



YOUNG AND OLDER PEOPLE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC LIFE



Importance of democratic participation

Democratic participation:

- Democratic participation encompasses the active involvement of citizens in decision-making processes within their societies. This involvement can manifest through various avenues such as participating in elections, engaging in activism to address societal issues, and actively contributing to community development initiatives.
- Importance of diverse age groups in democracy
- The inclusion of diverse age groups is crucial for the vitality and effectiveness of democratic governance. It ensures the representation of varied perspectives, experiences, and needs within society. Embracing age diversity promotes inclusivity, which is essential for crafting policies and initiatives that resonate with and benefit all segments of the population

Statistics in Cyprus

- In Cyprus the turnout in last presidential elections was around 70% and for people 18-30 was around 50%
- Reasons for that:
- Many young people may not fully understand political processes, policies, or their rights as citizens, leading to disengagement.
- Some youth express distrust in traditional political institutions, perceiving them as disconnected or ineffective in addressing contemporary issues.
- Factors such as restrictive voting laws, logistical challenges in voter registration, and limited access to unbiased political information can impede youth involvement.

Innovations in Youth Engagement

- Technology's role:
- Social media campaigns mobilizing youth voters: Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter have been instrumental in spreading awareness, organizing rallies, and encouraging voter participation among young demographics.
- Apps for voter registration and political education: Innovations such as Vote.org and TurboVote simplify voter registration processes and provide accessible information on candidates, policies, and voting procedures.

Barriers for Older People

- Health issues limiting mobility, digital literacy challenges, and limited representation in political discourse.
- Older adults facing difficulties in accessing online voting information and using digital platforms for engagement.
- Accessibility issues at polling stations, lack of tailored information for older voters.

Benefits of Intergenerational Collaboration in Cyprus

- Sharing of experiences and perspectives between young and older citizens, promoting understanding and empathy.
- Breaking stereotypes through collaborative projects, recognizing the contributions of older adults in governance.
- Incorporating input from diverse age groups in decision-making processes, leading to more responsive and equitable policies.
- Stories related around Cyprus problem will make young people engage more to politics

Successful examples

- Countries with high youth and elderly engagement rates: Norway, Sweden, and Canada with innovative policies and inclusive governance structures.
- Intergenerational councils in cities promoting dialogue and collaboration, youth-led initiatives partnering with senior organizations.
- Inclusive legislation addressing age-related issues, improved social services based on cross-generational feedback.

Recommendations for Improvement

Integrate civic literacy programs in schools, promote political education for youth and older adults.

Create dedicated spaces for youth and seniors in decision-making bodies, ensure representation in policy discussions.

Allocate resources for community projects promoting intergenerational dialogue and participation, invest in accessible voting technology for all age groups.

Conclusion

Create spaces for meaningful conversations and collaboration between different age groups, fostering mutual respect and understanding.

Facilitate mentorship programs where older individuals can share knowledge and guidance with younger counterparts, fostering leadership development and continuity.

Encourage partnerships between youth and seniors in advocating for policies that address shared concerns such as healthcare, environmental sustainability, and social welfare.

Thank you for your attention

Q&A

