



Ideas for action

The participants might consider linking and exchanging information with other student councils in their area, at the national level, or internationally.

The group may like to take inspiration from “The Light on the Rights Bus Tour” project. OBESSU and its members arranged a tour throughout Europe visiting more than 10 countries and organising various activities, striving to foster pro-active participation and make students voices heard. It started in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 9 September 201 and the closing stop was on 21 October in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. www.lightontherights.eu



Further information

The degree to which young people can participate in decision-making processes depends on their age and the matter to be decided. For a useful model, see Roger Hart’s ladder of young people’s participation, www.freechild.org. There is more information about the ladder of participation in the background to Citizenship and Participation on page 441.

Opportunities for direct involvement in decision-making processes are growing in many countries, for example, Participatory Budgeting, a process in which the effects of people’s involvement are directly seen in either policy change or spending priorities. It is not just a consultation exercise, but an embodiment of direct, deliberative democracy: <http://www.participatorybudgeting.org.uk>. One example is Newcastle’s (UK) Udecide participatory budgeting programme, where in May 2008 young people had a 20% vote in the procurement of services for the city’s £2.25m Children’s Fund. Recognising that children and young people are the experts, the project aimed to give those young people in the city who were most likely to benefit from the Fund the chance to have a real say in how it was allocated.

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) is the European umbrella organisation of school student organisations. It works in order to:

- Represent the views of the school students in Europe towards the different educational institutions and platforms
- Uphold and improve the quality and accessibility of education and educational democracy in Europe
- Improve the conditions in the secondary schools in Europe to promote greater solidarity, co-operation and understanding among the school students
- Put an end to the discrimination and injustice where they exist within the educational systems in countries in Europe.

More information at: www.lightontherights.eu

Handouts

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 28:

The child has the right to education. The State shall make primary education compulsory and available and free to all and encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, make them available to every child. School discipline shall be administered in a manner consistent with the child’s dignity. Education should be directed to the development of the child’s personality, talents and abilities, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, responsible life in a free society in the spirit of peace, friendship, understanding, tolerance and equality, the development of respect for the natural environment.