



Project: 2020-2-BG01-KA205-079486 Creativity and Innovation for Active Citizenship (CIAC), *co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union*

ANALYSIS OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED ON YOUTH ATTITUDES TOWARDS CITIZENSHIP, CIVIC EDUCATION AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY THE OMEGA ASSOCIATION

According to project: 2020-2-BG01-KA205-079486 Creativity and Innovation for Active Citizenship (CIAC) with leading organization "OMEGA" (Bulgaria), partners Korenjak Foundation and "DRUSTVO ZA RAZVIJANJE PROSTOVOLJNEGA DELA NOVO MESTO" (Slovenia).

The project is implemented under the Erasmus + program, KA 2 Strategic partnerships



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Introduction:

This report has been meticulously prepared within the framework of Project 2020-2-BG01-KA205-079486, known as "Creativity and Innovation for Active Citizenship (CIAC)," funded by the Erasmus+ Program. The project is a collaborative effort with the lead organization being "OMEGA" based in Kardzhali, Bulgaria. It also involves esteemed partners, the "Korenyak" Foundation in Sofia, Bulgaria, and "DRUSTVO ZA RAZVIJANJE PROSTOVOLJNEGA DELA NOVO MESTO" from Slovenia.

The overarching objective of this project is to foster a positive mindset among young individuals, enabling them to actively shape decisions in democratic processes at various levels, be it national, regional, or local. Furthermore, the project strives to enhance their involvement in building inclusive and harmonious societies.

Preparation and conduct of the study:

To facilitate the study, we designed a comprehensive questionnaire encompassing 22 thoughtfully crafted questions. These questions were logically categorized into two thematic sections, covering fundamental information and exploring the realms of citizenship, civic education, and youth participation. We expertly harnessed the capabilities of Google Forms to prepare this questionnaire, ensuring its accessibility and user-friendliness. The primary aim of this questionnaire was to garner valuable insights into the perspectives and beliefs of young individuals regarding the domains of citizenship, civic education, and youth participation. In total, we successfully reached and engaged 59 respondents in our research, enhancing the depth and quality of our findings.

Information collection methods:

The primary emphasis of this study revolves around the demographic of young individuals aged between 15 and 29 within the Kardzhali district. To effectively engage with this group and gather information optimally, the Omega Association team decided to carry out the survey exclusively through online channels. This choice was influenced by the prevailing epidemiological conditions and the necessary precautions to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Utilizing contemporary communication platforms popular among young people, the team crafted a questionnaire using Google Forms. This survey was made accessible through various online channels, including the association's dedicated Facebook page, ensuring that participation was not only convenient but also entirely cost-free.

Link to the Facebook page of Omega Association: <https://www.facebook.com/ngoOmega>

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Target audience:

The central demographic of interest for this survey encompassed individuals falling within the age range of 15 to 29 years. The geographical focus was primarily on those who predominantly call the Kardzhali region their home.

Description:

The survey gathered insights from a diverse group of 59 respondents, offering a comprehensive snapshot of their perspectives. It is noteworthy that a substantial majority, comprising over 62% of the participants, resides in smaller, less densely populated areas within the Kardzhali region. This demographic choice reveals the intention to include voices from various societal settings, each with its unique dynamics and challenges.

Conversely, the remaining 35.6% of the respondents call more populous areas home. This balanced distribution ensures that both urban and rural contexts are adequately represented, considering that the Kardzhali district is known for having one of the highest numbers of villages in the entire country of Bulgaria. This duality in population density underlines the significance of capturing the distinct viewpoints and experiences of young people from varying backgrounds, reflecting the rich tapestry of the region's demographics.

Furthermore, it is essential to note that the primary age group among the respondents falls within the range of 15 to 19 years. This age bracket encompasses a wide spectrum of youth, each with their own unique perspectives and life experiences. The inclusion of both city and rural dwellers within this age group offers valuable insights into the similarities and disparities in the way young people from different backgrounds perceive and engage with the concept of active citizenship.

In essence, the survey's reach across different population densities and age groups within the Kardzhali region aims to provide a holistic understanding of the youth's views on active citizenship, acknowledging the influence of geographical and generational factors on their perspectives.

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Results of a survey

Section 1 - Demographic Information

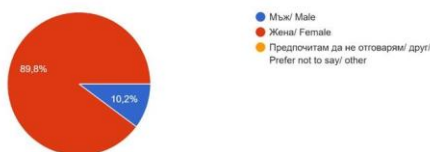
The survey managed to engage a diverse group of young individuals, with the majority falling into the age bracket of 16 to 19 years, representing 81.4% of the respondents. The next significant segment consisted of those aged 20 to 25, comprising 15.3% of the participants. A smaller yet noteworthy fraction fell within the 26 to 30 age range, accounting for 3.4% of the survey's sample. Notably, there were no participants over 30 years, highlighting the study's focus on the youth.

Gender-wise, the respondents exhibited a prevailing presence of women, making up 89.8% of the participants, while men constituted 10.2% of the responses.

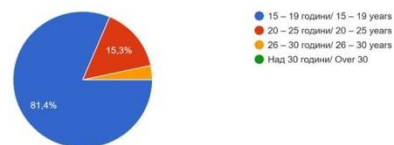
The strategic emphasis of the Omega Association on youth engagement is evident in the composition of the survey participants. The overwhelmingly youthful demographic aligns with the organization's mission, primarily catering to this age group. The individuals following the Omega Association's Facebook page, who subsequently partook in the survey, hail from various residential areas, mirroring the broad geographical scope of the study. The breakdown of respondents' residential backgrounds is as follows:

- A minority of 1.7% resides permanently in the capital city.
- A significant 35.6% call a larger settlement their home.
- The majority, comprising 62.7%, are residents of smaller settlements.

