

Youth, Europe and the role of peer group activities

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12.06.08



Background

Research Group Youth & Europe:

- Theoretical framework
- Practical use

Topics

- ⇒ Concepts fostering active Citizenship among youth
- ⇒ Youth identity and values in Europe
- ⇒ Intercultural learning for democracy & Tolerance
- ⇒ Strategies for Youth policy in Europe

Aim

Direct participation and involvement of young people

Range of Youth Participation

- 1. Open activities**
 - 2. Project orientated participation**
 - 3. Direct contact/structured dialog with politicians**
 - 4. Youth consultation in adult bodies**
 - 5. Representative participation**
- ⇒ **Impact on the interest to take part in the elections to the European Parliament 09**

European Identity of Young People

- Definition of *EU*rope – complex and unclear itself
- EU & Young people - ambiguous relationship
- Social, cultural and geographic affiliations – more relevant

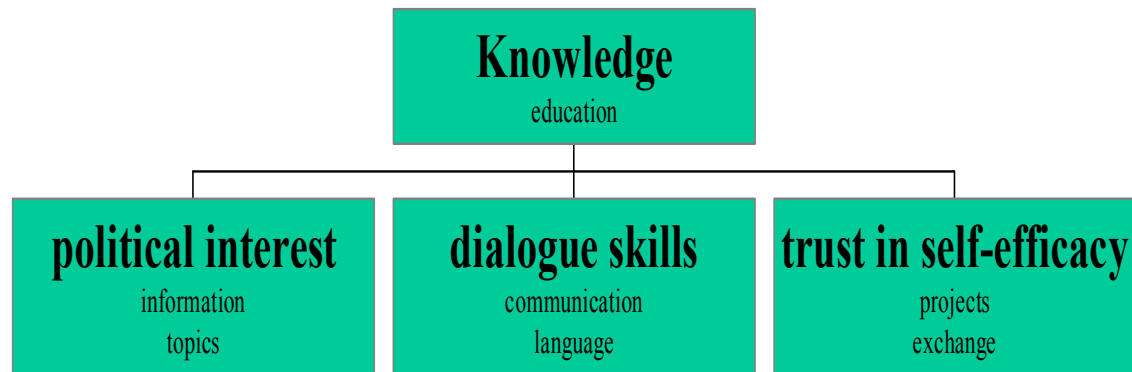
Result

**Young people's feeling towards Europe:
Scepticism and lack of knowledge**

Requirements and Approaches

Identification with Europe

Formal and nonformal education



- **Action**
- **Integration**
- **Reflection of values**

Rational of Peer Group Education

Peer group

= similar age, background, culture and social status

- more trusted and credible source of **information**

- advantage of **empathy** and similiar life experience

1. **Multiplier effect**
2. **Inside expertise**
3. **Sucessful communication**
4. **Empowerment**

Peer group activities in the light of the elections to the EP in 2009...



Youth participation is based on an integral approach and is part of a wider social and educational context which aims at making the elections a topic for young people

- in formal educational settings
- in informal educational settings
- on grass root level