

Young people's participation and digitalisation

It's easier to reach larger audiences and international communities.

We like to engage in gamification of formal political processes.

We like to engage through online voting and clicktivism.

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL PARTICIPATION

Advantage of joining remotely is especially notable in the context of shrinking space for civil society and vulnerable youth who have limited opportunities to participate.

It's easier to organise ourselves around common causes.

Our public and large scale online actions often don't require additional permission and complicated logistics.

We can join activities from a safe space: our home.

MOST PROMINENT ONLINE ACTIVITIES UTILISING DIGITAL TOOLS

- Creating or signing an online petition **12.8%**
- Participating in an online campaign **9.2%**
- Creating online fundraising campaigns **4%**

We can establish connections with voices and networks outside our city or country.

It's cheaper to participate online.

- Donate to online funding campaigns **10.6%**
- Creating posts on the social media **18%**
- Sharing opinion on social media **30.3%**
- Following different organisations in social media **37.4%**

Safety of online spaces

Hate speech and ideas promoting violence can easily circulate on social media, posing a threat to democracy and human rights.

60% of young female digital activists who reported bullying, harassment and hate speech online, feel that their gender was the reason for the reactions to their views.

CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL PARTICIPATION

Digital competencies

Informed and meaningful youth digital participation requires young people to have:

- sufficient digital, data and media literacy skills,
- the ability to exercise their human rights both offline and online,
- the ability to use digital technologies in a critical, collaborative and creative way.

Polarisation

In polarised settings, false information and fake news can circulate easily, and can easily make people confuse what is real and not real.

It is harder to reinforce intergenerational dialogue online.

Digital access divide

Offline inequalities and/or privileges are reproduced online, or even amplified: reduced access to digital tools, due to a lack of connectivity, lack of equipment or poor digital literacy.

Young men are more likely to share content online, to look for information, and read news about politics.

Young women more often go online for social interaction and maintaining relationships.

Gender-based digital divide

Young women's engagement online depends on their access to digital tools and digital proficiency.