1. Пол/ Gender:
59 отговора



2. На колко си години/ How old are you?
59 отговора



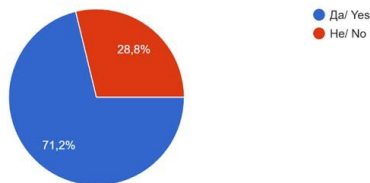
This diversification in residential backgrounds enriches the study's data, presenting a more comprehensive picture of the attitudes and opinions of young people from varying locales.



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Section 2 - Citizenship, Civic Education and Youth Participation

4. Разговаряш ли с родителите и близките си за твоите граждански и политически права/ Are you talking with your parents and relatives about your civil and political rights?
59 отговора



A substantial portion of the surveyed young individuals, approximately 71.2%, engage in discussions about their civil and political rights with their family and relatives. However, it is noteworthy that a significant percentage, 28.8%, indicates that they do not partake in such conversations, marking a considerable proportion of the respondents.

5. Според теб младият гражданин/ According to you, the young citizen:
59 отговора

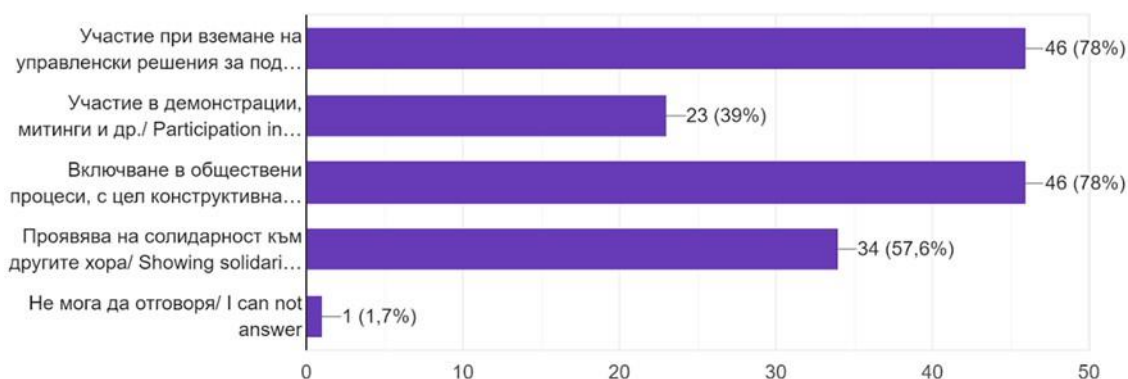


The entire pool of respondents, totaling 100%, resoundingly converge in their unanimous belief that young citizens possess both rights and responsibilities concerning the society in which they are an integral part. This collective consensus underscores the prevailing awareness among the surveyed individuals about the dual nature of citizenship, encapsulating both entitlements and duties. This acknowledgment of civic rights and responsibilities is indicative of a fundamental understanding within this demographic regarding their role in the broader social context, emphasizing the importance of active and engaged citizenship among the youth. It demonstrates their preparedness to contribute to the betterment of their communities and, by extension, society at large.



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6. Какво означава според теб да си активен гражданин (допустимо е повече от един отговор)/ What do you think active citizenship means (more than one answer is allowed):
59 отговора



Primarily, the results of the survey indicate that the young individuals who participated in the study share a common perception of what it means to be an active citizen. This shared understanding can be distilled into two fundamental principles. First and foremost, an overwhelming majority of 78% of the respondents consider active citizenship as involving participation in decision-making processes aimed at enhancing the quality of life within their communities. This reflects a keen interest in local governance and a commitment to shaping their immediate environments for the better.

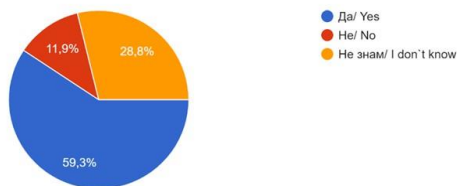
In a close second, as reported by 57.6% of the respondents, is the inclination towards displaying solidarity with fellow citizens. This aspect of active citizenship underscores their readiness to empathize with, support, and collaborate with others, particularly in times of need. It highlights their desire to be socially responsible and contribute positively to their society.

Conversely, the characteristic of active citizenship that received the least recognition among the surveyed young people is the engagement in activities such as demonstrations, rallies, and public protests, with only 39% acknowledging this as a defining trait. This may suggest that while they value civic participation and solidarity, they may not be as drawn to more confrontational or overt forms of civic engagement.

Overall, these findings shed light on the nuanced perspectives of the youth regarding active citizenship, emphasizing their preference for participatory and socially constructive approaches to making a meaningful impact on their communities and society at large.

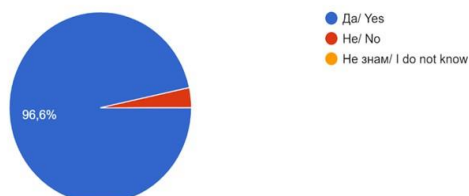
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7. Смяташ ли се подготвен/а да се справиш със ситуация, в която се нарушават правата ти/
Do you consider yourself prepared to deal with a situation in which your rights are violated?
59 отговора



Approximately 11.9% of the respondents express feelings of unpreparedness when confronted with scenarios involving potential rights violations, while an additional 28.8% remain uncertain about their readiness to address such situations. Conversely, a substantial majority, comprising 59.3% of the participants, responded affirmatively, indicating their confidence and willingness to tackle circumstances where their rights may be infringed upon. This diversity of responses underscores the varying degrees of self-assuredness and hesitancy among the surveyed young citizens regarding safeguarding their rights in challenging situations.

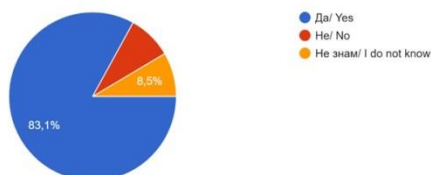
8. Смяташ ли, че е от съществено значение да познаваш законите, правата и задълженията си, за да бъдеш активен гражданин/ Do you think ...nd obligations makes us more active in society?
59 отговора



One of the encouraging findings from the study is that participants overwhelmingly recognized the significance of having knowledge about laws, rights, and civic responsibilities as a fundamental attribute of an active citizen. However, a small fraction, constituting 3.4%, expressed that they may not require such information. This observation highlights the importance of civic education initiatives in ensuring that all young citizens are well-informed about their legal rights and obligations.

