



EURYKA

Reinventing Democracy in Europe: Youth Doing Politics in Times of Increasing Inequalities

Biographical Analysis

(Deliverable 6.1)

Workpackage 6: Guidelines for the Biographical Interviews

Workpackage Leading Institution: SNS

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727025

WP6 aims, as it is stated in the grant agreement, “to examine the individual trajectories of young people since their childhood in order to see how they influence their ways of doing politics and how inequalities are lived by, and (re-) acted upon, by individual young people in different country and socio-economic contexts”. We will seek to **identify variation** among young individuals who are socially and politically engaged in different organizations and groups (target population). 252 in-depth in-depth interviews (28 for each country included in the project) will allow us to collect a large variety of data concerning “young people's norms, values, attitudes, expectations, and behaviours regarding democracy, power, politics, policy-making as well as social and political participation (online and offline) and the organization of economic, social and private life”.

In-depth interviews with young people, as it is clearly stated in the grant agreement, will allow us to investigate in-depth the ways in which contextual factors and organizational dynamics influence variations in **paths** of modes of social and political participation. This WP will advance our understanding of the connections between individual, collective, and contextual factors in shaping young individuals social and political engagement and to investigate “how such an engagement may lead young people to be a driver of social and political change with an emphasis on new ways of political engagement and interaction that may feed into the development of new democratic models that are inclusive to their needs and voices”. We will not be interested uniquely in the initial phase of engagement, but as well in the long-lasting social activity of participation of young individuals, which shifts across time between different positions and forms of political engagement.

Case Selection

What we are suggesting in terms of case selection is a multistage and multilevel sampling design. We first turn to sample the **urban context** (macro level), then the sample of **organizations/groups** (meso level), finally we sample on the individuals **sociographic backgrounds** (micro level). Respondents will be selected in two ways: first, using information from the organizations/groups; second, through snowballing (asking interviewees to provide names of further potential respondents).

Urban context

For each country we select one city that constitutes the fieldwork where each national team is conducting at least 28 in-depth interviews with young individuals (18-35 years old) who are socially and politically engaged. Cities selection on the basis of a certain number of characteristics:

- "large urban area";
- cities with universities;
- socio-political active cities.

Cities selected: Barcelona (Spain/Catalonia); Bologna (Italy); Sheffield (UK); Geneva (Switzerland); Stockholm (Sweden); Paris (France); Warsaw (Poland); Greece (Athens); Germany (Cologne).

Organizations and groups

Within each of these cities we compare youth engagement in seven different types of organizations/groups. Each team needs to select one of these organizations/groups, which vary along issue areas. In this way, we will be able to assess the effect of the issue area on young activists' path:

- A) Left libertarian organization/group (protest groups/Indignados/occupy protests/movement of the squares/squat).
- B) Informal Citizens/grassroots solidarity initiatives and networks of solidarity/social economy, social justice and reclaim activities as well as informal time banks.
- C) Feminist organization/group.
- D) Student organization.
- E) Right wing political party (main stream)/ youth branch.
- F) Left wing political party (main stream)/ youth branch.
- G) Greenpeace

This selection across types of organizations will guarantee us variation across forms of youth socio-political participation. For each organization we have designated we then select at least four young individuals to interview (see below).

