovanja. Gotovo petina ispitanika (19,05 %) iznimno je ili vrlo dobro upoznata sa zakonodavnim postupkom u Europskoj uniji, a dodatnih 38,1 % navodi da je umjereno upoznato s tim procesom. Rezultati upućuju na relativno zadovoljavajuću razinu samoprocijenjenog znanja mladih o zakonodavnim procesima na nacionalnoj i nadnacionalnoj razini: približno tri četvrtine ispitanika na nacionalnoj razini te gotovo dvije trećine na razini Europske unije navodi da su umjereno, vrlo ili iznimno upoznati s tim procesima. Sukladno tome, samo 1,9 % ispitanika uopće nije upoznato sa zakonodavnim postupkom na nacionalnoj razini, dok taj udio za razinu Europske unije iznosi 7,62 %. Nadalje, 77,14 % ispitanika tvrdi da zna gdje može pronaći informacije o mogućnostima sudjelovanja u svojoj lokalnoj zajednici ili na sveučilištu.

Kada su ispitanicima postavljena konkretnija pitanja, rezultati pokazuju određenu povezanost između samoprocijenjenog znanja i stvarnog razumijevanja. U pogledu **zakonodavnog procesa**, dvije trećine mladih ispitanika točno je prepoznalo da nacionalne zakonske prijedloge mogu predlagati Vlada (65,71 %) i zastupnici u Hrvatskom saboru (67,62 %), iako je u praksi Vlada najčešći predlagatelj zakona. Međutim, značajan udio ispitanika, njih 50,48 %, pogrešno smatra da građani mogu predlagati zakone putem peticija, što se može objasniti mogućim poistovjećivanjem peticija s referendumskom inicijativom. Oko desetine ispitanika ne zna odgovor ili pogrešno pripisuje tu ovlast vijećima na lokalnoj razini (11,43 % u oba slučaja). Na razini Europske unije ispitanici najčešće pogrešno smatraju da je Europski parlament glavni akter u predlaganju novih propisa EU-a, dok samo trećina (37,14 %) ispravno prepoznaje Europsku komisiju kao instituciju koja pokreće zakonodavne prijedloge. Pozitivno je što nitko od ispitanika ne smatra da Sud Europske unije može predlagati zakone. Jednaki udio kao i na nacionalnoj razini (11,43 %) navodi da ne zna odgovor.

Kada je riječ o **javnim savjetovanjima**, 22,86 % ispitanika navodi da uopće nije upoznato s tim mehanizmom, dok je 28,57 % tek djelomično upoznato. Ipak, kada su zamoljeni da navedu primjer

mehanizma javnog savjetovanja, 70,48 % ispitanika ispravno je prepoznalo dostavljanje pisanih komentara i prijedloga. S druge strane, 1,90 % ispitanika pogrešno smatra da su komentari na društvenim mrežama oblik javnog savjetovanja, a 11,43 % navodi glasovanje na izborima. Njih 16,19 % priznaje da ne zna što taj mehanizam podrazumijeva. Slično tome, većina ispitanika (69,52 %) ispravno prepoznaje da javna savjetovanja predstavljaju fazu zakonodavnog procesa u kojoj građani **mogu dati mišljenje ili prijedloge** o predloženom zakonu. Manji udio ispitanika (2,86 %) smatra da građani ne mogu utjecati na zakonodavni proces, dok 11,48 % vjeruje da to mogu učiniti isključivo putem uličnih prosvjeda. Općenito, dvije trećine ispitanika (63,81 %) smatra da građani mogu davati povratne informacije o zakonodavnim prijedlozima, dok 18,10 % navodi da ne zna odgovor. Poznavanje mehanizama specifičnih za Europsku uniju nešto je slabije. Tek 37,14 % ispitanika prepoznaje portal „Have Your Say" kao alat za prikupljanje povratnih informacija građana, dok 21,9 % smatra da se to ostvaruje putem nacionalnih referenduma. Manji udio ispitanika (2,86 %) društvene mreže smatra kanalom za prikupljanje povratnih informacija, dok gotovo trećina (31,43 %) priznaje da ne zna odgovor.

Što se tiče **kanala sudjelovanja** (Slika 5), većina ispitanika navodi da je upoznata sa studentskim zborovima i oblicima studentskog predstavništva (74,24 %), peticijama i kampanjama prikupljanja potpisa (74,29 %) te volontiranjem i inicijativama u zajednici (60,95 %). Manje od polovice ispitanika, između 25 % i 45 %, upoznato je s javnim savjetovanjima (45,71 %), savjetima mladih i drugim savjetodavnim tijelima za mlade (43,81 %) te inicijativama organizacija civilnog društva (42,86 %). Manje od trećine ispitanika upoznato je s mogućnošću obraćanja izabranim predstavnicima (29,52 %) ili s kanalima za prijavu nepravednog postupanja (24,76 %).



Slika 5: Svijest o kanalima sudjelovanja (N=105)

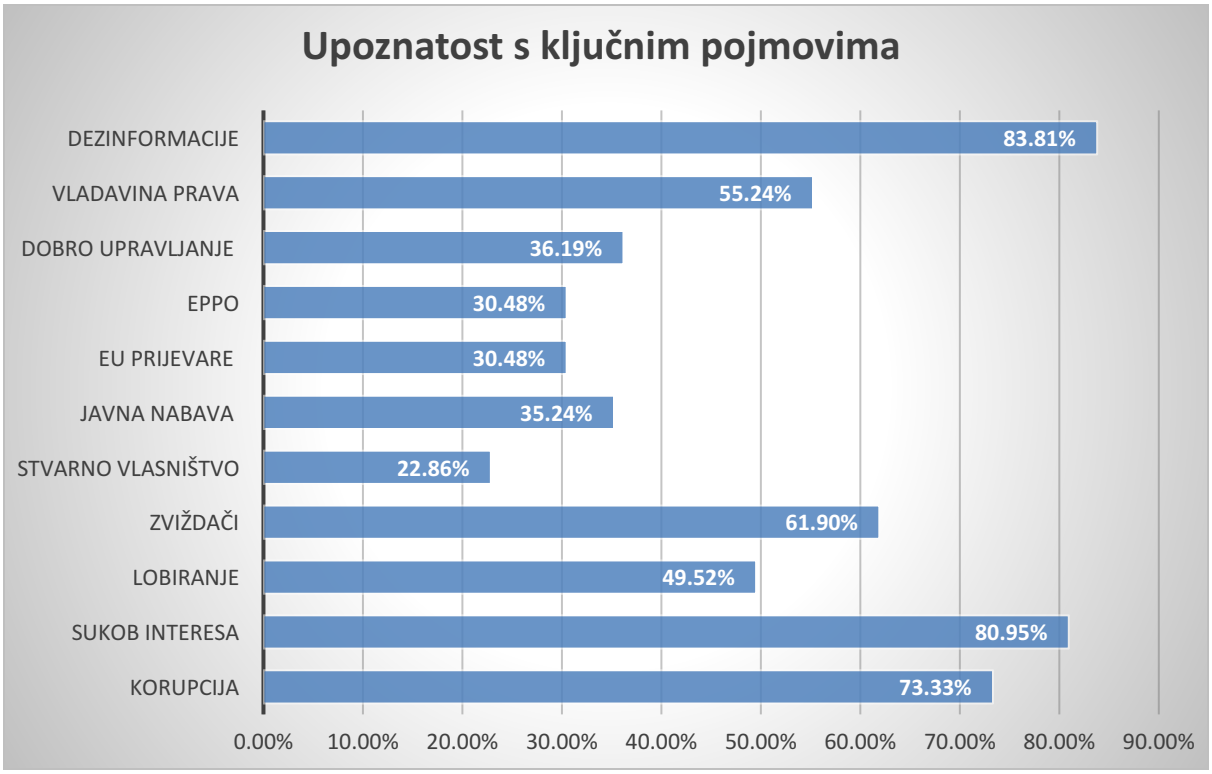
Rasprava u fokus grupi pružila je dublji uvid u razumijevanje građanskog angažmana i mogućnosti sudjelovanja među mladima. Tema koja se kontinuirano provlačila kroz raspravu bila je nedostatna razina građanskog odgoja i obrazovanja u srednjim školama i na sveučilištima. Sudionici su

naglasili da mladima uglavnom nisu dostupna dostatna znanja o građanskom sudjelovanju, demokratskim procesima ni mehanizmima putem kojih mogu utjecati na društvene i političke promjene. Nadalje, istaknuli su nedostatak jasnih i lako dostupnih informacija o praktičnim kanalima i mogućnostima za uključivanje mladih u društvene procese. Nekoliko sudionika naglasilo je važnost uvođenja građanskog i političkog obrazovanja u obrazovni sustav od najranije dobi, počevši od osnovne škole, uz prilagodbu sadržaja različitim razvojnim fazama učenika. Prema mišljenju sudionika, razvijanje kulture građanske odgovornosti i demokratskog sudjelovanja među mladima ključno je za izgradnju društva sposobnog ostvarivati suvremene demokratske vrijednosti i dugoročne pozitivne društvene promjene.

Slično tome, *sudionici validacijske radionice* pokazali su dobro razumijevanje participativnih procesa te su naglasili potrebu za većim uključivanjem mladih u javna savjetovanja o zakonodavnim prijedlozima. Na pitanje o poznavanju pojmova obuhvaćenih istraživanjem, većina je navela da poznaje procese rada vlade i zakonodavne postupke (otprilike tri četvrtine sudionika), dok je oko polovice ispitanika izjavilo da je upoznato s funkcioniranjem Europske unije.

Sudionici su također predložili niz mjera za smanjenje korupcije, uključujući povećanje transparentnosti proračuna, osiguravanje veće transparentnosti investicija, jačanje nadzora nad lobističkim aktivnostima, unapređenje praćenja korištenja sredstava Europske unije, reformu struktura lokalne samouprave. Uz navedeno, istaknuli su važnost uvođenja građanskog odgoja i obrazovanja u škole te proširivanja mogućnosti za izvanškolsko učenje o građanskom angažmanu kroz rad organizacija mladih i udruga civilnoga društva.

Kada je riječ o upoznatosti s **ključnim pojmovima povezanima s borbom protiv korupcije** (Slika 6), kao najpoznatiji pojmovi izdvajaju se „dezinformacije" (83,81 %), „sukob interesa" (80,95 %) i „korupcija" (73,33 %), koje tri četvrtine ili više ispitanika smatraju pojmovima s kojima su iznimno ili vrlo dobro upoznati. Pojmovi poput „zviždača" (engl. *whistleblowing*) (61,9 %), „vladavine prava" (55,24 %) i „lobiranja" (49,52 %) također su relativno dobro poznati među ispitanicima. Oko jedne trećine ispitanika navodi da je upoznata s pojmovima „dobrog upravljanja" (36,19 %) i „javne nabave" (35,24 %), dok nešto manji udio poznaje pojmove povezane s Europsko javno tužiteljstvo (EPPO) i prijevarama na štetu Europske unije (oba po 30,48 %). Najmanje poznat pojam je „stvarno vlasništvo" (*beneficial ownership*), pri čemu je samo 22,86 % ispitanika navelo da je s njime iznimno ili vrlo dobro upoznato, dok 18 % ispitanika uopće nije upoznato s tim konceptom. Općenito, većina navedenih pojmova nije poznata između 6,5 % i 10,5 % ispitanika. Iznimku čine pojmovi „korupcija" i „sukob interesa", s kojima nije upoznato svega 0,95 % ispitanika, te „dezinformacije", koje nisu poznate tek 2,86 % ispitanika.



Slika 6 Upoznatost s ključnim pojmovima

Na pitanje jesu li **upoznati s postojanjem antikorupcijskih tijela** ili državnih institucija nadležnih za borbu protiv korupcije u Hrvatskoj, 45,71 % ispitanika izjavilo je da je upoznato s takvim institucijama te da može navesti barem jednu od njih. Istodobno, 29,52 % ispitanika navelo je da je čulo za neke od tih institucija, ali ne može imenovati nijednu konkretnu. S druge strane, 24,76 % ispitanika izjavilo je da nije upoznato s postojanjem antikorupcijskih institucija te nije moglo navesti nijednu od njih.

Ovi rezultati upućuju na to da, iako gotovo polovica mladih prepoznaje i može imenovati barem jednu instituciju nadležnu za borbu protiv korupcije, značajan dio ispitanika ima samo površnu svijest o njihovom postojanju ili uopće nije upoznat s njihovom ulogom i djelovanjem.

7. Prepreke i poticaji

Participacija mladih

Kada je riječ o sudjelovanju mladih u javnim poslovima, gotovo 9 od 10 mladih u Hrvatskoj zainteresirano je (umjereno, vrlo ili izrazito) za sudjelovanje, dok je njih 6 od 10 informirano (umjereno, vrlo ili izrazito) o načinima na koje mogu sudjelovati.

Na pitanje koliko su zainteresirani za javna pitanja i procese donošenja odluka koji utječu na njihov život, **60 % ispitanika opisalo se kao „vrlo zainteresirano" (36,19 %) ili „izrazito zainteresirano" (23,81 %),** dok je 27,62 % umjereno zainteresirano. Ipak, 2,86 % ispitanika nije pokazalo nikakav interes, a 8,57 % navelo je da je tek neznatno zainteresirano. S druge strane, samo **20 % ispitanika smatra se vrlo informiranima (16,19 %) ili izrazito informiranima (3,81 %)** o načinima na koje mladi mogu sudjelovati u javnom životu, dok je 42,86 % umjereno informirano. Čak 38,15 % ispitanika nije dovoljno upoznato s mogućnostima sudjelovanja mladih, pri čemu je 32,38 % tek neznatno informirano. Istodobno, velika većina ispitanika – 85,71 % – nikada nije sudjelovala u procesu javnog savjetovanja ni na jednoj razini vlasti. Međutim, trećina ispitanika (32 %) navodi da bi željela sudjelovati, ali ne zna kako, dok bi 42 % sudjelovalo kada bi im se pružila prilika. Samo **10,48 % ispitanika nema interes za sudjelovanje** u javnim savjetovanjima.

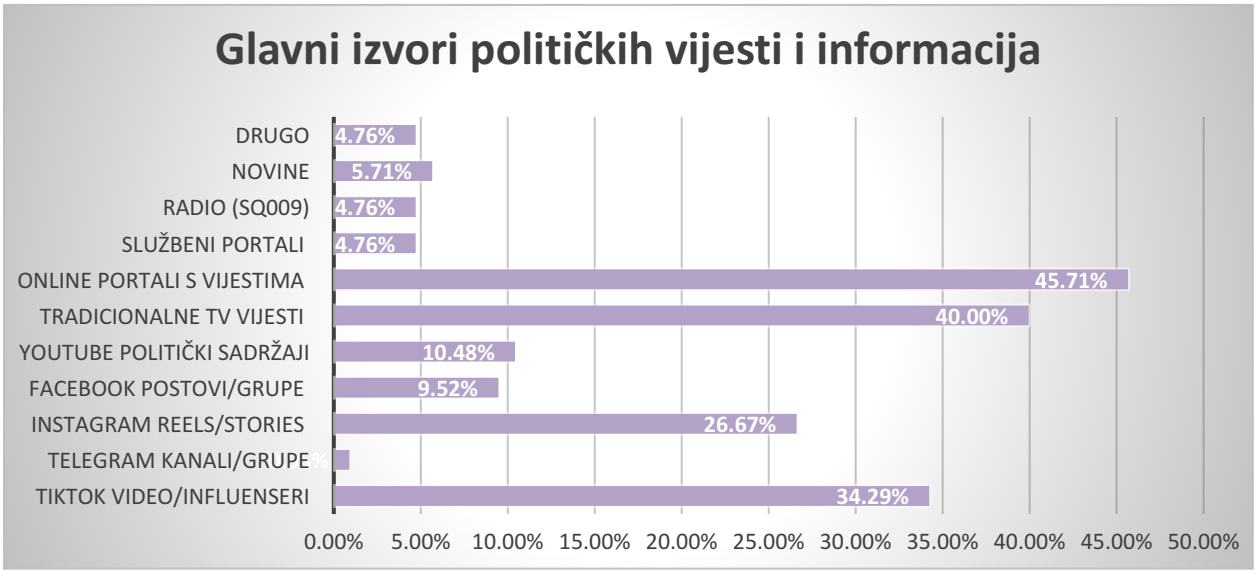
> *„Kada pokrenemo neku inicijativu, vrlo je teško motivirati druge mlade da se uključe… svatko gleda vlastiti interes."* Sudionica fokus grupe

Što se tiče stvarnog **sudjelovanja tijekom godine koja je prethodila istraživanju**, mladi ispitanici navode da su mnogi od njih glasovali na izborima (66,67 %) ili potpisali peticiju (51,43 %). Međutim, ostali oblici sudjelovanja znatno su rjeđi: 27,62 % volontiralo je u lokalnoj zajednici ili društvenoj inicijativi, 16,2 % sudjelovalo je u studentskom, omladinskom ili sveučilišnom predstavništvu, 11,43 % kontaktiralo je javno tijelo, instituciju ili izabranog predstavnika, 8,57 % sudjelovalo je u internetskoj kampanji ili raspravi, 7,62 % prisustvovalo je sastanku građanske, omladinske ili lokalne zajednice. Ipak, 13,33 % ispitanika navodi da tijekom promatranog razdoblja nije sudjelovalo ni u jednoj od navedenih aktivnosti. Sudionici fokus grupe i validacijske radionice također su izvijestili da su sudjelovali na (lokalnim) izborima tijekom prethodne godine te potpisivali peticije, dok su neki od njih aktivni u studentskim organizacijama na svojim sveučilištima.

Kada je riječ o izvorima političkih informacija i vijesti među mladima u Hrvatskoj, rezultati istraživanja (Slika 8) pokazuju da postoje **četiri dominantna izvora informiranja**: internetski portali s vijestima (45,71 %), televizijske informativne emisije (40 %), TikTok videozapisi i influenceri (34,29 %), Instagram Reels i Stories sadržaji (26,67 %). Facebook nije osobito relevantan među mlađim generacijama (9,52 %), a Telegram još manje. Zanimljivo je da drugi komunikacijski kanali koji su vrlo rašireni u Hrvatskoj, poput WhatsAppa ili Vibera, nisu bili navedeni među odgovorima. Posebno je uočljivo da tradicionalni izvori informiranja imaju vrlo malu važnost za mlade. Tek oko 5 % ispitanika informacije dobiva putem: novina (5,71 %), radija (4,76 %), službenih vladinih portala (4,76 %).

Starije generacije možda su bile aktivnije. Danas su mladi demotivirani i politički nedovoljno obrazovani." Sudionica fokus grupe

Slika 7 Sudjelovanje u posljednjih 12 mjeseci



Slika 8 Glavni izvori informacija

Sudionici validacijske radionice složili su se da informacije primarno dobivaju putem društvenih mreža, pri čemu su Instagram, TikTok i Reddit najčešće korištene platforme. Svjesni su izazova povezanih s društvenim mrežama, ali ih istodobno smatraju nužnim alatom za umrežavanje i građansko djelovanje. Kao jednu od njihovih glavnih prednosti ističu jednostavnost korištenja.

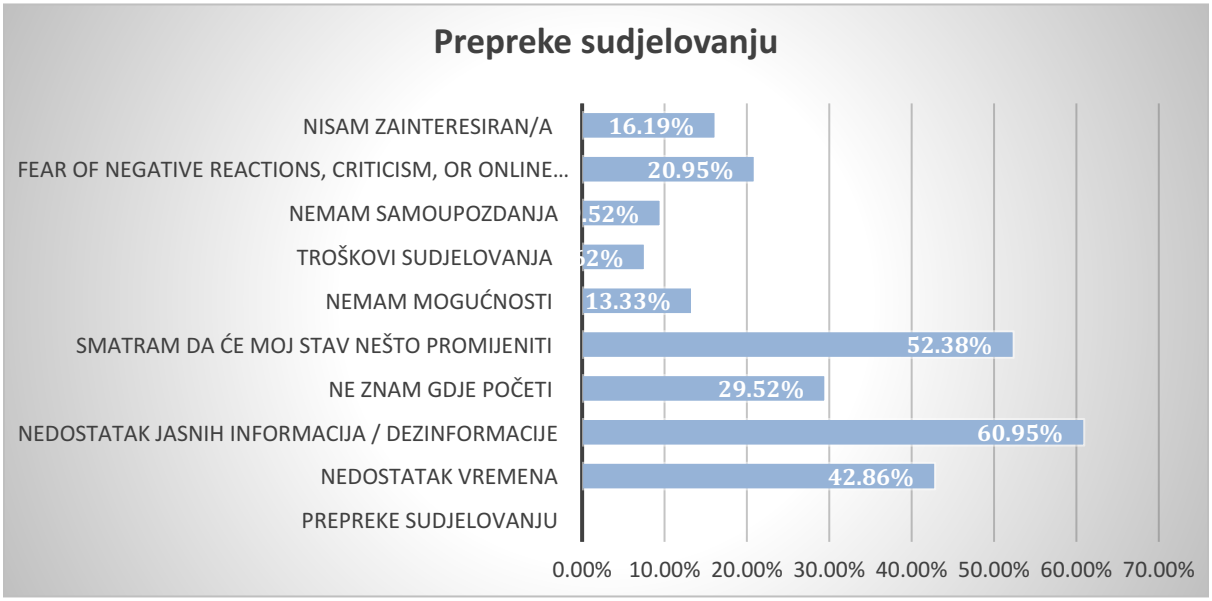
*„Kanali za sudjelovanje trebali bi biti osmišljeni tako da budu jednostavni za korištenje, čak i za osobu bez ikakvog obrazovanja."*Sudionica fokus grupe

Sudionici validacijske radionice također su istaknuli da perspektiva mladih često nedostaje u procesima donošenja odluka, osobito u manjim općinama, iako upravo mladi mogu ponuditi vrijedna rješenja za brojne probleme. Smatraju da mladi općenito nemaju dovoljno znanja o politici te da društvene mreže često ne pružaju pouzdane i vjerodostojne informacije. S druge strane, društvene mreže vide kao najkorisniji alat za povećanje razine sudjelovanja mladih. Prema njihovu mišljenju, **umrežavanje i uključivanje u javne procese, osobito na lokalnoj razini**, mogli bi se znatno unaprijediti učinkovitijim **korištenjem društvenih mreža** kao kanala za participaciju. Sudionici su također izrazili zabrinutost zbog *osjećaja političke nemoći* među mladima, odnosno dojma da nemaju stvaran utjecaj na političke procese. Smatraju da bi institucije trebale aktivnije uključivati mlade u procese donošenja odluka te da je institucionalna podrška inicijativama mladih ključna za razvoj dobrih praksi koje mogu poslužiti kao primjer drugima.Prema njihovom mišljenju, uključivanje mladih u rasprave u parlamentu i predstavničkim tijelima lokalne samouprave trebalo bi postati uobičajena praksa ako se želi povećati interes mladih za političke procese i javni život.

Prepreke

Istraživanje je identificiralo jednu izrazito dominantnu prepreku sudjelovanju (Slika 9): **60,95 %** ispitanika navelo je **nedostatak jasnih informacija ili prisutnost dezinformacija** kao glavni razlog zbog kojeg je sudjelovanje otežano. Taj je udio znatno veći od svih ostalih prepreka te je gotovo četiri puta veći od udjela ispitanika koji kao prepreku navode **nezainteresiranost (16,19 %)**. Druga najčešće isticana prepreka također ukazuje na sustavni problem i nedostatak povjerenja – više od polovice mladih **(52,38 %)** smatra da njihov **angažman neće dovesti do stvarnih promjena**. I ostali odgovori upućuju na postojanje strukturnih prepreka sudjelovanju. Gotovo trećina ispitanika **(29,52 %) navodi da ne zna odakle započeti**, što ukazuje na nedostatnu edukaciju o mogućnostima građanskog i društvenog sudjelovanja. Nadalje, oko petine ispitanika (**20,95 %) strahuje od negativnih reakcija**, što može upućivati na nedostatak kulture demokratskog dijaloga i otvorene rasprave te na percepciju društvenog angažmana kao potencijalno neugodnog ili opterećujućeg iskustva. Istodobno se kao jedna od najizraženijih prepreka ističe i **nedostatak vremena (42,86 %).** To sugerira da sudjelovanje i građanski angažman često nisu među prioritetnim osobnim ciljevima mladih. S druge strane, pojedini čimbenici ne predstavljaju značajnije prepreke sudjelovanju: nedostatak prilika za sudjelovanje navodi 13,33 % ispitanika, nedostatak samopouzdanja 9,52 %, financijski troškovi povezani sa sudjelovanjem svega 7,62 % ispitanika. Sudionici fokusne skupine posebno su naglasili nedostatak vremena i resursa, ali i određenu frustraciju zbog neučinkovitosti postojećih institucionalnih mehanizama sudjelovanja.

Nemamo vremena za angažman; studiramo, radimo i ne ostaje nam mnogo vremena za uključivanje u studentske udruge ili druge aktivnosti. Mladi ne žele žrtvovati svoje vrijeme i trud kada već postoje formalne institucije koje imaju svoje odgovornosti
Sudionica fokus grupe



Slika 9 Prepreke građanskom sudjelovanju mladih

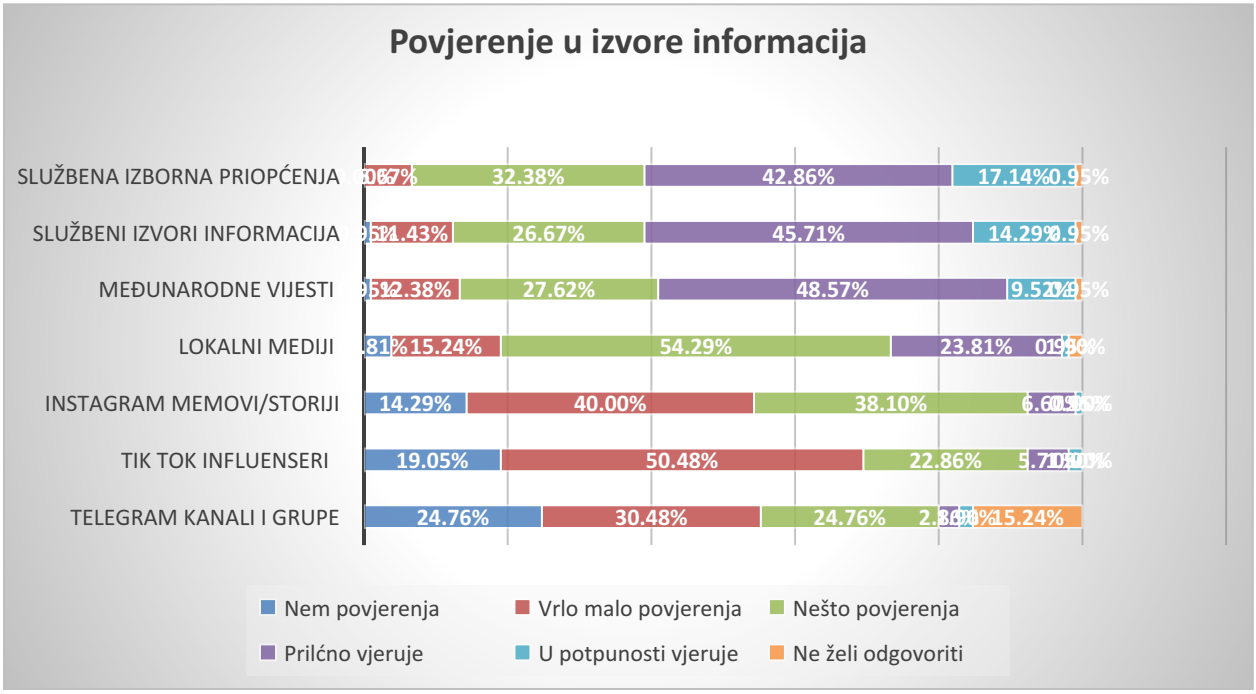
Samo 13,33 % ispitanika navodi da lako pronalazi informacije o mogućnostima sudjelovanja, dok je istodobno posebno izražen **nedostatak povjerenja u nove izvore informiranja** (Slika 10). Ispitanici su iskazali vrlo malo ili nimalo povjerenja u svoje glavne izvore informacija na društvenim mrežama: TikTok influencere (69,52 %), Instagram objave, memeove i priče (54,29 %), Telegram kanale (55,24 %). S druge strane, kada je riječ o **tradicionalnijim izvorima informiranja, povjerenje je znatno izraženije**. Nepovjerenje prema novinarima i službenim izvorima vlasti gotovo je zanemarivo, pri čemu 60 % ispitanika navodi da ima potpuno ili prilično veliko povjerenje u službene izvore državnih institucija i službene izborne informacije. Nakon njih slijede međunarodni izvori vijesti, kojima vjeruje 58,10 % ispitanika. Lokalni novinari uživaju nešto nižu razinu povjerenja (24,76 %), no većina ispitanika ipak iskazuje barem određenu razinu povjerenja u lokalne medije i vijesti.

Unatoč relativno niskoj razini povjerenja, upravo su društvene mreže poput TikToka i Instagrama platforme na kojima su ispitanici posljednji put naišli na **politički sadržaj koji je utjecao na njihovo ponašanje ili djelovanje**. Takav je utjecaj prijavilo **35,24 %** ispitanika za TikTok te **39,05 %** za Instagram, dok slijede YouTube (10,48 %) i Facebook (9,52 %). Ovi rezultati potvrđuju dominantnu ulogu kratkih vizualnih formata sadržaja u političkom informacijskom okruženju mladih u Hrvatskoj.

Učinci izloženosti takvo političkom sadržaju pokazuju obrazac koji je istodobno složen i donekle zabrinjavajući. Reakcije mladih najčešće su ograničene na povremene ili manje zahtjevne oblike angažmana. Najčešće prijavljena posljedica jest potpisivanje peticija kao rezultat kampanja na društvenim mrežama, što navodi 45,71 % ispitanika. Nakon toga slijedi sudjelovanje na prosvjedima potaknuto viralnim sadržajem (19,05 %) te povećani aktivizam kao odgovor na pozive influencera (6,67 %). Znatno manji udio ispitanika navodi druge oblike reakcije: 5,76 % prestalo je donirati određenim inicijativama ili organizacijama zbog skandala povezanih s njima, manje od 1 % ispitanika navodi smanjenje volontiranja

zbog nepovjerenja povezanog s korupcijom, odnosno da se pridružilo političkim skupinama ili zajednicama na društvenim mrežama.

Ovi rezultati sugeriraju da politički sadržaji na društvenim mrežama mogu potaknuti određene oblike građanskog angažmana, no njihov se učinak uglavnom zadržava na sporadičnim i manje zahtjevnim oblicima sudjelovanja, dok je dugoročniji ili intenzivniji politički angažman znatno rjeđi.



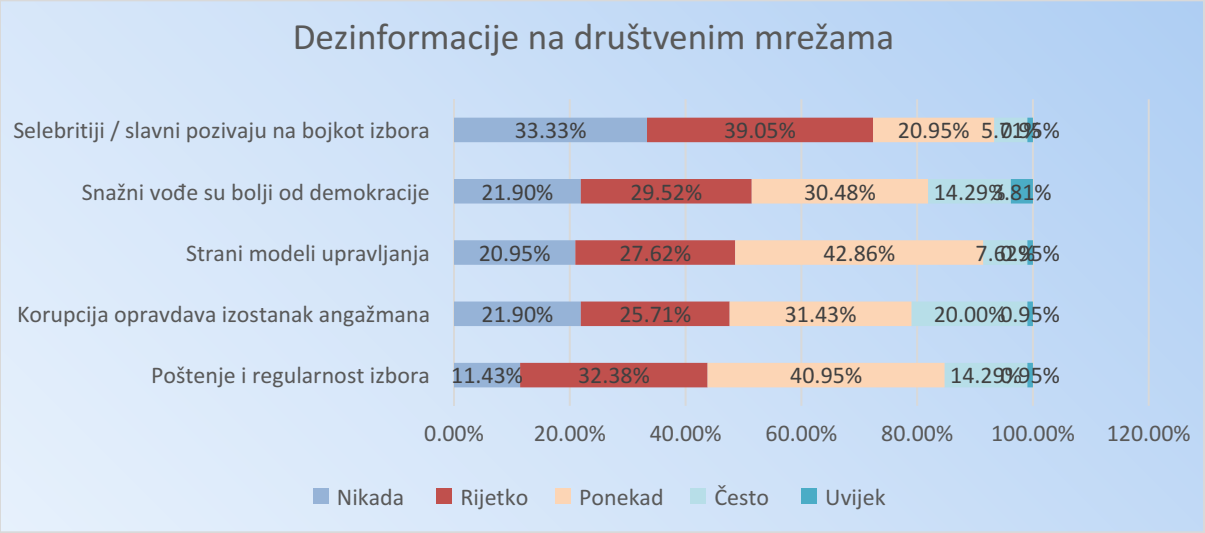
Slika 10: Povjerenje u izvore informacija

Izborna dimenzija prikupljenih podataka posebno je značajna. Najčešće zabilježeni učinak jest smanjena spremnost ispitanika na izlazak na izbore zbog tvrdnji o korupciji koje dovode do nepovjerenja u politički sustav, što navodi 57,14 % ispitanika. Slijedi razmatranje bojkota izbora (22,86 %) te promjena preferiranog kandidata pod utjecajem sadržaja na društvenim mrežama (20 %). Samo manji udio ispitanika navodi da je glasovao drukčije zbog preporuke influencera (1,90 %) ili da se kasnije registrirao za glasovanje zbog mobilizacijskih objava na društvenim mrežama (2,86 %). Međutim, ova posljednja opcija nije osobito relevantna u Hrvatskoj, budući da je registracija birača automatska. Manji dio ispitanika (7,62 %) navodi da je dijelio sadržaje povezane s navodnim izbornim prijevarama.

