How do young people in Europe perceive politics? How do they engage in the political realm? Which groups of young people are actively involved? And what kind of learning environments and opportunity structures can foster participation? These and related issues are addressed systematically on the basis of surveys (qualitative and quantitative) among 15- to 25-year-olds in selected European countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Italy, France, Great Britain, Finland and Estonia).

In addition, the authors discuss fundamental methodological problems of comparative participation research. They introduce a new measurement instrument that was particularly developed during this European research project. This new instrument is certainly useful for similar studies.

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The editors:

Dr. Reingard Spannring, lecturer, Institute of Educational Science, Leopold Franzens University Innsbruck, Austria;

Günther Ogris, director and academic director, SORA (Institute for Social Research and Analysis), Vienna, Austria

Dr. Wolfgang Gaiser, youth researcher, German Youth Institute, Munich, Germany