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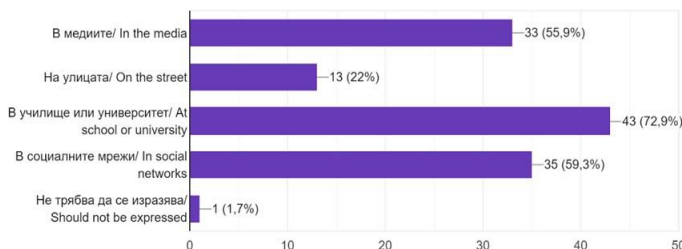
9. Смяташ ли, че въвеждането на гражданско образование в училище ще ти даде повече знания и увереност в комуникацията ти с различни...нсе when interacting with various institutions?
59 отговора



A striking 83.1% of the surveyed youth firmly believe that including civic education within the school, curriculum would empower them with more excellent knowledge and confidence when engaging with diverse institutions. This finding underscores the demand for enhanced civic education programs that

equip young citizens with essential knowledge and boost their self-assuredness in navigating the intricacies of various institutions. However, it's noteworthy that a balanced distribution exists between those responding with "no" and those who remained uncertain, representing 8.5% of the respondents. This balance suggests that while a significant majority recognizes civic education's value, a portion of youth may require further awareness and persuasion regarding its benefits.

10. Като млад гражданин, къде би избрал да изразиш твоето лично мнение по обществен въпрос? (възможни са повече от един отговор)/ As...blic issue? (more than one answer is possible):
59 отговора



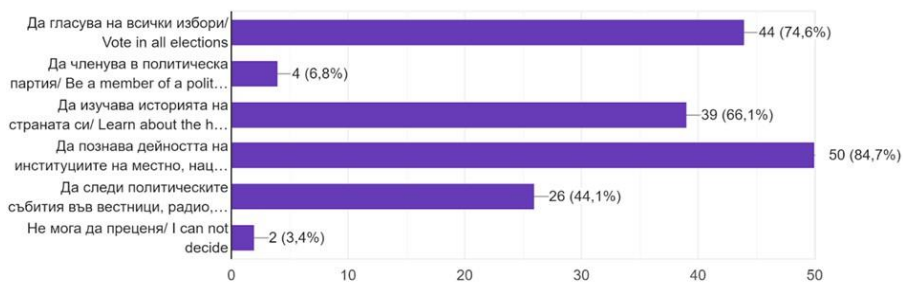
The insightful statistics from the survey offer a compelling view of where young people are most inclined to voice their opinions on public matters. Notably, most of them, standing at a significant 72.9%, prefer to express their views within the academic realm, whether at school or university. This finding underscores educational institutions' pivotal role in nurturing youth civic engagement.

Furthermore, nearly 60% (59.3%) of respondents favor utilizing the vast reach of social media as their platform of choice to articulate their opinions. This preference aligns with the modern digital age, emphasizing the importance of virtual spaces in contemporary discourse. Surprisingly, the smallest percentage (22%) of young people opt for expressing their thoughts on the streets, highlighting that physical, public demonstrations may not be the primary mode of engagement for this demographic. Similarly, 55.9% of respondents lean toward media outlets as their preferred channel for voicing their views.

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The heartening aspect of this data is that regardless of the specific setting, every participant recognizes the significance of expressing their opinions. This collective understanding reflects a promising and shared commitment to active citizenship among the youth, irrespective of the platform they choose to utilize.

11. Според теб активният граждани трябва: (посочи до 3 отговора)/ In your opinion, good citizens should (indicate up to 3 answers):
59 отговора



The perspective of the young participants in the survey illuminates a comprehensive view of what it means to be an active citizen. According to their collective voice, an active citizen should, first and foremost, possess a keen awareness of the functioning of institutions operating at various levels—local, national, and even European, a viewpoint endorsed by an overwhelming 84.7% of the respondents.

Furthermore, a resounding 74.6% of the participants emphasize the significance of actively participating in all elections as a hallmark of active citizenship. This sentiment underscores the pivotal role that voting plays in shaping the fabric of a democratic society.

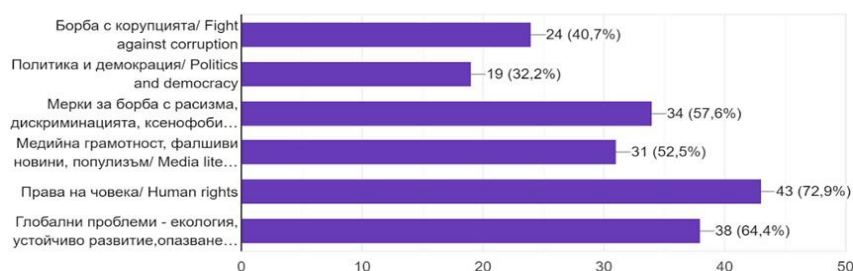
Notably, 66.1% of the surveyed individuals advocate for a holistic approach, suggesting that apart from the abovementioned aspects, active citizenship also involves having a strong grasp of their country's history and staying informed about political events. This multifaceted perspective underscores the importance of context, knowledge, and current awareness.

An intriguing aspect emerges from the data, where only a marginal 6.8% of the respondents consider membership in a political party a crucial component of active citizenship. This finding suggests that the young generation emphasizes individual civic engagement and awareness rather than aligning with specific political affiliations.

In sum, the survey highlights the multifaceted nature of active citizenship as perceived by young people, emphasizing the need for awareness, engagement in electoral processes, historical knowledge, and staying informed about political developments.