Ispitanici su također upitani **koliko se često tijekom korištenja društvenih mreža susreću s pet kategorija dezinformacijskih sadržaja** (Slika 11). Rezultati ukazuju na široko rasprostranjenu izloženost takvim sadržajima. Najčešće se susreću s tvrdnjama da korupcija opravdava političko povlačenje i neuključivanje građana u političke procese – 20 % ispitanika navodi da takve sadržaje vidi često. Slijede tvrdnje da su snažni vođe bolji od demokracije (18,1 %) te tvrdnje koje dovode u pitanje poštenje i regularnost izbora, pri čemu 15,24 % ispitanika navodi da se s takvim sadržajima susreće često ili uvijek. S druge strane, sadržaji u kojima poznate osobe ili slavne osobe pozivaju na bojkot izbora relativno su rijetki; samo 6,67 % ispitanika navodi da ih viđa često ili uvijek. Slično tome, rijetko se

susreću i sadržaji koji promoviraju strane modele upravljanja koje navodno nameće Europska unija, što navodi 8,57 % ispitanika.

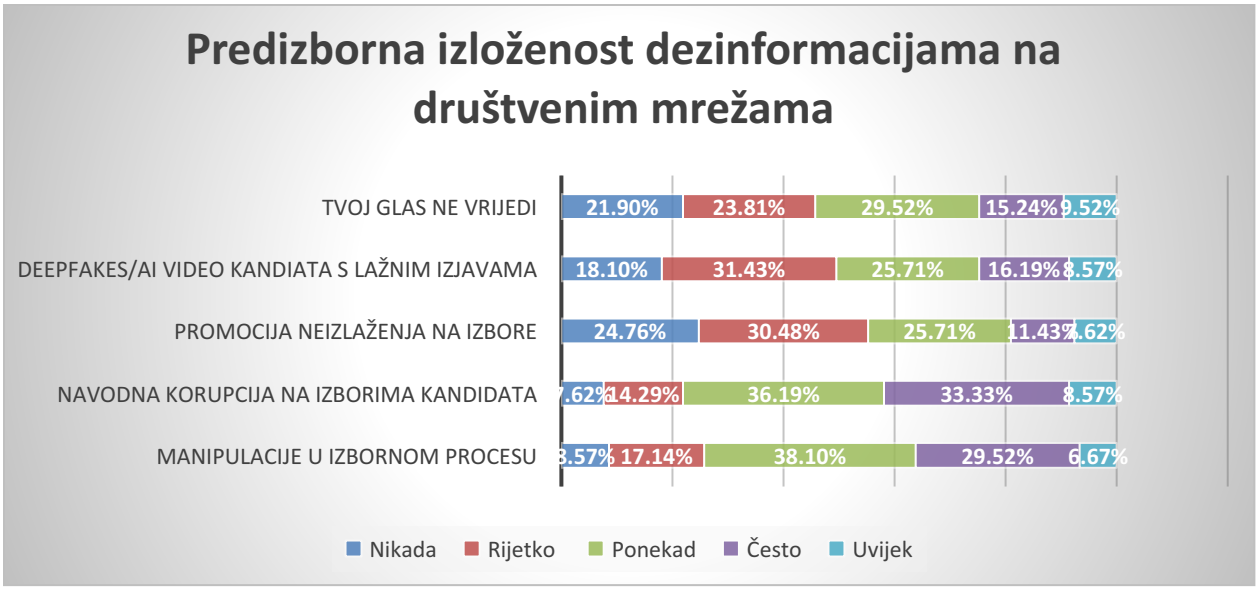
Ovi nalazi upućuju na to da su mladi najčešće izloženi dezinformacijama koje potiču političku apatiju, nepovjerenje u demokratske institucije i sumnju u integritet izbornih procesa, dok su druge vrste političkih dezinformacija znatno manje zastupljene.



Slika 11 Dezinformacije na društvenim mrežama

Podaci o dezinformacijama u predizbornom razdoblju predstavljaju jedan od najzabrinjavajućih dijelova istraživanja (Slika 12). Tvrdnje o navodnoj korupciji u postupcima odabira kandidata ispitanici susreću **„često" ili „uvijek" u 41,90 % slučajeva**, što ih čini najzastupljenijim oblikom predizbornih dezinformacija. Slijede tvrdnje o manipulaciji izbornim procesom, koje 36,19 % ispitanika navodi kao sadržaje s kojima se susreće često ili uvijek. Posebno zabrinjava činjenica da gotovo četvrtina ispitanika navodi kako se često ili uvijek susreće s deepfake sadržajima političkih kandidata te s tvrdnjama da njihov glas nema nikakvu važnost, pri čemu oba oblika sadržaja bilježe isti udio od 24,76 %. Dodatno, približno jedna trećina ispitanika navodi da se povremeno susreće sa svih pet primjera predizbornih dezinformacijskih sadržaja obuhvaćenih istraživanjem na društvenim mrežama.

Ovi rezultati upućuju na značajnu izloženost mladih različitim oblicima predizbornih dezinformacija, osobito onima koji dovode u pitanje integritet kandidata, vjerodostojnost izbornog procesa i smisao sudjelovanja građana na izborima.



Slika 12 Predizborna izloženost na društvenim mrežama

„Trebaju li mladi preuzeti teret ispravljanja onih koji su izabrani ili imenovani na dužnosti i od kojih se očekuje da budu sposobni upravljati?" (sudionica fokus grupe)

Uvidi u percepciju prepreka sudjelovanju među mladima prikupljeni su kroz rasprave u fokusnim skupinama. Uz nedostatak znanja i razumijevanja političkih procesa i mogućnosti za uključivanje, sudionici su **javne institucije doživjeli kao nedovoljno poticajne i podržavajuće** prema inicijativama mladih. Ova se kritika odnosila kako na način na koji institucije izvršavaju svoje službene odgovornosti, tako i na ograničenu podršku koju pružaju aktivnostima i inicijativama koje pokreću mladi. Sudionici su posebno istaknuli nedostatak stvarne i značajne financijske potpore, naglašavajući da institucionalna uključenost često ostaje na simboličnoj razini – primjerice kroz sponzorstva koja se svode na isticanje logotipa institucija na događanjima – umjesto da uključuje ozbiljnija ulaganja u projekte i inicijative mladih usmjerene na promicanje znanosti, obrazovanja i građanskog angažmana. Druga važna prepreka koja je identificirana tijekom rasprava odnosi se na **poteškoće u mobiliziranju vršnjaka oko zajedničkih ciljeva i kolektivnog djelovanja**. Sudionici su primijetili da mnogim mladima nedostaje motivacije za angažman jer vjeruju da njihovi napori neće dovesti do vidljivih rezultata ili stvarnih promjena. Također smatraju da dio mladih nije zainteresiran za sudjelovanje ako u tome ne prepoznaje izravnu osobnu korist, dok samo unapređenje zajednice često nije dovoljno snažan poticaj za uključivanje.

„Kada se angažiramo, prepušteni smo sami sebi; ne dobivamo nikakvu podršku, što je frustrirajuće i ne pomaže motivirati druge." (sudionik fokus grupe)

Sudionici validacijske radionice izrazili su mišljenje da bi sudjelovanje mladih trebalo započeti njihovim većim uključivanjem u izborne procese. Smatraju da se povjerenje u institucije može ojačati većom transparentnošću i aktivnijim uključivanjem mladih u procese donošenja odluka. Primjerice, na

pitanje o sudjelovanju u organizacijama mladih ili drugim oblicima udruživanja, nijedan od 62 ispitanika nije naveo da je aktivno uključen. Međutim, mnogi sudionici podržali su stav da se u hrvatskom društvu angažman u udrugama i rad za opće dobro često promatraju sa sumnjom i kritikom zbog raširene percepcije da je *„politika prljava”*.

Poticaji

Na pitanje koje aktivnosti smatraju najučinkovitijima za osiguravanje da se glas mladih čuje među donositeljima odluka (Slika 13), ispitanici su kao najučinkovitiji mehanizam istaknuli tradicionalni oblik političkog sudjelovanja – glasovanje na izborima. Čak **59 % ispitanika smatra da njihov glas na izborima ima značaj** i može utjecati na donošenje odluka. Kao drugi najučinkovitiji instrument, koji prepoznaje gotovo trećina ispitanika **(29,52 %), navodi se uključivanje u organizacije mladih, nevladine organizacije ili građanske inicijative**. Između 15 % i 20 % ispitanika smatra da su učinkoviti i sljedeći oblici sudjelovanja: **sudjelovanje u javnim savjetovanjima (19,05 %),** potpisivanje peticija i građanskih inicijativa (17,14 %), sudjelovanje u mirnim prosvjedima (14,29 %). Slijedi volontiranje i djelovanje u lokalnoj zajednici, koje učinkovitim smatra 13,33 % ispitanika. S druge strane, tradicionalni način obraćanja izabranim predstavnicima ili političarima ne percipira se kao posebno učinkovit oblik utjecaja, budući da ga takvim smatra samo 5,71 % ispitanika. Posebno je zanimljiv nalaz da dijeljenje stavova putem internetskih kampanja nije prepoznato kao učinkovit oblik građanskog angažmana mladih. Samo jedan od deset ispitanika (9,52 %) smatra da takve aktivnosti mogu imati značajan učinak. U cjelini gledano, rezultati pokazuju da mladi najučinkovitijima smatraju tradicionalne oblike političkog i građanskog sudjelovanja, poput glasovanja na izborima i uključivanja u organizirane udruge i inicijative, dok internetske rasprave i kampanje te izravni kontakt s političarima uglavnom ne doživljavaju kao djelotvorne načine utjecaja na procese donošenja odluka.

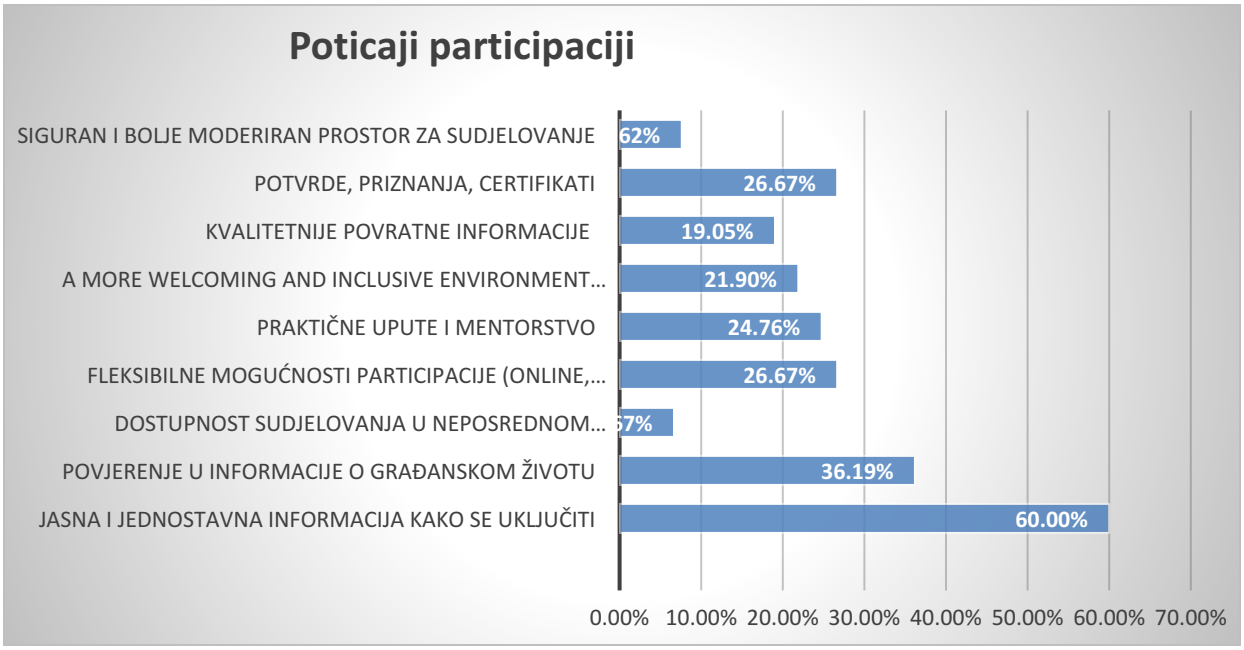
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Slika13 Najučinkovitijii mehanizmi koji dovode do toga da se glasovi mladih čuju

Na pitanje što bi im pomoglo da se više uključe u građanski i javni život (Slika 14), ispitanici su kao najvažniji poticaj istaknuli **jasne i jednostavne informacije o tome kako se uključiti**, što navodi **60 %** ispitanika. Slijedi **povjerenje u informacije o građanskom životu (36,19 %),** čimbenik od sustavne važnosti koji je složeniji od ostalih i usko povezan s općim povjerenjem u institucije i politički sustav. Drugu skupinu odgovora, koju navodi između 20 % i 25 % ispitanika, čine čimbenici koje je organizatorima participativnih procesa relativno jednostavnije osigurati: fleksibilne mogućnosti sudjelovanja (online ili hibridni modeli) te vidljivi ishodi sudjelovanja, poput potvrda, priznanja ili certifikata (26,67 %), praktične upute i mentorstvo tijekom procesa sudjelovanja (24,76 %), uključivije i poticajnije okruženje za sudjelovanje (21,9 %), kvalitetnije povratne informacije o tome kako su prijedlozi i mišljenja sudionika korišteni u procesu donošenja odluka (19,05 %). Sigurnost građanskog prostora ne smatra se osobito važnim čimbenikom (7,62 %), kao ni dostupnost prilika za sudjelovanje u neposrednom okruženju (6,6 %).

U cjelini gledano, ispitanici smatraju da bi njihovo veće uključivanje potaknuli: **dostupnije informacije** o mogućnostima sudjelovanja, **fleksibilniji oblici** uključivanja u otvorenom i poticajnom okruženju, **vidljivi rezultati** njihova angažmana, **stručna podrška** i vođenje kroz proces, **određene praktične koristi** ili priznanja za sudjelovanje. S druge strane, povjerenje u informacije predstavlja čimbenik koji ovisi o širem društvenom kontekstu, vjerodostojnosti institucija i aktera te ukupnoj razini povjerenja u politički sustav. Zanimljivo je da su dva odgovora iz otvorenog dijela upitnika na simboličan način odrazila različite stavove mladih prema građanskom angažmanu. Jedan ispitanik naveo je: „Nisam zainteresiran/a za sudjelovanje u građanskom životu", čime izražava opću nezainteresiranost za angažman. S druge strane, drugi je odgovorio: „Moja dobra volja", sugerirajući da bi se mladi uključili kada bi to doista željeli, što upućuje na važnost unutarnje motivacije, ali i povjerenja u politički sustav kao ključnih preduvjeta za aktivnije sudjelovanje. Tijekom rasprave u fokus grupi sudionici su posebno naglasili važnost kvalitetne povratne informacije te osjećaja da njihov angažman donosi konkretne i vidljive rezultate.

> *„Mnogi mladi uključeni su u humanitarni rad i volontiranje jer ondje vide rezultate svojeg djelovanja."* Sudionik fokus grupe



Slika14 Poticai za sudjelovanje

Sudionici fokusne skupine istaknuli su da se mladi trebaju uključivati u aktivnosti u kojima mogu vidjeti opipljiv učinak i konkretne rezultate svojega angažmana kako bi se prevladala raširena percepcija da se „ništa ne može promijeniti" – uvjerenje koje, ako se njime ne pozabavi, značajno smanjuje razinu građanskog sudjelovanja. Stoga su naglasili potrebu za većom vidljivošću uspješnih inicijativa mladih i rezultata participativnih aktivnosti. Smatraju da bi ciljevi, postignuća i pozitivni učinci akcija koje pokreću mladi trebali biti jasnije predstavljeni i vidljiviji široj javnosti, jer bi to moglo potaknuti veće povjerenje, motivaciju i spremnost mladih na uključivanje u društvene procese.

„Trebaju li mladi preuzeti teret ispravljanja onih koji su izabrani ili imenovani i koji bi trebali biti sposobni upravljati?" Sudionica fokusne skupine

8. Transparentnost, integritet i povjerenje

Odgovor na korupciju

Mladi općenito smatraju da mogu imati važnu ulogu u borbi protiv korupcije. Na pitanje vjeruju li da **mladi mogu pridonijeti smanjenju korupcije u Hrvatskoj**, čak tri četvrtine ispitanika (75,24 %) odgovorilo je potvrdno – 44,76 % navelo je „vjerojatno da", a 30,48 % „sigurno da". Samo 2,86 % ispitanika izrazilo je izraziti skepticizam odgovorom „sigurno ne", no i dalje značajan udio smatra da mladi vjerojatno ne mogu utjecati na smanjenje korupcije (20 % odgovorilo je „vjerojatno ne").

Kada je riječ o osjećaju sigurnosti pri prijavljivanju korupcije, velik dio ispitanika **ne osjeća se sigurno prijaviti korupciju i**li nepravedno postupanje koje uključuje javne institucije. Najveći udio ispitanika odabrao je odgovor „prilično nesigurno" (35,24 %), a zatim „ni sigurno ni nesigurno" (25,71 %). Zajedno s onima koji su odgovorili „vrlo nesigurno" (13,33 %), gotovo polovica sudionika iskazuje negativnu percepciju sigurnosti prijavljivanja takvih slučajeva. Nasuprot tome, samo manji dio ispitanika osjeća se dovoljno sigurno za prijavu: 12,38 % navodi da bi se osjećalo „prilično sigurno", svega 1,90 % da bi se osjećalo „vrlo sigurno". Dodatno, 10,48 % ispitanika navodi da ne zna gdje ili kako prijaviti korupciju, što ukazuje na nedovoljnu informiranost o postojećim mehanizmima prijavljivanja. Općenito, rezultati ukazuju na nisku razinu povjerenja u sustave zaštite i podrške zviždačima te upućuju na potrebu za jačanjem postupaka prijavljivanja, većom transparentnošću i boljim informiranjem javnosti.

Što se tiče mjera koje bi stvorile **sigurnije okruženje za prijavljivanje korupcije**, rezultati pokazuju da mladi smatraju kako su snažnija zaštita, jasnije informacije i pouzdaniji sustavi podrške ključni preduvjeti za sigurnije prijavljivanje korupcije i nepravednog postupanja. Najčešće odabrana mjera bila je **mogućnost anonimnog prijavljivanja** (78,10 %), što pokazuje da su zaštita identiteta i povjerljivost najveća briga ispitanika. Visoku podršku dobila je i mjera **zaštita od negativnih posljedica i odmazde** (69,52 %), što sugerira da mnogi mladi strahuju od kažnjavanja, diskriminacije ili drugih osobnih posljedica nakon prijavljivanja nepravilnosti. Osim toga: 60 % ispitanika istaknulo je važnost **jasnih uputa o tome gdje i kako prijaviti korupciju**, 54,29 % smatra važnim postojanje **pouzdanog posrednika**, poput nevladine organizacije, pučkog pravobranitelja ili organizacije mladih, 45,71 % smatra da bi **brži odgovori institucija** povećali povjerenje u sustav prijavljivanja, 34,29 % želi **jasnije informacije o tijeku postupka i povratne informacije nakon podnošenja prijave**. Među odgovorima pod opcijom „ostalo", jedan ispitanik naveo je da su „sve navedene mjere važne", dok je drugi poručio: *„Ne treba se bojati, samo treba prijaviti."* U cjelini, nalazi pokazuju da su mladi spremniji prijaviti korupciju kada su sustavi prijavljivanja povjerljivi, transparentni, učinkoviti i podržani od strane institucija kojima vjeruju. Rezultati dodatno naglašavaju važnost jačanja zaštite zviždača, povećanja javne informiranosti i izgradnje povjerenja u institucije.

Znanje o tome gdje i kako prijaviti koruptivno ponašanje javnog dužnosnika (Slika 15) izrazito je ograničeno među ispitanicima. **Samo 10,48 % ispitanika točno zna gdje prijaviti korupciju**, dok 40,95 % ima opću predodžbu, ali nije sigurno u sam postupak prijavljivanja. Posebno zabrinjava činjenica da čak 40,95 % ispitanika ne bi prijavilo korupciju jer uopće ne zna kome se obratiti, dok dodatnih 5,71 % navodi da prijavu ne bi podnijelo ni kada bi znalo kako, jer smatra da to ne bi imalo nikakav učinak. Kada bi željeli prijaviti slučaj korupcije, mladi ispitanici **najviše bi povjerenja imali u specijaliziranu antikorupcijsku agenciju (50,48 %).** Nakon toga slijedi nekoliko „mekših"

mehanizama prijavljivanja: nevladine organizacije (30,48 %), mediji (27,62 %), pučki pravobranitelj (24,76 %), privatni odvjetnik (20,95 %), institucije Europske unije (19,95 %). S druge strane, tradicionalne institucije koje se uobičajeno povezuju s borbom protiv korupcije uživaju znatno manje povjerenje: policiju kao preferirani kanal prijave odabralo bi samo 11,43 % ispitanika, državno odvjetništvo i pravosudni sustav 13,33 %. Politički predstavnici smatraju se još manje relevantnima, budući da bi se njima za prijavu korupcije obratilo svega 4,75 % ispitanika.

Slika 15 Preferirani mehanizmi za prijavljivanje korupcije

9. Potrebe, poželjni oblici i rješenja

Na pitanje što bi najviše povećalo njihovo **povjerenje pri korištenju javnih usluga ili u odnosu s javnim institucijama** (Slika 16), ispitanici su kao najvažniji čimbenik istaknuli **jasno unaprijed objašnjene korake i postupke**, što navodi 55,24 % ispitanika. Slijedi **jednak tretman svih građana i dosljedna primjena pravila**, što je važnim ocijenilo 37,14 % ispitanika. Velik broj ispitanika naglašava važnost kvalitete samog procesa i djelovanja institucija, osobito u pogledu jasnih pravila, informacija i smjernica. Tako je četvrtina ispitanika (25,71 %) istaknula važnost jasnih kriterija donošenja odluka, odnosno razumijevanja načina na koji se javne odluke uistinu donose. Među ostalim važnim čimbenicima navode se: jasno definirani rokovi postupanja (17,14 %), mogućnost praćenja tijeka postupka i njegovog napretka (15,24 %), jasno prikazani troškovi (12,38 %), jednostavan način postavljanja pitanja i dobivanja informacija (12,38 %). Pod opcijom „ostalo", tri ispitanika (2,86 %) navela su da su svi navedeni elementi jednako važni. Sudionici fokus grupe i validacijske radionice dodatno su naglasili potrebu za snažnijom institucionalnom podrškom te mogućnošću praćenja rezultata vlastitog angažmana. Također su istaknuli važnost vidljivosti primjera dobre prakse i uspješnih inicijativa, jer upravo konkretni i mjerljivi rezultati doprinose jačanju povjerenja mladih u institucije i procese sudjelovanja.

Slika 16 Čimbenici povećavanja povjerenja

Kada je riječ o **prioritetima Europske unije u sljedećih pet godina**, rezultati pokazuju da mladi gospodarska pitanja smatraju najhitnijim prioritetom EU-a. Najčešće odabrana tema bila je **„rast cijena i troškovi života"**, koju je odabralo **62,86 %** ispitanika, što ukazuje na snažnu zabrinutost zbog inflacije, pristupačnosti životnih troškova i opće gospodarske stabilnosti. Drugi najčešće odabrani prioritet bili su **„obrana i mir" (32,38 %),** što odražava rastuću svijest o sigurnosnim izazovima i geopolitičkoj nestabilnosti u Europi. Pitanja zaštite okoliša također ostaju važna, pri čemu je 22,86 % ispitanika prepoznalo **„okoliš i klimatske promjene"** kao jedan od ključnih prioriteta za budućnost Europske unije. Vidljiva je i zabrinutost za socijalnu sigurnost. **„Socijalna zaštita, socijalna skrb i pristup zdravstvenoj zaštiti"** odabralo je 21,90 % ispitanika, što pokazuje da mnogi mladi pridaju veliku važnost snažnijim sustavima socijalne podrške i kvalitetnim javnim uslugama. Istodobno su **„nezaposlenost i otvaranje novih radnih mjesta"** te **„demokracija i vladavina prava"** odabrani od strane po 13,33 % ispitanika, što ukazuje na zabrinutost zbog mogućnosti zapošljavanja, ali i kvalitete demokratskog upravljanja. **„Obrazovanje i osposobljavanje"** odabralo je 10,48 % ispitanika, što sugerira da, iako obrazovanje i dalje ostaje važno, mladi trenutno veći naglasak stavljaju na gospodarska i sigurnosna pitanja. Odgovori navedeni pod kategorijom „ostalo" (4,76 %) ukazuju na dodatne zabrinutosti, poput: **kontrole migracija, demografskog pada, jačanja suradnje među državama članicama Europske unije, gospodarske samodostatnosti.** Jedan ispitanik posebno je istaknuo da su **svi navedeni prioriteti jednako važni**, što odražava percepciju da su suvremeni izazovi međusobno povezani i da ih nije moguće promatrati odvojeno. Općenito, rezultati pokazuju da mladi rast troškova života vide kao najvažniji problem s kojim se Europska unija trenutačno suočava, ali istodobno prepoznaju važnost sigurnosti, održivosti okoliša, socijalne zaštite i demokratske stabilnosti za budućnost Europe.

Teme i oblici participacije

Rezultati istraživanja pružaju važan uvid u interese, motivaciju i potrebe mladih za podrškom u području građanskog sudjelovanja, demokratskog angažmana i pristupa pouzdanim informacijama. Općenito, nalazi pokazuju da su mladi zainteresirani za učenje praktičnih načina sudjelovanja u društvu, ali istodobno trebaju jasnije smjernice, pristupačne alate, snažniju institucionalnu podršku i veće povjerenje u participativne procese.

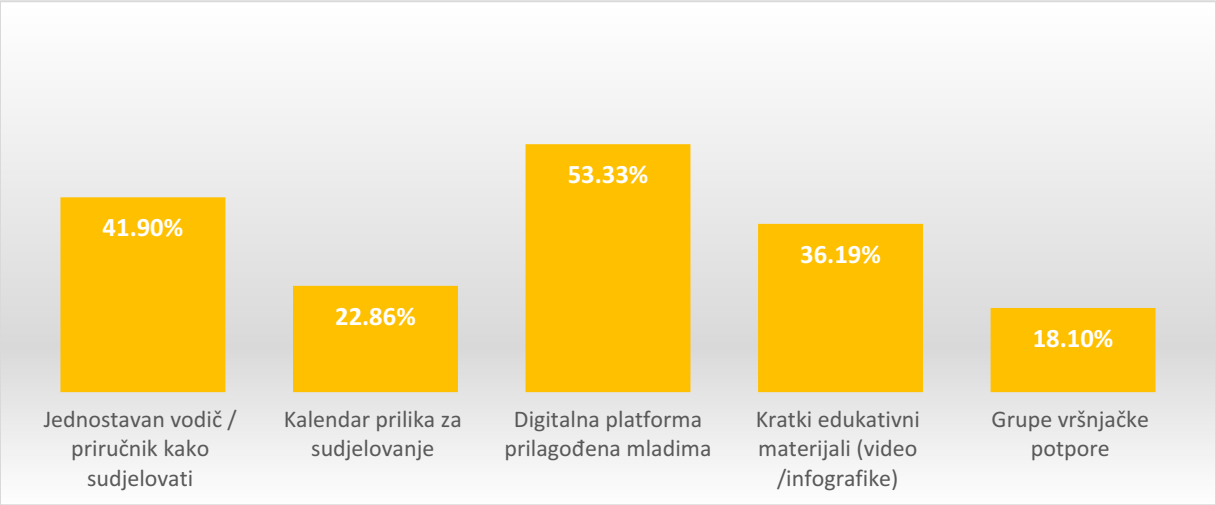
Kada je riječ o temama koje ih zanimaju, među najizraženijim interesima nalaze se praktični oblici građanskog angažmana te pitanja povezana s transparentnošću. Najčešće odabrana tema bila je **„integritet, transparentnost i alati za borbu protiv korupcije"** (40,00 %), što ukazuje na snažan interes za razumijevanje mehanizama odgovornosti i načina sprječavanja korupcije. Slično tome, 39,05 % ispitanika izrazilo je želju za učenjem o tome **„kako zagovarati promjene u svojoj zajednici"**, što sugerira da su mnogi mladi motivirani za aktivnije sudjelovanje u oblikovanju lokalnog društva. Značajan udio ispitanika pokazao je interes i za bolje razumijevanje europskih institucija te građanskih prava: **„Kako funkcionira Europska unija i kako mladi mogu sudjelovati"** odabralo je 36,19 % ispitanika, **„Građanska prava i pristup informacijama"** zanima 35,24 % ispitanika. Osim toga: 27,62 % želi naučiti **kako sudjelovati u javnim savjetovanjima**, 23,81 % želi bolje razumjeti **kako se odluke donose na lokalnoj i nacionalnoj razini**. Najmanje odabrana tema bila je **„savjeti mladih, studentsko predstavništvo i lokalno upravljanje"** (17,14 %), iako i taj rezultat pokazuje da postoji interes značajnog broja sudionika za navedena pitanja.

Kada je riječ o **preferiranim oblicima sudjelovanja** (Slika 17), najpopularnija opcija bile su **radionice i klinike** kao praktične edukacije (*workshops/clinics*), koje je odabralo 42,86 % ispitanika. To pokazuje da mladi posebno cijene interaktivne i praktično usmjerene oblike učenja. **Online predavanja i webinari** također su se pokazali vrlo popularnima (29,52 %), što upućuje na potrebu za fleksibilnim i digitalno dostupnim oblicima sudjelovanja. Slijede: **volonterski projekti** (26,67 %), **pripovijedanje i kreativne aktivnosti** (*storytelling / creative activities*) (20,00 %). **Mentorski programi** te **simulacije i intenzivni edukacijski programi (bootcampovi)** odabrani su u 17,14 % slučajeva, što ukazuje na umjeren interes za strukturirano mentorstvo i učenje kroz iskustvo. Odgovori pod kategorijom „ostalo" otkrili su dodatne preferencije, uključujući: javne rasprave, plenarne sastanke otvorene za sve građane, internetske peticije. To pokazuje da dio ispitanika preferira izravnije i otvorenije oblike sudjelovanja te javnog dijaloga. Sveukupno, rezultati upućuju na to da mladi žele stjecati praktična znanja o građanskom angažmanu i demokratskim procesima, pri čemu posebno cijene interaktivne, fleksibilne i participativne oblike učenja koji im omogućuju aktivno uključivanje u društvene procese.

Slika 17 Preferirani oblici participacije

Sudionici istraživanja također su se izjasnili o **alatima koji bi im najviše pomogli u sudjelovanju** u društvenim procesima te u pristupu pouzdanim informacijama i znanju (Slika 18). Najveću podršku dobila je **„digitalna platforma prilagođena mladima"**, koju je odabralo 53,33 % ispitanika. To pokazuje da mladi smatraju kako su pristupačni i jednostavni internetski prostori ključni za njihovo aktivnije uključivanje u društvene i demokratske procese. Visoko je ocijenjen i **„jednostavan vodič ili priručnik o tome kako sudjelovati"** (41,90 %), što upućuje na to da mnogim mladima nedostaju jasne praktične upute i smjernice za uključivanje u građanski i javni život. Nadalje, 36,19 % ispitanika podržalo je **kratke edukativne sadržaje** u obliku videozapisa ili infografika, što potvrđuje važnost sažetih, preglednih i vizualno pristupačnih formata informiranja. Nešto rjeđe, ali i dalje značajno, kao korisni alati prepoznati su: **kalendar prilika za sudjelovanje** (22,86 %), **grupe vršnjačke podrške** (18,10 %). Ovi rezultati pokazuju da su dostupnost informacija i digitalna pristupačnost prioriteti za

mlade, ali i da društvena podrška te bolja informiranost o postojećim mogućnostima sudjelovanja imaju važnu ulogu u poticanju njihova aktivnijeg uključivanja u društvene procese.



Slika 18: Preferirani instrumenti povećavanja participacije

Posljednje otvoreno pitanje pruža dublji **kvalitativni uvid** u ono što mladi smatraju nedostajućim za njihovo aktivnije sudjelovanje u građanskom životu. Iako 81,90 % ispitanika nije odgovorilo na ovo pitanje, pristigli odgovori otkrivaju nekoliko ponavljajućih tema. Mnogi ispitanici naglasili su **potrebu za kvalitetnijim obrazovanjem i praktičnim smjernicama**, uključujući učenje o prepoznavanju korupcije, razumijevanju financijskih nepravilnosti te snalaženju u procesima građanskog i društvenog sudjelovanja. Drugi su istaknuli **važnost mentorstva i podrške iskusnijih osoba** koje bi ih mogle voditi kroz aktivnosti građanskog angažmana. Povjerenje i osjećaj sigurnosti također su se pokazali kao važni čimbenici. Neki ispitanici naveli su da bi se više uključivali kada bi bili sigurni da neće snositi negativne posljedice ili biti izloženi društvenoj osudi, dok su drugi naglasili potrebu za **vidljivim rezultatima i stvarnim društvenim promjenama** kako bi zadržali motivaciju za sudjelovanje. Nekoliko odgovora istaknulo je važnost poticajnih zajednica, snažnije podrške države te bolje organizacije participativnih aktivnosti i prosvjeda. Istodobno, pojedini komentari odražavaju frustraciju, nepovjerenje ili političku distanciranost. Jedan ispitanik naveo je da ne planira ostati živjeti u Hrvatskoj te stoga trenutačno ne vidi smisao vlastitog sudjelovanja, dok je drugi kritizirao ideološku polarizaciju unutar nevladinih organizacija i organizacija mladih. Takvi odgovori upućuju na to da dio mladih građanski angažman doživljava kao politički podijeljen ili nedovoljno učinkovit prostor za djelovanje.

