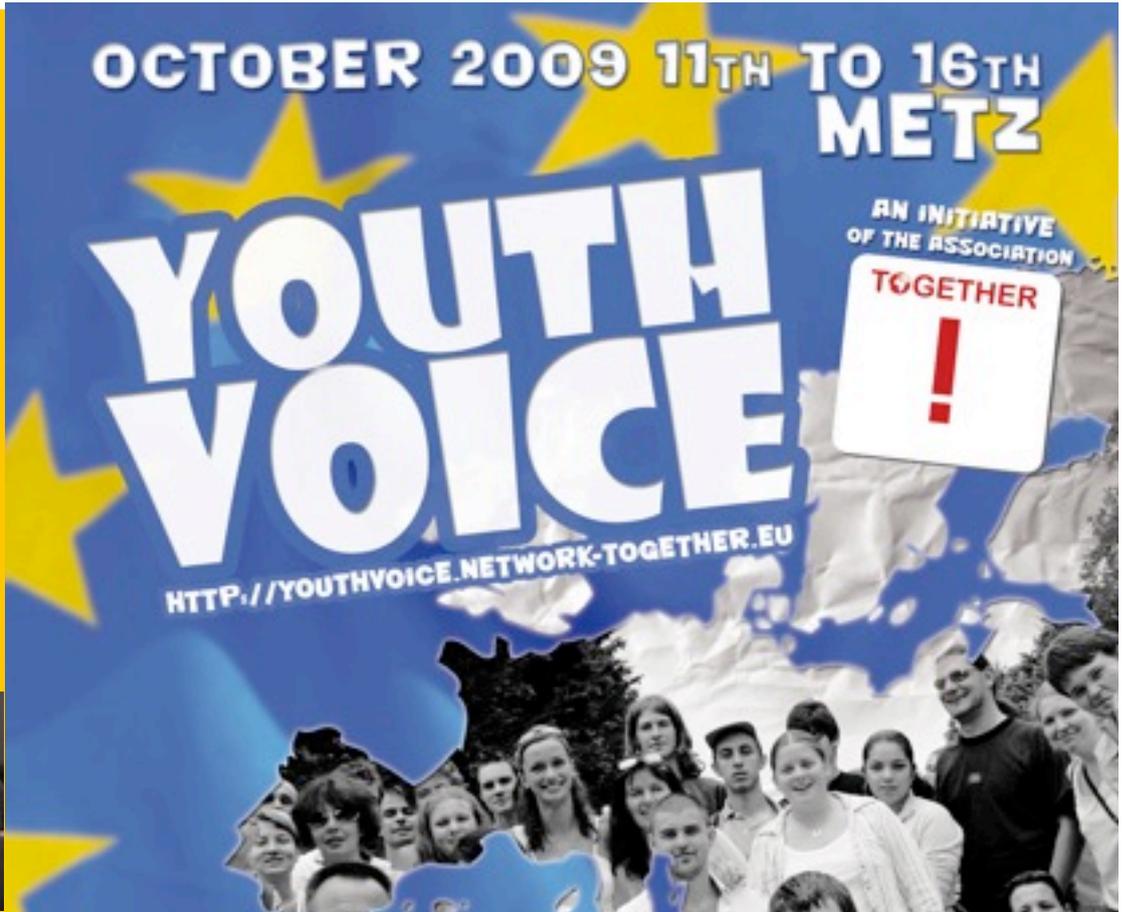


# YOUTH VOICE

80 YOUNG PEOPLE DEBATE WITH POLITICIANS

**Edito: Michel FIZE**  
**Sociologist**

"It is important that young people discuss, that they can exchange and that they do it without taking anything for granted, and considering the diversity of the situations as well as aspirations. It was in this spirit that during the autumn of 1997, sitting at the table, I drew for the Ministry of Youth and Sport what is going to happen to the National Council and the Youth Departmental Councils. We need to go further now and to let young people to be better involved in the life of the society, to have an easier approach towards the responsibilities, to build together with the other citizens the society of tomorrow."