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12. Кои от темите от областта на Гражданското образование представляват най - голям интерес за теб: (посочи до 3 отговора)/ Which of t...eatest interest to you (indicate up to 3 answers):
59 отговора



When it comes to the field of civic education, the survey reveals a spectrum of topics that captivate the interest of young respondents. Topping the list is the theme of human rights, which garnered significant attention from an enthusiastic 72.9% of the participants. This fervent interest underscores the significance of understanding and championing the fundamental rights of individuals.

Another vital subject, supported by 64.4% of respondents, revolves around global issues—ranging from ecological concerns, sustainable development, and peace initiatives to combatting poverty. This indicates a growing awareness of global interconnectedness and the importance of addressing international challenges.

Furthermore, the survey spotlights the significance of addressing critical social issues. Approximately 57.6% of participants expressed a keen interest in topics related to combating racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and antisemitism. This data illustrates a strong commitment to fostering inclusive societies and addressing issues of social justice.

Media literacy and the themes of fake news and populism also hold substantial sway, with 52.5% of young people demonstrating interest. This reflects the rising importance of navigating information in today's digital age and understanding the influence of media on public discourse.

In the realm of governance, the fight against corruption captured the attention of 40.7% of respondents, surpassing themes related to politics and democracy, which garnered 32.2%. This suggests a prevailing concern among young individuals for transparent and accountable governance.

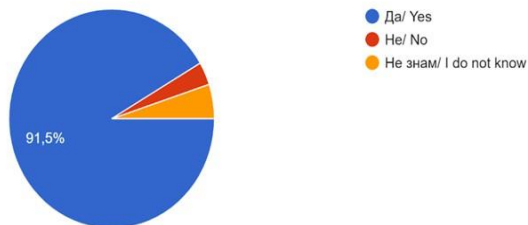
The most encouraging revelation from the survey is that an overwhelming 91.5% of participants expressed a desire for specialized training in the aforementioned topics. This strong desire for education and empowerment underscores the motivation of young people to be informed, engaged, and proactive citizens. They express their willingness to receive such training in diverse settings, whether at school, university, or through extracurricular channels.

12

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In summary, the survey highlights a vibrant interest among young people in a range of civic education topics, emphasizing the importance of human rights, global issues, combating social prejudices, media literacy, and transparent governance. The resounding call for specialized training signals the proactive stance of the younger generation in shaping a more informed and responsible society.

13. Искаш ли да има специални обучения, свързани с избраните от теб теми в училище, в университет или в извънкласни форми?/ Do you want...hool, university, or extracurricular activities?
59 отговора



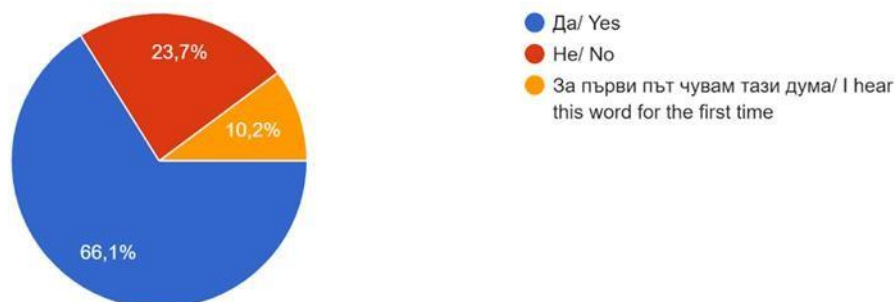
The resounding response to the question, "Do you want to have special training related to your chosen topics at school, university, or in extracurricular forms?" speaks volumes about the enthusiasm and determination of the participants. An overwhelming majority, a staggering 91.5%, wholeheartedly expressed their desire for specialized training. This remarkable mandate signifies a strong yearning among the respondents to delve into subjects that genuinely pique their interest and readiness to embark on structured learning journeys.

In stark contrast, only a small minority chose the responses "I don't know" or "no," reaffirming the resolute stance of the majority. This data underscores the importance of empowering individuals to select topics that resonate with their passions and concerns. It also highlights the need for flexible and adaptable educational programs that cater to young learners' diverse interests and aspirations. The message is clear: young people are eager to embrace education tailored to their chosen fields and poised to be active, engaged citizens who are well-informed and proactive in shaping the world around them.

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14. Знаеш ли какво означава „популизъм“ / Do you know what "populism" means?

59 отговора



Most respondents demonstrated a solid understanding of the term "populism," with approximately 66.1% confidently recognizing its meaning. However, it's essential to note that over 10% of participants admitted to never having encountered this word before, illustrating that there is a knowledge gap for a segment of the population.

Of particular interest is the relatively high percentage of individuals, approximately 23.7%, who candidly stated that they are not acquainted with the concept of populism. This finding underscores the necessity for comprehensive education and awareness-building surrounding political terminologies like populism. As political engagement and informed citizenship become important, bridging this knowledge gap becomes increasingly relevant. Providing accessible information and resources to those who may not be familiar with such concepts is essential to ensure that all members of the community can actively participate in informed and meaningful ways. This data highlights the room for improvement in civic education and the potential for expanding the understanding of political concepts among young citizens.

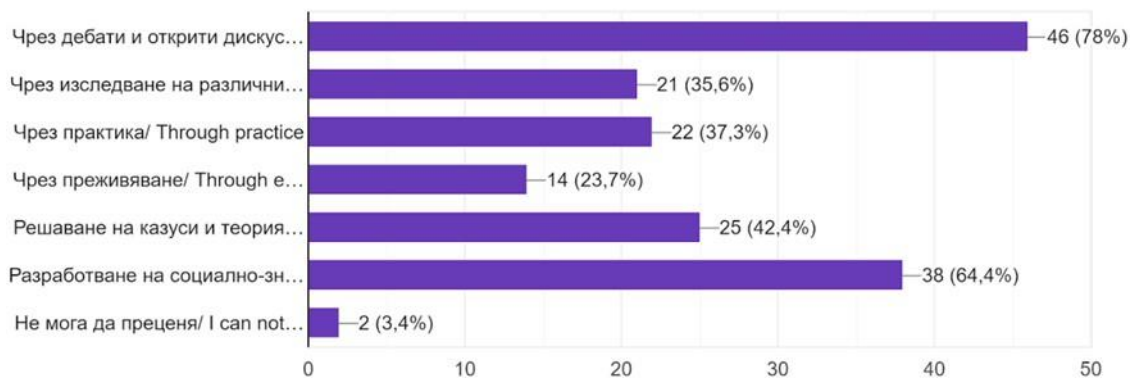
While populism can be a powerful force for mobilizing and engaging citizens in political processes, it poses challenges. Critics argue that populism can oversimplify complex issues, polarize societies, and lead to the scapegoating of minority groups or institutions. Its "anti-elite" stance may also undermine trust in established democratic institutions.