Tijekom validacijske radionice sudionici su izrazili mišljenje da bi **veća podrška i veća transparentnost** institucija mogli biti najvažniji instrumenti za jačanje povjerenja u institucije i poticanje mladih na aktivnije uključivanje. Kao posebno važnu preporuku istaknuli su korištenje društvenih mreža kao komunikacijskog kanala institucija te su čak predložili da one postanu glavni kanal komunikacije s mladima.

Općenito, rezultati pokazuju da su **mladi zainteresirani za građanski angažman i demokratsko sudjelovanje**, osobito u područjima povezanima s transparentnošću, borbom protiv korupcije i promjenama u lokalnoj zajednici. Međutim, za aktivnije uključivanje potrebne su im **jasnije informacije,**

praktična podrška, sigurno okruženje za sudjelovanje te potvrda da njihovo sudjelovanje može dovesti do stvarnih i značajnih rezultata. Nalazi istraživanja naglašavaju važnost dostupnih obrazovnih alata, digitalnih platformi, mogućnosti mentorstva i institucija kojima se vjeruje kao ključnih elemenata za jačanje participacije mladih i njihovog demokratskog uključivanja u društvene procese.

10. Zaključak

Ovaj pregled pokazuje da se mladi u Hrvatskoj i dalje suočavaju s preprekama i nedostatkom motivacije za uključivanje u političko odlučivanje, kao i s nedostatkom informacija, pri čemu se samo 20 % ispitanika smatra vrlo ili izrazito informiranima. Istodobno, interes za javna pitanja ostaje visok – 60 % ispitanika navodi da je vrlo ili izrazito zainteresirano za teme koje utječu na njihov život. Budući da mnogi smatraju kako njihovo uključivanje neće dovesti do stvarnih promjena te da ne mogu računati na dovoljnu podršku institucija, mladi ostaju strukturno udaljeni od formalnih kanala putem kojih se donose građanske i političke odluke. Ipak, istraživanje pokazuje da posjeduju relativno dobro znanje o funkcioniranju vlasti, zakonodavnim procesima i dostupnim kanalima sudjelovanja. Sažetak rezultata ukazuje na problem povjerenja u institucije te određenu suzdržanost prema angažmanu, koja proizlazi iz nedostatka poticajnog i uključivog okruženja za sudjelovanje.

Korupcija se percipira kao sustavan problem. Velika većina ispitanika (91,435 %) opisala je korupciju u Hrvatskoj kao „raširenu" ili „vrlo raširenu", dok nijedan ispitanik nije ocijenio korupciju kao „rijetku" ili „vrlo rijetku". Štoviše, korupcija se doživljava kao sastavni dio načina funkcioniranja sustava, odnosno kao obrazac ponašanja koji je duboko ukorijenjen u društvu, iako se pojedini sektori i skupine smatraju manje podložnima korupciji, poput obrazovnog sektora. Istodobno:

- 43,81 % ispitanika slaže se ili se u potpunosti slaže s tvrdnjom da su političke veze nužne za poslovni uspjeh,
- 48,57 % smatra da mladi ne mogu ostvariti pravedan pristup javnim uslugama bez osobnih poznanstava i veza.

S druge strane, prisutni su i suprotni stavovi, pa se 44,76 % ispitanika ne slaže ili se uopće ne slaže s tvrdnjom da mladi bez osobnih veza ne mogu ostvariti pravedan pristup javnim uslugama. Rezultati ankete, kao i rasprave u fokusnim skupinama, potvrđuju percepciju da je korupcija prisutna u svim ključnim institucionalnim područjima, pri čemu se proces zapošljavanja i odabira kandidata smatra najproblematičnijim područjem. Upravo je to pitanje posebno važno za mlade, s obzirom na njihovu poziciju na tržištu rada i potragu za zaposlenjem.

Kada je riječ o **sudjelovanju u javnom životu**, najčešće korišteni oblici angažmana su glasovanje na izborima i potpisivanje peticija, dok su ostali oblici znatno manje zastupljeni. Primjerice: 27,62 % ispitanika volontiralo je u lokalnoj zajednici ili društvenoj inicijativi, 16,2 % sudjelovalo je u studentskom, omladinskom ili sveučilišnom predstavništvu. Glavni izvori informiranja mladih su: internetski portali s vijestima (45,71 %), televizijske informativne emisije (40 %), TikTok videozapisi i influenceri (34,29 %), Instagram Reels i Stories sadržaji (26,67 %). Ispitanici smatraju da mladi općenito ne znaju dovoljno o politici te da društvene mreže ne pružaju uvijek pouzdane informacije. Međutim, istodobno upravo društvene mreže vide kao najkorisniji alat za povećanje razine sudjelovanja mladih. Prema njihovom mišljenju, umrežavanje i uključivanje u javne procese, osobito na lokalnoj razini, mogli bi se znatno unaprijediti korištenjem društvenih mreža kao kanala za participaciju. Unatoč tome, sudionici kvalitativnog dijela istraživanja doveli su u pitanje stvarnu učinkovitost formalnih kanala sudjelovanja te izrazili skepsu prema mogućnosti da njihovi prijedlozi, komentari i doprinosi mogu dovesti do konkretnih i opipljivih promjena u društvu.

Prepreke sudjelovanju mladih prvenstveno su informacijske prirode. Čak 60,95 % ispitanika navelo je nedostatak jasnih informacija kao glavni razlog zbog kojeg je sudjelovanje otežano, dok 29,52 % ističe da ne zna odakle započeti. Uz informacijske prepreke, važnu ulogu imaju i motivacijski čimbenici – više od polovice ispitanika (52,38 %) smatra da njihov angažman neće dovesti do stvarnih promjena, dok 20,95 % strahuje od negativnih reakcija okoline. Samo jedan od sedam mladih ispitanika nema interes za sudjelovanje (16,19 %). Istodobno je posebno izražen nedostatak povjerenja u nove izvore informiranja (Slika 10). Ispitanici iskazuju vrlo malo ili nimalo povjerenja u glavne izvore informacija na društvenim mrežama, uključujući TikTok influencere (69,52 %), Instagram memeove i priče (54,29 %) te Telegram kanale (55,24 %). Dezinformacije su također prisutne u kontekstu predizbornog odlučivanja i utječu na stavove mladih prema izborima. Tvrdnje o navodnoj korupciji u postupcima odabira kandidata ispitanici susreću „često" ili „uvijek" u 41,90 % slučajeva, dok se tvrdnje o manipulaciji izbornim procesom pojavljuju kod 36,19 % ispitanika. Kao posljedica takvih sadržaja, 57,14 % ispitanika navodi da su zbog tvrdnji o korupciji i posljedičnog nepovjerenja manje skloni izlasku na izbore, dok je 22,86 % razmišljalo o bojkotu izbora.Sudionici kvalitativnog dijela istraživanja također potvrđuju da su dezinformacije sveprisutne te da djeluju demobilizirajuće na mlade. Međutim, istodobno ih smatraju gotovo neizbježnim dijelom informacijskog okruženja koje oblikuju društvene mreže.

Unatoč navedenim izazovima, mladi u Hrvatskoj **smatraju da bi njihov glas trebao biti više zastupljen u procesima donošenja odluka te vjeruju da bi se aktivnije uključivali kada bi imali pristup kvalitetnijim informacijama i snažnijoj institucionalnoj podršci**. To podrazumijeva proaktivniju ulogu institucija u informiranju, motiviranju i podržavanju sudjelovanja mladih. Osim sudjelovanja na izborima, mladi se vide kao aktivni sudionici u radu nevladinih organizacija, potpisivanju peticija i građanskih inicijativa, sudjelovanju na prosvjedima te volontiranju, odnosno u uglavnom tradicionalnim oblicima građanskog angažmana. S druge strane, društvene mreže i drugi digitalni alati percipiraju se kao korisni instrumenti za povezivanje, umrežavanje i poticanje sudjelovanja mladih. Sudionici istraživanja posebno su naglasili potrebu za većom vidljivošću uspješnih inicijativa mladih i konkretnih rezultata njihova sudjelovanja. Smatraju da bi ciljevi, postignuća i pozitivni učinci aktivnosti koje pokreću mladi trebali biti jasnije predstavljeni i dostupniji široj javnosti. Prema njihovu mišljenju, upravo bi veća vidljivost uspješnih primjera mogla doprinijeti jačanju povjerenja, povećanju motivacije i poticanju većeg uključivanja mladih u društvene i demokratske procese.

11. Preporuke

Za RISE Balkans Program

12. **Dati prioritet društvenim mrežama kao primarnom komunikacijskom kanalu.** Podaci iz ankete, kao i sudionici fokusnih skupina i validacijske radionice, prepoznali su društvene mreže kao glavne kanale komunikacije i informiranja mladih – prije svega Instagram, TikTok i YouTube, a u manjoj mjeri internetske stranice, koje se mladima često čine preopterećenima informacijama i previše složenima za korištenje.
13. **Predstaviti i objasniti mogućnosti sudjelovanja.** Ispitanici pokazuju spremnost za sudjelovanje (60 %), ali u velikoj mjeri ne znaju odakle započeti ili im nedostaju potrebne informacije. Stoga je potrebno na jasan, sustavan i korak-po-korak način predstaviti različite oblike sudjelovanja, moguće ishode angažmana te primjere dobre prakse koji mogu poslužiti kao inspiracija i smjernica.
14. **Razviti digitalne materijale prilagođene mladima i distribuirati ih putem društvenih mreža.** Sudionici istraživanja snažno vjeruju u potencijal društvenih mreža kao alata za umrežavanje i građanski angažman, iako se taj potencijal još uvijek ne koristi u dovoljnoj mjeri. Mladi bi željeli imati pristup digitalnoj platformi prilagođenoj njihovim potrebama, koja bi uključivala jednostavan vodič za građanske i participativne procese, pisan razumljivim jezikom, kao i kalendar mogućnosti za sudjelovanje u društvenim i demokratskim aktivnostima.

Za donositelje odluka i institucije

1. **Informirati mlade o mogućnostima sudjelovanja te ih učiniti dostupnima, razumljivima i jednostavnima za korištenje uz promicanje primjera dobre prakse.** Različite oblike sudjelovanja – poput izbora, peticija, rada u udrugama, javnih savjetovanja, savjeta mladih i drugih participativnih mehanizama – potrebno je jasno objasniti i aktivno promovirati. Trebalo bi provesti ciljanu kampanju usmjerenu na informiranje mladih i podizanje svijesti o važnosti te mogućnostima sudjelovanja u javnom životu. Također, potrebno je uspostaviti platformu za mlade, po uzoru na primjere iz drugih država članica Europske unije. Uspješne inicijative mladih trebalo bi dodatno promovirati kako bi služile kao inspiracija i poticaj za uključivanje. Dugoročno gledano, veća razina sudjelovanja mogla bi smanjiti osjećaj nelagode koji mladi često povezuju s angažmanom u političkom i javnom životu
2. **Pokrenuti ciljanu nacionalnu digitalnu kampanju za podizanje svijesti o prijavljivanju korupcije.** Kampanja prilagođena mladima, koja bi se promovirala putem društvenih mreža i televizije, trebala bi na jasan i jednostavan način objasniti što je korupcija, koje su ključne institucije nadležne za njezino suzbijanje te kako i zašto prijaviti koruptivna ponašanja i nepravilnosti.
3. **Uvesti praktično građansko obrazovanje u kurikulume srednjih škola.** Nedostatak građanskog odgoja i obrazovanja u školama rezultira nedovoljnom razinom znanja i motivacije za društveni angažman. Nastavni programi trebali bi uključivati ne samo teorijska znanja nego i praktične građanske vještine, poput: sudjelovanja u javnim savjetovanjima, provjere vjerodostojnosti informacija, prepoznavanja i prijavljivanja korupcije, razumijevanja načina na koji institucije Europske unije utječu na svakodnevni život građana.
4. **Uključiti predstavnike mladih u procese izrade zakona i strateških dokumenata.** Mlade osobe trebalo bi formalno uključivati već u ranim fazama izrade zakonskih prijedloga i strateških

dokumenata, uz postojeće uključivanje organizacija civilnog društva u radne skupine. To je posebno važno u područjima koja mladi prepoznaju kao svoje ključne prioritete, poput: zapošljavanja, stanovanja, zdravstva, zaštite okoliša. Takav pristup omogućio bi da potrebe, iskustva i perspektive mladih budu uzete u obzir prije donošenja odluka, a ne tek u fazi naknadnog savjetovanja, čime bi se dodatno ojačalo njihovo povjerenje u demokratske procese i institucije.

Za civilno društvo i organizacije usmjerene na mlade

3. **Približiti se mladima koristeći jezik i komunikacijske obrasce koje razumiju i prihvaćaju.** Mladi žele sudjelovati, ali im je potrebna podrška. Organizacije civilnog društva trebale bi razvijati aktivne oblike podrške i mehanizme za uključivanje mladih u svoje aktivnosti i inicijative. Prvi korak u tome jest obraćati im se na njima blizak i razumljiv način, koristeći vršnjačke glasove, praktične primjere i primjere dobre prakse. Mladi često izbjegavaju uključivanje u organizacije civilnog društva ako ih doživljavaju kao previše agresivne, ideološki usmjerene ili izravno povezane s političkim strankama. Stoga bi fokus trebao biti usmjeren na same mlade, njihove interese i potrebe, kao i na konkretne mogućnosti sudjelovanja u društvenim procesima.
4. **Usmjeriti se na teme koje mladi smatraju važnima.** Posebnu pozornost potrebno je posvetiti temama koje mladi prepoznaju kao važne, poput građanskog sudjelovanja, prijavljivanja korupcije, povećanja transparentnosti institucija i smanjenja koruptivnih praksi. Takve aktivnosti trebale bi biti predstavljene kao prilika da upravo mladi postanu aktivni sudionici pozitivnih promjena i doprinesu izgradnji otvorenijih, odgovornijih i transparentnijih institucija, posebno u područjima od njihovog interesa, kao što su zapošljavanje, stanovanje, zdravstvo, okoliši drugi.

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Versioni shqip

Përmbledhje Ekzekutive

Ky Raport Kombëtar paraqet gjetjet e aktiviteteve kërkimore të Paketës së Punës 1 (WP1), të zbatuara në Shqipëri në kuadër të projektit RISE Balkans. Qëllimi i raportit është të shqyrtojë njohuritë, perceptimet dhe përvojat e të rinjve lidhur me pjesëmarrjen qytetare, angazhimin demokratik, transparencën, integritetin dhe antikorrupsionin, si dhe të identifikojë barrierat dhe faktorët mundësues që ndikojnë në pjesëmarrjen e tyre në jetën publike. Hulumtimi në Shqipëri kombinoi kërkimin dokumentar, një anketë anonime online, një diskutim në fokus grup dhe një workshop validimi, duke mundësuar që gjetjet të pasqyrojnë si të dhëna sasiore, ashtu edhe njohuri cilësore nga të rinjtë.

Gjetjet tregojnë se të rinjtë në Shqipëri janë të interesuar për çështjet publike dhe shprehin gatishmëri për t'u angazhuar më aktivisht në jetën qytetare dhe demokratike. Megjithatë, kjo gatishmëri nuk përkthehet gjithmonë në angazhim formal. Pjesëmarrja vazhdon të lidhet kryesisht me votimin, vullnetarizmin, nismat komunitare dhe aktivitetet rinore, ndërsa përfshirja në konsultime publike, politikëbërje dhe procese vendimmarrëse institucionale mbetet e kufizuar. Gjetjet nxjerrin në pah një hendek të qartë midis interesit të të rinjve për çështjet publike dhe njohurive praktike mbi mënyrat se si ata mund të marrin pjesë në mënyrë efektive.

Një nga gjetjet kryesore të raportit është perceptimi i fortë se korrupsioni është i përhapur në Shqipëri. Shumica e respondentëve e perceptojnë korrupsionin si një problem sistemik që prek politikën, institucionet publike, punësimin dhe rekrutimin, arsimin, shëndetësinë dhe shërbimet publike. Të rinjtë shprehin gjithashtu nivele të ulëta besimi ndaj institucioneve publike dhe proceseve vendimmarrëse, duke e lidhur shpesh këtë mosbesim me mungesën e transparencës, procedurat e paqarta, favorizimin dhe llogaridhënien e kufizuar institucionale. Megjithëse korrupsioni perceptohet si i përhapur, më pak të rinj raportojnë përvoja të drejtpërdrejta personale, çka sugjeron se perceptimet formësohen si nga përvojat e jetuara, ashtu edhe nga narrativat publike, ekspozimi mediatik dhe diskutimet shoqërore.

Barrierat kryesore për pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve, të identifikuara nga hulumtimi, lidhen me mungesën e informacionit të qartë, ekspozimin ndaj dezinformimit, aksesin e kufizuar në mundësi, sfidat logjistike, besimin e ulët ndaj institucioneve dhe perceptimin se pjesëmarrja nuk sjell gjithmonë ndikim të dukshëm. Të rinjtë shpesh nuk dinë nga të fillojnë, si të aksesojnë konsultimet publike apo si do të përdoret kontributi i tyre. Në të njëjtën kohë, rrjetet sociale luajnë një rol të rëndësishëm në formësimin e ndërgjegjësimit dhe opinioneve të të rinjve, veçanërisht përmes Instagram-it dhe TikTokut, edhe pse të rinjtë shpesh vënë në dyshim besueshmërinë e informacionit të marrë nga këto platforma.

Pavarësisht këtyre sfidave, gjetjet tregojnë një potencial të fortë për fuqizimin e të rinjve. Një pjesë e konsiderueshme e respondentëve besojnë se të rinjtë mund të kontribuojnë në uljen e korrupsionit dhe në përmirësimin e qeverisjes. Megjithatë, ata theksojnë se për këtë nevojiten mekanizma raportimi të sigurt, anonimë dhe të besueshëm, mbrojtje nga hakmarrja, udhëzime të qarta dhe reagim më i shpejtë institucional. Të rinjtë shprehin gjithashtu interes të fortë për të mësuar më shumë mbi mënyrën se si funksionon Bashkimi Evropian, si mund të angazhohen me institucionet dhe si mund të përdoren në praktikë mjetet e integritetit, transparencës dhe antikorrupsionit.

Raporti rekomandon forcimin e edukimit qytetar, komunikimit të përshtatur për të rinjtë, transparencës institucionale dhe mekanizmave gjithëpërfshirës të pjesëmarrjes. Projekti RISE Balkans duhet të prioritizojë formate praktike, ndërvepruese dhe të bazuara në përvojë, si workshop-e, klinika, mentorim, projekte vullnetarizmi, simulime dhe bootcamp-e. Institucionet publike duhet të përmirësojnë komunikimin me të rinjtë, të bëjnë më të qarta procedurat e konsultimit dhe raportimit, si dhe të sigurojnë ndjekje kuptimplote të kontributit të të rinjve. Shoqëria civile dhe organizatat rinore duhet të vazhdojnë të veprojnë si ndërmjetës të besueshëm, duke ofruar udhëzues praktikë, mundësi për të nxënit mes bashkëmoshatarëve, fushata ndërgjegjësimi dhe orientim të qartë. Në përgjithësi, gjetjet për Shqipërinë konfirmojnë nevojën për mundësi të strukturuara, transparente dhe gjithëpërfshirëse të angazhimit qytetar, të cilat mund t'i ndihmojnë të rinjtë të kalojnë nga ndërgjegjësimi dhe gatishmëria drejt pjesëmarrjes kuptimplote demokratike.

HYRJE

Raporti **"Pjesëmarrja Qytetare e të Rinjve në Shqipëri"** është përgatitur nga Partnerët Shqipëri për Ndryshim dhe Zhvillim në kuadër të projektit të financuar nga BE-ja *RISE Balkans – Fuqizimi i Zërit të të Rinjve: Përgjegjësi, Integritet, Solidaritet dhe Angazhim Qytetar në Ballkan*, i zbatuar nga një konsorcium rajonal universitetesh dhe organizatash në Shqipëri, Bullgari, Kroaci, Greqi dhe Maqedoninë e Veriut. Projekti synon të forcojë pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve të moshës 18–26 vjeç në jetën demokratike dhe mbështet veprimet e udhëhequra nga të rinjtë për integritetin dhe luftën kundër korrupsionit përmes edukimit qytetar, të nxënit përmes përvojës, mentorimit dhe bashkëpunimit rajonal.

Ky raport kombëtar është zhvilluar në kuadër të Paketës së Punës 1 (PP1) **"**Të Rinjtë dhe Qeverisja: Verifikimi i Realitetit" dhe ofron një pasqyrë të situatës aktuale të pjesëmarrjes qytetare të të rinjve, integritetit, transparencës dhe perceptimeve mbi korrupsionin në Shqipëri. Raporti synon të kuptojë më mirë se si të rinjtë e perceptojnë pjesëmarrjen demokratike, besimin ndaj institucioneve, korrupsionin, pengesat për angazhim dhe mundësitë për veprim qytetar, si dhe të identifikojë rekomandime dhe zgjidhje praktike për forcimin e pjesëmarrjes së tyre. Gjetjet e këtij raporti kombëtar do të kontribuojnë në hartimin e raportit krahasues rajonal për pesë vendet pjesëmarrëse të Ballkanit.

Raporti ndjek një qasje me metodologji të kombinuar, duke ndërthurur hulumtimin dokumentar (desk research), kërkimin sasior (anketë online) dhe kërkimin cilësor (grupe fokusi dhe një workshop validimi). Anketa online mblodhi përgjigje nga 146 të rinj të moshës 18–26 vjeç në Shqipëri, ndërsa grupet e fokusit dhe workshop-i i validimit ofruan njohuri cilësore mbi përvojat, perceptimet dhe rekomandimet e të rinjve lidhur me pjesëmarrjen qytetare, transparencën, besimin dhe angazhimin në jetën publike.

Rezultatet e raportit tregojnë se të rinjtë në Shqipëri janë shumë të ndërgjegjshëm dhe të shqetësuar për çështjet e korrupsionit, transparencës dhe integritetit, ndërkohë që besimi ndaj institucioneve dhe proceseve vendimmarrëse mbetet relativisht i ulët. Edhe pse të rinjtë shfaqin interes për pjesëmarrjen qytetare dhe çështjet publike, angazhimi i tyre në proceset formale të hartimit të politikave dhe konsultimit mbetet i kufizuar, ndërsa pjesëmarrja shpesh kuptohet kryesisht përmes vullnetarizmit dhe angazhimit në komunitet.

Raporti identifikon se pengesat kryesore për pjesëmarrje lidhen me mungesën e informacionit të qartë, aksesin e kufizuar në mundësi, dezinformimin, sfidat logjistike dhe besimin e ulët se pjesëmarrja mund të sjellë ndikim të prekshëm. Në të njëjtën kohë, të rinjtë theksojnë rëndësinë e komunikimit transparent, rezultateve të dukshme, mundësive praktike për angazhim, mentorimit dhe formateve më miqësore dhe ndërvepruese të pjesëmarrjes.

Në përgjithësi, raporti tregon se të rinjtë në Shqipëri janë të gatshëm të angazhohen më aktivisht në jetën qytetare dhe demokratike kur mundësitë janë kuptimplota, transparente, të aksesueshme dhe të lidhura me rezultate të dukshme. Për këtë arsye, raporti rekomandon forcimin e edukimit qytetar, komunikimit të përshtatur për të rinjtë, transparencës institucionale dhe mekanizmave gjithëpërfshirës të pjesëmarrjes, me qëllim mbështetjen e një angazhimi më të fortë dhe më të qëndrueshëm të të rinjve.

1. KONTEKSTI I PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI

Pjesëmarrja e të rinjve në proceset vendimmarrëse në Shqipëri mbetet një fushë e rëndësishme, por ende sfiduese e zhvillimit demokratik. Në vitet e fundit, Shqipëria ka bërë përparim në krijimin e mekanizmave ligjorë dhe institucionalë që nxisin përfshirjen e të rinjve në jetën qytetare dhe politike, veçanërisht në kuadër të integrimit europian dhe përafrimit me politikat rinore të BE-së. Megjithatë, pavarësisht vëmendjes në rritje ndaj pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve, kërkimet dhe raportet e monitorimit tregojnë vazhdimisht se përfshirja reale e të rinjve në proceset formale të vendimmarrjes mbetet relativisht e ulët krahasuar me gatishmërinë dhe interesin e tyre për t'u angazhuar.

Nga perspektiva institucionale, Shqipëria ka integruar gradualisht pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve në planifikimin e politikave kombëtare përmes instrumenteve si **Strategjia Kombëtare për Rininë 2022–2029**[46] dhe **Ligji nr. 75/2019 "Për Rininë"**. Këto kuadre e njohin zyrtarisht rininë si aktor në proceset e qeverisjes dhe nxisin përfshirjen e tyre në konsultime, vullnetarizëm dhe nisma të zhvillimit lokal. Paralelisht, **Strategjia e BE-së për Rininë 2019–2027**[47] ka ndikuar qasjet kombëtare duke theksuar dialogun e strukturuar, angazhimin qytetar dhe pjesëmarrjen në jetën demokratike. Si vend kandidat për në BE, Shqipëria ka rritur përafrimin e diskursit të saj politik me këto parime.

Megjithatë, raportet ekzistuese të monitorimit theksojnë vazhdimisht se kjo njohje formale nuk është përkthyer në përfaqësim të fortë të të rinjve në institucionet vendimmarrëse. Gjetjet nga raportet vjetore të monitorimit mbi pjesëmarrjen politike, sociale dhe ekonomike të të rinjve[48], të përgatitura nga Partnerët Shqipëri[49], evidentojnë përfaqësim të ulët të të rinjve në pozicione drejtuese dhe vendimmarrëse, përfshirë ministra, zëvendësministra, kryetarë bashkish dhe deputetë. Edhe pse partitë politike shpesh krijojnë forume rinore dhe struktura rinore, të rinjtë vazhdojnë të kenë ndikim të kufizuar në agjendat e partive dhe proceset e politikëbërjes. Si rezultat, pjesëmarrja e të rinjve në Shqipëri karakterizohet nga një hendek midis angazhimeve formale politike dhe përfshirjes reale institucionale.

Në nivelin e qeverisjes vendore, mekanizma si **Këshillat Vendorë Rinorë**, të parashikuar nga Ligji nr. 75/2019 "Për Rininë"[50], janë ngritur në të gjitha 61 bashkitë e Shqipërisë për të forcuar pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve në vendimmarrjen bashkiake. Megjithëse këto struktura ekzistojnë formalisht në të gjitha bashkitë, raportet e monitorimit dhe konsultimet me të rinjtë tregojnë se ato nuk funksionojnë në mënyrë efektive dhe nuk përmbushin plotësisht misionin e tyre. Ndikimi i tyre real ndryshon ndjeshëm dhe shpesh perceptohet më shumë si konsultativ sesa vendimmarrës. Iniciativa të fundit të Agjencisë

[46] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SKR29_Anglisht.pdf

[47] https://youth.europa.eu/strategy_en?

[48] https://www.partnersalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Youth_Participation_Monitoring_Report_2024.pdf

[49] https://www.partnersalbania.org/

[50] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Ligji-Nr.75.Date-4.11.2019-Per-Rinine.pdf

Kombëtare të Rinisë dhe organizatave partnere janë fokusuar në përmirësimin e funksionimit të këtyre këshillave dhe përafrimin e tyre me standardet e BE-së për qeverisje pjesëmarrëse[51].

Proceset e konsultimit publik lidhur me politikat rinore janë rritur në vitet e fundit. Për shembull, gjatë procesit të rishikimit të Ligjit "Për Rininë" në vitin 2025, u organizuan grupe fokusi dhe takime konsultuese me të rinjtë në të gjithë vendin për të mbledhur perspektivat dhe rekomandimet e tyre[52]. Kjo reflekton një njohje në rritje të rëndësisë së përfshirjes së të rinjve në proceset e politikëbërjes. Megjithatë, pjesëmarrja në këto konsultime mbetet e pabarabartë, pasi informacioni mbi mundësitë shpesh është i fragmentuar, i komunikar dobët dhe arrin kryesisht tek grupet rinore tashmë aktive.

Një zhvillim tjetër pozitiv në forcimin e pjesëmarrjes qytetare të të rinjve në Shqipëri është miratimi nga Këshilli i Ministrave në vitin 2025 i projektligjit "Për Vullnetarizmin"[53]. Ky projektligj synon të krijojë një kuadër më të qartë ligjor për vullnetarizmin, përfshirë njohjen e tij si përvojë pune, mekanizmat mbështetës për programet e vullnetarizmit, skemat e sigurimit për vullnetarët dhe krijimin e një platforme dhe regjistri elektronik kombëtar të vullnetarizmit. Duke qenë se vullnetarizmi mbetet një nga format kryesore të pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve në Shqipëri, kjo nismë përbën një hap të rëndësishëm drejt nxitjes së qytetarisë aktive, angazhimit rinor dhe përafrimit me standardet e BE-së për pjesëmarrjen rinore.

Votimi vazhdon të përbëjë formën kryesore dhe më formale të pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve në Shqipëri. Megjithatë, pjesëmarrja elektorale e të rinjve ndikohet nga mungesa e besimit ndaj institucioneve politike, perceptimet mbi korrupsionin dhe besimi i kufizuar se angazhimi politik mund të sjellë ndryshim real.

Në aspektin e modeleve të pjesëmarrjes, të rinjtë në Shqipëri priren të angazhohen më shumë në sferën qytetare dhe sociale sesa në proceset formale politike. Angazhimi është më i dukshëm në aktivitetet vullnetare, nismat e drejtuara nga të rinjtë, projektet komunitare dhe shprehjen digjitale, sesa në proceset e strukturuara të vendimmarrjes politike. Raporti i vitit 2024 mbi pjesëmarrjen politike dhe qytetare të të rinjve në Rajonin e Hasit në Shqipëri gjeti një angazhim relativisht të ulët në aktivitetet politike tradicionale dhe interes të ulët në vendimmarrjen lokale, ndërsa pjesëmarrja në nisma komunitare dhe veprime solidariteti ishte më e lartë[54].

Gjeneratat e reja po angazhohen gjithnjë e më shumë politikisht përmes platformave digjitale dhe pjesëmarrjes qytetare online. Sipas Eurostat, në vitin 2025, 24.3% e të rinjve evropianë të moshës 16–29 vjeç u angazhuan në çështje qytetare ose politike online, përfshirë shprehjen e mendimeve, pjesëmarrjen në konsultime online ose votimin online. Në nivel të përgjithshëm të BE-së, kjo shifër ishte më e ulët, 20.2%. Ndërkohë, Shqipëria ka regjistruar nivele dukshëm më të larta të pjesëmarrjes qytetare dhe politike online tek të rinjtë. Rreth 46.49% e të rinjve shqiptarë të moshës 16–29 vjeç raportuan përdorimin

[51] https://rinia.gov.al/en/lancohen-manuali-dhe-udhezuesi-per-ngritjen-dhe-funksionimin-e-keshillave-vendore-te-rinise/

[52] https://riniafemijet.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Ditari-Mujor-Muaji-Mars-2025..pdf

[53] https://kuvendiwebfiles.blob.core.windows.net/webfiles/20250702102327873 4VULLNETARIZMI.pdf

[54] https://www.kas.de/en/web/albanien/single-title/-/content/politische-und-buergerschaftliche-beteiligung-junger-menschen-2024#

e internetit për pjesëmarrje qytetare ose politike, krahasuar me 28.52% të popullsisë së përgjithshme në Shqipëri. Kjo tregon se platformat digjitale dhe rrjetet sociale po shërbejnë gjithnjë e më shumë si kanale të rëndësishme për shprehjen, mobilizimin dhe angazhimin qytetar të të rinjve në Shqipëri.

Në përmbledhje, pjesëmarrja e të rinjve në Shqipëri mbetet e kufizuar në aspektin e ndikimit institucional dhe besimit në proceset demokratike. Megjithatë, Shqipëria ka treguar angazhim në rritje për forcimin e pjesëmarrjes rinore përmes reformave ligjore, mekanizmave të pjesëmarrjes në nivel lokal dhe përafrimit me standardet e BE-së për demokracinë dhe pjesëmarrjen rinore.

2. FORMAT E PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI

Pjesëmarrja e të rinjve në Shqipëri zhvillohet përmes një sërë mekanizmash formalë, joformalë dhe informalë, të cilët pasqyrojnë si strukturat institucionale ekzistuese, ashtu edhe praktikat e reja të angazhimit qytetar. Megjithëse ekzistojnë struktura formale për pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve, efektiviteti dhe përdorimi real i tyre ndryshojnë ndjeshëm në varësi të nivelit të angazhimit institucional, ndërgjegjësimit, aksesueshmërisë dhe besimit të të rinjve. Gjithnjë e më shumë, të rinjtë angazhohen përmes formave më fleksibël dhe të bazuara në komunitet, veçanërisht përmes vullnetarizmit, aktivizmit dhe pjesëmarrjes digjitale.

Kanalet Formale të Pjesëmarrjes

Mekanizmat formalë të pjesëmarrjes janë kryesisht të integruar në kuadrin institucional në nivel lokal dhe kombëtar. Një nga strukturat kryesore formale janë **Këshillat Vendorë Rinorë (KVR)**, të krijuar në bazë të Ligjit nr. 75/2019 "Për Rininë". Këto këshilla synojnë të funksionojnë si organe këshillimore pranë bashkive, duke u mundësuar të rinjve të kontribuojnë në diskutimet për politikat vendore, të propozojnë iniciativa dhe të marrin pjesë në debatet që lidhen me çështjet rinore. Këshillat janë konceptuar për të krijuar një dialog të strukturuar ndërmjet të rinjve dhe institucioneve të qeverisjes vendore.