## THE PROJECT WE DREAMT ABOUT

By Luc Wendling - the President of the organisation

**„Youth Voice“ is a European-wide event which will bring together 81 young people from all the 27 countries of the European Union to express the voice of European youth.**

This ambitious youth gathering will enable young people from all corners of Europe to discuss the issues of European citizenship and youth participation. Young Europeans will come from 11 to 16 October 2009 to Metz, France to make their voice be heard and identify what challenges young people face today and what solutions they propose.

The project aims to be part of the structured dialogue of young people with decision-makers and follow successful traditions of official events like European Youth Weeks or Presidency Youth Events. However, "Youth Voice" aims to give the voice to "real young people", coming from various backgrounds, including young people with fewer opportunities. Only like this we can hear the real voice of European youth.

Young people will spend together 6 days and discuss different issues, centred around the new EU Youth Strategy. Outcome of the discussion will be a declaration adopted by young people from all the 27 EU countries which will be disseminated to politicians and decision-makers all over Europe.



"To give a floor to youth is a good deed, but that still often stays without following actions. Together has raised the challenge to bring together young people from 27 European countries, with the objective to interpellate the Parliamentarians from across Europe about their opinion and recommendations. It is an ambitious project and also a way to develop the citizenship reinforcing European identity. It is for these reasons that association Cultures & Communications wished to accompany and support this initiative and also to contribute in the creation of this really European Youth event; a series of meetings and challenges that Europe will face in the coming decades. All the team of our association join me in welcoming this action and the dynamics of "Together". So, let's listen carefully to the Youth Voice."

**Thomas Scuderi**

Director of Cultures & Communications

[www.culturescomm.fr](http://www.culturescomm.fr)

# PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

By Anna Roganova

European institutions and organisations responsible for youth policy have on several occasions emphasised the importance of youth participation to foster young people's active citizenship, their social inclusion and their contribution to the development of democracy.

Participation in the democratic life of any kind of community is about having the right, the means, the space, the opportunity and the support to participate in society's decision making and the possibility to engage in activities that contribute to building a better society.

Youth participation was promoted already in 1992 in the first "European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life", adopted by Council of Europe. It was revised in 2003 in order to address the changing issues experienced by young people. It supports participation of young people on local and regional level, inclusion of disadvantaged young people and youth dimension in all relevant policies.

Also the European Commission made in its white paper on Youth participation a priority area for the specific youth field. As a result, following objectives were set:

- To increase participation by young people in the civic life of their community
- To take possible greater participation by young people in the system of representative democracy
- Greater support of the various forms of learning to participate

The White Paper proposed, as a matter of principle, the regular consultation of and direct dialogue with young people and their representative organisations on all topics relevant for youth. Consequently the Commission involved young people in all stages in the follow-up of the White Paper, but as well in the debate on the future of Europe and the future Constitution.



## The Patronage of Mayor of Metz

The Town of Metz is very happy to cooperate with and to participate in the "European Week", organised by the association "Together" from 11 to 16th October 2009 around the topic of citizenship.

Since signing the Maastricht Treaty on the 7th February 1992, all the citizens of every country that makes part of the European Union is also a European citizen. Besides, one of the important elements of the European citizen is the Charter of the Fundamental rights that unites in the single text the fundamental rights of the European citizens in dignity, independence, equality, solidarity and justice.

The texts are without doubts important, however, I am convinced since a long time that the best way that European project and European citizenship progress passes through concrete actions and exchanges, and in particular youth exchanges, like the ones that are realised successfully by TOGETHER association.

Europe consists of a half a milliard of women and men who speak dozens of languages and who do not know about each other yet so well, despite the centuries of common history. There are arts, creativity, and human experiences of an extraordinary variety, but very often isolated from each other. Today it is time for Europeans to approach with ambition and political voluntarism the question of the wish living together.