It's essential for citizens, especially young people, to understand the dynamics and implications of populism in contemporary politics. Civic education and open discourse are critical to ensure that individuals can make informed and thoughtful decisions about their involvement in political processes and the potential consequences of supporting populist movements.

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15. Как според теб се постига по-висока гражданска активност (посочи до 3 отговора)/ How do you think active citizenship should be taught? (indicate up to 3 answers):

59 отговора



The findings of this study shed light on the key drivers of increased civic engagement among the surveyed youth. According to their responses, a resounding 78% emphasized the pivotal role of engaging in debates and open discussions on various topics. This highlights the power of free expression and open dialogue in motivating young individuals to actively participate in civic life.

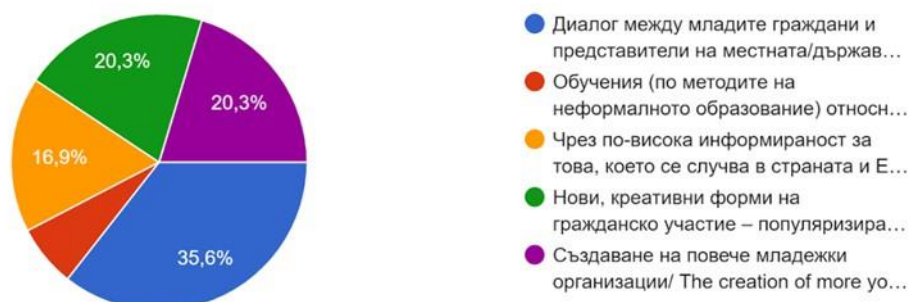
Furthermore, 64.4% of the respondents underscored the importance of participating in socially significant projects. This signifies that young people are not merely interested in discussing change but are eager to roll up their sleeves and actively work towards it. It exemplifies their commitment to creating tangible and positive impacts within their communities.

The study also revealed that 35.6% of the surveyed youth believe that a deep understanding of various social processes bolsters their civic engagement. This points to the significance of education and awareness in cultivating informed and active citizens. Additionally, 37.3% of the participants stressed the value of practical experience. This underscores the notion that hands-on involvement in real-world activities, such as volunteering, community service, or advocacy, is crucial in nurturing a sense of responsibility and civic duty.

In summary, the research findings highlight the multifaceted nature of youth engagement in civic activities. The importance of dialogue, project-driven initiatives, education, and hands-on experience cannot be overstated as catalysts for inspiring a more engaged and proactive younger generation in our communities.

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16. Развитието на съвременното демократично общество според теб, в най-голяма степен, зависи от/ In your opinion, the development of mo...cratic society depends to the greatest extent on:
59 отговора



The study delves into the participants' perspectives, uncovering their opinions on the pivotal factors contributing to developing a modern democratic society. Their insights shed light on the strategies and initiatives they believe are essential for fostering civic engagement among young citizens, thereby bolstering the foundations of a vibrant democracy.

1. Dialogue Between Young Citizens and Responsible Institutions (35.6%): A significant proportion of respondents underscore the indispensable role of dialogue between young citizens and responsible institutions. Engaging in meaningful conversations and interactions with government bodies, local authorities, and other relevant institutions fosters transparency, accountability, and a deep-seated sense of partnership. This two-way exchange ensures that the voices and concerns of young citizens are heard and integrated into the decision-making processes that shape the nation's future. Such dialogues can pave the way for policies that address the specific needs and aspirations of the youth.

2. Promotion of Creative Forms of Civic Participation (20.3%): A substantial portion of participants advocates creating innovative and imaginative avenues for civic participation. This approach includes establishing youth organizations and developing creative campaigns and causes that resonate with the younger generation. Leveraging the power of social media, platforms, and infographics provides dynamic channels for young citizens to express their views, advocate for their beliefs, and mobilize for positive change. By infusing creativity into civic participation, the process becomes engaging, relatable, and more likely to attract active involvement.

3. Raising Awareness on National and European Affairs (16.9%): A notable segment of participants emphasizes raising awareness regarding domestic and European developments.

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An informed citizenry is better equipped to engage in the democratic process, make informed choices, and actively shape society. Heightening awareness through education and information-sharing campaigns is instrumental in ensuring that young citizens are well-versed in current events and the broader political landscape, enabling them to advocate for policies that align with their values.

4. Organizing Training with Non-Formal Educational Methods (6.8%): While it garners a smaller percentage of support, the organization of training sessions employing non-formal education methods remains essential to nurturing active citizenship. Such training offers a structured environment for young individuals to enhance their civic knowledge, refine their leadership skills, and familiarize themselves with the principles and mechanisms of democratic governance. Non-formal education is recognized for its interactive and experiential nature, which often resonates with young learners.