Megjithatë, në praktikë, funksionaliteti i tyre ndryshon ndjeshëm nga një bashki në tjetrën. Disa këshilla janë aktive dhe funksionale, ndërsa të tjera mbeten kryesisht joaktive ose kanë një rol thjesht konsultativ pa ndikim real në vendimmarrje. Kjo lidhet me burimet e kufizuara, mbështetjen e pamjaftueshme institucionale ose nivelin e ulët të angazhimit të të rinjve. Vetë të rinjtë raportojnë se rekomandimet e tyre jo gjithmonë reflektohen në vendimet përfundimtare, gjë që ndikon negativisht në besimin dhe motivimin për të marrë pjesë[55]. Për të adresuar këto sfida, Agjencia Kombëtare e Rinisë dhe organizata partnere kanë ndërmarrë përpjekje për forcimin e funksionimit të këtyre këshillave përmes hartimit të manualeve, udhëzuesve dhe iniciativave për ngritjen e kapaciteteve[56].

Një tjetër mekanizëm formal pjesëmarrjeje janë **proceset e konsultimit publik** të organizuara nga ministritë, bashkitë dhe institucionet publike. Shqipëria ka një kuadër ligjor që kërkon konsultimin publik të projektligjeve, strategjive dhe politikave përmes Ligjit nr. 146/2014 "Për Njoftimin dhe Konsultimin Publik"[57]. Ky ligj u jep mundësi qytetarëve, përfshirë të rinjtë, të japin komente dhe rekomandime mbi politikat publike. Dëgjesat publike, takimet konsultative, platformat online të

[55] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2024/

[56] https://rinia.gov.al/en/lancohen-manuali-dhe-udhezuesi-per-ngritjen-dhe-funksionimin-e-keshillave-vendore-te-rinise

[57] https://qkb.gov.al/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/lgji-146_2014.pdf

konsultimit [58] dhe mekanizmat e feedback-ut përdoren si mjete për të përfshirë qytetarët në proceset e hartimit të politikave.

Megjithatë, përfshirja e të rinjve në këto procese mbetet relativisht e kufizuar dhe shpesh përqendrohet tek grupet rinore të organizuara dhe aktorët e shoqërisë civile, më shumë sesa tek popullsia e gjerë rinore. Kjo lidhet me mungesën e informacionit, ndërgjegjësimin e ulët dhe perceptimin se konsultimet shpesh janë formalitete dhe jo procese me ndikim real në vendimmarrje.

Institucionet arsimore ofrojnë gjithashtu kanale formale pjesëmarrjeje përmes **këshillave të nxënësve, qeverive studentore dhe strukturave të përfaqësimit studentor**. Këto mekanizma krijojnë mundësi për pjesëmarrje në vendimmarrje lidhur me politikat arsimore dhe qeverisjen e institucioneve arsimore. Megjithatë, pjesëmarrja shpesh kufizohet tek një grup i vogël studentësh shumë aktivë, ndërsa përfshirja më e gjerë e studentëve mbetet e ulët.

Në nivel kombëtar, të rinjtë mund të angazhohen gjithashtu përmes **Kongresit Kombëtar Rinor**, rrjeteve rinore dhe organizatave rinore që kontribuojnë në dialogun politik dhe aktivitetet advokuese. Organizatat e shoqërisë civile shpesh luajnë rolin e ndërmjetësit mes të rinjve dhe institucioneve, duke organizuar konsultime, diskutime mbi politikat publike dhe fushata advokimi.

Një kanal tjetër formal është **pjesëmarrja politike përmes partive politike dhe forumeve rinore**. Shumica e partive politike në Shqipëri kanë struktura rinore ose forume të posaçme që synojnë përfshirjen e të rinjve në proceset politike dhe fushatat zgjedhore. Megjithatë, angazhimi i të rinjve brenda partive shpesh kufizohet në aktivitetet elektorale, ndërsa pjesëmarrja substanciale në hartimin e politikave apo vendimmarrje mbetet e kufizuar[59].

<u>Pjesëmarrja Informale dhe Ad Hoc</u>

Krahas mekanizmave formalë, të rinjtë shqiptarë angazhohen gjerësisht përmes formave informale dhe jo tradicionale të pjesëmarrjes. **Vullnetarizmi dhe aktivizmi komunitar** përbëjnë format më të zakonshme të pjesëmarrjes informale. Të rinjtë përfshihen në fushata mjedisore, iniciativa të mbështetjes sociale, aktivitete ndërgjegjësuese, ngjarje kulturore dhe veprime solidariteti të organizuara nga organizatat e shoqërisë civile ose grupet informale rinore.

Pjesëmarrja digjitale dhe aktivizmi në rrjetet sociale janë bërë gjithnjë e më të rëndësishme. Të rinjtë përdorin platforma si Instagram, Facebook, TikTok dhe mjete të tjera online për të shprehur opinionet e tyre, për të shpërndarë informacion dhe për t'u përfshirë në diskutime publike. Studimet mbi demokracinë digjitale tregojnë se rrjetet sociale kanë krijuar mundësi të reja për zërin dhe pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve, veçanërisht për ata që nuk angazhohen përmes kanaleve tradicionale[60].

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[58] Link of 2 Online Public Consultation Platforms in Albania: https://www.konsultimipublik.al/ and https://www.konsultimipublik.gov.al/

[59] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2023/

[60] https://eydr.scidevcenter.org/mapping-of-youth-participation-in-digital-democracy-case-of-albania/

Pjesëmarrja **ad hoc** shfaqet gjithashtu përmes protestave, demonstratave dhe lëvizjeve qytetare. Këto aktivitete zakonisht lidhen me çështje specifike sociale, arsimore ose të qeverisjes dhe lindin si reagim ndaj shqetësimeve konkrete. Edhe pse nuk janë forma të vazhdueshme angazhimi, ato tregojnë aftësinë e të rinjve për t'u mobilizuar kolektivisht kur është e nevojshme.

Një formë tjetër gjithnjë e më e përhapur e pjesëmarrjes është përfshirja në **iniciativa rinore të bazuara në projekte**, hackathone, laboratorë inovacioni, programe trajnimi dhe shkëmbime rinore. Organizatat e shoqërisë civile dhe donatorët ndërkombëtarë luajnë një rol të rëndësishëm në krijimin dhe mbështetjen e këtyre mundësive në të gjithë Shqipërinë.

Shqipëria ka një numër në rritje mjetesh dhe mekanizmash që synojnë mbështetjen e pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve. Megjithatë, edhe pse ekzistojnë kanale formale pjesëmarrjeje, ato jo gjithmonë janë plotësisht funksionale, gjithëpërfshirëse ose të besueshme për të rinjtë. Si rezultat, shumë të rinj preferojnë forma informale, digjitale dhe të bazuara në komunitet të angazhimit, të cilat i perceptojnë si më të aksesueshme, më fleksibël dhe me ndikim më të drejtpërdrejtë.

Forcimi i reagueshmërisë institucionale, rritja e ndërgjegjësimit mbi mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes dhe garantimi i përfshirjes kuptimplotë të të rinjve në proceset vendimmarrëse mbeten elemente thelbësore për përmirësimin e pjesëmarrjes rinore në Shqipëri.

3. FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES DHE BARRIERAT E PJESËMARRJES SË TË RINJVE NË SHQIPËRI

Pjesëmarrja e të rinjve në Shqipëri ndikohet nga një kombinim faktorësh mundësues dhe pengesash të vazhdueshme, të cilat përcaktojnë nivelin dhe cilësinë e angazhimit të tyre në jetën qytetare dhe politike. Këta faktorë veprojnë në dimensione institucionale, ekonomike, sociale dhe kulturore, duke ndikuar si në mundësitë për pjesëmarrje, ashtu edhe në gatishmërinë e të rinjve për t'u angazhuar.

Faktorët Mundësues

Një nga faktorët kryesorë mundësues është **zhvillimi gradual i një kuadri formal politikash dhe legjislacioni** që e njeh pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve si një komponent të rëndësishëm të qeverisjes. Strategjia Kombëtare e Rinisë 2022–2029 dhe Ligji "Për Rininë" përcaktojnë angazhime institucionale për përfshirjen e të rinjve në vendimmarrje, vullnetarizëm dhe angazhim qytetar. Këto kuadro forcohen më tej nga përafrimi i Shqipërisë me politikat rinore të Bashkimit Evropian, veçanërisht me Strategjinë Rinore të BE-së 2019–2027, e cila promovon dialogun e strukturuar dhe demokracinë pjesëmarrëse.

Një tjetër faktor i rëndësishëm mundësues është **roli aktiv i organizatave të shoqërisë civile dhe organizatave rinore në Shqipëri.** Organizatat joqeveritare me fokus te rinia dhe organizatat komunitare ofrojnë platforma të rëndësishme për angazhim, veçanërisht në kontekste ku mekanizmat institucionalë janë të dobët. Këto organizata mbështesin pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve përmes trajnimeve, aktiviteteve advokuese, vullnetarizmit dhe iniciativave të bazuara në projekte. Gjithashtu, ato kontribuojnë në zhvillimin e kompetencave qytetare dhe aftësive drejtuese të të rinjve, duke shërbyer shpesh si pika kryesore e hyrjes së tyre në jetën publike.

Në përgjithësi, të rinjtë shprehin nivele më të larta besimi ndaj organizatave rinore sesa ndaj institucioneve politike, pasi këto organizata krijojnë hapësira më gjithëpërfshirëse dhe më miqësore për pjesëmarrjen rinore[61].

Programet ndërkombëtare dhe iniciativat e mbështetura nga Bashkimi Evropian luajnë gjithashtu një rol të rëndësishëm në nxitjen e pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve. Programe si **Erasmus+**, **European Solidarity Corps** dhe **EU4Youth** ofrojnë mundësi për mobilitet, vullnetarizëm, edukim joformal, ngritje kapacitetesh dhe angazhim qytetar. Këto iniciativa kontribuojnë në zhvillimin e aftësive, vetëbesimit dhe njohjes së praktikave demokratike të pjesëmarrjes[62].

Digjitalizimi ka zgjeruar më tej mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes. **Platformat e rrjeteve sociale dhe mjetet online** u mundësojnë të rinjve të aksesojnë informacion, të shprehin mendime dhe të marrin pjesë në debate publike me më pak barriera strukturore. Studimet mbi demokracinë digjitale në Shqipëri

[61] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376805927_Youth_Engagement_in_Decision-Making_European_Approaches_to_Inclusive_Participation_and_Albanian_Perspective

[62] https://www.unicef.org/albania/eu4youth

tregojnë se 79.8% e të rinjve informohen rregullisht përmes rrjeteve sociale, ndërsa 19.6% angazhohen në forma të aktivizmit digjital[63].

Barrierat

Pavarësisht faktorëve mundësues, një sërë pengesash vazhdojnë të kufizojnë pjesëmarrjen efektive të të rinjve në Shqipëri. Një nga pengesat më të përmendura është **niveli i ulët i besimit ndaj institucioneve dhe autoriteteve publike**. Shumë të rinj ndihen se zëri i tyre nuk merret realisht në konsideratë gjatë proceseve të hartimit të politikave dhe i perceptojnë mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes si simbolike dhe jo me ndikim të vërtetë. Kjo mungesë besimi dekurajon angazhimin aktiv në strukturat formale politike dhe mekanizmat e vendimmarrjes[64].

Edhe **kufizimet institucionale** luajnë një rol të rëndësishëm. Mekanizmat e pjesëmarrjes, si këshillat rinorë apo proceset e konsultimit publik, jo gjithmonë funksionojnë në mënyrë efektive ose nuk kanë ndikim të mjaftueshëm në vendimmarrje, gjë që ul besueshmërinë e tyre në sytë e të rinjve. Në disa raste, këto struktura perceptohen thjesht si formalitete pa fuqi reale vendimmarrëse.

Kufizimet ekonomike dhe sfidat sociale ndikojnë gjithashtu ndjeshëm në pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve. Nivelet e larta të papunësisë, varfëria dhe përqindja e konsiderueshme e të rinjve në kategorinë **NEET** (jo në arsim, punësim apo trajnim) kufizojnë mundësinë e tyre për t'u angazhuar në aktivitete qytetare dhe politike. Pasiguria financiare shpesh i detyron të rinjtë të përqendrohen te punësimi dhe mbijetesa ekonomike, duke lënë në plan të dytë pjesëmarrjen në vullnetarizëm, aktivitete komunitare apo iniciativa të politikëbërjes.

Kostot e transportit, mungesa e burimeve financiare dhe pamundësia për të parapaguar pjesëmarrjen në aktivitete përbëjnë pengesa shtesë, veçanërisht për të rinjtë që jetojnë në zonat rurale ose që vijnë nga grupe të disavantazhuara[65].

Një tjetër sfidë e rëndësishme lidhet me **aksesin e kufizuar në informacion dhe mungesën e ndërgjegjësimit**. Shumë të rinj nuk janë mjaftueshëm të informuar për mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes, programet rinore, konsultimet publike dhe mekanizmat institucionalë që janë në dispozicion të tyre. Në të njëjtën kohë, edukimi i pamjaftueshëm qytetar dhe njohuritë e kufizuara mbi proceset demokratike reduktojnë motivimin dhe vetëbesimin për t'u angazhuar aktivisht në jetën publike[66].

Barrierat kulturore dhe sociale ndikojnë gjithashtu në pjesëmarrje. Normat gjinore, pritshmëritë familjare, frika nga kritika dhe presioni social mund të dekurajojnë angazhimin publik, veçanërisht te vajzat dhe të rinjtë që i përkasin grupeve të margjinalizuara. Këto grupe përballen shpesh me vështirësi shtesë për të aksesuar në mënyrë të barabartë mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes[6].

[63] https://eydr.scidevcenter.org/mapping-of-youth-participation-in-digital-democracy-case-of-albania/

[64] https://www.partnersalbania.org/publication/monitoring-report-of-political-social-and-economic-participation-of-youth-2024/

[65] https://www.cbc.org.al/blog/research-assessment-of-participation-in-youth-projects-barriers-needs-and-opportunities-of-young-people-in-albania/

[66] https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376805927_Youth_Engagement_in_Decision-Making_European_Approaches_to_Inclusive_Participation_and_Albanian_Perspective

Edhe pjesëmarrja digjitale, pavarësisht përdorimit të gjerë të rrjeteve sociale, përballet me kufizime. Studimet mbi pjesëmarrjen rinore në demokracinë digjitale tregojnë se shumë të rinj angazhohen vetëm në mënyrë sipërfaqësore online, shpesh përmes shpërndarjes pasive të përmbajtjeve dhe jo përmes aktivizmit apo advokimit të vazhdueshëm. Frika nga ngacmimet online, niveli i kufizuar i aftësive digjitale dhe mungesa e njohurive mbi të drejtat digjitale reduktojnë më tej mundësitë për një angazhim kuptimplotë në hapësirën online[3].

4. METHODOlOGJIA

Studimi aplikon një qasje të kombinuar metodologjike (mixed-methods), duke ndërthurur kërkimin dokumentar (desk research), kërkimin cilësor, kërkimin sasior dhe aktivitetet e validimit, me qëllim ofrimin e një kuptimi të plotë të pjesëmarrjes rinore, angazhimit qytetar, integritetit dhe perceptimeve mbi korrupsionin tek të rinjtë në Shqipëri dhe në rajonin më të gjerë të Ballkanit.

Komponenti i **kërkimit dokumentar** u përdor për të ofruar kontekstin kombëtar lidhur me mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes së të rinjve, mekanizmat e angazhimit demokratik dhe sfidat që lidhen me pjesëmarrjen. Gjithashtu, ai shërbeu për të përmbledhur evidencat ekzistuese, treguesit, kuadrot e politikave dhe praktikat e mira që lidhen me pjesëmarrjen qytetare, qeverisjen, transparencën dhe angazhimin rinor.

Komponenti i **kërkimit cilësor** përfshiu organizimin e një **Grupi Fokusimi (Focus Group Discussion – FGD)** me një grup të mbyllur prej 12 të rinjsh të moshës 18–26 vjeç, me prejardhje të ndryshme arsimore, sociale dhe profesionale. Grupi i fokusit krijoi mundësinë për zhvillimin e diskutimeve të thelluara dhe për të kuptuar më mirë përvojat, perceptimet, shqetësimet dhe pritshmëritë e të rinjve lidhur me pjesëmarrjen qytetare, besimin ndaj institucioneve, korrupsionin dhe mundësitë për angazhim në jetën publike.

Përveç kësaj, u organizua një **workshop validimi** me rreth 65 të rinj, me qëllim prezantimin dhe diskutimin e mëtejshëm të gjetjeve paraprake të raportit. Ky workshop shërbeu si një hapësirë pjesëmarrëse për të validuar rezultatet kryesore, për të mbledhur komente dhe sugjerime, si dhe për të siguruar që perspektivat dhe përvojat e të rinjve të pasqyroheshin në mënyrë të saktë në raport.

Komponenti i **kërkimit sasior** përbëhej nga një anketë anonime online, e shpërndarë kryesisht përmes kanaleve të komunikimit të Partners Albania, me synimin për të arritur një audiencë më të gjerë të të rinjve. Anketa u shpërnda gjithashtu në mënyrë të veçantë tek studentët e **Fakultetit të Drejtësisë në Universitetin Luarasi** dhe në **Universitetin e Tiranës**, përfshirë **Fakultetin e Shkencave Sociale**, si dhe tek pjesëmarrësit e një aktiviteti të dedikuar për të rinjtë. Pyetësori online qëndroi i hapur për më shumë se 20 ditë, duke u dhënë të rinjve kohë të mjaftueshme për të ndarë opinionet, përvojat dhe perspektivat e tyre.

Në total, **146 të rinj nga Shqipëria** plotësuan anketën online, duke përbërë përqindjen më të lartë të respondentëve në nivel rajonal (**33.49%**). Shqipëria ndiqej nga Kroacia (**24.08%**), Greqia (**15.37%**) dhe Bullgaria (**14.22%**), ndërsa Maqedonia e Veriut përfaqësonte pjesën më të vogël të kampionit (**12.84%**).

Gjetjet demografike tregojnë se kampioni i anketës në Shqipëri dominohet nga respondentët më të rinj, të moshës **18–20 vjeç**, të cilët përbënin **69.86%** të pjesëmarrësve. Pjesëmarrja bie ndjeshëm në grupmoshat më të mëdha: **22.60%** e respondentëve i përkisnin grupmoshës **21–23 vjeç**, ndërsa vetëm **7.53%** ishin të moshës **24–26 vjeç**. Kjo tregon se gjetjet reflektojnë kryesisht perspektivat e të rinjve më të rinj, veçanërisht studentëve dhe individëve që ndodhen në fazat e hershme të ndërgjegjësimit dhe pjesëmarrjes qytetare.

Kampioni është kryesisht i përbërë nga **femra**, të cilat përfaqësojnë **83.56%** të respondentëve, ndërsa meshkujt përbëjnë vetëm **13.70%**. Kjo sugjeron se gjetjet pasqyrojnë në masë të madhe perspektivën e vajzave dhe grave të reja, veçanërisht në lidhje me angazhimin qytetar dhe perceptimet mbi korrupsionin. Gjithashtu, ky nivel i lartë pjesëmarrjeje i femrave mund të tregojë se të rejat janë më të gatshme të përfshihen në anketa dhe iniciativa që lidhen me qytetarinë aktive, çka mund të konsiderohet vetë si një formë fillestare e pjesëmarrjes dhe angazhimit qytetar.

Sa i përket **shpërndarjes gjeografike**, shumica e respondentëve (**77.40%**) jetojnë në zona urbane (qytete ose qendra të mëdha urbane), ndërsa përfaqësimi i të rinjve nga zonat rurale është i kufizuar (**4.11%**). Të rinjtë nga zonat gjysmë-urbane përbëjnë **16.44%** të kampionit. Kjo prirje urbane sugjeron se qasja në informacion, shërbime dhe mundësi pjesëmarrjeje e reflektuar në të dhëna mund të mos pasqyrojë plotësisht sfidat specifike të të rinjve në zonat rurale.

Për sa i përket **nivelit arsimor**, kampioni paraqitet relativisht i mirëarsimuar. Shumica e respondentëve (**51.37%**) raportuan arsim në nivel **Bachelor** (duke përfshirë edhe studentët që aktualisht ndjekin studimet Bachelor). Një pjesë prej **36.99%** kishte përfunduar arsimin e mesëm dhe shpesh vazhdonte studimet e larta, ndërsa **8.22%** ishin të regjistruar ose kishin përfunduar studimet në nivel **Master**.

Një shumicë dërrmuese e respondentëve identifikohen si **studentë** (**93.15%**), duke konfirmuar se anketa pasqyron kryesisht perspektivat e studentëve. Përqindje më të vogla raportuan se ishin të punësuar (**15.75%**), të papunë (**2.05%**) ose të përfshirë në programe trajnimi dhe praktike profesionale.

Një pjesë e respondentëve kombinonin statusin e studentit me punësimin. Konkretisht, **10.96%** (16 respondentë) deklaruan se ishin njëkohësisht studentë dhe të punësuar, ndërsa **0.68%** (1 respondent) raportoi se ishte i papunë dhe nuk ndiqte studime. Në të kundërt, **6.16%** (7 respondentë) deklaruan se ishin të punësuar dhe nuk ishin studentë.

Këto gjetje konfirmojnë se kampioni përbëhet kryesisht nga studentë, ndërsa përfaqësimi i të rinjve të integruar plotësisht në tregun e punës është relativisht i kufizuar. Për këtë arsye, perceptimet që lidhen me mundësitë e punësimit, proceset e rekrutimit dhe pjesëmarrjen në tregun e punës duhet të interpretohen me kujdes, pasi ato reflektojnë kryesisht përvojat dhe perspektivat e studentëve dhe të rinjve që vazhdojnë ende arsimin.

Në përgjithësi, kampioni karakterizohet nga një profil **i ri në moshë, relativisht i mirëarsimuar, kryesisht femëror, urban dhe i bazuar te studentët**, çka ndikon drejtpërdrejt në interpretimin e të gjitha gjetjeve të mëtejshme. Rezultatet pasqyrojnë kryesisht perceptimet e të rinjve të angazhuar dhe me ekspozim arsimor, më shumë sesa ato të popullatës së gjerë rinore në Shqipëri.

5. NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINJVE PËR PJESËMARRJEN QYTETARE, ANTI-KORRUPSIONIN, TRANSPARENCËN, DHE pOLITIKBËRJEN

NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINVJE PËR KORRUPsIONIN

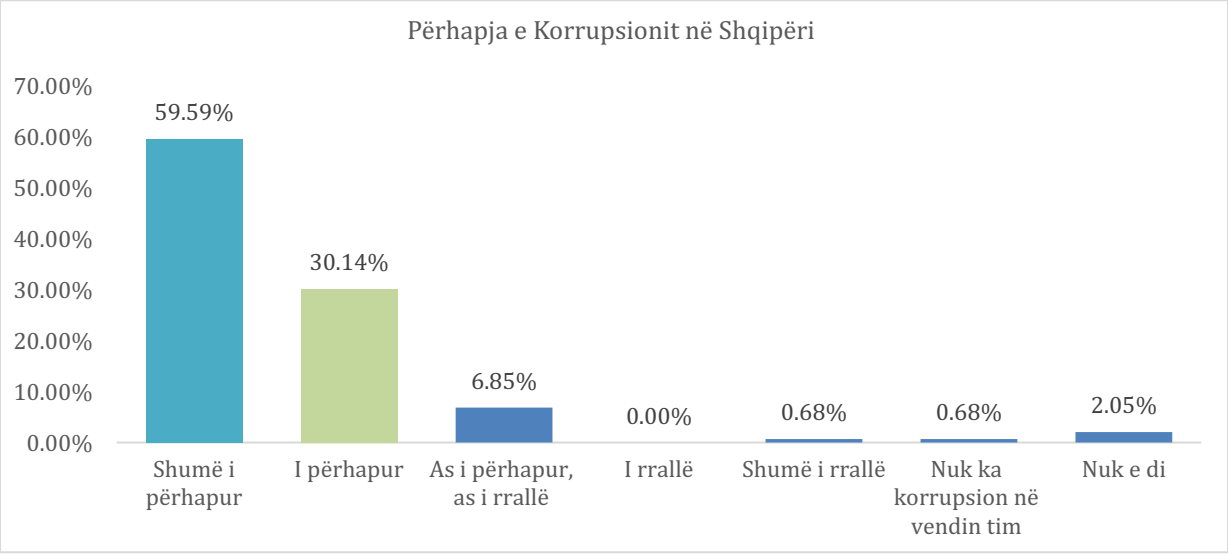


Figura 1: Përhapja e Korrupsionit në Shqipëri

Siç paraqitet në ***Figurën 1***, gjetjet tregojnë se një shumicë dërrmuese prej **89.73%** e të rinjve respondentë e perceptojnë korrupsionin si të përhapur ose shumë të përhapur. Kjo do të thotë se **9 në 10 të rinj** e konsiderojnë korrupsionin një problem madhor. Përqindja shumë e lartë e respondentëve që shprehin shqetësim tregon një nivel të lartë ndërgjegjësimi tek të rinjtë lidhur me çështjet e korrupsionit dhe integritetit në vend. Gjetjet sugjerojnë gjithashtu ekzistencën e një klime të përgjithshme mosbesimi ndaj sistemeve të qeverisjes dhe transparencës institucionale, ku korrupsioni perceptohet si një fenomen i normalizuar.

Një shumicë e madhe e të rinjve respondentë shprehin bindjen se korrupsioni është i pranishëm si në **institucionet kombëtare (73.3%)**, ashtu edhe në **institucionet vendore (70.55%)**. Këto rezultate tregojnë se korrupsioni nuk perceptohet vetëm si një problem i përgjithshëm shoqëror, por lidhet drejtpërdrejt edhe me institucionet shtetërore dhe strukturat e qeverisjes. Përqindja e vogël e respondentëve që kanë zgjedhur alternativën **"Nuk e di"** mund të tregojë ndërveprim të kufizuar me institucionet kombëtare dhe vendore, mungesë informacioni ose edhe hezitim për të shprehur një opinion të qartë mbi këtë çështje.

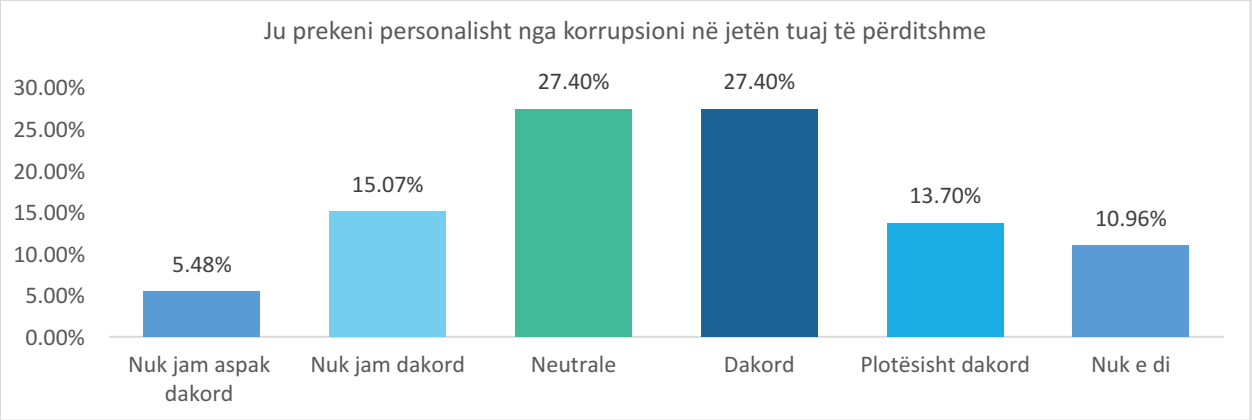


Figura 2: Mendimet e të rinjve mbi faktin nëse ata preken personalisht nga niveli korrupsionit në Shqipëri

Megjithëse korrupsioni perceptohet gjerësisht si një problem sistemik, ky perceptim nuk pasqyrohet plotësisht në përvojën personale të të rinjve. Vetëm **41.10%** e respondentëve deklarojnë se janë ndikuar personalisht nga korrupsioni në jetën e tyre të përditshme (***Figura 2***), ndërsa një përqindje e konsiderueshme (**27.4%**) mbetet neutrale dhe **20.55%** nuk ndihen të prekur drejtpërdrejt nga korrupsioni.

Ky hendek sugjeron se korrupsioni perceptohet si një problem i përhapur në nivel sistemik, edhe pse më pak individë raportojnë ekspozim të drejtpërdrejtë ndaj tij. Përqindja relativisht e lartë e përgjigjeve neutrale (**27.4%**) mund të tregojë gjithashtu se të rinjtë e shohin korrupsionin si një fenomen që prek shoqërinë në tërësi, më shumë sesa si një problem që i prek ata individualisht.

Të dhënat sugjerojnë më tej se ndërgjegjësimi i të rinjve mbi korrupsionin formësohet jo vetëm nga përvojat personale, por edhe nga ekspozimi ndaj mediave, narrativat publike, diskutimet shoqërore dhe perceptimet më të gjera mbi integritetin politik dhe institucional.

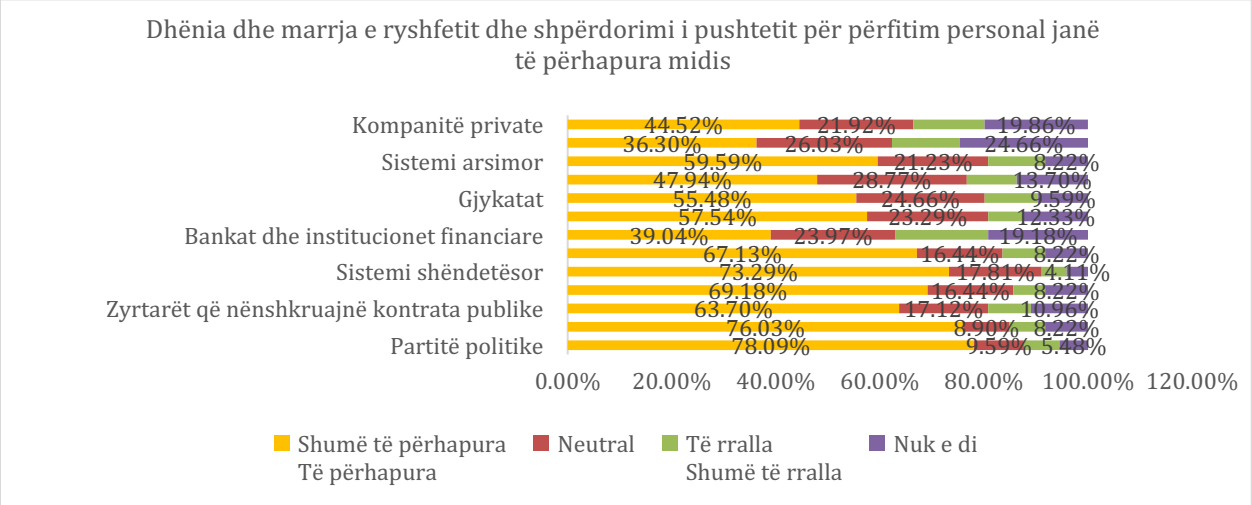


Figura 3: Përhapja e dhënies dhe marrjes së ryshfetit dhe shpërdorimi i pushtetit për përfitim personal midis aktorëve të ndryshëm

Gjetjet, siç paraqiten në **Figura 3**, tregojnë një perceptim të fortë se korrupsioni, i përcaktuar si dhënia dhe marrja e ryshfetit dhe abuzimi me pushtetin për përfitime personale, është i përhapur në disa sektorë, veçanërisht në politikë dhe institucionet publike. Nivelet më të larta të perceptimit të korrupsionit raportohen në **partitë politike (78.09%)** dhe tek **politikanët në të gjitha nivelet (76.03%)**, duke nxjerrë në pah mungesë të konsiderueshme besimi ndaj aktorëve politikë dhe strukturave të qeverisjes.

Në mënyrë të ngjashme, sektorë kyç të shërbimeve publike si **sistemi shëndetësor (73.29%)**, **zyrtarët që lëshojnë leje ndërtimi (69.18%)**, **policia (67.13%)** dhe **zyrtarët që japin kontrata publike (63.70%)** perceptohen gjithashtu si të ndikuar ndjeshëm nga korrupsioni. Këto gjetje sugjerojnë se sektorët e lidhur ngushtë me vendimmarrjen publike, shpërndarjen e burimeve dhe aksesin në shërbime shihen si veçanërisht të ndjeshëm ndaj korrupsionit.

Nivele relativisht më të ulëta raportohen për **institucionet e sigurimeve shoqërore dhe mirëqenies (47.94%)**, **kompanitë private (44.52%)**, **bankat dhe institucionet financiare (39.04%)** dhe **sektori i sportit (36.30%)**. Megjithatë, këta sektorë shfaqin gjithashtu nivele më të larta pasigurie dhe përgjigjesh neutrale, gjë që mund të tregojë nivel më të ulët ndërveprimi, ekspozimi publik ose njohurie nga ana e respondentëve.

Këto gjetje u konfirmuan më tej gjatë **Workshop-it të Validimit**, ku pjesëmarrësit e rinj theksuan nivelet e larta të perceptimit të korrupsionit në institucione dhe politikë. Ata gjithashtu nënvizuan se korrupsioni në sektorë si sporti mund të jetë po aq i rëndësishëm, edhe pse shpesh merr më pak vëmendje publike krahasuar me korrupsionin politik ose institucional. Në të njëjtën kohë, pjesëmarrësit shprehën mendime të ndryshme lidhur me korrupsionin në sektorin e arsimit. Ndërsa disa të rinj besonin se ekzistojnë praktika favorizimi dhe padrejtësie, të tjerë deklaruan se nuk kishin hasur personalisht situata të tilla, duke treguar përvoja dhe perceptime të ndryshme.