Dominique GROS  
Mayor of Metz - Member of the General Council of Moselle



**Nathalie GRIESBECK**

“Enabling youth representatives from all member states to discuss all issues related to active European citizenship, the event "Youth Voice" is an excellent initiative on citizenship participation and mobilization of young people. It brings a very interesting contribution to the development of the dialogue between young people and decision makers and represents a great opportunity to make people aware of the problems of Europe and our society.”

*Nathalie Griesbeck  
European deputy  
General Conseillor of Moselle*

**TOGETHER AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

**By Jirka Peterka**

Together as a pan-European network of youth organisations promotes intensively youth participation within all its activities. Our aim is to give possibilities to young people from all over Europe to participate fully in the life of their societies on local, regional, national and European level and empower young people to be active citizens and contribute to their local community.

**Youth participation through Together volunteers**

Together is active within the European Voluntary Service (EVS) as a sending, hosting and co-ordinating organisation. Tens of young people spend every year a period of 2-12 months abroad as a volunteers in an NGO. They participate in various voluntary programmes - working with children, disabled people, in cultural, ecological or leisure time projects, in youth information centres or youth NGOs. The EVS projects are financed from the Youth in Action programme of the European Commission which covers all the costs of the volunteers. For that, the volunteers must give their energy, free time and enthusiasm to contribute to the local community in their hosting country. The voluntary service abroad is a very rewarding experience. Our young volunteers discover new cultures and countries, meet new international friends, learn from their new experience and develop their competences. The EVS is a real example of how young people participate in making the life of their local community better. If you want to become volunteer with Together, check our evs website. If you want to know more about how EVS works, you can also have a look at a website prepared by 2 young volunteers during their EVS.



**Youth participation in media**

Another youth exchange named “Democramedia” made young people discover the world of media and how media influence our society and democracy. Through practical media workshops, they had a chance to try themselves to produce different media products. The aim of this project was to increase youth participation in media and their production.

**Together promotes European citizenship**

Third example can be youth exchange “Go 4 Europe” organised in Rolbing, France. During this youth exchange, young people participated in a week-long interactive simulation game. They simulated different processes taking place in the European Union and thus learned more about the European institutions, processes and history of European integration. They simulated the enlargement process of the EU, organised a press conference, adopted European legislation, held international negotiations, etc.

Together organises many other youth exchanges on different topics, such as European citizenship, art, urban culture, street sport, inclusion of disadvantaged young people, active citizenship, media, entrepreneurship, etc. If you want to participate in an international youth exchange, contact Together in your country. Contact can be found at <http://www.network-together.eu>



## Bertrand DELANOË, Mayor of Paris

"The project "Youth Voice" initiated by the association TOGETHER and the Town Hall of Metz contribute to the life of the European citizenship.

The new generation grows together with the European Union. To live in the biggest democratic space in peace is a great chance the value of which we have to appreciate. We have to be especially faithful to the European spirit through working without stopping in order to deepen and share as much as possible the movement that since fifty years now brings together and unites European citizens.

The taste of discovery and sharing, the wish to get involved in the public life in order to choose our destiny town combines so many qualities that make the youth as the fore-front of the construction of European identity. This is why the meetings between youth and representatives of political and associative unions, as well as all the opportunities to learn and to exchange contribute to the construction of Europe that is close to the citizens and deserve to receive our best support. I wish to every of you excellent debates and the floor is yours!"

### YOUTH PARTICIPATION...CONTINUATION



Together supports young people's participation in democracy.

From September 2009, Together is the co-ordinator of a long-term Youth Democracy Project named "Rencontres participatives de la jeunesse européenne". This project aims to give a chance to 50 young European from different countries to become "participation ambassadors". They will be trained in participation methodology during 3 peer education meetings, will have a possibility to organize themselves a youth forum and then will be provided with coaching and support for their own local participation projects.