To amplify the impact of these strategies and align them with the aspirations of young citizens, the following considerations are essential:

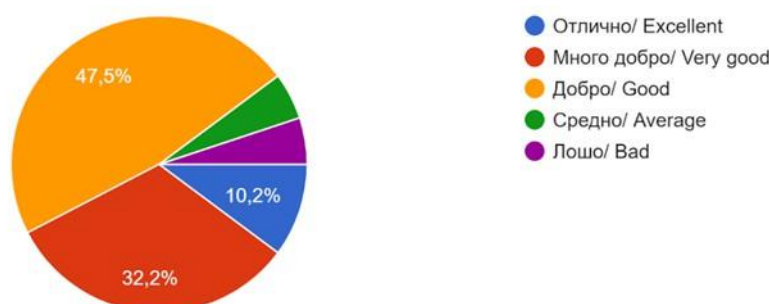
- **Cross-Generational Dialogues:** Foster cross-generational dialogues that bridge the gap between young citizens and established institutions. Encourage policymakers and government representatives to actively engage in conversations with youth to better understand their concerns and aspirations.
- **Youth-Led Initiatives:** Empower young citizens to take the lead in designing and implementing initiatives that promote civic participation. Encourage the creation of youth-led organizations and support their projects and campaigns.
- **Accessible Information:** Ensure that national and European affairs information is readily accessible to young citizens. Utilize precise, concise, and engaging communication methods to convey complex topics, making them more approachable for the youth.
- **Structured Non-Formal Education:** Develop structured non-formal education programs that allow young individuals to build their civic knowledge and skills. These programs can incorporate interactive workshops, simulations, and hands-on experiences.

In summary, the survey findings underscore the significance of multifaceted approaches to enhance active citizenship among young people. By prioritizing dialogue, innovative participation methods, awareness-raising, and non-formal education, societies can cultivate an empowered and engaged youth population, thereby strengthening the foundations of democracy.

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17. Как бихте оценили образованието, което получавате в училище?/ How would you evaluate the education you receive at school?

59 отговора



Opinions among the respondents regarding their school education exhibit a spectrum of perspectives. Notably, 47.5% of participants regard it as good, while 32.2% rate it as very good. A smaller fraction, comprising 10.2% of the respondents, deems it sufficiently satisfactory to merit an "excellent" classification. However, a significant portion of the participants opine that this domain has room for improvement.

The diverse range of opinions regarding the quality of education in schools reveals that many young citizens perceive their educational experiences positively, with many categorizing it as good or very good. This positive sentiment can be attributed to effective teaching methods, engaging curricula, and supportive learning environments that foster enthusiasm for learning and personal development.

In contrast, the segment of participants calling for improvements underscores the need for ongoing enhancements in the educational system. Their views may stem from concerns about outdated curricula, unequal access to educational resources, or a desire for more inclusive and diverse educational content. These perspectives suggest an opportunity for academic institutions and policymakers to address the identified areas of improvement to ensure that education continues to meet the evolving needs and expectations of the youth.

The fact that a notable percentage of respondents perceive the quality of education in school as excellent or very good is encouraging and speaks to the efforts invested in providing a sound educational foundation. Nevertheless, this feedback also highlights the importance of ongoing assessment and adaptation to guarantee that education remains responsive, inclusive, and effective in preparing young citizens to become active and informed participants in their communities and societies.

17

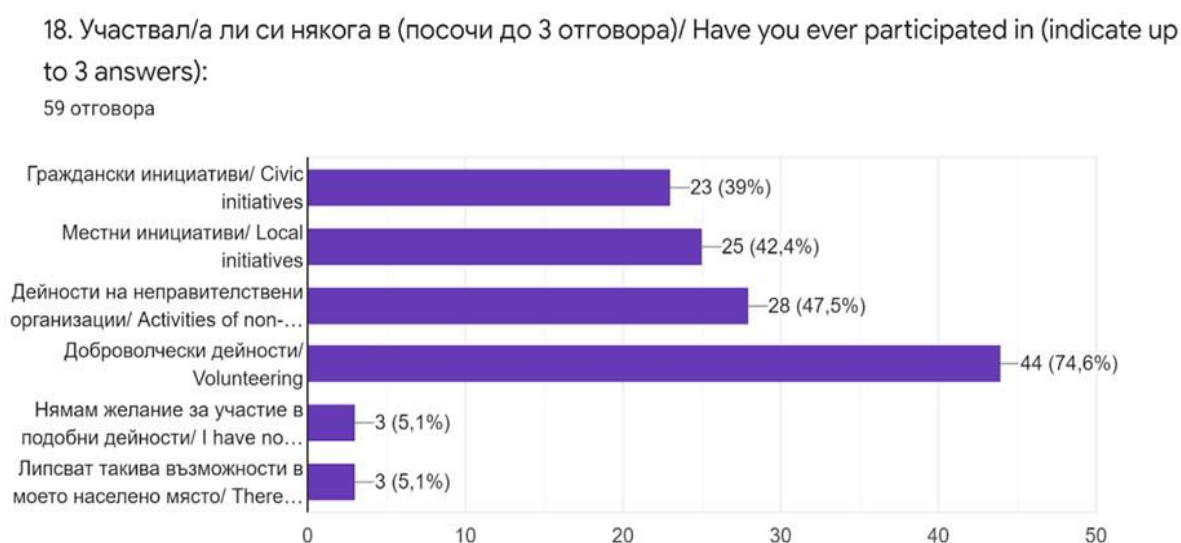
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Q 18: Opinions among the respondents regarding their school education exhibit a spectrum of perspectives. Notably, 47.5% of participants regard it as good, while 32.2% rate it as very good. A smaller fraction, comprising 10.2% of the respondents, deems it sufficiently satisfactory to merit an "excellent" classification. However, a significant portion of the participants opine that this domain has room for improvement.

