



SUCCESS STORY

EURYKA tracks youth participation in democracy Horizon 2020 | Societal Challenge 6

EURYKA – “Reinventing Democracy in Europe: Youth Doing Politics in Times of Increasing Inequalities” is a 3-year cross-national study aiming to reach a better understanding of the conditions, processes and mechanisms affecting political participation of youth in Europe. It will suggest new models to strengthen European democracy and foster political inclusion.

Anyone watching recent headlines may feel that young people the world over are increasingly active in politics. But does this heightened interest necessarily translate into greater participation in the democratic process? This is one of the questions that the EURYKA project set out to answer in a study whose findings could hardly be more timely. “Youth involvement is having a great impact on politics today,” says Prof. Marco Giugni, coordinator of the project. “Yet, politicians rarely discuss young people as possible protagonists in political

affairs, so there is a lack of specific policies encouraging their political involvement.”

‘Euresearch can help you understand the broader policy aspects’

By comparing 9 European countries that have different institutional arrangements and policies towards youth, EURYKA aims to determine how the political engagement of young people is shaped by social inequality, and to advance more inclusive scenarios for future democratic models and political systems.

Multidimensional framework

“We have been looking at many very different aspects, including youth political engagement and contribution to political democracy, public discourse about youth, and the different policies of different countries that favour youth in politics. Along the way, we have conducted surveys, biographical interviews and an analysis of social media.”

Informed advice

With experience in 10 EU Framework projects, Giugni has insight for anyone interested in applying for funding. “The amount of work depends on whether it is your first project, for which you may feel a lot more pressure, and on whether you already know the people involved. I have been working for years with the same core group of partners and this makes things much easier because I know that I can rely on their expertise in each field, in each country.” Funding for EU projects, he adds, has become increasingly competitive. To increase your chances of success, he advises consulting Euresearch. “In all of my projects, both the Euresearch Network Office in Bern and the Euresearch Office Geneva have been most helpful. A proposal you write for a European project is different to one that you write for a Swiss funding agency. Euresearch can help you understand the broader policy aspects involved in a European-wide grant.”

‘Euresearch tries to address the specific needs of every single client. In this way, I am also learning a lot myself. It is really a self-reinforcing process.’ (Joël Graf, Euresearch National Contact Point)



Prof. Marco Giugni (©Keystone-SDA)

Euresearch is an information and advisory service on the European Research and Innovation Framework Programmes. It has offices in all the Swiss regions and a Network Office in Bern. Euresearch is a non-profit association supported by the Swiss confederation.

PROGRAMME

Societal Challenge 6: “Europe in a changing world – Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies” is the main Horizon 2020 funding source for collaborative projects in the social sciences and humanities. This programme tackles issues such as democracy, societal transformations, migration, inequalities, and cultural heritage. It not only takes into account European challenges but also links them with global phenomena.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project Name EURYKA – Reinventing Democracy in Europe: Youth Doing Politics in Times of Increasing Inequalities

Programme Societal Challenge 6

Interviewee Prof. Marco Giugni, University of Geneva

Project Participants University of Geneva (Coordinator) and 9 other European partners

Research Area Democracy

Project Dates 01.02.2017 – 31.01.2020 (3 years)

Project Cost €3 245 720

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More information

www.unige.ch/sciences-societe/euryka