Gjetjet tregojnë se të rinjtë perceptojnë lidhje të forta mes politikës, interesave të biznesit dhe korrupsionit në Shqipëri. Një shumicë e madhe e respondentëve (**74%**) besojnë se korrupsioni deformon konkurrencën dhe krijon avantazhe të padrejta, ndërsa **68.5%** mendojnë se rastet e korrupsionit në nivele të larta nuk ndiqen dhe ndëshkohen mjaftueshëm.

Në të njëjtën kohë, **gjysma e respondentëve (50%)** pajtohen se lidhjet politike janë të nevojshme për suksesin në biznes, duke treguar se shumë të rinj perceptojnë rrjetet informale dhe marrëdhëniet personale si faktorë me ndikim në mundësitë ekonomike. Megjithatë, fakti që kjo përqindje është më e ulët krahasuar me indikatorë të tjerë të korrupsionit mund të sugjerojë ndryshime në përvoja ose pasiguri lidhur me sektorin e biznesit.

Besimi në transparencën institucionale paraqitet relativisht i ulët. Vetëm **37% e respondentëve** besojnë se institucionet shpjegojnë qartë procedurat dhe vendimet, ndërsa vetëm **31%** mendojnë se të rinjtë mund të aksesojnë shërbime në mënyrë të drejtë pa u mbështetur në lidhje personale. Këto gjetje tregojnë një nivel të kufizuar besimi në trajtimin e barabartë dhe transparencën e administratës publike.

Nivelet e larta të përgjigjeve neutrale në disa indikatorë tregojnë pasiguri, mungesë transparence dhe njohuri të kufizuara mbi proceset institucionale. Kjo mund të tregojë nevojën për më shumë transparencë, edukim qytetar dhe komunikim më të mirë ndërmjet institucioneve dhe të rinjve.

Gjetjet tregojnë gjithashtu një kërkesë të fortë për reforma, ku **67% e respondentëve** bien dakord se proceset publike duhet të jenë më të lehta për t'u kuptuar dhe ndjekur, duke theksuar dëshirën e të rinjve për sisteme qeverisjeje më të aksesueshme, më transparente dhe më llogaridhënëse.

Anketa identifikon gjithashtu sektorët ku të rinjtë perceptojnë më fort korrupsionin, favorizimin dhe trajtimin e padrejtë. **Punësimi dhe rekrutimi** rezulton sektori më i prekur, me **54.8% të respondentëve** që e identifikojnë si një fushë kryesore shqetësuese dhe si pengesë për meritokracinë. Ky gjetje është veçanërisht e rëndësishme, pasi punësimi përbën një nga shqetësimet kryesore të të rinjve gjatë kalimit në tregun e punës dhe në jetën adulte.

Megjithatë, këto gjetje duket se pasqyrojnë më shumë perceptime sesa përvoja të drejtpërdrejta personale, pasi vetëm një përqindje e vogël e respondentëve ka raportuar përvojë të drejtpërdrejtë në punësim. Prandaj, opinionet e shumicës së pjesëmarrësve ka të ngjarë të jenë formuar nga media, diskutimet familjare, rrethi shoqëror dhe diskursi më i gjerë publik, më shumë sesa nga ndërveprimi i drejtpërdrejtë me proceset e rekrutimit.

Këto perceptime u diskutuan edhe gjatë **Workshop-it të Validimit**, ku pjesëmarrësit konfirmuan shqetësimet mbi favorizimin dhe praktikat e padrejta në rekrutim, ndërsa në të njëjtën kohë disa të rinj ndanë përvoja personale pozitive, duke treguar se perceptimet dhe përvojat mbeten të përziera dhe të ndara.

Arsimi (31.51%) dhe **shërbimet shëndetësore/publike (23.97%)** gjithashtu u identifikuan si fusha të rëndësishme të ndikuara nga korrupsioni, duke sugjeruar se korrupsioni perceptohet si një fenomen që prek shërbimet thelbësore dhe mundësitë e lidhura drejtpërdrejt me mirëqenien dhe zhvillimin e të rinjve.

Në mënyrë domethënëse, asnjë nga respondentët nuk ka deklaruar se korrupsioni "nuk është një problem i madh", duke forcuar perceptimin se ai shihet si një sfidë e përhapur dhe sistemike që ndikon në dimensione të ndryshme të jetës sociale, ekonomike dhe politike në Shqipëri.

NDËRGJEGJËSIMI DHE KUPTIMI I TË RINJVE PËR POLITIKBËRJEN

Rezultatet tregojnë se të rinjtë raportojnë nivelin më të lartë të kuptimit për **qeverinë kombëtare (62.3%)** dhe për **strukturat e qeverisjes në universitetin ose vendin e punës (61.7%)**. Kjo lidhet kryesisht me faktin se shumica e respondentëve janë studentë dhe, si rrjedhojë, janë më të ekspozuar ndaj strukturave të qeverisjes universitare dhe diskutimeve politike në nivel kombëtar. Njohuritë mbi qeverisjen vendore janë relativisht më të ulëta (**47.95%**), ndërsa një numër i konsiderueshëm raporton vetëm kuptim të pjesshëm (**34.3%**), duke treguar familjaritet të kufizuar dhe jo njohje të plotë. Kjo sugjeron se proceset e qeverisjes vendore mbeten më pak të dukshme ose më pak angazhuese për të rinjtë.

Ndërsa kuptimi i Bashkimit Evropian është relativisht i lartë për një vend jo-anëtar, me **52.7%** të të rinjve që raportojnë nivel të lartë njohjeje, **28.1%** njohje mesatare dhe **17.8%** njohje të ulët. Kjo tregon

se, megjithëse të rinjtë janë përgjithësisht të vetëdijshëm për BE-në dhe rolin e tij, shumë prej tyre nuk kanë njohuri të thelluara mbi institucionet dhe proceset e politikëbërjes së BE-së.

Të rinjtë tregojnë familjaritet **mesatar deri të lartë** me procesin legjislativ kombëtar, krahasuar me njohuritë mbi proceset e BE-së, të cilat janë dukshëm më të ulëta (vetëm **17.12%** raportojnë familjaritet të lartë). Kjo tregon një boshllëk njohurish në lidhje me qeverisjen e BE-së, e cila mbetet relativisht e largët ose e vështirë për t'u kuptuar nga të rinjtë, edhe pse njohuria e përgjithshme për BE-në është e konsiderueshme.

Familiariteti me konceptin e **konsultimit publik** mbetet relativisht i kufizuar. Ndërsa **41.8%** raportojnë njohje mesatare, vetëm **24%** shprehin njohje të lartë me këtë koncept. Rreth një e treta e respondentëve (**31.5%**) tregojnë njohje të ulët, duke sugjeruar se shumë të rinj nuk janë plotësisht të vetëdijshëm për mënyrën se si funksionojnë në praktikë proceset formale të konsultimit.

Ndërkohë, respondentët duket se janë më të informuar mbi mënyrat se ku mund të gjejnë mundësi pjesëmarrjeje në komunitetet e tyre ose në universitete. Rreth **44.5%** raportojnë njohje të lartë të mundësive të pjesëmarrjes, ndërsa vetëm **19.2%** tregojnë njohje të ulët. Kjo sugjeron se kanalet e pjesëmarrjes në nivel lokal dhe universitar janë më të aksesueshme dhe më të dukshme për të rinjtë sesa mekanizmat formalë të konsultimit institucional.

Rezultatet e anketës tregojnë gjithashtu një kuptim relativisht mesatar të mënyrës se si mund të propozohen dhe ndikohen ligjet në nivel kombëtar. Më shumë se gjysma e respondentëve identifikuan saktë **deputetët e Kuvendit (56.9%)** dhe **qeverinë ose ministrat (61.6%)** si aktorë që mund të propozojnë legjislacion. Megjithatë, vetëm **40.4%** njohin se edhe qytetarët mund të propozojnë iniciativa përmes peticioneve kur mblidhet një numër i mjaftueshëm firmash. Për më tepër, **11.6%** deklarojnë se nuk e dinë kush mund të propozojë ligje, duke treguar boshllëqe në njohuritë qytetare dhe institucionale.

Gjetjet tregojnë gjithashtu një nivel mesatar ndërgjegjësimi për mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes së qytetarëve në hartimin e ligjeve. Përafërsisht **65.1%** e respondentëve besojnë se qytetarët mund të japin feedback mbi projektligjet, ndërsa **20.6%** nuk e dinë nëse ekzistojnë këto mundësi.

Kur u pyetën për fazën në të cilën qytetarët mund të marrin pjesë në proceset legjislative, pak më shumë se gjysma e respondentëve (**52.1%**) identifikuan saktë fazën e konsultimit publik ose dëgjesave publike. Në mënyrë të ngjashme, vetëm **45.9%** treguan njohuri të sakta mbi mekanizmat kombëtarë të konsultimit publik, si dorëzimi i komenteve me shkrim gjatë periudhave zyrtare të konsultimit qeveritar.

Ky model është i ngjashëm me grupin që tregoi kuptim të konceptit të konsultimit publik. Ndërkohë, pjesa tjetër e respondentëve ose nuk ka ndërgjegjësim, ose ka perceptime të pasakta si për kohën e pjesëmarrjes (**48%** e respondentëve), ashtu edhe për mekanizmat e duhur (**54%** e respondentëve) për t'u angazhuar në konsultimet publike.

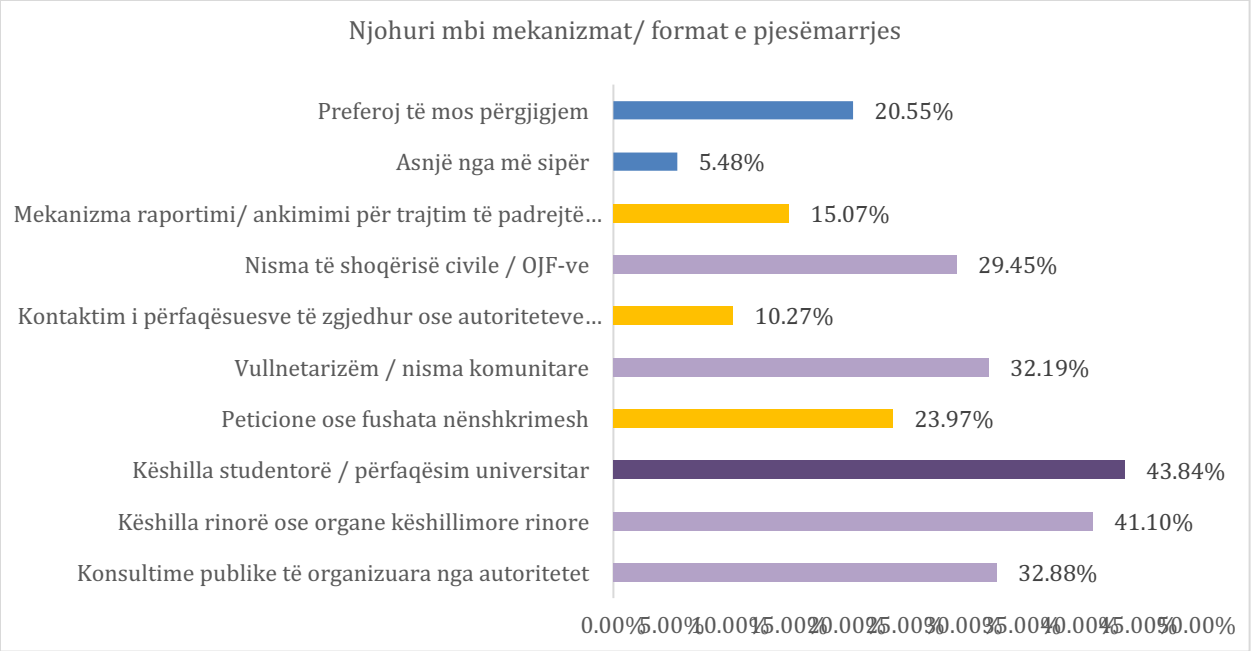


Figura 4: Njohuri dhe dijeni mbi Mekanizmat e Pjesëmarrjes

Anketa tregon nivele të ndryshme ndërgjegjësimi lidhur me kanalet e ndryshme të pjesëmarrjes qytetare tek të rinjtë në Shqipëri. **Këshillat e studentëve dhe mekanizmat e përfaqësimit universitar** rezultojnë format më të njohura të pjesëmarrjes, me **43.8%** të respondentëve që deklarojnë njohje të këtyre strukturave. Gjithashtu, **këshillat rinorë dhe organet këshillimore (41.1%)**, **konsultimet publike (32.9%)**, **vullnetarizmi dhe iniciativat komunitare (32.2%)** dhe **iniciativat e OJQ-ve ose shoqërisë civile (29.5%)** tregojnë nivele të moderuara njohjeje.

Megjithatë, ndërgjegjësimi është dukshëm më i ulët për kanalet më formale ose institucionale të pjesëmarrjes. Vetëm **10.3%** e respondentëve raportojnë njohje për kontaktimin e përfaqësuesve të zgjedhur ose autoriteteve publike, ndërsa vetëm **15.1%** janë të vetëdijshëm për kanalet e raportimit të trajtimit të padrejtë ose shqetësimeve të lidhura me korrupsionin.

Këto të dhëna tregojnë se të rinjtë janë më të familjarizuar me mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes që lidhen me arsimin, vullnetarizmin dhe aktivitetet rinore (gjë e konfirmuar edhe gjatë grupeve të fokusit, si iniciativa të lidhura me interesat e tyre), ndërsa mekanizmat institucionalë të llogaridhënies dhe advokimit formal mbeten më pak të dukshëm dhe më pak të kuptuar. Ndërgjegjësimi i përgjithshëm ekziston, por njohuritë praktike dhe procedurale mbeten të dobëta.

Pjesëmarrësit në grupet e fokusit konfirmuan se informacioni mbi mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes shpesh qarkullon vetëm brenda rrjeteve të caktuara rinore, universiteteve ose organizatave, duke kufizuar aksesin e barabartë në mundësitë e angazhimit për të gjithë të rinjtë.

Njohuritë mbi institucionet e Bashkimit Evropian dhe mekanizmat e pjesëmarrjes rezultojnë dukshëm më të ulëta sesa njohuritë mbi strukturat kombëtare. Vetëm **38.4%** e respondentëve identifikojnë saktë **Komisionin Evropian** si institucionin kryesor përgjegjës për propozimin e ligjeve të reja të BE-së, ndërsa gati një e treta (**32.9%**) deklaron se nuk e di përgjigjen.

Në mënyrë të ngjashme, ndërgjegjësimi për mekanizmat e konsultimit të BE-së mbetet i ulët. Pothuajse gjysma e respondentëve (**48.6%**) nuk janë të vetëdijshëm për platformën e konsultimit të Komisionit Evropian **"Have Your Say"**, ndërsa vetëm **28.1%** e identifikojnë saktë atë.

Siç sugjerojnë këto gjetje, dhe siç u konfirmua edhe gjatë **Workshop-it të Validimit**, megjithëse të rinjtë në përgjithësi e njohin rolin e Bashkimit Evropian, shpesh u mungojnë njohuritë praktike mbi mënyrën se si funksionon politikëbërja në BE dhe si mund të angazhohen qytetarët me institucionet e tij.

Gjetjet tregojnë gjithashtu nivele të ndryshme familjariteti me konceptet kryesore të antikorrupsionit, qeverisjes dhe transparencës. Të rinjtë duken përgjithësisht të njohur me konceptet e gjera dhe të diskutuara shpesh si **korrupsioni, konflikti i interesit, shteti i së drejtës dhe sinjalizimi (whistleblowing)**.

Megjithatë, termat më teknikë ose institucionalë, përfshirë **pronësinë përfituese (beneficial ownership), prokurimin publik, lobimin dhe Zyrën e Prokurorit të Bashkimit Evropian**, rezultojnë dukshëm më pak të kuptuar.

Ky model përsëritet në të gjithë raportin: respondentët janë më të ekspozuar ndaj diskutimeve të përgjithshme publike mbi korrupsionin dhe qeverisjen, shpesh përmes mediave ose diskursit publik, ndërsa konceptet më të specializuara institucionale mbeten jashtë njohurive të përditshme qytetare të shumë të rinjve.

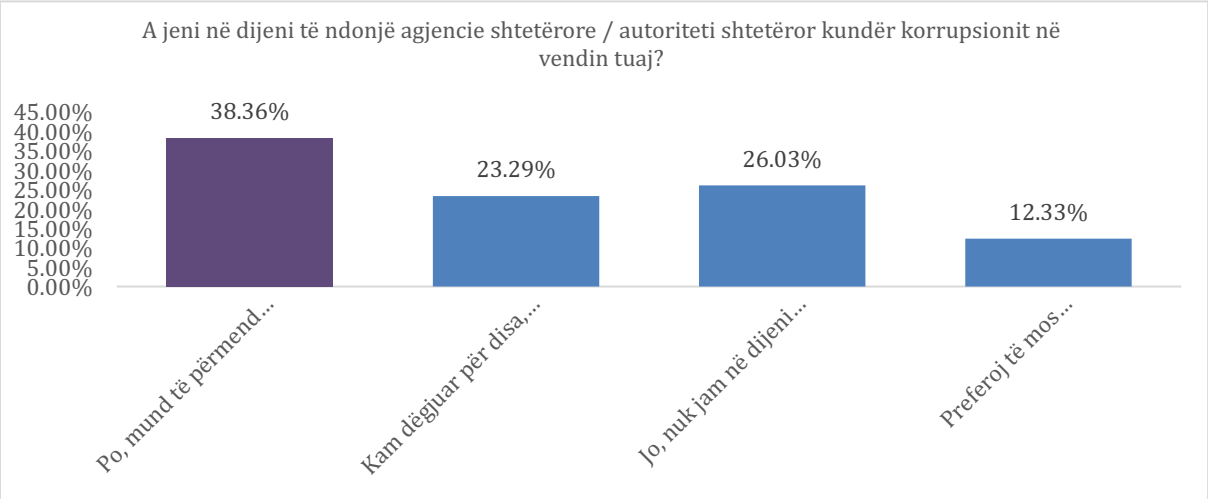


Figura 5: Njohuri dhe dijeni mbi Institucionet Antikorrupsion

Në mënyrë të ngjashme, ndërgjegjësimi i të rinjve mbi institucionet antikorrupsion rezulton mesatar, por i paplotë. Ndërsa **38.4%** e respondentëve deklarojnë se mund të përmendin të paktën një institucion antikorrupsion në Shqipëri, pjesa e mbetur prej rreth **60%** nuk është e ndërgjegjshme dhe nuk mund të përmendë asnjë institucion të tillë.

PJESËMARRJA QYTETARE E TË RINJVE

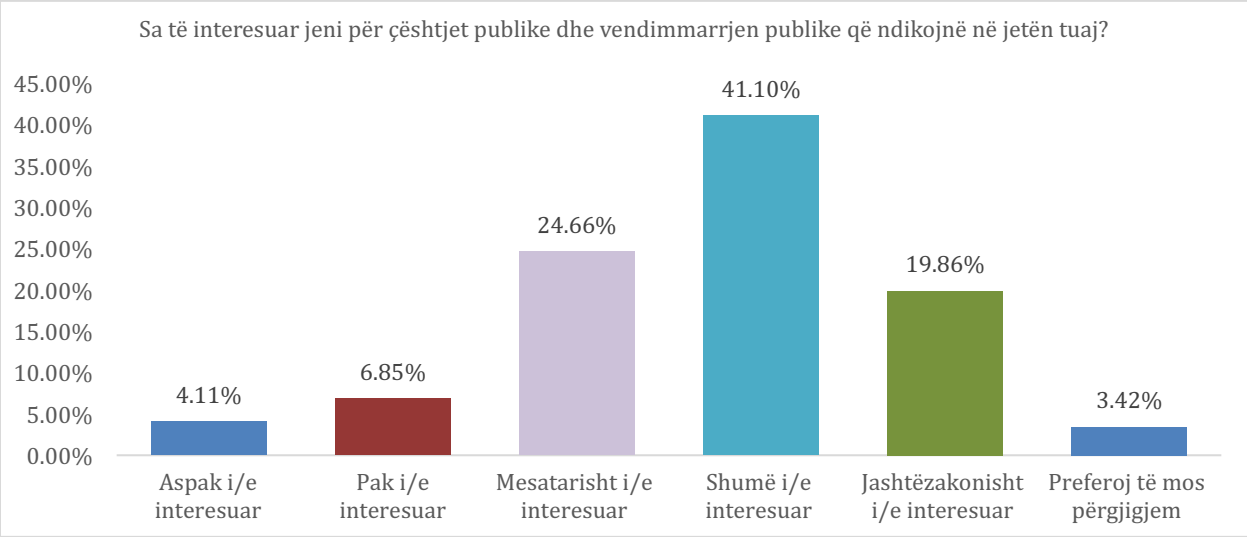


Figura 6: Interesi i të Rinjve në Çështjet Publike dhe Vendimmarrjen Publike

Gjetjet e anketës tregojnë se të rinjtë shfaqin një interes të fortë për çështjet publike dhe proceset vendimmarrëse që ndikojnë në jetën e tyre, me rreth **61% të respondentëve** që raportojnë nivel të lartë interesi për çështjet publike, dhe rreth një e katërta e pjesëmarrësve (**24.7%**) që raportojnë interes mesatar, ndërsa vetëm **11%** shprehin nivel të ulët interesi.

Këto gjetje tregojnë se të rinjtë shqiptarë nuk janë të shkëputur nga jeta publike, siç shpesh perceptohet, por përkundrazi demonstrojnë potencial të fortë për angazhim dhe gatishmëri të konsiderueshme për të ndjekur dhe kuptuar çështjet që ndikojnë komunitetet e tyre, arsimin, mundësitë e punësimit dhe perspektivat e së ardhmes.

Pavarësisht interesit relativisht të lartë për çështjet publike, rezultatet tregojnë nivele më të moderuara të ndërgjegjësimit lidhur me mënyrat konkrete se si të rinjtë mund të marrin pjesë në jetën publike. Vetëm **24% e respondentëve** raportojnë se ndihen të informuar mbi mënyrat e pjesëmarrjes në aktivitetet publike në Shqipëri, ndërsa **45.9%** deklarojnë se janë vetëm mesatarisht të informuar. Në kontrast, më shumë se një e katërta e respondentëve (**25.3%**) raportojnë se nuk janë të informuar mbi mënyrat se si të rinjtë mund të angazhohen në jetën publike.

Ky hendek mes interesit dhe informacionit sugjeron se shumë të rinj mund të jenë të gatshëm për të marrë pjesë, por u mungon informacioni i aksesueshëm mbi kanalet ekzistuese të pjesëmarrjes, mekanizmat e konsultimit, iniciativat rinore ose mundësitë institucionale të angazhimit. Gjetjet tregojnë nevojën për komunikim më të fortë, edukim qytetar dhe përpjekje më të mëdha informuese që synojnë rritjen e ndërgjegjësimit mbi mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes tek të rinjtë.

Pjesëmarrësit në grupet e fokusit theksuan gjithashtu se informacioni duhet të komunikohet në mënyra më të qarta, më miqësore për të rinjtë dhe më të drejtpërdrejta, veçanërisht përmes universiteteve, aktiviteteve interaktive dhe platformave të rrjeteve sociale që të rinjtë i përdorin në mënyrë aktive. Ata

sugjeruan që institucionet përkatëse duhet të bëjnë më shumë përpjekje për të përcjellë informacionin tek të rinjtë.

Televizioni tradicional i lajmeve mbetet burimi më i përdorur nga të rinjtë për të aksesuar lajmet dhe informacionin politik (**37.7%**), i ndjekur nga afër nga **Instagram Reels dhe Stories (35.6%)** dhe **videot ose influencer-at në TikTok (30.8%)**. Edhe faqet online të lajmeve janë burime relativisht të rëndësishme informacioni (**26%**). Vetëm **19.9%** e respondentëve raportojnë përdorimin e portaleve zyrtare qeveritare si burim informacioni. Kjo mund të tregojë mungesë besimi ndaj institucioneve ose mungesë të komunikimit të përshtatur për të rinjtë nga autoritetet publike.

Në përgjithësi, vihet re një tendencë drejt kanaleve të komunikimit digjital që janë të shpejta, të aksesueshme dhe të orientuara vizualisht. Rrjetet sociale luajnë një rol gjithnjë e më ndikues në formësimin e ndërgjegjësimit politik, opinionit dhe angazhimit qytetar. Megjithatë, një efekt negativ i kësaj tendence është ekspozimi i shtuar ndaj dezinformimit, që vjen si pasojë e përdorimit më të madh të rrjeteve sociale.

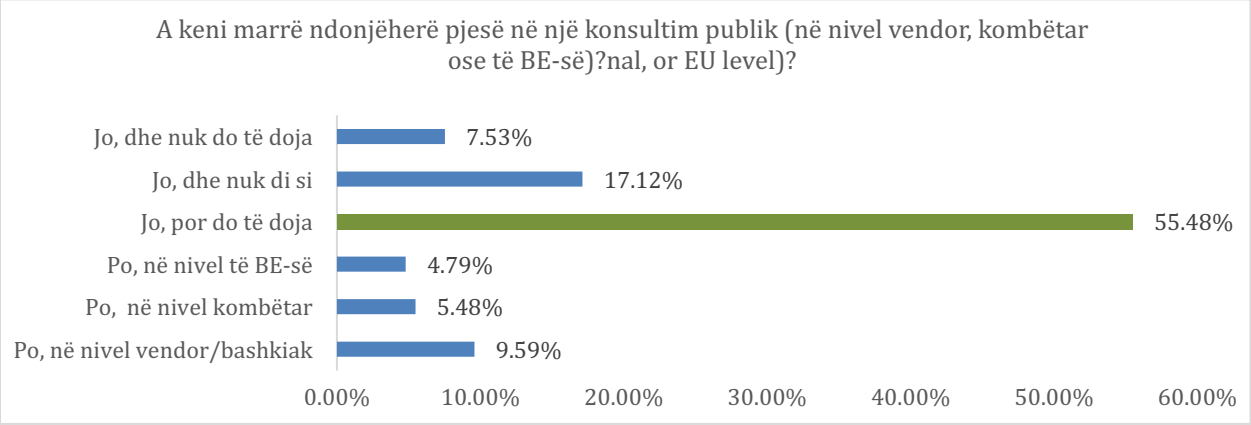


Figura 7: Pjesëmarrja në Konsultimet Publike

Rezultatet tregojnë nivele relativisht të ulëta të pjesëmarrjes së drejtpërdrejtë në proceset formale të konsultimit publik në nivel lokal, kombëtar apo evropian, me vetëm një përqindje të vogël respondentësh që raportojnë se kanë marrë pjesë në konsultime në nivel bashkie (**9.6%**), në nivel kombëtar (**5.5%**) ose në nivel të BE-së (**4.8%**). Në kontrast, shumica e respondentëve (**55.5%**) deklarojnë se nuk kanë marrë kurrë pjesë në një konsultim publik, por shprehin gatishmëri të lartë për ta bërë këtë në të ardhmen.

Këto gjetje janë veçanërisht të rëndësishme, pasi tregojnë një interes të lartë për pjesëmarrje tek të rinjtë. Megjithatë, **17.1%** raportojnë se nuk dinë si të marrin pjesë në konsultime publike, ndërsa **7.5%** deklarojnë se nuk janë të interesuar për të marrë pjesë. Edhe pse gjetjet e mëparshme tregojnë se të rinjtë kanë një nivel të caktuar ndërgjegjësimi dhe njohurie mbi mekanizmat e pjesëmarrjes dhe mundësitë e angazhimit qytetar, kjo njohuri nuk reflektohet në pjesëmarrje aktive.

Rezultatet e grupeve të fokusit tregojnë se pjesëmarrja është më e mundshme kur aktivitetet lidhen drejtpërdrejt me interesat personale, studimet ose zhvillimin profesional të të rinjve, dhe kur ata mund të shohin qartë vlerën praktike dhe ndikimin e angazhimit të tyre.

Pjesëmarrja e ulët duket se lidhet jo me mungesën e interesit, por me barriera të tilla si besimi i kufizuar në institucione, mungesa e informacionit të mjaftueshëm, mungesa e mundësive të aksesueshme dhe miqësore për të rinjtë, si dhe perceptimi se proceset e pjesëmarrjes kanë ndikim të kufizuar real. Diskutimet gjatë workshop-it të validimit konfirmuan më tej se shumë të rinj mendojnë se konsultimet shpesh zhvillohen në mënyrë formale, pa marrë realisht parasysh kontributin e tyre, gjë që dekurajon angazhimin kuptimplotë.

Rezultatet tregojnë se **votimi** është forma më e zakonshme e pjesëmarrjes qytetare tek të rinjtë në Shqipëri, me **58.22%** të tyre që raportojnë se kanë votuar në një zgjedhje gjatë 12 muajve të fundit. Pjesëmarrja në aktivitete të tjera është dukshëm më e ulët, përfshirë pjesëmarrjen në aktivitete qytetare ose komunitare (**27.40%**), vullnetarizëm (**19.86%**) dhe pjesëmarrje në struktura përfaqësuese studentore ose rinore (**17.18%**).

Format më formale të angazhimit, si kontaktimi i institucioneve publike (**12.33%**), nënshkrimi i peticioneve ose mbështetja e fushatave (**13.01%**) dhe pjesëmarrja në diskutime ose konsultime publike online (**10.28%**), mbeten të kufizuara. Për më tepër, **10.27%** e respondentëve raportojnë se nuk angazhohen në asnjë aktivitet qytetar.

Këto rezultate tregojnë se, megjithëse një pjesë e të rinjve shfaq interes për angazhim komunitar, pjesëmarrja përtej proceseve zgjedhore mbetet relativisht e kufizuar.

6. BARRIERAT DHE FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES

BARRIERAT

Gjetjet tregojnë se pengesa më e rëndësishme që i ndalon të rinjtë të marrin pjesë në jetën qytetare dhe publike është mungesa e informacionit të qartë ose ekspozimi ndaj dezinformimit, e identifikuar nga **52.05%** e respondentëve. Kjo tregon se shumë të rinj ndihen të pa-informuar mjaftueshëm për mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes, proceset qytetare ose burimet e besueshme të informacionit. Mungesa e kohës është pengesa e dytë më e shpeshtë (**42.47%**), duke treguar se përgjegjësitë akademike, profesionale ose personale mund të kufizojnë angazhimin e të rinjve.

Një pjesë e konsiderueshme e respondentëve deklarojnë gjithashtu se "nuk dinë nga të fillojnë" (**20.55%**) ose kanë frikë nga reagimet negative, kritikat apo ngacmimet online (**19.86%**). Për më tepër, **17.12%** besojnë se mendimet e tyre nuk do të bëjnë ndryshim, duke reflektuar një nivel mosbesimi ose zhgënjimi politik tek të rinjtë.

Në kontrast, një përqindje relativisht e vogël e respondentëve identifikon si pengesa mungesën e vetëbesimit (**7.53%**), kostot e pjesëmarrjes (**8.22%**) ose mungesën e interesit (**3.42%**). Kjo tregon se mosangazhimi nuk lidhet kryesisht me apatinë, por me pengesa informuese, strukturore dhe të besimit, të cilat kufizojnë gatishmërinë ose aftësinë e të rinjve për të marrë pjesë.

Pjesëmarrësit në grupet e fokusit përshkruan barriera si komunikimi i paqartë, mungesa e koordinimit, oraret e papërshtatshme dhe sfidat logjistike, veçanërisht për të rinjtë jashtë Tiranës, si pengesa kryesore që kufizojnë pjesëmarrjen.

Shumica e respondentëve (**58.22%**) e përshkruajnë aksesin në informacion mbi mundësitë e pjesëmarrjes qytetare si as "të lehtë, as të vështirë", duke treguar një nivel mesatar aksesueshmërie, por edhe pasiguri mbi mënyrën se si dhe ku mund të angazhohen. Ndërkohë, **16.44%** e konsiderojnë gjetjen e këtij informacioni të vështirë, krahasuar me vetëm **17.80%** që e konsiderojnë të lehtë. Këto gjetje forcojnë rezultatet e mëparshme që tregojnë se mungesa e informacionit të qartë dhe të targetuar mbetet një nga barrierat kryesore të pjesëmarrjes.

Të dhënat tregojnë gjithashtu një nivel të lartë mosbesimi ndaj burimeve të informacionit në rrjetet sociale. Shumica e respondentëve shprehin pak ose aspak besim ndaj influencer-ëve në TikTok (**63.70%**), meme-ve dhe story-ve në Instagram (**60.28%**) dhe kanaleve ose grupeve në Telegram (**50%**). Në kontrast, burimet ndërkombëtare të lajmeve perceptohen si më të besueshmet, me **66.44%** që shprehin besim të lartë. Edhe burimet zyrtare qeveritare tregojnë nivele relativisht të larta besimi (**55.48%**), të ndjekura nga deklaratat zyrtare zgjedhore (**45.20%**) dhe gazetarët lokalë (**41.10%**).

Këto rezultate tregojnë se, megjithëse rrjetet sociale mbeten burimi kryesor i informacionit për të rinjtë, ato nuk perceptohen domosdoshmërisht si burime të besueshme për informacion politik ose qytetar. Të rinjtë duket se bëjnë dallim midis përmbajtjes që konsumojnë shpesh dhe burimeve që konsiderojnë të besueshme.

