

Newsletter



EURYKA is a cross-national research project which provides systematic and practice-related knowledge about how inequalities mediate youth political participation. It suggests novel democratic models to help reimagine a more inclusive European politics.

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ABOUT EURYKA



With the aim of strengthening European democratic life, the EURYKA project intends to reach a better understanding of the conditions, processes, and mechanisms underpinning how young people do politics: how does this cohort form opinions and take actions to bring about social and political change? At the core of EURYKA's conceptual framework lies the idea of youth political participation as various forms of coping mechanism for dealing with inequality. The project thus investigates the norms, values, attitudes and behaviors underpinning such mechanisms and how these relates to issues of democracy, power, politics, policy-making, social and political participation (online and offline) and the organization of economic, social and private life.

What are EURYKA's objectives?

- ▶ To provide systematic evidence on how inequalities are experienced and mediated by young people, exploring the coping mechanisms which are embedded in how they 'do' politics. These coping mechanisms are manifested in multiple forms, i.e. as either political (dis)engagement and contestation online and offline or as (trans-)national democratic innovation and experimentation.
- ▶ To advance knowledge on the conditions and causes underpinning youth political participation. This involves an examination of young people's norms, values, attitudes, and behaviors regarding democracy, power, politics, policymaking, social and political participation (online and offline) and the organization of economic, social and private life.
- ▶ To make various and novel suggestions to strengthen democratic life in Europe, with particular emphasis on making democracy more inclusive for young people – and especially people with fewer opportunities.

How is EURYKA addressing inequalities and youth political participation in Europe?



To address its objectives, EURYKA undertakes the following research activities:

- ▶ Policy analysis: Tracking public policies and practices which promote youth participation and inclusion in each country as well as at the EU level.
 - ▶ Political claims analysis: Studying how young people and their particular ways of doing politics are dealt with in the media, as well as the presence of organized youth in the public domain and the claims they raise in each country for new democratic models and social and political change.
 - ▶ Organizational analysis: Investigating youth political participation by examining the networks and (youth-led) organizations that are active in the fields of youth inclusion, participation, national and transnational democratic innovation and experimentation.
- ▶ Panel survey analysis: Causally disentangling the different forms of youth political participation: retrieving their norms, values, attitudes, expectations, and behaviors 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, as well as their associated individual characteristics.
 - ▶ Experimental analysis: Testing hypothesized causal mechanisms on young people's experience of inequalities and their support and potential for social and political change to strengthen democratic life, especially those that may include avenues for reimagining democracy in Europe.
 - ▶ Biographical analysis: Examining the individual trajectories of young people since their childhood to investigate how different trajectories influence how young people do politics and how inequalities are lived by, and (re-)acted upon, individual young people in different countries and socio-economic contexts.
 - ▶ Social media analysis: Investigating online youth political participation and the impact of inequalities on this by examining the use young people make of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and how digital participation and representation may (or may not) provide the seeds for reinvigorating democracy in Europe.

THE RESEARCH TEAMS

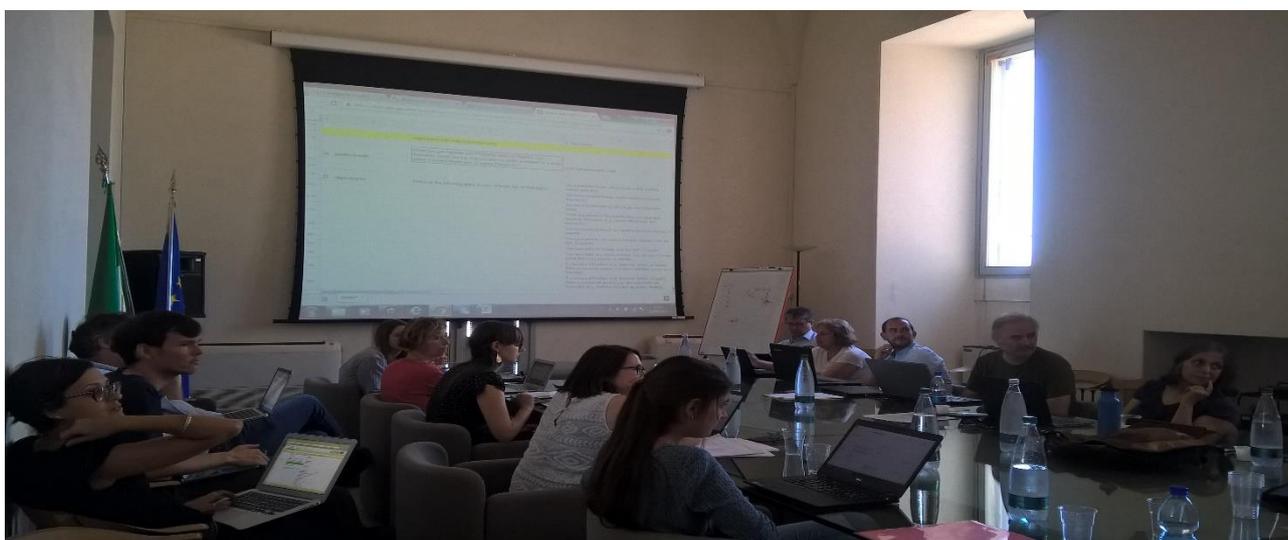
EURYKA brings together researchers and civil society practitioners from nine European countries: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The EURYKA Consortium is formed by the following partners: European Alternatives (United Kingdom), SciencesPo (France), Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy), Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Spain), University of Crete (Greece), University of Geneva (Switzerland), University of Sheffield (United Kingdom), University of Siegen (Germany), University of Warsaw (Poland), Uppsala University (Sweden). Its members and advisors come from various scientific backgrounds, including sociology, political science, social policy, gender, and communication studies, and they form a truly multidisciplinary team geared to capture the multifaceted and multidimensional character of youth political participation in Europe.

Read the EURYKA researchers' profiles here: unige.ch/sciences-societe/euryka/people/consortium/

CONSORTIUM MEETINGS



On 7th-8th February 2016, members of the EURYKA project came together on the premises of Palazzo Strozzi in Florence to kick off the project. During the two-day meeting, the project team discussed administrative, technical, conceptual and methodological issues; the work plan for the coming 36 months and its strategy for effective and target-specific dissemination and communication activities. Apart from the project consortium, the meeting was attended by members of the Advisory Board Jennifer Earl and Howard Williamson.



On 12th-13th June 2017, the EURYKA consortium had its second project meeting at the Università del Salento in Lecce, Italy. At the meeting, the teams discussed the first findings on youth public policies and practices promoting youth participation and inclusion on both country and EU levels (as part of Workpackage 1). The teams also discussed the sampling strategies of the forthcoming workpackages.

NEXT STEPS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Since our first meeting, the project teams have begun to analyse the policy context which influences the participation and inclusion of young people. Researchers will go onto examine those policies related to young people's political, societal, and cultural activism across the nine countries of the EURYKA project: France, Greece, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The analysis focuses on contemporary policies, but will also account for some recent changes, especially those concerning the recent economic crisis. The study will be based on materials collected and summarized by all nine partners of the consortium, while the comparative analysis will be conducted by the Swedish team (Katrin Uba, and Elias Collin).

The next issue of the EURYKA newsletter will present the first findings of the project's policy analysis and further information about ongoing and planned research activities.

PROJECT IDENTITY

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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