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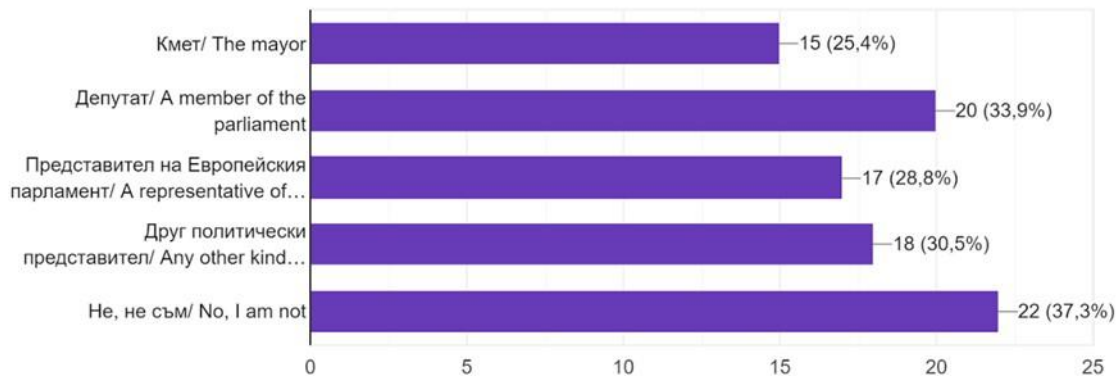
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19. Участвал/а ли си в официални или неформални срещи с (допуска се повече от един отговор)/ Have you participated in formal or informal meetings with (more than one answer is allowed):
59 отговора



The survey revealed that the highest percentage of respondents, approximately 37.3%, had not participated in formal or informal meetings with various institutions at different levels. This finding highlights where young citizens' involvement can be further encouraged and facilitated.

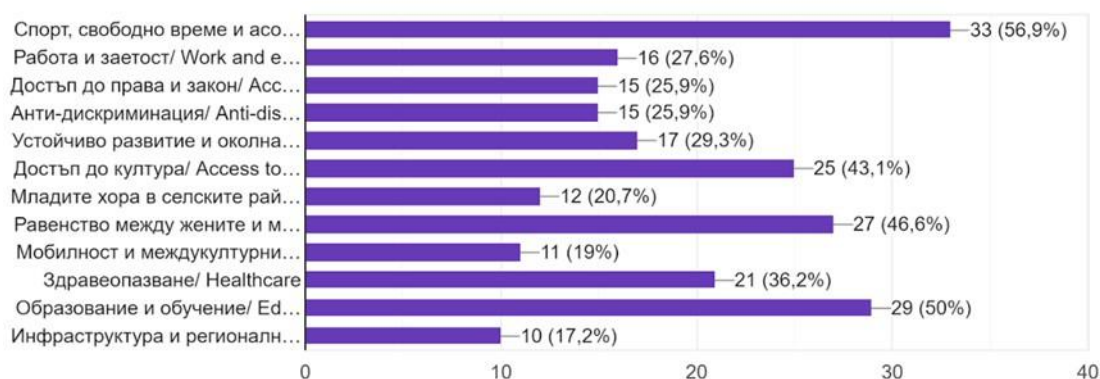
An interesting observation, likely influenced by the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the relatively higher percentage of respondents engaging in online meetings. Specifically, 28.8% of participants reported having discussions with representatives of the European Parliament, while 33.9% indicated involvement in conversations with members of parliament. The uptake of online meetings underscores young people's adaptability to engage with political representatives and institutions through digital platforms, which can serve as a valuable channel for enhancing their participation.

Conversely, the data suggests a decline in in-person meetings at the local level, with only 25.4% of respondents having engaged in discussions with their mayor. The decreasing trend in face-to-face meetings might be attributed to the convenience of online interactions and the safety measures necessitated by the pandemic.

These findings emphasize the evolving dynamics of youth engagement with institutions, with a notable shift toward digital interactions. As online platforms play a significant role in civic participation, institutions must leverage these channels effectively to connect with and involve the younger generation. This adaptation can contribute to a more inclusive and accessible civic landscape, enabling young citizens to have a voice and influence decisions at various levels of governance.

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20. В кои от изброените теми виждаш своя принос и активно младежко участие (посочи до 5 отговора)/ In which of the following do you see you...ve youth participation (indicate up to 5 answers):
58 отговора



The answers revealed that the surveyed participants exhibited varying interests and active engagement across various topics. Four key areas garnered substantial attention, with the following percentages of participants expressing their involvement:

1. **Rest and Free Time** - Most young respondents, accounting for 56.9%, were actively engaged in matters related to leisure and recreational activities. This interest likely stems from the significant role that leisure plays in the lives of youth, making it a focal point for their contributions and participation.

2. **Education and Training** - Education is another prominent area of engagement, with half of the surveyed individuals, precisely 50%, actively participating in matters related to education and training. The significance of education in shaping the future of young people underscores their keen interest in this domain.

3. **Equality Between Men and Women** - Promoting gender equality was an area of concern for 46.5% of the respondents. Their active involvement in initiatives aimed at achieving gender parity highlights the importance of this issue in contemporary society.

4. **Access to Culture** - Approximately 43.1% of the participants expressed their commitment to issues concerning access to culture. This engagement reflects young people's desire to ensure that cultural opportunities are accessible and inclusive for all.

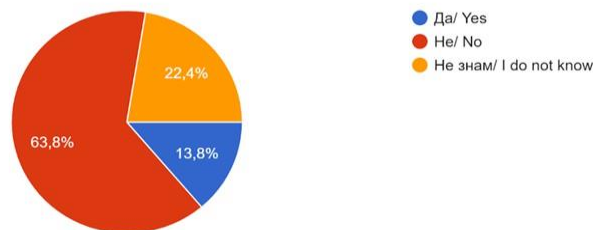
However, it's important to note that the survey highlighted a disparity in youth engagement across various topics. The last reported area of concern among the surveyed youth related to **Infrastructure and Regional Development**, with only 17.2% of respondents actively

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participating in discussions and initiatives related to this domain. The lower engagement in this area could be due to several factors, including a lack of awareness, perceived relevance, or opportunities for active involvement.

In conclusion, the findings indicate that the surveyed youth exhibit dynamic and varied interests, with some topics generating higher levels of active participation than others. This diversity in engagement underscores the multifaceted nature of youth involvement in civic and societal matters, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches to encourage participation across various issues.

