



# YOU PART

Engage. Connect. Empower

## **PRACTISE HOW TO VOTE**

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# PRACTISE HOW TO VOTE

## FACTS

**Age** of participants: 14 +

**Number** of participants: 9 – 99

**Duration:** 120 minutes / different days

## GOALS

This activity aims to acquaint young people with exercising a fundamental right before a particular election (local, national, EU). For those eligible to vote for the first time, the activity serves as a preparation. The activity aims to motivate young voters to vote. Questions about the election process can be answered, uncertainties can be reduced. Those who are not eligible to vote on the basis of citizenship or age should be included. This can also be an important statement to advocate for resident voting rights or lowering the voting age.

## MATERIALS

Information material on the respective election, sample ballot papers, envelopes, ballot box, pens, voting booth, tables and chairs

## PREPARATIONS

1. Prepare sample ballot papers with the names of parties and candidates in the respective election. If you wish to analyse the election results, e.g. according to actual eligibility to vote, then print / copy the sample ballot papers for different groups in different colours.
2. Prepare the voting booth: it can be creatively self-built with movable walls and / or cloths (tent-like). Just make sure that the person voting cannot be seen. Put a small table and pen in the voting booth.

# INSTRUCTIONS

## Step 1

Participants enter the “polling station”. They walk one after the other to the table of the “electoral commission”. The “electoral commission” consists of youth workers. However, you can also invite guests like local politicians.

## Step 2

After showing an ID (for the sake of procedure) each participant gets registered, receives a ballot paper and an envelope.

For younger participants, the most important information can also be repeated (e.g. only a cross for one party, do not write your own name on the ballot paper, etc.).

## Step 3

One after the other, participants enter the voting booth, vote and put the ballot paper in the envelope.

## Step 4

Participants return to the “electoral commission” table and put the envelope into the ballot box.

## Step 5

After the election, the “electoral commission” counts the votes.

## Step 6

The election result will be published after the real election. Then it is useful to compare the result with the real election result, to discuss and reflect with the young people: Are there differences? Why are there differences? How did you experience the real voting? Etc.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FACILITATORS

This activity can be well combined with other activities around an election. Depending on time and staff resources, the activity can also be conducted on different days before the election. Depending on the space available, it can be done indoors, but also outdoors, e.g. in the park.

And if the space allows, the election and the information about the election can take place in different rooms. The room with the information (including election advertisements, talks) can also be creatively decorated, for example.



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## PROJECT PARTNERS



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