Megjithëse të rinjtë raportojnë nivele të ulëta besimi ndaj përmbajtjeve në platforma si Instagram, TikTok dhe Telegram, këto platforma mbeten kanalet kryesore përmes të cilave përmbajtja politike

ndikon në opinionet dhe veprimet e tyre. Instagram është platforma ku respondentët raportojnë më shpesh ekspozim ndaj përmbajtjeve politike që kanë ndikuar në veprimet e tyre (**56.85%**), i ndjekur nga TikTok (**21.92%**) dhe YouTube (**10.96%**). Facebook (**7.53%**), Telegram (**1.37%**) dhe Twitter/X (**1.37%**) kanë ndikim dukshëm më të ulët.

Kjo tregon se ndërgjegjësimi për rreziqet e dezinformimit nuk e ul domosdoshmërisht ndikimin e rrjeteve sociale. Ekspozimi i shpeshtë ndaj përmbajtjeve politike dhe qytetare mund të ndikojë ende në perceptime, qëndrime dhe sjellje, edhe kur përdoruesit dyshojnë mbi besueshmërinë e informacionit.

Shumica e respondentëve (**60.27%**) raportojnë se përmbajtja online nuk ndikon drejtpërdrejt në angazhimin e tyre qytetar, duke deklaruar se nuk janë ndikuar nga asnjë nga opsionet e listuara. Megjithatë, disa forma ndikimi janë ende të dukshme: rreth **13.01%** kanë marrë pjesë në protesta për shkak të përmbajtjeve virale, ndërsa **12.33%** raportojnë rritje të aktivizmit për shkak të thirrjeve të influencer-ëve. Për më tepër, **11.64%** deklarojnë se mosbesimi i shkaktuar nga korrupsioni ka ulur gatishmërinë e tyre për të bërë vullnetarizëm.

Këto tregojnë se përmbajtja online mund të nxisë ose të dekurajojë pjesëmarrjen qytetare. Ndërsa platformat digjitale mund të mobilizojnë angazhimin dhe aktivizmin rinor, ato gjithashtu mund të kontribuojnë në dezinformim, mosbesim dhe mosangazhim kur narrativat e lidhura me korrupsionin dominojnë diskursin publik.

Gjetjet tregojnë se narrativat e lidhura me korrupsionin dhe përmbajtja në rrjetet sociale mund të ndikojnë ndjeshëm në sjelljen e votimit tek të rinjtë. Gjysma e respondentëve (**50%**) deklarojnë se pretendimet për korrupsion i bëjnë më pak të prirur të votojnë, ndërsa **25.34%** raportojnë se kanë ndryshuar preferencën për kandidatët për shkak të ndikimit të rrjeteve sociale. Ndikime të tjera përfshijnë përmbajtje mbi mashtrime zgjedhore, konsiderata për bojkot dhe rekomandime nga influencer-ët, por në nivele më të ulëta.

Megjithatë, këto gjetje duhet të interpretohen me kujdes, pasi gjatë diskutimeve respondentët theksuan mungesën e opsionit “asnjë nga të mësipërmet”, gjë që mund t’i ketë çuar në zgjedhje të detyruara dhe në një mbivlerësim të efekteve reale.

Gjithashtu, **17.80%** e respondentëve raportojnë se shpesh hasin influencer-a ose figura publike që mbështesin bojkotet zgjedhore, ndërsa **41.10%** i hasin këto përmbajtje herë pas here. Në përgjithësi, të dhënat sugjerojnë se të rinjtë ekspozohen rregullisht ndaj narrativave që mund të dobësojnë besimin në proceset demokratike, institucionet politike dhe pjesëmarrjen zgjedhore.

Gjetjet tregojnë ekspozim të shpeshtë ndaj dezinformimit dhe narrativave anti-demokratike tek të rinjtë, veçanërisht gjatë periudhave zgjedhore. Gjysma e respondentëve raportojnë se shpesh ose gjithmonë hasin pretendime se zgjedhjet do të manipulohen ose vidhen (**50%**) dhe mesazhe që thonë se “vota juaj nuk ka rëndësi” (**50%**). Po ashtu, **44.52%** hasin shpesh akuza për korrupsion në proceset e përzgjedhjes së kandidatëve, ndërsa **40.41%** ekspozohen ndaj mesazheve që promovojnë mosvotimin si formë proteste. Ekspozimi ndaj përmbajtjeve të falsifikuara ose të gjeneruara me AI është më i ulët, por gjithsesi i pranishëm (**26.71%**).

FAKTORËT MUNDËSUES

Gjetjet tregojnë se të rinjtë e perceptojnë pjesëmarrjen demokratike tradicionale, formale dhe angazhimin e organizuar qytetar si mënyrat më efektive për të ndikuar te vendimmarrësit. Votimi në zgjedhjet lokale, kombëtare ose evropiane u identifikua si veprimi më efektiv nga **39.73%** e respondentëve, duke theksuar rëndësinë e vazhdueshme të pjesëmarrjes zgjedhore tek të rinjtë.

Pjesëmarrja në konsultime publike ose dëgjesa publike ishte opsioni i dytë më i zgjedhur (**33.56%**), duke treguar se të rinjtë e njohin rëndësinë e proceseve të drejtpërdrejta të konsultimit në ndikimin e vendimmarrjes. Po ashtu, **26.71%** besojnë se anëtarësimi në organizata rinore, OJQ ose iniciativa qytetare është një mënyrë efektive për të rritur përfaqësimin dhe ndikimin e të rinjve.

Përqindje më të ulëta u regjistruan për vullnetarizmin dhe veprimet komunitare (**10.96%**), kontaktimin e autoriteteve publike (**13.70%**), pjesëmarrjen në demonstrata paqësore (**13.70%**) dhe nënshkrimin e peticioneve ose fushatave (**7.53%**). Ndërsa ndarja e opinioneve në rrjetet sociale ose fushata online mori mbështetjen më të ulët (**4.79%**), pavarësisht përdorimit të gjerë të rrjeteve sociale nga të rinjtë.

Kjo mund të tregojë se shprehja online nuk perceptohet si e mjaftueshme për të sjellë ndryshime të vërteta politike ose institucionale. Pjesëmarrësit në grupet e fokusit deklaruan se format fizike dhe interaktive si diskutimet, debatet, workshop-et dhe aktivitetet komunitare perceptohen si më domethënëse dhe me ndikim më të madh sesa angazhimi vetëm online.

Kur u pyetën se çfarë do të rriste pjesëmarrjen e tyre, të rinjtë deklaruan se **aksesi në informacion të qartë dhe të thjeshtë** është faktori më i rëndësishëm, i zgjedhur nga **51.37%** e respondentëve. Ky rezultat përputhet fort me pjesët e mëparshme të studimit, ku mungesa e informacionit dhe dezinformimi u identifikuan si pengesa kryesore.

Besimi në informacionin mbi jetën qytetare dhe publike ishte faktori i dytë më i rëndësishëm (**32.88%**), duke treguar se besueshmëria dhe transparenca e burimeve të informacionit luajnë rol kyç në motivimin e angazhimit. Respondentët theksuan gjithashtu rëndësinë e mundësive që janë më afër vendit ku studiojnë, punojnë ose jetojnë (**21.92%**), si dhe nevojën për udhëzim, mentorim dhe mbështetje praktike (**21.23%**).

Një mjedis më mikpritës dhe gjithëpërfshirës u identifikua nga **20.55%** e respondentëve, duke treguar se të rinjtë vlerësojnë hapësirat ku ndihen të pranuar, të përfaqësuar dhe të sigurt për të shprehur mendimet e tyre. Për më tepër, **17.12%** theksuan rëndësinë e marrjes së feedback-ut mbi mënyrën se si përdoren kontributet e tyre, duke reflektuar kërkesën për procese më transparente dhe me kuptim real.

7. TRANSPARENCA, INTEGRITETI, DHE BESIMI

ADRESIMI I KORRUPSIONIT

Ekziston një besim i fortë tek të rinjtë lidhur me potencialin e tyre për të adresuar korrupsionin, duke treguar një nivel të lartë fuqizimi (empowerment). Një shumicë e konsiderueshme e respondentëve besojnë se të rinjtë mund të kontribuojnë në uljen e korrupsionit në vendin e tyre, me pothuajse gjysmën (**48.63%**) që shprehin besim të fortë ("patjetër po"). Vetëm **15.06%** shprehin skepticizëm, ndërsa një përqindje e vogël mbetet e pasigurt (**4.11%**) ose preferon të mos përgjigjet (**2.74%**). Kjo tregon një nivel të lartë optimizmi qytetar dhe ndjenjë fuqizimi tek të rinjtë, duke sugjeruar se ata e shohin veten si aktorë relevantë në përpjekjet kundër korrupsionit

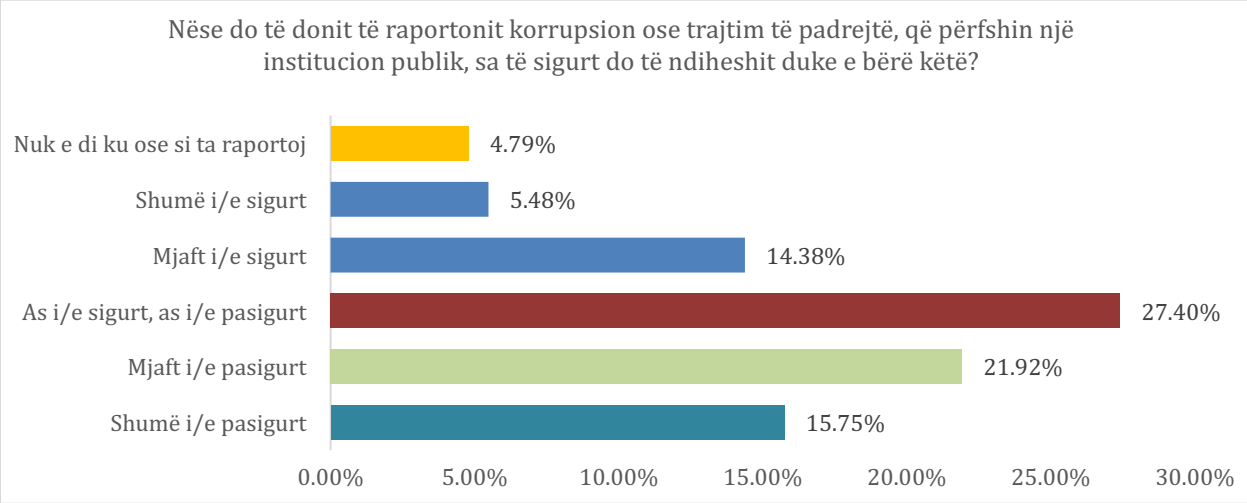


Figura 8: Perceptimi i Sigurisë në Raportimin e Korrupsionit

Perceptimet për sigurinë në raportimin e korrupsionit janë të përziera dhe përgjithësisht të kujdesshme. Vetëm **19.86%** e respondentëve ndihen të sigurt për të raportuar korrupsionin, ndërsa një pjesë dukshëm më e madhe ndihen të pasigurt, duke treguar shqetësime serioze lidhur me hakmarrjen dhe mungesën e mbrojtjes. Edhe pse ekziston një nivel i caktuar besimi, frika nga pasojat dhe pasiguria mbi sistemet e raportimit mbeten barriera kryesore për angazhim aktiv qytetar në përpjekjet kundër korrupsionit.

Pjesa më e madhe e përgjigjeve janë neutrale (**27.40%**), duke treguar pasiguri ose mungesë eksperience të drejtpërdrejtë me mekanizmat e raportimit. Për më tepër, **4.79%** nuk dinë si ose ku të raportojnë, dhe **10.27%** preferojnë të mos përgjigjen, duke theksuar më tej hezitimin.

Kur u pyetën se çfarë do ta bënte raportimin më të sigurt, respondentët theksuan kryesisht anonimitetin dhe mbrojtjen. Opsioni më i zgjedhur ishte mekanizmat e raportimit anonim (**48.63%**), i ndjekur nga mbrojtja nga hakmarrja (**34.25%**), udhëzimet e qarta për procedurat e raportimit (**32.19%**) dhe reagimi më i shpejtë institucional (**30.82%**). Këto rezultate tregojnë se shqetësimi kryesor nuk është vetëm ndërgjegjësimi, por edhe besimi, siguria, konfidencialiteti dhe reagimi institucional. Preferenca e fortë për anonimitet dhe mbrojtje thekson frikën nga pasojat negative si një pengesë qendrore për raportimin e korrupsionit.

Njohuritë mbi mënyrën e raportimit të korrupsionit janë të pjesshme dhe të shpërndara në mënyrë të pabarabartë. Vetëm **21.92%** e respondentëve deklarojnë se e dinë saktësisht ku duhet raportuar korrupsioni, ndërsa shumica kanë vetëm një ide të përgjithshme (**36.30%**) ose nuk e dinë fare (**20.55%**). Për më tepër, **8.90%** besojnë se raportimi nuk do të sjellë ndryshim, duke reflektuar një nivel skepticizmi institucional. Pjesa e respondentëve që preferojnë të mos përgjigjen (**12.33%**) mund të tregojë pasiguri ose parehati ndaj temës.

Të rinjtë pjesëmarrës në grupet e fokusit theksuan gjithashtu se, edhe kur mekanizmat e raportimit ekzistojnë zyrtarisht, shumë të rinj hezitojnë t'i përdorin ato, pasi nuk janë të sigurt nëse institucionet do të reagojnë në mënyrë efektive apo do të garantojnë mbrojtje dhe konfidencialitet.

Besimi në institucionet përgjegjëse për trajtimin e korrupsionit është i pabarabartë dhe i përqendruar kryesisht te strukturat formale të drejtësisë, të cilat gëzojnë besimin e **43.15%** të respondentëve. Pas tyre vijnë mediat dhe gazetarët (**23.97%**) dhe policia (**20.55%**). Besimi në agjencitë e specializuara antikorrupsion është mesatar (**17.12%**), ndërsa besimi te përfaqësuesit politikë (**4.11%**), OJQ-të (**7.53%**) dhe aktorët e tjerë ndërmjetës mbetet i ulët.

Ndërsa sistemi i drejtësisë mbetet autoriteti kryesor i besuar, besimi i përgjithshëm është i fragmentuar, me nivel të ulët besimi te aktorët politikë dhe aktorët e tjerë institucionalë. Besimi relativisht më i lartë te media sugjeron se të rinjtë e perceptojnë gazetarinë si një mekanizëm të rëndësishëm llogaridhënieje.

8. NEVOJAT, FORMATET E PREFERUARA DHE ZGJIDHJET

Gjetjet tregojnë se transparenca, qartësia dhe drejtësia janë faktorët më të rëndësishëm që ndikojnë në rritjen e besimit tek institucionet publike. Faktori më i zgjedhur për të rritur besimin e të rinjve në institucionet publike është që **hapat dhe procedurat të shpjegohen qartë paraprakisht** (**49.32%**), i ndjekur nga **trajtimi i barabartë dhe rregullat e qëndrueshme për të gjithë** (**36.30%**). Elementë të tjerë të rëndësishëm përfshijnë kriteret e qarta të vendimmarrjes (**19.86%**) dhe kostot ose tarifat e qarta (**13.70%**). Një numër më i vogël respondentësh i japin prioritet mjeteve operacionale si afatet e qarta (**11.64%**), mundësisë për të bërë pyetje dhe për të marrë përgjigje (**8.90%**), apo ndjekjes online të proceseve (**7.53%**).

Në përgjithësi, këto rezultate tregojnë se besimi ndërtohet kryesisht përmes parashikueshmërisë, drejtësisë dhe transparencës së procedurave, dhe jo aq përmes mjeteve digjitale apo lehtësirave administrative. Të rinjtë i kushtojnë rëndësinë më të madhe kuptimit të mënyrës se si merren vendimet dhe sigurimit që rregullat zbatohen në mënyrë të barabartë për të gjithë qytetarët.

Respondentët identifikojnë çështjet ekonomike dhe të sigurisë si prioritetet më të rëndësishme për Bashkimin Evropian, së bashku me çështjet e qeverisjes. Prioriteti më i zgjedhur është rritja e çmimeve dhe kostoja e jetesës (**36.99%**), i ndjekur nga mbrojtja dhe paqja (**29.45%**) dhe papunësia dhe krijimi i vendeve të punës (**23.29%**). Mbrojtja sociale (**21.92%**) dhe demokracia dhe shteti i së drejtës (**21.23%**) renditen gjithashtu relativisht lart, ndërsa arsimi dhe trajnimi (**15.75%**) dhe çështjet mjedisore (**8.90%**) marrin nivele më të ulëta prioriteti. Këto rezultate sugjerojnë se të rinjtë janë kryesisht të shqetësuar për presionet e menjëhershme socio-ekonomike, veçanërisht inflacionin dhe punësimin, duke ruajtur njëkohësisht ndërgjegjësim për çështje më të gjera të qeverisjes dhe stabilitetit.

Të dhënat tregojnë një kërkesë të fortë për njohuri mbi integrimin evropian, transparencën dhe mekanizmat e pjesëmarrjes qytetare. Tema më e kërkuar është **mënyra se si funksionon Bashkimi Evropian dhe si mund të angazhohen të rinjtë me të** (**48.63%**), e ndjekur nga integriteti, transparenca dhe mjetet antikorrupsion (**40.41%**). Tema të tjera të renditura lart përfshijnë të drejtat e qytetarëve dhe aksesin në informacion (**24.66%**), pjesëmarrjen në konsultime publike (**21.92%**), këshillat rinorë dhe strukturat e qeverisjes (**21.92%**) dhe kuptimin e proceseve vendimmarrëse në nivel kombëtar dhe lokal (**21.23%**).

Këto gjetje tregojnë një interes të qartë për njohuri praktike qytetare dhe "alfabetizim institucional", veçanërisht mbi mënyrën se si funksionojnë sistemet dhe si mund të angazhohen aktivisht të rinjtë me to. Theksi mbi njohuritë lidhur me BE-në reflekton gjithashtu rëndësinë e procesit të integrimit evropian në Shqipëri, pasi të rinjtë janë vazhdimisht të ekspozuar ndaj diskutimeve për integrimin evropian dhe e perceptojnë këtë njohuri si gjithnjë e më të rëndësishme për të ardhmen e tyre, angazhimin qytetar dhe rolin në shoqëri.

Respondentët shfaqin preferencë për formate interaktive dhe eksperimentale të të nxënit në aktivitetet që lidhen me pjesëmarrjen rinore dhe angazhimin qytetar. Formati më i preferuar janë

workshop-et ose klinikat (**38.36%**), të ndjekura nga projektet e vullnetarizmit (**28.77%**) dhe aktivitetet kreative ose të bazuara në storytelling (**23.29%**). Mentorimi (**20.55%**), simulimet ose bootcamp-et (**14.38%**) dhe sesionet online/webinarët (**14.38%**) zgjidhen më rrallë. Këto rezultate sugjerojnë se të rinjtë preferojnë përvoja praktike, pjesëmarrëse dhe sociale të të nxënit që mundësojnë ndërveprim të drejtpërdrejtë, bashkëpunim dhe përfshirje praktike, në vend të formateve thjesht digjitale ose pasive të të mësuarit.

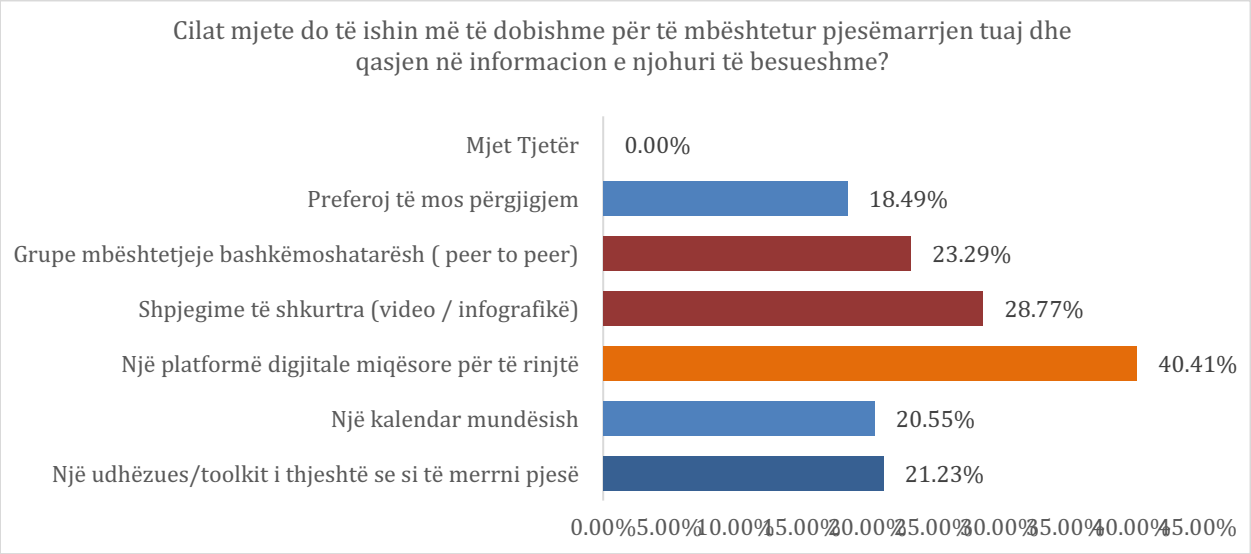


Figura 9: Mjetet e Nevojshme për të Mbështetur Pjesëmarrjen dhe Aksesin në Informacion

Krijimi i një platforme digjitale miqësore për të rinjtë u identifikua si mjeti më i dobishëm për lehtësimin e aksesit në informacion të besueshëm dhe për mbështetjen e pjesëmarrjes rinore (**40.41%**), duke reflektuar një kërkesë të qartë për sisteme informacioni të centralizuara, lehtësisht të aksesueshme dhe të besueshme.

Kjo pasohet nga përmbajtje të shkurtra shpjeguese si video ose infografika (**28.77%**), grupe mbështetëse mes bashkëmoshatarëve (**23.29%**) dhe mjete ose guida të thjeshta praktike (**21.23%**). Gjithashtu, një kalendar i mundësive për pjesëmarrje u konsiderua i dobishëm nga **20.55%** e respondentëve.

Këto rezultate sugjerojnë se të rinjtë kërkojnë informacion që është i shpejtë për t'u aksesuar, i shpjeguar qartë, vizualisht tërheqës dhe i lehtë për t'u kuptuar. Në të njëjtën kohë, interesi për grupet e mbështetjes mes bashkëmoshatarëve tregon se të rinjtë vlerësojnë gjithashtu të mësuarit përmes bashkëpunimit, ndërveprimit dhe shkëmbimit me të rinj të tjerë. Në përgjithësi, gjetjet theksojnë rëndësinë e kombinimit të aksesueshmërisë digjitale me qasjet pjesëmarrëse dhe të bazuara në komunitet në angazhimin qytetar.

9. PËRFUNDIME

Gjetjet e këtij raporti tregojnë se të rinjtë në Shqipëri shfaqin një nivel të lartë ndërgjegjësimi dhe shqetësimi lidhur me korrupsionin dhe çështjet e integritetit. Korrupsioni perceptohet gjerësisht si një problem sistemik i thellë, veçanërisht në politikë dhe institucionet publike, i cili vazhdon të minojë besimin në institucione, drejtësinë dhe mundësitë për pjesëmarrje qytetare. Pothuajse 9 në 10 respondentë (**89.73%**) e perceptojnë korrupsionin si të përhapur ose shumë të përhapur, ndërsa mbi **73%** besojnë se korrupsioni është i pranishëm në institucionet kombëtare dhe pengon biznesin dhe proceset e qeverisjes së drejtë. Aktorët politikë dhe administrata publike perceptohen si sektorët më të prekur nga korrupsioni, duke reflektuar një nivel veçanërisht të ulët besimi në strukturat e qeverisjes dhe sistemet e vendimmarrjes. Proceset e punësimit dhe rekrutimit identifikohen si fusha më e ndikuar nga korrupsioni (**54.79%**), të ndjekura nga arsimi (**31.51%**), duke sugjeruar se shumë të rinj mendojnë se merita dhe mundësitë e barabarta janë të cenuara.

Për më tepër, vetëm **30.82%** besojnë se të rinjtë mund të aksesojnë shërbimet publike në mënyrë të drejtë, duke përforcuar perceptimet për pabarazi sistemike dhe përjashtim. Pavarësisht këtyre shqetësimeve, gjetjet tregojnë se të rinjtë shqiptarë mbeten shumë të interesuar për çështjet publike dhe pjesëmarrjen qytetare: më shumë se **60%** e respondentëve raportojnë interes të lartë për çështjet publike, dhe **55.48%** shprehin gatishmëri për të marrë pjesë në konsultime publike. Megjithatë, ky interes nuk përkthehet në nivele të larta pjesëmarrjeje reale. Angazhimi qytetar mbetet kryesisht i kufizuar në votim (**58.22%**), ndërsa pjesëmarrja në proceset formale të politikëbërjes dhe konsultimit mbetet e ulët. Ky hendek mes gatishmërisë dhe veprimit sugjeron se barrierat e pjesëmarrjes janë kryesisht strukturore dhe informative, më shumë sesa motivuese.

Diskutimet në grupet e fokusit treguan gjithashtu se pjesëmarrja kuptohet kryesisht përmes angazhimit komunitar, vullnetarizmit dhe aktiviteteve ndërgjegjësuese, dhe më pak si përfshirje e drejtpërdrejtë në qeverisje dhe politikëbërje, duke treguar se pjesëmarrja është më e zakonshme në aktivitete informale dhe komunitare sesa në mekanizmat formalë institucionalë të konsultimit.

Ndërsa respondentët raportojnë një nivel relativisht të mirë të kuptimit të sistemeve kombëtare të qeverisjes, njohuritë praktike mbi mjetet e angazhimit qytetar, mekanizmat e pjesëmarrjes dhe procedurat institucionale mbeten të fragmentuara. **31.51%** e respondentëve nuk mund të identifikojnë mekanizmat e konsultimit publik, dhe vetëm **38.36%** identifikojnë saktë institucionet antikorrupsion. Ndërgjegjësimi për kanalet formale të pjesëmarrjes është gjithashtu i kufizuar, me kështillat e studentëve dhe organizatat rinore që njihen më shumë sesa mekanizmat e drejtpërdrejtë institucionalë të angazhimit.

Në lidhje me transparencën, integritetin dhe komunikimin, gjetjet tregojnë se besimi në institucione mbetet relativisht i ulët, i ndikuar nga perceptimet për korrupsion, favorizim, mungesë reagimi dhe mungesë ndjekjeje institucionale. Të rinjtë shprehin interes të fortë për procese publike më transparente, më të përgjegjshme dhe më të kuptueshme. Rreth **67%** e respondentëve raportojnë se shpjegimi i qartë i procedurave dhe proceseve vendimmarrëse do të rriste ndjeshëm besimin e tyre në institucionet dhe shërbimet publike.

Të rinjtë mbështeten fort në rrjetet sociale dhe platformat digjitale si Instagram (**35.62%**) dhe TikTok (**30.82%**) për informacion. Megjithatë, ata mbeten të kujdesshëm ndaj besueshmërisë së këtyre burimeve dhe shfaqin më shumë besim ndaj lajmeve ndërkombëtare dhe kanaleve zyrtare të informacionit. Më shumë se gjysma e respondentëve (**50%**) raportojnë se hasin shpesh përmbajtje politike ose sociale online, duke treguar ekspozim të shpeshtë ndaj dezinformimit dhe manipulimit, veçanërisht gjatë periudhave zgjedhore.

Në mënyrë të rëndësishme, raporti identifikon gjithashtu një potencial të madh për angazhimin rinor dhe veprimin kundër korrupsionit. Një shumicë e konsiderueshme e respondentëve (**78.08%**) besojnë se të rinjtë mund të kenë një ndikim pozitiv në adresimin e korrupsionit dhe përmirësimin e qeverisjes. Megjithatë, shqetësimet për sigurinë dhe mbrojtjen mbeten të mëdha. Vetëm **19.86%** ndihen të sigurt për të raportuar korrupsionin, ndërsa shumë respondentë theksojnë nevojën për mekanizma anonimë raportimi (**48.63%**), mbrojtje nga hakmarrja (**34.25%**) dhe udhëzime më të qarta për procedurat e raportimit (**32.19%**). Këto gjetje tregojnë se fuqizimi i të rinjve nuk mjafton pa garanci institucionale dhe masa për ndërtimin e besimit.

Raporti identifikon më tej se barrierat kryesore për pjesëmarrje nuk lidhen me mungesën e interesit, por me mungesën e informacionit të qartë, dezinformimin, aksesin e kufizuar në mundësi, kufizimet logjistike dhe besimin e ulët se pjesëmarrja sjell rezultate domethënëse. Shumë pjesëmarrës theksuan se të rinjtë shpesh nuk marrin pjesë sepse nuk besojnë se zëri i tyre ndikon në vendime apo sjell ndryshim të dukshëm.

Në të njëjtën kohë, faktorët mundësues të identifikuar nga respondentët përfshijnë aktivitete interaktive dhe miqësore për të rinjtë, mundësi praktike angazhimi, mentorim, rrjetëzim dhe formate pjesëmarrjeje të lidhura me zhvillimin personal ose profesional.

Të dhënat theksojnë më tej rëndësinë e transparencës, aksesueshmërisë dhe mbështetjes praktike në forcimin e pjesëmarrjes rinore. Respondentët identifikojnë proceset e qarta dhe procedurat transparente (**49.32%**) si masat më të rëndësishme për ndërtimin e besimit.

Së fundi, gjetjet tregojnë një kërkesë të fortë për mjete dhe formate më të aksesueshme dhe miqësore për të rinjtë. Të rinjtë preferojnë qasje interaktive, praktike dhe vizualisht tërheqëse si formatet e shkurtra shpjeguese, videot ose infografikat (**28.77%**), si dhe platformat digjitale miqësore për të rinjtë (**40.41%**) që ofrojnë informacion të centralizuar dhe të besueshëm. Ata gjithashtu shprehin preferencë për formate pjesëmarrëse si workshop-e, projekte vullnetarizmi, debate, mentorim dhe mundësi të të nxënit përmes përvojës. Pjesëmarrësit theksojnë gjithashtu rëndësinë e përfshirjes së të rinjve nga zonat rurale dhe krijimit të mundësive më gjithëpërfshirëse dhe të aksesueshme në të gjithë vendin.

Në përgjithësi, raporti paraqet një panoramë të një gjenerate që është politikisht e ndërgjegjshme, e angazhuar në mënyrë kritike dhe e gatshme për të kontribuar, por e kufizuar nga besimi i ulët institucional, njohuritë e pamjaftueshme qytetare, mundësitë e kufizuara të pjesëmarrjes dhe shqetësimet për drejtësinë dhe sigurinë. Gjetjet sugjerojnë se forcimi i pjesëmarrjes rinore në Shqipëri kërkon një kombinim të edukimit më të mirë qytetar, praktikave transparente institucionale dhe mekanizmave të ndjekjes, mekanizmave të aksesueshëm të pjesëmarrjes, mbrojtjes për qytetarët aktivë dhe kanaleve të

komunikimit të besueshme dhe miqësore për të rinjtë që mund të rindërtojnë besimin dhe të rrisin pjesëmarrjen qytetare të të rinjve.

10. REKOMANDIME

REKOMANDIME PËR PROJEKTIN RISE BALKANS

1. **Ofrimi i aftësive dhe njohurive qytetare përmes metodave interaktive dhe të të nxënit përmes përvojës**

Programi RISE Balkans duhet t'i japë përparësi qasjeve praktike dhe pjesëmarrëse të të nxënit për të forcuar kompetencat qytetare të të rinjve. Këto formate duhet t'i angazhojnë aktivisht të rinjtë në skenarë realë qytetarë, të nxisin reflektim mbi përvojat personale dhe të promovojnë të nxënit mes bashkëmoshatarëve, si dhe zakone afatgjata të pjesëmarrjes.

2. **Zhvillimi i mjeteve digjitale informuese tërheqëse mbi funksionimin e BE-së, qeverisjen dhe mundësitë e angazhimit rinor**

Programi duhet të krijojë video të shkurtra shpjeguese, fletëpalosje digjitale dhe infografika që shpjegojnë mënyrën se si funksionon BE-ja, marrëdhënien e Shqipërisë me proceset e BE-së, rolin e institucioneve dhe mundësitë për pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve.

REKOMANDIME PËR POLITIKBËRËSIT DHE INSTITUCIONET PUBLIKE

1. **Krijimi i platformave të sigurta dhe anonime digjitale për raportimin e korrupsionit**
   Institucionet publike duhet të krijojnë platforma digjitale të sigurta dhe anonime ku të rinjtë mund të raportojnë në mënyrë të sigurt korrupsionin dhe praktikat joetike pa frikë nga hakmarrja. Këto platforma duhet të garantojnë konfidencialitet, procedura transparente ndjekjeje dhe mekanizma të thjeshtë raportimi që ndërtojnë besim dhe llogaridhënie.

2. **Përmirësimi i reagimit institucional dhe komunikimit me të rinjtë**
   Institucionet duhet të forcojnë komunikimin me të rinjtë duke vendosur sisteme të detyrueshme përgjigjeje, pika kontakti të dedikuara për rininë dhe afate të qarta për trajtimin e shqetësimeve dhe raportimeve të të rinjve. Komunikimi transparent dhe mekanizmat e dukshëm të ndjekjes do t'i ndihmojnë të rinjtë të ndihen të dëgjuar dhe të mbështetur.

