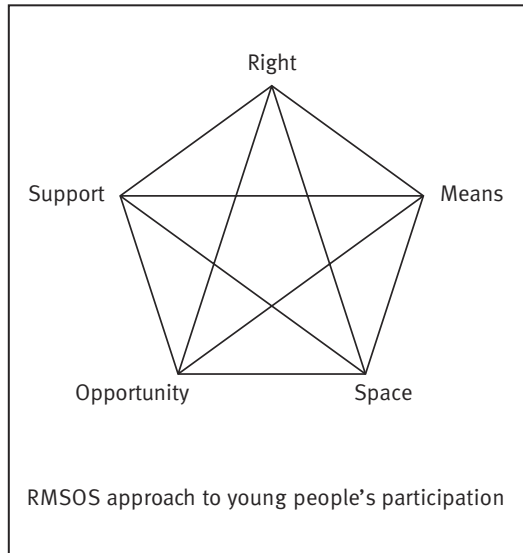


CHAPTER 3

The Charter's approach to participation

3.1. Introduction to the charter's approach to youth participation

The revised charter is addressed to various groups involved in promoting youth participation at a local level. Although a substantial part of the document contains recommendations for different sectoral policies, it goes much further than the policy aspects of youth participation. It proposes an approach that can be used in all areas of young people's involvement at local level, such as when running participatory projects for youth, building youth-adult partnerships or setting up youth organisations and groups, etc.



The charter's approach to participation is the so-called "RMSOS" approach and is based on the five keywords mentioned in the document's preamble: right, means, space, opportunity and support.³⁰ It is based on the principle that meaningful youth participation can only take place when the right conditions have been created and all the actors involved in participatory work have been given the responsibility to ensure that these conditions are present.

The five keywords, Right, Means, Space, Opportunity and Support, represent the main factors having an influence on youth involvement at local level (they will be explained more in detail later in this chapter). Each of them focuses on a different support measure, but they are closely interrelated, and they all have to be fulfilled for young people to be able to participate fully in the activities or decisions that interest them.

30. These keywords were mentioned in the preamble to the charter and they relate to the understanding of participation that has been embraced in the document: "Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary the support to participate in and influence decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society."

