

**2024 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
ELECTIONS**

**SPANISH YOUNG AND OLDER
PEOPLE PARTICIPATION IN THE
DEMOCRATIC LIFE**



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1. Introduction: Democratic Life

For European elections 2024, it is important to **reflect on democratic life in each country**. Spain is working towards fostering a culture of active citizenship in all ages. However, there is less participation from young people and older generations.

There are some aspects about their participation that need to be address in order to equipped with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate meaningfully in democratic life.

**European
elections
2024**

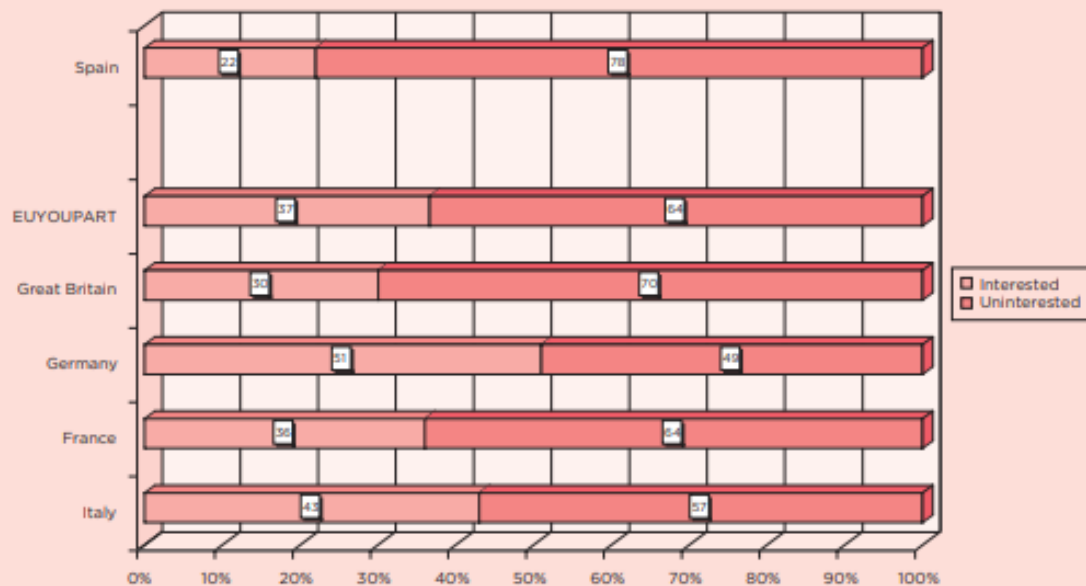
6-9 June 2024



2. Spain: Young People & Democratic Life

Active participation of young people in democratic life is necessary to address their needs and concerns of the EU future. The Spanish Educational System promotes the preparation of young people for the exercise of citizenship, encouraging a critical and responsible attitude since the first years of school.

Chart 1. Interest in politics among young spanish people and young europeans



However, there are still lower levels of democratic participation among young people in Spain, compared to other EU countries. According to data, one of the main reasons is **lack of trust in institutions** and economic challenges.

So...what can be done to foster more active democratic participation in younger generations in Spain?

- **Motivate and encourage:** Some Spanish young people may feel that their voices don't matter or that the political system doesn't address their concerns, leading to apathy or disengagement. It is important to prove how valuable they can be for improving democratic life in the European Union.
- **Promote intercultural dialogue among Spanish Young people:** Youth Institute and Youth Council in Spain have launched various initiatives to promote political participation, focusing on associationism.
- **Valuable information:** It is important to focus on youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values. Ex.: In April 2023, the Spanish Youth Council, Women's Institute and Youth Institute held a series of dialogues on youth, anti-racism and feminism.
- **Civic Engagement Programs and Youth-focused policies:** It is important to keep supporting initiatives and programs related to their main concerns: affordable education, employment opportunities, housing and environmental sustainability.

3. Spain: Older People & Democratic life

The current generation of Spanish older people belongs to the post-Spanish Civil War generation. They grew up in a dictatorship that severely damaged liberties and rights. Research has suggested that people who grew up in times of limited political participation might perceive less scope in later life. This could be the case of Spanish elders, because **Spaniards aged 65 and older have similar voting turnout rates to those of younger generations.**

"Older People should not be a burden. They are an integral part of our society and they offer important contributions to our society."

Conference held by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Madrid, an event that focused on **current challenges** in Spanish older people.



There are several **challenges** that older people in Spain face in their civic participation: Digital divide, limited mobility, social isolation, ageism, lack of representation, etc.

What can be done to face those challenges and promote more active democratic participation in Spain?

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that involves improving access to technology and information, enhancing social support networks, combating ageism, and creating inclusive spaces for older people to actively participate in democratic processes

- **Political Education for Seniors:** Provide opportunities for older individuals to learn about political processes, current events, and the issues facing society through workshops, seminars, and community education programs...etc.
- **Accessible Voting:** Ensure that voting procedures are accessible to seniors, including providing assistance at polling stations, offering mail-in ballots, and accommodating special needs such as mobility issues or visual impairments.
- **Addressing Social Isolation:** Combat social isolation among older people by creating social spaces and activities that foster connections and relationships, which can also serve as platforms for discussing political issues and promoting civic engagement.

4. 2024 European Parliament elections & Spain: Intergenerational vote

Engaging and motivating people, both young and old, to participate in democratic life requires a multifaceted approach that addresses their diverse needs and concerns. We need to eradicate the barriers to collaboration with an **intergenerational dialogue**.



Education, awareness and community involvement is needed to foster a sense of community within the European Union. Through an intergenerational approach, encouraging participation within the community is key for the 2024 elections.





VOTE!



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