Together also implemented several international training courses and support measures for youth workers about youth participation. Through this, we facilitate the exchange of experience and improving quality of youth participation projects. The Youth Voice project is the most ambitious youth participation project that Together has organised. We believe the project will promote youth participation at the European level and celebrate the European citizenship and the possibilities it brings to young people.



**You can find more information about other projects of Together Network at [www.network-together.eu](http://www.network-together.eu)**



## Jean-Pierre Masseret

"It is 3 years now that the Regional Council of Lorraine supports TOGETHER association that tends to promote youth projects in Europe. The youth from the region lives in Europe in their everyday life: for their leisure activities, for their studies, for their work.

Europe is a space of our regular life. Aragon told: "The word was not given to the Man, it was taken by him". So, take the floor on 13th October (and not only)! Use it! But do not forget that the Word does not mean anything if it is not an anticipation of an Action! Have a great activity everyone!"

President of the Regional Council of Lorraine - Senator



**Marie-Jo ZIMMERMANN**

«Thank you for the invitation to join your event. It is with great pleasure, but mostly pride that I join it with all my firmly believe in young people.

Your are the future of our countries and, thanks to your event, a great hope for a European collaboration.

It is all together that we can, through our commitments to you, build peace and brotherhood. We have the experience and now we want to convey the flame that is still ours.

See you soon to build something together.»

*Marie-Jo ZIMMERMANN -  
Member of the Council of Moselle.*

**EUROPEAN YOUTH POLITICS**

Young people nowadays face many challenges and live in a rapidly changing society. The young generation is very specific part of society which needs to be approached differently. Therefore, in practically all European countries, there is a specific youth policy. Also the European Union has its own youth policy which aims to meet young people’s expectations and support their active participation in society.

The inclusion of ‘Youth’ as a concept in European policy is a relatively recent phenomenon. The Treaty of Maastricht in 1993 extended the scope of EU policies to include the youth ‘field’, thanks to Article 149 § 2. This states that the EU should “...encourage the development of youth exchanges and of exchanges of socio-educational instructors...”

The pilot “Youth for Europe” programme was launched already in 1988. Before 2001 the activities of the European Institutions in the youth field mainly focused on the consideration and implementation of specific programmes. However, a consensus remained that this action and cooperation needed to be built on further and that young people themselves needed to be more involved.

A milestone in the European youth policy was the adoption of the White Paper on Youth, "A New Impetus for European Youth", in November 2001. It was the founding document of the framework of political cooperation in the youth field. It contained a proposal to the EU’s Member States to increase cooperation in four youth priority areas: participation, information, voluntary activities and a greater understanding and knowledge of youth. The White Paper also proposes to take the youth dimension more into account when making other relevant policies, such as education and training, employment and social inclusion, health and anti-discrimination. Among other things, this was a response to the apparent disaffection of young people with traditional forms of participation in public life, and called on young Europeans to become more active citizens.

On the basis of the White Paper, the Council of the European Union in June 2002 established a framework for European co-operation in the field of youth. Later, in November 2005, the framework was updated to take into account the European Youth Pact.



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**OCTOBER 2009 11<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup>  
METZ**

# **YOUTH VOICE**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup>  
14H-21H CITY HALL  
PARTICIPATION WORKSHOPS  
WITH REFLECTION AND  
DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> - 19H  
CITY HALL  
DEBATE BY FABRICE ROSACI\*  
WITH POLITICIANS**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
9AM-12PM : VISIT OF THE HOTEL DE  
REGION AND DEBATE IN THE  
CHAMBER BY CHRISTIAN MOREL**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>  
PRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH IN  
ACTION PROGRAM AT THE HOUSE  
OF ROBERT SCHUMAN**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - 19H  
CITY HALL  
INTERCULTURAL DINNER WITH  
SPECIALTIES FROM ALL OVER  
EUROPE.**

\*journaliste correspondant TFI

[HTTP://YOUTHVOICE.NETWORK-TOGETHER.EU](http://youthvoice.network-together.eu)