

Survey on the perception of democracy in decision-making at school

Greece

<https://www.ekke.gr/research/outcomes/deliverables/38>

DESCRIPTION

The **project "Youth, Europe, Democracy"**, funded by the European Union, was part of the national action plan of the Ministry of Education for the European Year of Youth (EYY) 2022 as well as of National "Democracy Here | Democracy Now" campaign. Within this project, and in collaboration with the Institute of Political Research (IPR) of the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE), **two surveys** have been carried out targeting young people, one of which focused on **"Perception of democracy in decision-making at school"**.

This research aimed to explore the **perceptions of students** in the 2nd and 3rd grades of General Upper Secondary and Vocational Upper Secondary education regarding the **concept of democracy in school life, particularly the role of Student Councils**, as well as **other forms of student participation** in decision-making processes.

In addition, the survey focused on researching **the predispositions and individual motivations of students to engage** in institutionalised actions, such as the Student Council, and in other collective activities that contribute to shaping school culture.

REFLECTIONS

The two nationwide online surveys were designed to **explore different aspects of the life and perceptions of young people in Greece**. The ultimate goal was to contribute with meaningful data and provide insights to the relevant international debate. This initiative was welcomed by the EYY 2022 Coordinating Team as a good practice on the topic "Youth Research, Data, Evidence".

Youth participation in this particular survey exceeded expectations: a total of **4.818 students** aged 16-18 from 122 school units took part. This strong engagement highlights the **eagerness of Greek young people to voice their opinions to the policymakers**.

IMPACT

A **policy paper**, based on the opinions of students regarding the Student Councils, was presented to the Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports with the objective of **updating the school legislation**, which has remained unchanged since 1986.