3. **Krijimi i një platforme kombëtare ose rajonale informuese për të rinjtë**
   Duhet të zhvillohet një platformë digjitale e centralizuar dhe miqësore për të rinjtë, e cila ofron informacion të verifikuar mbi pjesëmarrjen qytetare, mundësitë rinore, shërbimet publike, konsultimet dhe burimet arsimore. Kjo do të reduktonte fragmentimin e informacionit dhe do të përmirësonte aksesueshmërinë dhe besimin.

4. **Sigurimi që informacioni të arrijë tek të rinjtë përmes kanaleve të besueshme dhe të strukturuara**
   Institucionet duhet të shpërndajnë informacionin qytetar dhe antikorrupsion përmes burimeve të besueshme si kanalet zyrtare institucionale, gazetarët, shkollat dhe universitetet. Duke qenë se

52.05% e respondentëve identifikojnë mungesën e informacionit ose dezinformimin si pengesë, duhet të integrohen sesione të strukturuara të edukimit qytetar dhe aktivitete informuese në shkolla dhe universitete.

5. **Forcimi i komunikimit digjital të besueshëm dhe angazhimit në rrjetet sociale**
   Duke pasur parasysh përdorimin e lartë të Instagram-it dhe TikTok-ut nga të rinjtë, institucionet duhet të përmirësojnë komunikimin e tyre në rrjetet sociale duke prodhuar përmbajtje të besueshme, transparente dhe lehtësisht të verifikueshme. Bashkëpunimi me gazetarë, edukatorë dhe aktorë të besuar qytetarë mund të ndihmojë në rritjen e besimit dhe në luftimin e dezinformimit.

6. **Institucionalizimi i pjesëmarrjes rinore në konsultimet publike**
   Institucionet publike duhet të vendosin mekanizma të strukturuar që sigurojnë pjesëmarrje domethënëse të të rinjve në proceset e politikëbërjes. Kjo mund të përfshijë kuota për pjesëmarrjen e të rinjve, procedura të thjeshtuara konsultimi dhe raportim transparent mbi mënyrën se si kontributet e të rinjve ndikojnë në vendimet përfundimtare.

7. **Promovimi i trajtimit të barabartë dhe proceseve transparente të pjesëmarrjes**
   Institucionet duhet të sigurojnë mundësi të drejta dhe transparente pjesëmarrjeje për të gjithë të rinjtë duke standardizuar procedurat e konsultimit, duke publikuar kritere të qarta pjesëmarrjeje dhe duke krijuar mekanizma për adresimin e përjashtimit ose diskriminimit në proceset pjesëmarrëse.

8. **Adresimi i barrierave socio-ekonomike që kufizojnë pjesëmarrjen rinore**
   Institucionet publike duhet të forcojnë politikat për strehim të përballueshëm, mbështetje financiare dhe mundësi pune cilësore për të rinjtë. Rritja e kostos së jetesës dhe pasiguria ekonomike ulin aftësinë e të rinjve për t'u angazhuar aktivisht në jetën qytetare dhe politike, duke e bërë mbështetjen socio-ekonomike thelbësore për pjesëmarrje më të fortë.

REKOMANDIME PËR SHOQËRINË CIVILE DHE ORGANIZATAT RINORE

1. **Zhvillimi i udhëzuesve të qartë, të aksesueshëm dhe hap-pas-hapi për pjesëmarrjen qytetare**
   Organizatat e shoqërisë civile dhe organizatat rinore duhet të krijojnë udhëzues praktikë dhe materiale miqësore për përdoruesit që shpjegojnë mënyrën se si të rinjtë mund të marrin pjesë në proceset e konsultimit qytetar dhe publik. Këto materiale duhet të përfshijnë udhëzime të qarta, afate kohore, shembuj të pjesëmarrjes së suksesshme dhe shpjegime të mekanizmave të pjesëmarrjes. Organizatat e shoqërisë civile dhe ato rinore duhet gjithashtu të forcojnë edukimin qytetar përmes formateve bashkëpunuese dhe pjesëmarrëse që kombinojnë të nxënit mes bashkëmoshatarëve me kontributin e ekspertëve, përfshirë grupe mbështetëse mes të rinjve, workshop-e kreative, shkëmbime dhe mundësi mentorimi. Për më tepër, shkëmbimet me ekspertë

dhe bashkëmoshatarë nga vendet e BE-së dhe rajoni më i gjerë do të ndihmonin në zgjerimin e perspektivave, forcimin e kompetencave qytetare dhe ekspozimin e të rinjve ndaj praktikave dhe përvojave të ndryshme të pjesëmarrjes.

2. **Rritja e ndërgjegjësimit për antikorrupsionin dhe mekanizmat kombëtarë të raportimit** Organizatat që punojnë me të rinjtë duhet të organizojnë fushata ndërgjegjësimi dhe iniciativa edukative që i ndihmojnë të rinjtë të kuptojnë më mirë sistemet e raportimit të korrupsionit, mjetet e integritetit dhe të drejtat e pjesëmarrjes. Duke qenë se një shumicë e konsiderueshme e respondentëve raportuan se nuk dinë si ose ku të raportojnë korrupsionin, organizatat duhet të përdorin formate të aksesueshme si video të shkurtra, infografika, udhëzues praktikë dhe workshop-e për të shpjeguar mekanizmat e raportimit dhe të drejtat qytetare. Përpjekjet e ndërgjegjësimit duhet të synojnë veçanërisht shkollat, universitetet dhe komunitetet rinore online.

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Македонска верзија

Резиме

Националниот извештај за младинско учество во Северна Македонија, изработен во рамките на проектот RISE Balkans, има за цел да го процени нивото на граѓанска ангажираност на младите, нивната свесност за антикорупциските механизми и нивното учество во демократските процеси. Извештајот претставува дијагностичка основа за креирање идни интервенции, политики и активности за градење капацитети насочени кон младите, граѓанските организации и носителите на одлуки.

Методолошки, извештајот се заснова на комбиниран пристап кој опфаќа деск-истражување, квантитативна онлајн анкета со 56 млади лица на возраст од 18 до 26 години, како и квалитативни податоци добиени преку фокус-групи и работилници за валидација на резултатите со вкупно 88 учесници. Овој пристап овозможува сеопфатен увид во перцепциите, искуствата и потребите на младите во однос на граѓанското учество, транспарентноста и владеењето.

Наодите укажуваат на еден парадокс: иако младите покажуваат висок интерес за јавни прашања и солидно познавање на основните концепти поврзани со управувањето, нивното реално учество во формалните демократски процеси останува ниско. Наместо тоа, тие повеќе се вклучени преку неформални и дигитални форми, како гласање, волонтирање и активности на социјалните мрежи. Во главните пречки спаѓаат недостаток на јасни и достапни информации, недоверба во институциите, чувство дека нивниот глас нема влијание, како и страв од негативни реакции и последици. Дополнително, структурните предизвици – како слабата имплементација на механизмите за младинско учество и ограничената функционалност на младинските совети – дополнително го ограничуваат позначајното учество.

Извештајот исто така укажува на ниско ниво на доверба во институциите и висока перцепција за корупција, што негативно влијае врз мотивацијата на младите за учество. Во исто време, граѓанските организации и дигиталните платформи се идентификуваат како клучни фактори кои го поттикнуваат ангажманот, обезбедувајќи пофлексибилни и подостапни можности за вклучување.

Сумирано, младите во Северна Македонија имаат интерес и потенцијал за активно учество, но се соочуваат со системски, информативни и психолошки пречки. Надминувањето на јазот помеѓу свесноста и дејствувањето бара поголема институционална одговорност, подобар пристап до механизмите за учество и градење доверба во институциите.

Клучните препораки вклучуваат зајакнување на граѓанското образование, подобрување на видливоста и на пристапноста на можностите за учество, унапредување на функционирањето и инклузивноста на младинските совети, инвестирање во дигитални алатки приспособени за младите, како и зголемување на транспарентноста и отчетноста на институциите. Потребни се и дополнителни напори за градење доверба, зајакнување на практичните вештини на младите и овозможување нивниот глас реално да влијае врз процесите на донесување одлуки.

1. Вовед

Проектот Rise Balkans – Зајакнување на гласот на младите: Одговорност, интегритет, солидарност и граѓанско учество на Балканот е регионална иницијатива финансирана од Европската Унија која има за цел да го зајакне учеството на младите во демократскиот живот и да ги поддржи активностите за интегритет и борба против корупцијата предводени од младите преку граѓанско образование, практично учење, менторство и прекугранична соработка.

Северна Македонија, како земја кандидат за пристапување кон Европската Унија, се наоѓа во клучен момент кога демократската трансформација на државата зависи не само од институционалните реформи, туку и од активното учество на нејзините граѓани, особено младите луѓе, во јавниот живот.

Во овој извештај се претставуваат наодите од истражувањето за мислењето на младите луѓе во Северна Македонија спроведено во април и мај 2026 година. Главните наоди се добиени од анкетата за испитување на перцепциите на младите за корупцијата, свесноста за механизмите на граѓанското учество, нивото на ангажман и потребите за поддршка и за градење на капацитетите за поголемо учество и општествен ангажман. Во анкетата учествуваа 56 млади луѓе на возраст од 18 до 26 години, со различен степен на образование, кои доаѓаат од различни средини и имаат различен работен статус. Дополнително, пред анкетата, беше спроведено почетно истражување за подобро разбирање на контекстот, а по спроведувањето на анкетата се организираа по две дискусии во фокус-групи и работилници за валидација на резултатите од истражувањето на кои имаше вкупно 88 учесници.

Извештајот е структуриран во неколку главни сегменти поаѓајќи од контекстуалниот приказ и методологијата, преку претставување на наодите од анкетата, сè до конкретни заклучоци и препораки.

Извештајот е наменет е како дијагностичка алатка за потребите и за следните активности на проектот RISE Balkans, односно да придонесе за креирање на идни обуки, подигање на свеста и застапување во рамки на проектот, но и пошироко. Исто така, извештајот може да служи и како практична референца за невладините организации, младинските работници и носителите на политики кои настојуваат да поттикнат поангажирани и поинформирани млади граѓани во Северна Македонија.

2. Контекст на младинското учество

2.1 Европското и регионалното опкружување

Младинското учество во формалните демократски процеси одамна претставува важна тема на интерес во Европската Унија. Оттука, неколку истражување на Евробарометарот го следат нивото на информираност и ангажираност на младите луѓе во однос на ЕУ и нејзините процеси.

Сепак, учеството во консултативните процеси на национално и на локално ниво останува ниско особено кај младите луѓе надвор од формалните институции. Само 23 % од анкетираните млади луѓе од ЕУ навеле дека учеството во јавни консултации за политичка иницијатива е ефективна форма за да се слушне нивниот глас според резултатите од Флеш Евробарометар, Млади и демократија во Европската година на младите (2022).

Меѓутоа, податоците покажуваат дека постои силен интерес за граѓанско учество на младите луѓе кога им се овозможуваат достапни и важни механизми. Според Флеш Евробарометарот за млади и демократија (2024), 64 % од младите изразиле намера да гласаат на претстојните европски избори, а 48 % пријавиле дека презеле некаква конкретна акција за промена во општеството како потпишување петиција, учество на протест или испраќање писмо до политичар.

Во земјите од Западен Балкан, процесот на пристапување во ЕУ создаде и можности и пречки за младинско учество. Од една страна, пристапните агенди донесуваат нови механизми за граѓански консултации и за јавна одговорност, а од друга страна, бавниот напредок на реформите и постојаните предизвици во владеењето придонесоа за граѓанска разочараност, особено кај младите луѓе кои гледаат малку корист од своето учество.

Довербата на младите луѓе од регионот на Западен Балкан во јавните институции е ниска. Редовното годишно регионално истражување Балкан Барометар на Советот за регионална соработка постојано покажува висока недоверба на граѓаните кон институциите.

Дури 78 % од младите испитаници во регионалното истражување на УНИЦЕФ од 2021 година целосно или делумно не се согласиле со изјавата дека младите луѓе во нивната земја имаат можности за бидат слушнати од политичарите.

2.2 Младинско учество во Северна Македонија

Правната рамка за младинско учество во земјата е поставена со Законот за младинско учество и младински политики од 2020 година кој претставува клучна законодавна основа која предвидува воспоставување на младински совети на локално и на национално ниво и наложува вклучување на гласот на младите во процесите на креирање политики и одлучување.

Во поширок контекст, ревидираната Европска Повелба за учество на младите во локалниот и во регионалниот живот на Советот на Европа од 2003 година претставува клучен референтен документ за стандарди за овозможување младинско учество. Иако Повелбата не е правно обврзувачка, сепак, државите-членки на Советот на Европа, како што е и Северна Македонија, имаат морална обврска да ги спроведуваат нејзините принципи.

Како и да е, во пракса, учеството на младите во Северна Македонија останува незначително. Проценката на Националниот младински совет на Македонија од 2024 година покажува дека, иако законска обврска, сепак младински совети постојат во помалку од половината општини во земјата (42 %), а онаму каде што постојат, нивните мандати честопати се советодавни без обврзувачко влијание врз одлучувањето во рамките на општината.

Националните документи за младински политики ретко се придружени со значајни планови за имплементација или за буџетски алокации, а младите луѓе особено оние надвор од главниот град, пријавуваат ограничена свесност за формалните канали за учество.

Истражувањата на домашните граѓански организации покажуваат дека младите изразуваат висок степен на политички интерес, но ниска доверба во формалните институции, што ги наведува да ги претпочитаат неформалните или ангажманите преку социјалните медиуми наспроти формалните граѓански механизми. Излезноста кај гласачите кои гласаат за прв пат се зголеми на последните избори што е позитивен показател, но младинското учество по изборниот ден останува ретко.

Пандемијата со Ковид-19 дополнително ги влоши процесите на младинско учество. Затворањето на училиштата и откажувањето на граѓанските настани ги прекинаа програмите за неформално образование, го намалија младинското учество и придонесоа за чувство за социјална дисконекција кај младите. По пандемијата, граѓанските организации ги вклучуваат младите преку дигитални алатки и активности водени од врсници.

2.3 Споредбен контекст со ЕУ

Во споредба со земјите членки на ЕУ, Северна Македонија претставува профил типичен за земјите на патот кон пристапување: релативно висока политичка свест и загриженост за политиките, комбинирана со ниско формално учество и значителен недостиг на доверба.

Податоците од Флеш Барометарот за млади и демократија (2024) покажуваат дека 64 % од анкетираните млади во ЕУ учествувале во активностите на барем една граѓанска организација во претходната година.

Во споредба со младите од Западен Балкан, јазот е најизразен во области како јавни консултации, контакт со избраните претставници и младинско учество во телата за претставување на младите.

Меѓутоа младите луѓе во Северна Македонија покажуваат поголем политички ангажман преку социјалните медиуми отколку многу од нивните врсници во ЕУ, одразувајќи дигитален активизам кој иако е енергичен, честопати е одвоен од процесите на формални политички промени.

3. Овозможувачки фактори и пречки за младинското учество

3.1 Клучни фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството

Истражувањата низ Европа и Западниот Балкан постојано идентификуваат фактори кои го олеснуваат младинското учество. Тие вклучуваат достапни и добро комуницирани информации за можностите за учество, поддржувачки институционални средини кои сериозно ги прифаќаат придонесите на младите, мрежа на врсници и граѓански организации кои го намалуваат прагот за учество и дигитални алатки кои овозможуваат флексибилно учество. На индивидуално ниво, граѓанската писменост е меѓу најсилните фактори за одржливо граѓанско учество.

Во контекстот на Северна Македонија, вреди да се истакнат неколку фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството. Прво, присуството на активен граѓански сектор особено организации кои обезбедуваат структурирани патеки за младинско учество. Овие организации водат програми за граѓанско образование, управуваат со советодавни тела за млади и ги поврзуваат младите со формалните можности на локално, на национално и на ниво на ЕУ.

Второ, самата рамка за пристапување кон ЕУ функционира како механизам за овозможување. Програмите финансирани од ЕУ, вклучување во Еразмус плус програмите, Европскиот корпус на солидарност и секторски програми како Rise Balkans ги запознаваат младите со европските стандарди за учество и обезбедуваат конкретно учество со граѓански ангажман.

Трето, социјалните медиуми и покрај нивните ризици станаа мобилизирачка сила за младите во Северна Македонија особено во врска со кампањи за специфични теми. Мобилизациите за еколошки цели, антикорупција и студентски права покажаа дека дигиталните платформи можат да го поттикнат граѓанското учество.

3.2 Структурни пречки

Наспроти овие фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството, структурните пречки остануваат значителни. Регионалните истражувања во Западен Балкан идентификуваат неколку постојани пречки како недоволно финансирање на активности за спроведување на младинските политики, слаба децентрализација која ја ограничува ефективноста на локалните младински совети, недоволно транспарентно користење на придонесот на младите од страна на носителите на одлуки и јазот во граѓанското образование кој остава многу луѓе без основно знаење за младинското учество.

Конкретно во Северна Македонија, само 20 % од општините ги вклучиле младите во консултации за изработка на локалните стратегии за млади. Младите од земјата ја рангираат довербата во институциите меѓу 1,6 и 2,2 на скалата каде што 1 е воопшто немање доверба, а 4 е целосна доверба.

Политичкото опкружување, исто така, игра улога во овој контекст. Северна Македонија доживеа продолжени политички кризи, изборни контроверзии и предизвици во управувањето со земјата. Младите кои растат сведочејќи на корупција и неказнивост се сомневаат дека нивниот

глас може да направи промена – што е еден од наодите директно одразен во анкетата на Rise Balkans каде 43 % од испитаниците наведоа дека една од клучните пречки за нивно учество е што не веруваат дека нивното мислење е значајно.

3.3 Индивидуални и социјални пречки

На индивидуално ниво, најчесто наведувани пречки се недостигот на самодоверба, стравот од негативни општествени реакции и немањето доволно време. Анкетата на Rise Balkans ги потврдува овие ставови: 29 % од испитаниците се плашат од негативни реакции или онлајн вознемирување, 23 % го наведоа недостигот на време, а 16 % рекоа дека не се чувствуваат доволно самоуверени за да учествуваат.

Истражувањата за родовите димензии на учеството во Западен Балкан покажуваат дека младите жени и небинарните поединци честопати се соочуваат со дополнителни општествени пречки кои вклучуваат ризици од онлајн вознемирувања и културни норми кои го обесхрабруваат јавниот глас.

Дезинформациите и преоптоварувањето со информации претставуваат сè поизразена пречка. Младите во Северна Македонија се изложени на прекумерни политички содржини преку социјалните медиуми, голем дел од нив со несигурна доверливост и честопати без можност да се разликуваат веродостојни информации од манипулација. Ова информациско опкружување ги нагризува и граѓанското знаење и довербата создавајќи круг во кој е мала веројатноста дека незаинтересираните граѓани ќе бараат веродостојни информации, останувајќи целосно под влијание на изобличени наративи.

4. Форми на младинско учество

4.1 Формални канали за учество

Формалните канали за учество се оние вградени во правната и во институционалната рамка на управувањето. Во Северна Македонија, примарните формални механизми преку кои младите можат да се ангажираат вклучуваат избори и референдуми, младински совети на локално и на национално ниво, ученички и студентски сојузи и други претставнички тела, јавни консултации за законодавство и за политики, парламентарни консултации и советодавни тела во рамките на министерствата или на регулаторни и други државни институции.

Единствениот национален електронски регистар на прописи (ЕНЕР) обезбедува дигитална платформа преку која граѓаните, вклучувајќи ги и младите, може да го дадат своето мислење за предлог-закони, иако свесноста за оваа алатка е ограничена. Во овој контекст, анкетата на Rise Balkans покажува дека само 12 % испитаници некогаш учествувале во јавни консултации, додека 46 % никогаш не го направиле тоа, но изразуваат подготвеност да пробаат. И покрај тоа, 71 % испитаници правилно ги идентификувале фазите на јавни консултации, што покажува на извесен јаз помеѓу знаењето и дејствувањето.

Младински совети воспоставени согласно Законот за младинско учество и младински политики постојат на локално и на национално ниво. Националниот младински совет служи како чадор организација која ги преставува младите и може да ги пренесе до Владата прашањата што ги грижат младите. Меѓутоа, локалните младински совети постојат во помалку од половина од општините, а нивната ефективност е попречена од ограничени мандати, неадекватни ресурси и нередовни состаноци. Сè уште не е формирано Националното советодавно тело за младински политики, ниту Национално собрание на млади, и двете тела предвидени со Законот за младинско учество и младински политики.

Телата за претставување на средношколците и на студентите обезбедуваат уште еден формален канал за учество. Анкетата на Rise Balkans откри дека 46 % испитаници се свесни за средношколските/студентските совети како механизам за учество, а 25 % учествувале во средношколско или студентско претставничко тело во последната година.

4.2 Неформално и ад-хок учество

Неформалното учество опфаќа широк опсег на граѓански активности кои се случуваат надвор од формалните и од институционалните структури. Тие вклучуваат волонтерство и иницијативи во заедницата, потпишување петиции и поддршка на кампањи, присуство на протести и јавни демонстрации, онлајн застапување и кампањи на социјалните медиуми и ангажман преку граѓански организации.

Анкетата на Rise Balkans дава детална слика за неформалното учество. Гласањето е наведено како најчеста младинската активност (66 %) во последните 12 месеци, проследено со волонтерство и присуство на граѓански настани (и двете по 32 %). Потпишувањето петиции е помалку застапено (14 %), додека учеството во онлајн кампањи пријавиле 18 % од испитаниците. Овие бројки се во согласност со регионалните податоци, иако релативно високата стапка на

волонтерство веројатно ја одразува концентрацијата во примерокот на анкетата на млади и студенти со и онака поголема граѓанска изложеност.

Граѓанските организации играат клучна улога како олеснувачи на неформалното учество. Анкетата на Rise Balkans откри дека 41 % испитаници се свесни за иницијативите на граѓанскиот сектор како канали за учество, рангирајќи ги како трет најпрепознаен механизам по студентските совети и волонтерството. Во Северна Македонија има примери на граѓански организации кои обезбедуваат неформални „патеки“ за учество преку кампањи за застапување, програми за обуки и проекти во заедницата.

4.3 Дигитално учество

Важноста на дигиталното учество порасна особено по пандемијата со Ковид-19. Онлајн петициите, кампањите на социјалните медиуми и дигиталните консултации претставуваат нови форми на граѓанско учество особено релевантни за помладите луѓе.

Анкетата на Rise Balkans покажува дека онлајн порталите (39 %) и Фејсбук (34 %) се примарните извори на вести и политички информации за младите, пред националните телевизиски канали (32 %). Инстаграм (30 %) е особено истакнат кај најмладата возрасна група од 18 до 20 години.

Социјалните медиуми значително влијаат на граѓанскиот однос така што 52 % испитаници рекле дека содржината видена на социјални медиуми ги направила помалку склони да гласаат поради тврдењата за корупција, додека 32 % размислувале да ги бојкотираат изборите врз основа на некоја онлајн содржина.

Потенцијалот на дигиталните алатки за поддршка на неформалното учество е препознаен, но се чини дека останува нереализиран. Половина од испитаниците (50 %) идентификувале дигитална платформа приспособена за млади како најкорисна алатка за поддршка на учеството, но и едноставни прирачници (45 %) и кратки видеа (29 %). Оваа силна потреба за дигитални решенија укажува за можност за искористување на постојните платформи за поструктурирано младинско учество.

5. Методологија

5.1 Методолошки пристап

Истражувањето на Rise Balkans примени пристап со комбинирани методи во кои беа вклучени почетно истражување, анкета на јавното мислење на младите како квантитативно истражување и квалитативните сознанија добиени преку фокус-групите и работилниците за валидација на резултатите од анкетирањето. Овој извештај главно се потпира на квантитативните податоци од анкетата, надополнети со квалитативниот увид во состојбите добиен преку комплементарните истражувачки активности спроведени во рамките на проектот, како дискусии во фокус-групи од млади и работилници со млади за проверка и потврда на резултатите од анкетата.

Истражувањето беше дизајнирано да прибере докази за четири тематски области:

(1) свесност и разбирање на младите за граѓанското учество, антикорупцијата, транспарентноста и носењето одлуки,

(2) пречки и фактори кои го овозможуваат младинското учество,

(3) перцепции за практичното учество и придружните аспекти на транспарентност, интегритет и институционална доверба, и

(4) потреби, претпочитани формати на ангажман и посакувани алатки за поддршка.

5.2 Почетно истражување

Почетното истражување обезбеди информации за контекстот на младинското учество во земјата и во регионот, како и сумирање на состојбите и постојните практики релевантни за темите на истражувањето. Во овој контекст беа консултирани домашни, регионални, меѓународни и извори на ниво на ЕУ како официјални извештаи, извештаи од граѓанското општество, академска литература, како и правни и политички документи.

5.3 Квантитативно истражување – анкета на јавното мислење

За квантитативната компонента се користеше структуриран прашалник за пополнување, администриран онлајн преку Lime Survey. Прашалникот опфаќаше девет тематски секции и приближно 50 прашања, комбинирајќи прашања за ставови на Ликертова скала, како и прашања со повеќе можни одговори. Анкетата беше дистрибуирана преку мрежите на граѓански организации, мрежи за млади и преку образовни институции во Северна Македонија. Учеството беше доброволно, анонимно и засновано на согласност. Анкетата беше отворена за млади луѓе на возраст од 18 до 26 години од Северна Македонија во периодот помеѓу 31 март и 23 април 2026 година.

5.4 Квалитативно истражување – дискусии во фокус групи

Целта на ова истражување беше да се добијат подлабоки и директни сознанија за искуствата и за перцепциите на младите за граѓанското учество и за нивното ангажирање во секојдневниот општествен живот. Исто така беа истражени и релевантноста и јасноста на клучните

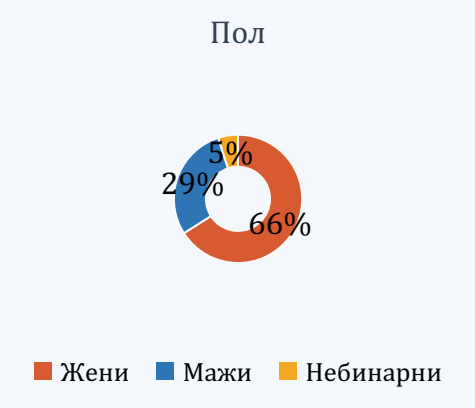
концепти и на каналите за учество (на пр., консултации, младински совети, студентски тела). Квалитативното истражување се спроведе преку две дискусии во фокус-групи кои се одржаа во мај 2026 година во Скопје и во Куманово, со 15 млади на возраст меѓу 18 и 26 години.

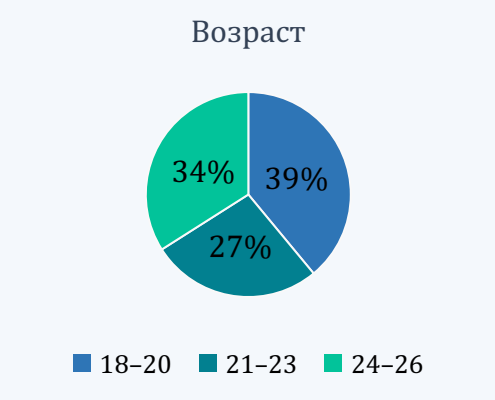
5.5 Работилници за валидација

По завршувањето на истражувањето и на базичната анализа на резултатите, беа организирани две работилници за валидација на резултатите кои се одржаа во мај 2026 година, во Штип и во Кичево со присуство на 73 учесници. Целта беше да се приберат повратни информации од учесниците за наодите од истражувањето.

5.6 Профил на примерокот

Анкетата целосно ја пополнија вкупно 56 млади луѓе од кои 37 жени (66 %), 16 мажи (29 %) и 3 небинарни лица (5 %). По конкретните возрасни групи опфатени во истражувањето, анкетата ја пополниле 22 испитаници (39 %) на возраст од 18-20 години, 15 испитаници (27 %) на возраст од 21-23 години и 19 испитаници (34 %) на возраст меѓу 24-26 години. Мнозинството испитаници се од урбани средини (84 %), а останатите живеат во полу-урбани и рурални средини (по 7 %).





Во однос на образованието, 27 испитаници (48 %) завршиле средно образование, 11 испитаници имале стручни/технички класификации (20 %), 11 имале факултетска диплома (20 %), а 3 (5 %) се запишани на докторски студии. Мнозинството биле студенти 43 (77 %), 12 вработени (21 %), 5 невработени (9 %) и двајца на обука или приправнички работи.



Со оглед на профилите, наодите од анкетирањето можат да се толкуваат како широко претставнички за ангажираните млади во урбаните делови од Северна Македонија, а не за општата популација млади.

5.7 Ограничувања на истражувањето

Применетата методологија не претставува статистички примерок за сите млади луѓе во Северна Македонија. Испитаниците регрутирани преку мрежи на граѓанскиот сектор и на образовните институции веројатно имаат поголема граѓанска свест и учество отколку пошироката граѓанска популација млади и оттука бројките за свесноста и за учеството, во таа смисла, може да се преценети. Големината на примерокот го ограничува опсегот за поголема анализа на подгрупи по пол, возраст или подрачје. Овие ограничувања се вообичаени за истражувања од овој тип и донекаде се надоместени со спроведените квалитативни методи како дискусии во фокус-групи и работилници за валидација на резултатите кои се одржаа надвор од главниот град.

6. Свесност и разбирање на младите за граѓанското учество, антикорупцијата, транспарентноста и носењето одлуки

6.1 Свесност за управувањето и за институциите

Одговорите за знаењето на младите за различните нивоа на управување укажуваат на умерено до високо ниво на познавања за националната и за локалните власти, со помали познавања за властите на ниво на ЕУ. Ова, воедно е на иста линија со разните регионални истражувања кои покажуваат дека институциите и процесите на ЕУ остануваат релативно непознати за младите од Западен Балкан.

Домен на управување	Знам многу/ прилично многу	Знам некои работи	Не знам многу / Ништо не знам
Владата во вашата земја	55 %	34 %	11 %
Локална/регионална власт	46 %	36 %	18 %
Универзитет/ работодавец	55 %	32 %	7 %
ЕУ	38 %	39 %	20 %

Познавањето на клучните концепти за понудените термини во анкетата беше генерално високо. Ова особено се однесува на познавањето на „корупцијата“ (77 % од испитаниците пријавиле дека се многу или доста запознаени), „дезинформациите“ (77 %), „владеењето на правото“ (73 %) и „судирот на интереси“ (71 %).

Познавањето значително се намалува кога станува збор за „потехнички“ или поспецифични термини. Само 17 % се многу или доста запознаени со „ЕУ-измама“, 36 % со вистинска сопственост, а 25 % со институцијата европски обвинител.

Помеѓу овие две групи на термини, на нивно на средно познавање спаѓаат термините како „јавна набавка“ и „добро управување“.

6.2 Знаење за законодавните и процесите на учество

Низа прашања во анкетата се однесуваат на проценка на вистинското разбирање на испитаниците на механизмите за учество и законодавните процеси.

Испитаниците демонстрираат разумно познавање на основните граѓански права, но се јавуваат значителни „дупки“ во познавањето на специфичните процеси и на ниво на ЕУ. 73 % од испитаниците ги идентификувале пратениците како некои коишто можат да предложат нова регулатива, а 68 % во оваа улога ги препознале и граѓаните преку петиција, додека 61 % ги

идентификувале министрите и Владата, додека само 5 % во оваа смисла ги навеле општинските совети. Само 7 % од испитаниците рекле дека не знаат.

75 % од испитаниците правилно одговориле дека граѓаните можат да дадат повратни информации за предложените закони, а исто така високи 71 % во оваа смисла правилно ја идентификувале фазата на јавни консултации.

Знаењето на ниво на ЕУ е забележително послабо. На прашањето која институција на ЕУ ја има примарната улога за предлагање нови закони на ниво на ЕУ, само 50 % испитаници правилно ја идентификувале Европската Комисија. Во однос на порталот "Have Your Say", главната алатка на ЕУ за граѓански придонес во политиките на ЕУ, само 23 % го идентификувале како таков, а 36 % рекле дека не знаат.

6.3 Свесност за антикорупциски институции и канали

Свесноста за антикорупциските институции е релативно добра. 54 % од испитаниците изјавиле дека знаат да наведат барем една антикорупциска институција во Северна Македонија, а 30 % слушнале за некои такви институции без да можат да ги именуваат. Само 14 % не се свесни за постоењето на такви тела. Ова ниво на институционална свесност е повисоко од некои регионални споредби и може да ја одразува видливоста на ДКСК во јавниот дискурс во последните години.

Свесноста за каналите за учество открива значителни јазови. Најпрепознатливите канали за учество се студентските совети, односно универзитетското претставување (46 %), волонтирањето и иницијативите во заедницата (45 %) и иницијативите на граѓанскиот сектор (41 %). Јавните консултации организирани од властите се препознаени само од 30 % од испитаниците, а каналите за пријавување нечесен третман или корупција им се познати само на 14 %.

Учениците на работилницата за валидација на резултатите од анкетата потврдија дека имаат основно, но не и продлабочено разбирање за механизмите за пријавување корупција. Сметаат дека темата корупција е недоволно застапена во образованието и предлагаат запознавање на младите со овие прашања преку социјалните мрежи и студентските тела. Исто така наведуваат дека се потребни и повеќе јавни расправи, обуки, дебати и дигитални канали за консултации на младите.

6.4 Интерес за јавни прашања и самооценето учество

И покрај јазовите во знаењето, интересот за јавни прашања и носење одлуки е висок: 52 % од испитаниците се опишале себе си како многу или исклучително заинтересирани за јавните работи, а дополнителни 34 % како умерено заинтересирани. Само 1 испитаник не изразил воопшто никаков интерес. Ова е на иста линија со одговорите на другите прашања: младите во Северна Македонија ги засегаат јавните прашања, но им недостасува знаење, самодоверба или канали за претворање на тој интерес во дејствување.