Individuals

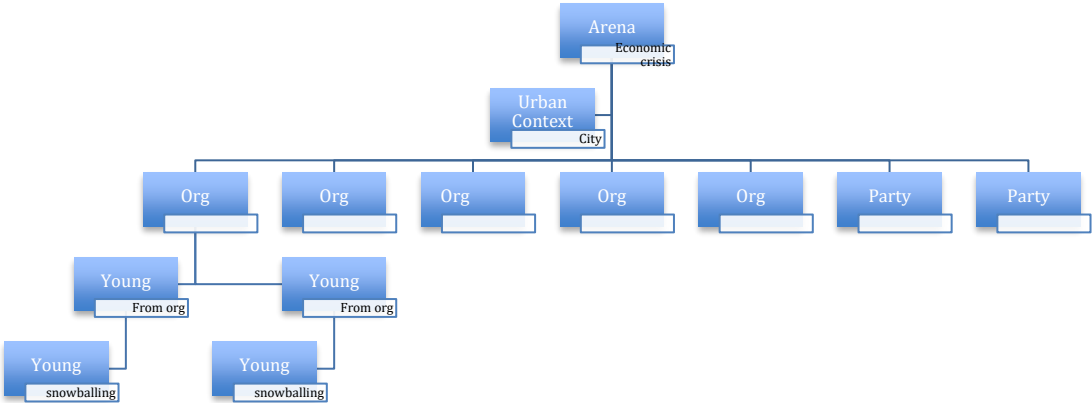
The youth sample will be composed of 28 young people (18-35), selected according to some possible variation across: gender; age cohorts; education; ethnic background; and

organizational position. We encourage to search for **social-class differences**.

We will start with two young individuals suggested from each of the organizations/groups, then we will continue using the snowball method. This will allow us to find young activists who are hidden, difficult to locate, hard to identify or those who are marginal or even former members of an organization, which is those who have disengaged, transferred or followed an abeyance trajectory. On our sample of 28 respondents we should aim to interview at least 5 respondents who have disengaged from participation, as this is a path that has received no attention in previous research.

Summary on the sample selection

WP6 aims at identifying young individuals (aged 18-35) who are/were socially and politically engaged in seven types of socio-political organizations and in nine urban locations in Europe. Respondents will be selected in two ways: first, using information from the organizations/groups; second, through snowballing (asking interviewees to provide names of further potential respondents). As often is the case in qualitative research, young people who are socially and politically engaged will not be selected as representative of a population (on which we have little uncontested knowledge), but, rather, we will try, with limited availability, to identify young people with diverse backgrounds (specifically social-class). This will be done in order to discover some theoretically-critical dimensions.



GUIDELINES for INTERVIEWS WITH YOUNG ACTIVISTS

WP leader: SCUOLA NORMALE SUPERIORE

TO FILL IN BEFORE GOING TO THE INTERVIEW

To be filled in by interviewer (i.e. field researcher).

P1 Name of the Young Activists' Organization:

P2 Abbreviations of the Young Activists:

P3 Date of Interview

P4 Time (starting_____ & ending_____) for interview:

P5 Location of the interview:

P6 Name of interviewer:

P7 Recording the interview:

Topics	Very general open question
Start	Would you like to tell us a bit about yourself?
Life before participation / primary and secondary socialization (family / school / sport / friends / religion / anything else)	What was your daily life like before you first participated in a social/ political organisation?
Initial activist involvement /recruitment process /shift in the life experience [for first organisation they were involved with]	At what point in your life did you begin your involvement in social/ political activities?
If there was then a change in participation / participant evolution	How did this come about? Was there a reason for changing your organisation? or Was there a reason for the shift in your level of participation?
Sustained participation / daily life as a participant	What do you think is the main reason that you continue to be involved in your group/ organisation?
Activities	How do your core values and political aims translate into your everyday political and social activities?
Multiple participation	Are you involved in any other social or political organisations?
In case of disengagement /participant evolution	How did your involvement in this group end? When did this happen?
Impact	When you compare your life “before” and “after” becoming an activist, what are the major changes?
Future	Do you see yourself participating in social/ political issues in the future? Is there anything you can think that would stop you from participating?
Socio-demographic issues	How old are you? Where are you from? (person was born and raised city, country) Where are your parents from? (parents were born and raised city, country) What is your parents’ occupation(s)? What is your highest educational qualification? What is your current employment situation?

	<p>Do you have a partner?</p> <p>Do you have any children?</p>
Ending	<p>If you'd spent all the time you've spent with this group doing something else, what do you think you'd have liked to have done?</p> <p>Is there anything else that I've not asked you about that you think I might be interested in?</p>