21. Мислиш ли, че в твоята страна има силно развито гражданско общество/ Do you think that there is a strong civil society in your country:
58 отговора



In response to the question regarding the strength of civil society in Bulgaria, the survey results indicate a range of perspectives among the respondents:

Uncertain (22.4%): A minority of participants expressed uncertainty regarding Bulgaria's civil society state. This uncertainty could stem from a lack of information or nuanced views on the subject.

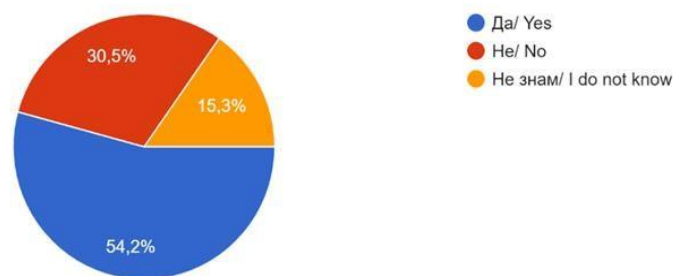
Not Highly Developed (63.8%): The majority of respondents, comprising 63.8%, believed that Bulgaria's civil society is not highly developed. This perspective likely reflects concerns or reservations about the effectiveness, inclusivity, or overall impact of civil society organizations and initiatives within the country.

Highly Developed (13.8%): A smaller segment, accounting for 13.8% of the respondents, believed Bulgaria boasts a highly developed civil society. This suggests that some participants perceive a robust and effective civil society presence within the nation.

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The diverse range of responses underscores varying perceptions and attitudes toward civil society in Bulgaria. It's essential to recognize that the effectiveness and development of civil society can be a complex and multifaceted subject influenced by numerous factors, including historical context, governance, and social dynamics. These results offer valuable insights into public opinion and highlight the need for ongoing efforts to strengthen and enhance civil society in Bulgaria while addressing the concerns and viewpoints of those who see room for improvement.

22. Чувстваш ли се европейски гражданин?/ Do you feel that you are a European citizen?
59 отговора



The responses to the question about whether young people feel like European citizens provide valuable insights into their sense of Identity and affiliation:

- 1. European Identity (54.2%):** Most respondents, accounting for 54.2%, expressed that they feel a sense of European Identity. This suggests that many of the surveyed young people identify as European citizens. This could be influenced by various factors, including shared cultural values, the sense of belonging to a broader community, or the opportunities provided by European integration.
- 2. Uncertain (15.3%):** A notable portion indicated uncertainty (15.3%) regarding their European Identity. This response may mean that some young people have mixed feelings or are unsure about their connection to a European identity. This could be due to various factors, including limited exposure to European issues or a more localized focus.
- 3. Non-European Identity (30.5%):** The survey also revealed that more than 30% of

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respondents disliked European citizens. This finding raises concerns about the level of European Identity among this segment of the surveyed youth. Various reasons might underlie this sentiment, such as a more robust identification with their national or local Identity, a lack of engagement with European affairs, or skepticism towards European citizenship.

These responses reflect a diverse range of perspectives among young people, and they underscore the importance of understanding and addressing the factors that influence their sense of European Identity. Encouraging a more robust European identity might involve education, awareness campaigns, and initiatives that foster a sense of belonging to the broader European community. This is especially relevant in the context of the European Union, where promoting a shared European identity is one of the core objectives.

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Conclusions:

This study offers valuable insights and underscores the necessity for creating more opportunities and perspectives for citizenship, civic education, and youth participation. Several key observations emerge from the analysis of the data:

1. *Youth Aspiration for Active Participation*: The desire among young people to participate in decision-making processes that enhance community life and engage constructively in social change is evident. They express a strong inclination towards responsible citizenship. This aspiration reflects a broader trend in youth populations globally, where the younger generation is increasingly engaged in social and political issues.

2. *Local-Level Challenges*: Despite this desire for engagement, challenges exist locally. There is a notable lack of dialogue with institutions, especially in remote areas, and limited awareness of opportunities beyond the capital. This indicates that the potential for youth participation needs better support and outreach at local levels. It's crucial to bridge this gap to ensure that young people from all regions have equal opportunities for civic engagement.

3. *Citizenship as a Continuous Process*: The study highlights that citizenship is evolving. While formal education is essential for building a foundation of civic knowledge, young people also emphasize the need for practical application and hands-on experience. This reflects a shift from passive learning to active participation, signaling a desire for experiential learning and practical exposure to civic activities.

4. *Role of NGOs and Non-Formal Education*: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and non-formal education play a crucial role in enhancing the civic capabilities of young people. The report recommends that NGOs focus on building young individuals' capacity and involving them in civic activities and decision-making processes. Moreover, non-formal education methods are becoming increasingly valuable as they allow for personalized and practical learning experiences.

5. *Political Engagement Challenges*: The study identifies a deficiency in political engagement. Young people exhibit less interest and motivation to participate in political activities and meetings at various levels. There is a need to raise awareness among youth regarding the significance of political participation, its benefits, and the availability of opportunities. This gap suggests that political education and engagement programs targeted at youth should be tailored to better align with their interests and motivations.

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6. **Youth-NGO Collaboration:** The report advocates for increased collaboration between NGOs and young people. NGOs can act as mediators, facilitating communication between youth and those in positions of power. This collaboration can foster youth participation in local governance and decision-making processes. NGOs must build strong networks and platforms that enable young people to connect with decision-makers effectively.

In conclusion, a more robust interaction between NGOs and young individuals, coupled with a broader application of non-formal education tools, is essential to enhance awareness and build the capacities of youth in active citizenship and participation. This approach will motivate young people to express their opinions on public issues effectively online and through tangible actions. Stimulating their involvement in various social, cultural, economic, and political aspects will contribute to developing a new generation of engaged and responsible citizens. Ultimately, this will contribute to the realization of the vision outlined in the National Youth Strategy (2021-2030) – the development of capable, engaged, and empowered young citizens who actively contribute to the progress of Bulgaria within the European and global context. To achieve this vision, ongoing efforts are required to support and empower young people in their journey towards active citizenship and meaningful participation in their communities and the broader society.