На прашањето колку се информирани за можностите за учество на младите сликата е помалку позитивна. Само 21 % испитаници се опишале себе си како многу или исклучително информирани, додека 23 % се малку информирани и 9 % воопшто не се информирани.

Најголемата група од 46 % од испитаниците се сметале за умерено информирани, сугерирајќи делумна свесност која може да се наградува преку обезбедување на соодветни информации.

7. Пречки и фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството

7.1 Идентификувани главни пречки

Испитаниците беа замолени да ги изберат главните причини кои го отежнуваат учеството на младите во граѓанскиот или во јавниот живот. Резултатите идентификуваат јасна хиерархија на пречки каде што доминираат пречки поврзани со информациите.

Пречка	Процент на испитаници
Недостиг на јасни информации/ дезинформации	62 %
Мислењата нема да направат разлика	43 %
Страв од негативни реакции/онлајн вознемирување	29 %
Не знаат од каде да почнат	25 %
Недостиг на време	23 %
Недоволна самодоверба	16 %
Трошоци (транспорт, давачки)	12 %
Можностите се локациски предалеку	9 %
Не се заинтересирани за овие прашања	7 %

Доминацијата на „недостиг на јасни информации/дезинформации“ (62 %) како пречка е конзистентна со наодите од споредливите анкети ширум Западниот Балкан. Младите луѓе опишуваат опкружување во кое се преплавени со политички содржини од кои голем дел се изобличени, делумно или намерно лажни, додека веродостојните информации за можностите за учество се тешко достапни. Ова ја намалува или не гради доверба.

Втората пречка – чувството дека мислењето на некој нема да направи разлика (43 %) одразува длабоко вкоренет недостиг на еден вид граѓанска ефикасност. Кога младите гледаат корупција, гледаат и ограничена одговорност за стореното и оттука рационалниот скептицизам дека учеството може да промени нешто е разбирлив одговор.

Стравот од негативни реакции или онлајн вознемирување (29 %) е особено загрижувачки за функционирање на демократијата бидејќи, кога потенцијалните граѓански актери се плашат од одмазда, самоцензурата ги потиснува различните гласови во јавниот живот.

Учесниците во фокус-групите истакнаа дека негарантирањето на анонимноста при пријавување на одредени проблеми и случки, и негарантирање на анонимноста онаму каде што се вели дека е гарантирана, е една од најголемите пречки. Тие се повикуваат на конкретни примери

што ги обесхрабрило повторно да учествуваат поради последици од нивното пријавување, само поради тоа што не им била докрај гарантирана анонимноста.

Исто така, особено во помалите средини, како еден од факторите за воздржување од учество е реакцијата на околината, особено на повозрасните. Стравот, но и срамот од реакцијата на околината влијае како пречка за учество на младите.

7.2 Леснотија на наоѓање информации за учество

На прашањето колку е лесно или тешко да се пронајдат информации за можностите за граѓанско учество 54 % испитаници опишале дека тоа не е ни лесно, ни тешко, 28 % како прилично или многу тешко, а само 14 % како прилично или многу лесно. Ова упатува на тоа дека наоѓањето информации за учество не е невозможно, но бара напор кој многу млади луѓе не се подготвени да го направат, особено во отсуство на видливи придобивки.

Во оваа насока, учесниците на работилниците за валидација на резултатите потврдија дека не ги наоѓаат информациите онаму каде што ги бараат. Мнозинството велат дека наспроти големото внимание што го посветуваат институциите за објавување информации на нивните веб-страници, младите ретко влегуваат на официјалните веб-страници за да добијат информации за институцијата, оттука, се наметува потреба од нови начини и формати на информирање на младите.

7.3 Фактори кои го овозможуваат учеството

Испитаниците исто така беа прашани што би им помогнало повеќе да учествуваат во граѓанскиот или јавниот живот. Најчест одговор што го избрале во оваа смисла е „јасните и едноставни информации за тоа како да се вклучат“ (62 %), следено од „довербата во информациите за граѓанскиот/јавниот живот“ (54 %). Подобри повратни информации за тоа како всушност се користи придонесот на младите е третата пречка (34 %) која испитаниците ја истакнуваат во насока на барање видливост и одговорност во процесот на учество.

Фактор кој го овозможува учеството	**Процент на испитаници**
Јасни и едноставни информации за тоа како да се вклучите	62 %
Доверба во информациите за граѓанскиот/јавниот живот	54 %
Подобри повратни информации за тоа како се користи придонесот на младите	34 %
Можности поблиску до местото каде учам/работам/живеам	20 %
Насоки, менторство или практична поддршка	18 %
Сертификати, признавање или видливи резултати	16 %

Фактор кој го овозможува учеството	Процент на испитаници
Побезбедни и подобро модерирани граѓански простори	12 %
Флексибилни онлајн или хибридни опции	11 %
Погостопримлива и инклузивна средина	7 %

7.4 Ефективни акции за да се слушне гласот на младите

Испитаниците беа прашани кои акции сметаат дека се најефективни за да се слушне гласот на младите луѓе од страна на носителите на одлуки. Гласањето на избори е наведено најчесто (45 %), проследено со приклучување кон младински или граѓански организации и иницијативи (43 %) и учество во јавни консултации или сослушувања (41 %). Овој кластер сугерира дека испитаниците ги вреднуваат и изборните и неизборните механизми, и конкретно ја препознаваат улогата на граѓанските организациите како канали за гласот на младите.

Спротивно, петициите или граѓанските кампањи (7 %) и споделувањето мислења преку социјалните медиуми (7 %) се најниско рангирани. Ова е интересно имајќи предвид колку се присутни социјалните медиуми во секојдневното на испитаниците и може да одразува реалистична проценка меѓу младите луѓе дека активизмот на социјалните медиуми, иако видлив, е помалку веројатно да произведе промени во политиките отколку структурираниот ангажман.

7.5 Учество во последните 12 месеци

И покрај идентификуваните пречки, нивото на вистинско учество е значајно. Гласањето како начин на граѓанско учество е истакната како најчестата активност (66 %), следена од волонтерство и присуство на граѓански настани (двете по 32 %) и учество во студентски или младински претставнички тела (25 %). Само 12 % испитаници пријавиле дека не направиле ниту една од наведените активности во претходната година — пониска стапка на неучество отколку што можеше да се очекува со оглед на пријавените пречки, и веројатно одраз на повисоката граѓанска ангажираност на профилот на учесниците во примерокот на анкетата.

8. Транспарентност, интегритет и доверба

8.1. Перцепции на корупцијата

Дури 91 % од испитаниците ја опишале корупцијата како распространета или многу распространета во земјата. Само еден испитаник изјавил дека нема корупција во земјата. Овие бројки се конзистентни и во одредена мера ги надминуваат досегашните регионални податоци. Во оваа смисла, Balkan Barometer 2023 откри дека 84 % од граѓаните во Северна Македонија ја сметаат корупцијата за распространета, поставувајќи ја меѓу највисоките во регионот.

Има речиси целосна согласност меѓу испитаниците дека корупцијата постои во националните јавни институции (93 %). Иста согласност има и за локалните и за регионалните институции (93 %). Кога станува збор за личното влијание на корупцијата, 62 % од испитаниците се согласиле или силно се согласиле дека се лично засегнати од корупцијата во нивниот секојдневен живот, додека 29 % биле неутрални по ова прашање, а 9 % не се согласиле. Ова упатува на универзална перцепција во земји со системска корупција.

Учесниците на фокус-групите и на работилниците за валидација на резултатите истакнуваа бројни примери на корупција во училиштата во кои учат во ситуации поврзани со избор на ученици кои треба да учествуваат на проекти кои вклучуваат патување во странство. Велат дека не се избираат според системот на заслуги, туку дека се избираат ученици од чии родители се познати во локалната заедница или училиштето има некаква корист, иако не ги исполнуваат критериумите за учество на проектите. Оние ученици кои се противеле на ваквиот начин на избор или пријавиле неправилности во оваа смисла, имале последици и потоа се откажале од натамошни реакции.

8.2 Најзасегнати сектори

Испитаниците беа прашани да проценат колку е распространета корупцијата и злоупотребата на моќта во тринаесет сектори и групи. Секторите кои испитаниците ги перципираат како најкорумпирани се политичките партии (89 %), политичарите на сите нивоа (89 %), здравствениот систем (88 %) и полицијата (86 %). Судовите се оценети како многу корумпирани од 77 % од испитаниците, исто и службениците кои доделуваат јавни договори (77 %) и оние кои издаваат дозволи за градење (82 %).

Споредено, приватните компании (46 %), банките (43 %) и спортскиот сектор (52 %) добиле релативно пониски оценки за корупција, иако и овие бројки се значајни и упатуваат на високи перцепции за распространета корупција. Образованието е оценето како корумпирано од 68 % од испитаниците што е особено значаен наод со оглед на тоа дека вработувањето и образованието беа идентификувани како двете области каде младите луѓе лично се соочуваат со корупција и нефер третман.

Сектор	**Распространето/ многу распространето** Процент на испитаници
Политички партии	89 %
Политичари	89 %
Здравствен систем	88 %
Полиција	86 %
Службеници кои издаваат дозволи за градба	82 %

Сектор	**Распространето/ многу распространето** Процент на испитаници
Судови	77 %
Службеници кои доделуваат јавни договори	77 %
Даночни власти	68 %
Образовен сектор	68 %
Органи за социјална заштита	61 %
Спортски сектор	52 %
Приватни компании	46 %
Банки и финансиски институции	43 %

8.3 Структурна корупција и политички врски

Голем дел од испитаниците исто така се согласија со изјавите за структурната корупција и нејзиниот однос со деловниот и со политичкиот живот. 85 % се согласиле или целосно се согласиле дека случаите на корупција на високо ниво не се гонат доволно, а 80 % се согласиле или целосно се согласиле дека фаворизирањето и корупцијата ја попречуваат деловната конкуренција. Слично, 77 % се согласиле или целосно се согласиле дека врските помеѓу бизнисот и политиката во Северна Македонија водат до корупција.

Дополнително, 53 % се согласиле или целосно се согласиле дека единствениот начин да се успее во бизнисот во Северна Македонија е да се имаат политички врски. Ова гледиште е особено штетно за граѓанската култура, бидејќи имплицира дека формалните правила и системите засновани на заслуги се нефункционални и дека работата преку системот е залудна.

Во однос на институционалната транспарентност, перцепциите се во голема мера негативни. Само 25 % од испитаниците се согласиле дека јавните институции во Северна Македонија вообичаено јасно ги објаснуваат процедурите и одлуките, наспроти 41 % кои не се согласиле или целосно не се согласиле со ова тврдење. Само 25 % се согласиле дека младите луѓе вообичаено можат да пристапат до јавните услуги правично, без лични врски, додека 48 % не се согласиле или целосно не се согласиле. Овие наоди даваат слика на перципирана системска неправичност во која личните врски, а не правата или заслугите, го одредуваат пристапот до јавните услуги.

8.4 Доверба во изворите на информации

Довербата во изворите на информации значително варира за различни видови платформи. Меѓународните вести се со највисоко ниво на доверба (52 %), следени од официјалните владини извори (36 %) и локалните новинари (27 %). Платформите на социјалните медиуми се најниско рангирани. Само 4 % испитаници изразиле одредена доверба во инфлуенсерите на TikTok, а во Telegram каналите доверба има само еден испитаник.

И покрај ниското ниво на доверба во социјалните медиуми, овие платформи останале примарното информациско опкружување за повеќето испитаници. Facebook е идентификуван како платформа на која 34 % од испитаниците наишле на политичка содржина која влијаела на нивните акции во смисла на граѓанско учество, следено од Instagram (30 %) и TikTok (11 %). Овој парадокс на консумирање информации од извори кои не постои доверба е карактеристика на современото информациско опкружување и има значителни последици врз квалитетот на граѓанското одлучување.

8.5 Безбедност и подготвеност за пријавување корупција

На прашањето колку безбедно би се чувствувале при пријавување корупција или неправеден третман на јавна институција, мнозинството испитаници (43 %) рекле дека би се чувствувале доста небезбедно или многу небезбедно. 30 % не би се чувствувале ни безбедно ни небезбедно, додека само 21 % би се чувствувале доста безбедно или многу безбедно. Три испитаници не знаеле каде или како да пријават.

Во однос на знаењето за механизмите за пријавување, само 27 % рекоа дека знаат точно каде да пријават корупција. 36 % имаат генерална идеја, но не се сигурни за постапката, 27 % не знаат каде да пријават, а 11 % велат дека нема да пријават дури и да знаат, бидејќи мислат дека тоа нема да промени ништо. Заедно земени, овие наоди сугерираат дека е потребно значително вложување во подигнување на свеста, во механизмите за заштита и во градење доверба пред да можат да се очекуваат значителни зголемувања во пријавувањето корупција.

9. Потреби, претпочитани формати и решенија

9.1 Што им е најпотребно на младите луѓе?

Со анкетата, испитаниците беа прашани што би ги натерало да се чувствуваат побезбедно и поподдржано при пријавувањето корупција или неправеден третман. Анонимните опции за пријавување се најчест одговор (70 %), одразувајќи силна желба за заштита од одмазда. Заштитата од негативни последици е на второ место (57 %), следена од постоење доверлив посредник како граѓанска организација или правобранител (41 %). Јасните насоки за тоа каде и како да се пријави се рангирани на четврто место (34 %).

Овие наоди се вклопуваат во меѓународната добра практика за механизмите за пријавување корупција, односно ефективните системи за укажувачи кои мора да се комбинираат со гаранциите на анонимност, независен надзор и јасни процедурални насоки. Големата преференција за доверлив посредник, наместо директна интеракција со институциите, ја одразува

ниската институционална доверба која провејува низ целата анкета и го истакнува значењето на граѓанските организации во премостувањето на јазот помеѓу младите луѓе и формалните механизми за одговорност.

9.2 Што би ја зголемило довербата во институциите?

Испитаниците го идентификувале еднаквиот третман и доследните правила за секого како единствен најважен фактор за зголемување на довербата во јавните услуги (52 %). Однапред јасно објаснети чекори и процедури се рангирани на второ место (41 %), следено од јасни критериуми за одлучување (27 %) и јасни временски рокови (20 %). Овие преференции укажуваат на јасни барања за предвидливи, праведни, разбирливи и јавни процедури.

На сите одржани дискусии и работилници со младите, речиси едногласно беше истакната потребата од конкретни резултати и добивање повратни информации за нивното учество. „Не сакаме да гледаат како политички поени – се сретнавме со младите, и толку – нема понатамошно процесирање, нема никаков фидбек. Сакаме да знаеме што се случило со тоа што сме го разговарале, што сме го кажале, што сме го побарале.“

9.3 Приоритети на ЕУ

На прашањето кои две теми треба да бидат приоритетни области за ЕУ во следните пет години, испитаниците покажаа релативно балансирана дистрибуција низ опциите, одразувајќи широки грижи наместо фокус на едно прашање. Демократијата и владеењето на правото (30 %) и животната средина и климатските промени (30 %) се рангирани на прво место, следени од образованието и обуката (27 %). Одбраната и мирот и растот на цените/трошоците за живот добиле по 25 %, одразувајќи влијание на регионалните безбедносни грижи и економскиот притисок врз младите во Северна Македонија.

9.4 Потреби за учење

Со анкетата беа проценети и темите за кои испитаниците би сакале најмногу да научат. Интегритетот, транспарентноста и антикорупциските алатки се главните приоритети за учење (38 %), тесно следени со тоа како функционира ЕУ и како младите луѓе можат да се ангажираат (36 %). Правата на граѓаните и пристапот до информации (32 %) и младинските совети, студентското претставување и локалното управување (30 %) се рангирани на трето и четврто место.

Теми за учење	**Процент на испитаници**
Интегритет, транспарентност и антикорупциски алатки	38 %
Како функционира ЕУ и како можат да се ангажираат младите луѓе	36 %
Права на граѓаните и пристап до информации	32 %
Младински совети, студентско претставување, локално управување	30 %

Теми за учење	Процент на испитаници
Како да се застапувам за промени во мојата заедница	29 %
Како да учествувам во јавни консултации	25 %
Како се донесуваат одлуки на локално и национално ниво	23 %

„Овие прашања се покомплексни од образованието што го добиваме и за нив треба да имаме наменски и дополнителни обуки. Сакаме да зборуваме пошироко на темата корупција, да дебатираме на темата, да зборуваме за концепти и решенија“, истакнаа неколку учесници на работилниците за валидација.

9.5 Претпочитани формати за ангажман

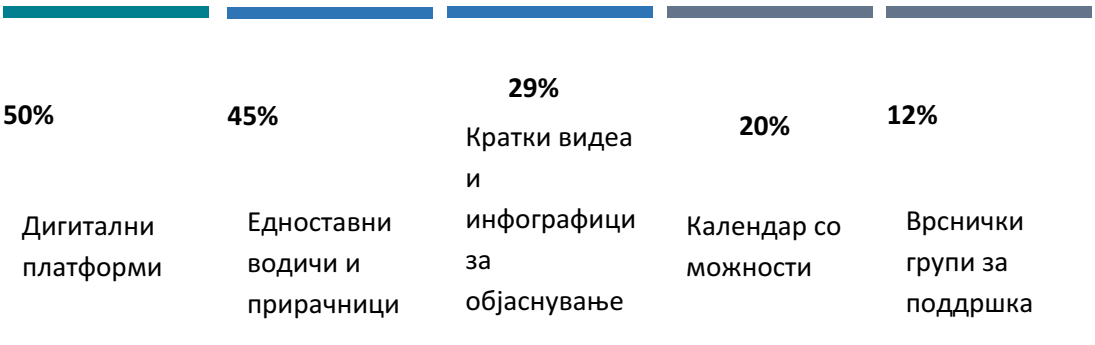
Испитаниците изразија јасни преференции за тоа како би сакале да се ангажираат во активностите за младинско учество и граѓанско образование. Работилниците и клиниките биле прв избор (43 %), проследено со практични вежби и младински кампови (36 %), онлајн сесии и вебинари (30 %) и проекти за волонтерство (30 %). Менторството го претпочитале 14 % од испитаниците, а раскажување приказни и креативни активности само 12 %.

Преференцијата за работилници и симулации наместо исклучително онлајн формати сугерира дека, иако дигиталните алатки се вреднуваат за пристап до информации, личните и практичните формати на учење остануваат претпочитаниот начин за градење капацитети.

Ова е конзистентно со истражувањата за ефективно граѓанско образование кои покажуваат дека практичните и интерактивните методи го надминуваат пасивното пренесување на информации при градењето на потрајни граѓански вештини и мотивации за учество.

9.6 Најкорисни алатки

На прашањето кои алатки би биле најкорисни за поддршка на учеството и пристапот до веродостојни информации, дигитална платформа прилагодена за млади е прв избор на испитаниците (50 %), следено од едноставни водичи или прирачници за учество (45 %) и кратки објаснувачки видеа или инфографици (29 %). Календар на можности беше идентификуван од 20 %, а врснички групи за поддршка од 12 %.



Барањето за дигитална платформа прилагодена за млади ја одразува и дигиталната природа на секојдневниот живот на младите луѓе. Логично е и барањето за комбинација на дигитална платформа со печатени прирачници и водичи, како и кратки мултимедиумски содржини.

Одговорите на отворено прашање за тоа каква дополнителна поддршка им е потребна на испитаниците се интересни во нивната конзистентност. Испитаниците бараат јасни и достапни информации на мајчин јазик, доверливи канали за пријавување, менторство и коучинг, подобра комуникација од институциите и децидна желба да се почувствуваат дека нивниот глас е слушнат и ценет. Еден испитаник прецизно ги сумираше овие потреби на следниот начин: „Треба да се чувствуваме заштитено и да се чувствуваме дека нашиот глас се слуша“.

Некои од предлозите на младите во фокус-групите беа да постои посебна веб-страница за младинските иницијативи, со следливост на предлозите и резултатите; да има апликација за граѓански ангажман на младите со собирање поени за секоја активност и нивно користење за одредени попусти и други облици на стимулација.

10. Добри практики

10.1 Регионални и европски добри практики

Неколку добри практики од ЕУ и регионот на Западен Балкан нудат релевантни модели за Северна Македонија. Овие примери демонстрираат што е можно кога условите за овозможување — политичка волја, капацитет на граѓанскиот сектор и дигитална инфраструктура — се усогласени.

Во Естонија, порталот за е-учество Rahvaalgatus.ee им овозможува на граѓаните да поднесуваат законодавни петиции онлајн, кои автоматски се препраќаат до парламентот кога ќе достигнат 1.000 потписи. Платформата е приспособена за млада публика и е интегрирана во наставните програми за граѓанско образование, демонстрирајќи како дигиталните алатки можат да создадат вистински патеки од придонесот на граѓаните до промени во политиките. Поширокаата рамка за е-управување на Естонија честопати е наведувано како светски стандард за транспарентна и достапна јавна администрација.

Во Хрватска, земја со споредливи предизвици во управувањето на Северна Македонија која го изминала патот на пристапување во ЕУ, програмата GONG за граѓанско образование развила структуриран, долгорочен наставен план за граѓанско образование за млади интегриран во средните училишта. Оценките на програмата констатирале значителни подобрувања во граѓанското знаење, политичката ефикасност и желбата за учество кај учениците кои учествувале. Акцентот на наставниот план на практичните вештини — пишување до избрани претставници, учество во симулации на јавни консултации, производство на граѓански медиуми — наместо пасивен пренос на знаење е модел вреден за прилагодување на македонскиот контекст.

Во Србија, организацијата CRTA (Центар за истражување, транспарентност и одговорност) разви мобилна апликација 'Гласај', која обезбедува информации прилагодени за млади за избори, кандидати и постапки за гласање, заедно со платформа за пријавување изборни неправилности. Апликацијата беше придружена со кампањи за ширење меѓу врсници во средните училишта и универзитетите, и доби над 100.000 преземања во својата прва година. Нејзината комбинација на обезбедување информации, изградба на граѓански вештини и функционалност за пријавување нуди директен модел за споредлива алатка во Северна Македонија.

10.2 Практики во Северна Македонија

Националниот младински совет на Македонија (НМСМ) е сојуз на младински здруженија основан во 2013 година од 55 организации. Оваа „чадор“ организација на младинските организации во земјата е успешен пример за промовирање и застапување на младите и нивите права и интереси. Од 2015 година е дел и од европското семејство на младински организации, Европскиот младински форум. НМС е успешен пример за нивно учество во донесувањето на Законот за младинско учество и младински политики, во отворање на локалните младински совети, како и во промоција на младински стандарди во општините.

Локалните младински совети, чие формирање на ниво на општина е законски задолжително, исто како и буџетирањето на средства за нивно функционирање, онаму каде што се формирани и функционираат, се добра практика на организирана и системска форма на младинско учество на локално ниво. Младинските совети се составени од млади претставници на различните форми на младинско организирање во општината. Локалните младински совети се советодавни тела на општините и советите на општините и тие треба да ги застапуваат интересите и потребите на младите во процесите на креирање на локалните политики.

Уште една добра практика која особено ја истакнуваа и учесниците на фокус-групите и на работилниците за валидација се младинските проекти и учеството на младите од Северна Македонија во Еразмус плус проектите. Преку оваа програма, многу млади од земјата учествуваат во меѓународни размени, пренесуваат искуства и знаења во земјата, водат локални проекти и учат разни форми на лидерство и претприемништво.

Учесниците на работилниците и фокус-групите ги наведоа и добрите практики за избор на училишен правобранител и членови на училишен парламент, каде секој ученик или нивни претставници има право на глас, а избраните потоа ги претставуваат и ги застапуваат интересите на учениците и иницираат активности и предлози во училиштето.

Онлајн порталот 'Meta.mk' на Фондацијата Метаморфозис обезбедува ресурси за проверка на факти и медиумска писменост специфично дизајнирани за млада публика, адресирајќи го предизвикот на дезинформации кој е истакнат во наодите на анкетата на RISE Balkans. Нејзиниот пристап на комбинирање алатки за проверка на факти со образование за медиумска писменост во формални и неформални средини нуди модел кој може да се реплицира за изградба на информациски критички вештини кај македонската младина.

11. Заклучоци

Анкетата на RISE Balkans за граѓанско учество на младите, свесноста за антикорупција и транспарентноста во Северна Македонија претставува нијансирана слика на една генерација млади која е ангажирана, свесна и длабоко загрижена за управувањето во нивната земја, но попречена од недостиг на јасни информации, немање доверба во институциите и структурни пречки на патот меѓу загриженоста и конкретното дејствување.

Следниве се клучните заклучоци кои произлегуваат од резултатите на истражувањето, контекстуализирани во поширока смисла:

Прво, перцепциите на младите во Северна Македонија за корупцијата се речиси едногласни. 91 % од испитаниците ја гледаат корупцијата како распространета, 93 % веруваат дека таа постои подеднакво и во националните и во локалните јавни институции, и 62 % се чувствуваат лично засегнати од неа. Политичките партии, политичарите, здравствените услуги и полицијата се гледаат како најкорумпирани области и актери. Судството, даночната администрација и образованието, исто така, се рангирани многу високо. Дополнително, младите луѓе ги издвојуваат вработувањето и образованието како две области каде што тие најчесто се соочуваат со нефер третман. Овие перцепции не се само негативни чувства туку тие одразуваат рационални одговори на реалноста во која живеат младите во земјава и претставуваат сериозна пречка за нивен позначаен граѓански ангажман.

Второ, знаењето за граѓанските процеси е нерамномерно. Младите испитаници покажуваат разумна свесност за основните граѓански права и за управувањето на национално ниво, но значителни јазови постојат во областа на процесите на ниво на ЕУ, формалните механизми за консултации и каналите за пријавување корупција. Само 30 % од младите се свесни за јавните консултации како канал за учество, а само 14 % знаат конкретни канали за пријавување корупција или неправеден третман.

Трето, интересот за јавните прашања меѓу младите е висок, и мнозинството од испитаниците учествувале во барем една граѓанска активност во претходната година. Меѓутоа, формалните механизми за учество, особено јавните консултации и младинските совети, остануваат маргинални во граѓанскиот репертоар на младите луѓе, додека доминираат учеството на изборите и неформалните активности во заедницата. Се чини дека централниот проблем не е мотивацијата, туку пристапот. На младите луѓе им недостигаат јасни и доверливи патеки до формалното учество, како и повратни информации за тоа како нивниот глас влијаел врз одлуките.

Четврто, иако социјалните медиуми се примарен извор за политичко информирање на повеќето испитаници, нивната доверба во изворите на социјалните медиуми е многу ниска. Младите луѓе се истовремено прекумерно информирани и недоволно информирани, односно преплавени со политички содржини со несигурен квалитет додека истовремено им недостигаат веродостојни граѓански информации кои би им овозможиле поголемо учество. Дезинформациите и недостигот на јасни информации заедно ја сочинуваат доминантната пречка за учество (62 %).

Петто, довербата на младите во институциите е критично ниска, но не е непоправлива. И покрај распространетите перцепции за корупција, 80 % од испитаниците веруваат дека младите

луѓе можат да придонесат за намалување на корупцијата, а истакнуваат и јасни преференции за тоа што би ја вратило довербата: еднаков третман, транспарентни постапки и подобри канали за повратни информации.

Шесто, младите луѓе знаат што им треба. Барањата за јасни информации, доверливи посредници, анонимни опции за пријавување и дигитални алатки приспособени за млади покажуваат дека младите луѓе во Северна Македонија знаат што би им помогнало за да се ангажираат повеќе и да се изградат нивните граѓански капацитети.

12. Препораки

- Да се развијат дигитални платформи за граѓанско учество приспособени за младите во Северна Македонија во кои ќе се консолидираат информации за можностите за учество, јавните консултации, младинските совети и механизмите за пријавување. Платформите треба да вклучуваат кратки насоки со објаснувања, прирачници и календар на настани, и да бидат дизајнирани и одржувани со активен придонес на младите.
- Да се дизајнираат и спроведуваат насочени програми за обука за антикорупција и транспарентност за млади луѓе за градење на практични вештини за препознавање корупција, познавање на правата, како и користење механизми за пријавување. Програмите треба повеќе да користат практични формати и вежби, наместо само информативни пристапи.
- Да се зајакне улогата на доверливите посредници за младинско учество како граѓански организации, канцеларии на правобранители или младински совети кои можат да примаат, канализираат и следат пријавувања на корупција и граѓански поплаки на младите луѓе. 57 % од испитаниците наведуваат дека заштита од одмазда би била услов за пријавување корупција, а 41 % сакаат тоа да ги сторат преку доверлив невладин посредник.
- Да се инвестира во врснички модели на граѓанско образование, обучувајќи млади претставници од различни заедници кои понатаму ќе служат како мултипликатори на граѓански информации во нивните училишта, универзитети и локални заедници.
- Директно да се одговори на дезинформациите како главна наведена пречка за поголемо учество преку вклучување на медиумска и информациска писменост во граѓанските образовни активности. Со оглед на тоа дека 62% од испитаниците го наведуваат недостигот на јасни информации и дезинформациите како примарна пречка за учество, градењето на капацитетите на младите луѓе за оценување на изворите на информации и отпорност кон манипулација е граѓанска интервенција сама по себе.
- Да се зголеми транспарентноста и достапноста на постапките за јавни консултации, со специфични приспособувања за млади, вклучувајќи поедноставен јазик, повеќе расположливи формати (онлајн, лично, кратки видео-резимеа) и видливо следење кое покажува како е искористен придонесот на младите. 46 % од испитаниците изјавиле дека никогаш не учествувале во јавна консултација, но би сакале, укажувајќи на значителен потенцијал за учество.
- Да се даде приоритет на целосното спроведување на Законот за младинско учество и младински политики со обезбедување на функционални и опремени младински совети во сите општини. Потребно е на овие совети да им се дадат значајни овластувања бидејќи младински совети со само советодавни улоги кои никогаш не се консултираат ја поткопуваат наместо да ја поддржуваат граѓанската култура.
- Да се создадат канали за повратни информации кои на младите ќе им покажат како нивниот придонес влијаел врз одлуките.
- Да се воведат или зајакнат во наставните планови по граѓанско образование темите за државно управување на национално и на ниво на ЕУ, за можностите и механизмите за учество, за концептите за антикорупција и за медиумска писменост. Тековните јазови во знаењето за процесите на ЕУ претставуваат значителен дефицит за земја на патот на пристапување кон ЕУ.

- Да се зајакне регулативата и практиката на заштита на укажувачите и да се промовира кај младите луѓе свесноста за постојните механизми за заштита. Анонимните канали за пријавување, јасната правна заштита и јавните комуникациски кампањи за безбедни механизми за пријавување се предуслови за зголемување на пријавувањето корупција, особено кај 43 % од испитаниците кои изразиле безбедносни грижи при пријавувањето.
- Да се искористи процесот на пристапување во ЕУ како лост за ангажман на младите со создавање структурирани механизми за консултации со млади во рамките на реформската агенда. Приоритетите што ги наведуваат мнозинството млади луѓе во истражувањето како демократија, владеење на правото, животна средина и образование се совпаѓаат со приоритетите на ЕУ и оттука гласот на младите може значително да придонесе во процесот на пристапување и градење на граѓанската култура.

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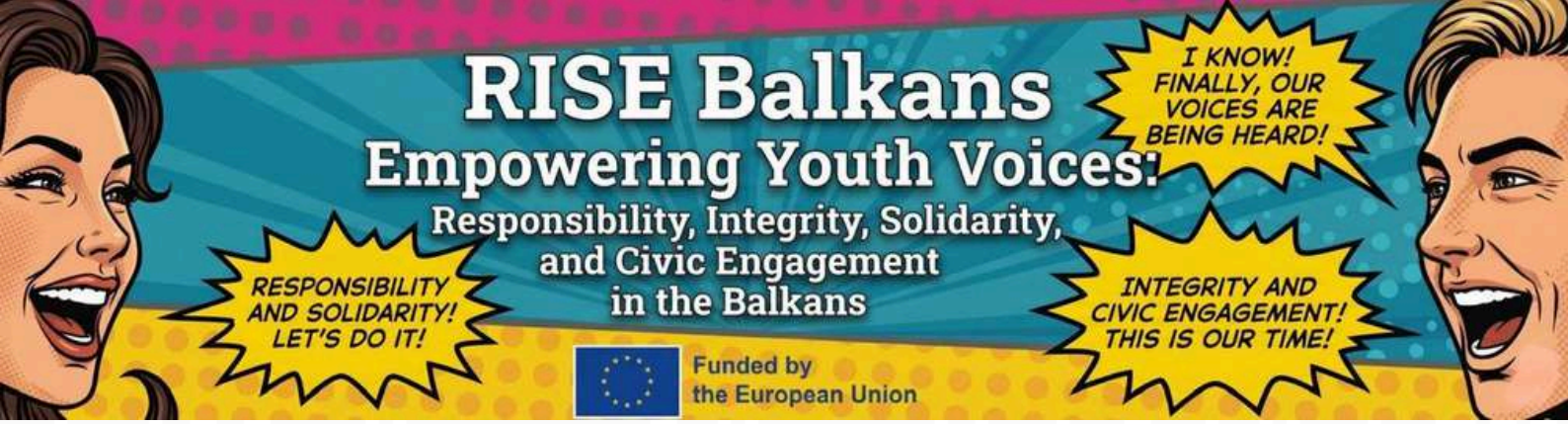
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Empowering Youth Voices: Responsibility, Integrity, Solidarity, and Civic Engagement in the Balkans

Work Package WP1 – Youth and Governance: Reality Check

D1.1 – National Reports

PROJECT NUMBER: 101253022

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