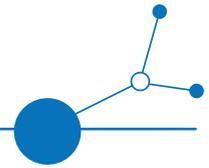# Questionnaire

Joint workshop
with young students

Questionnaire

Youth involvement in local governance and decision-making processes

Dear student,
This questionnaire is part of the three-year Interreg Central Europe project CENTRAL MOUNTAINS, whose purpose is strengthening governance models, with a particular focus on cross-border and transnational structures for cooperation, for sustainable development of mountain regions in Central Europe (Alps and Carpathians).

The questionnaire is designed to be an ice-breaking tool, with which to start reflecting on the topic of governance and understanding how much it is a topic of interest to young people and how much it is already part of your relationship with the territory where you live.

We would like to thank you for the valuable contribution you can make to the project through this activity, helping to improve and increase the role of young people in the dynamics of government and decision-making processes that affect the life and future of the areas in which you live.

This is an anonymous survey. All data will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only.

All data collected through this questionnaire will be presented only in aggregated and anonymous form or in such a manner that it is impossible to identify the individuals.

Place: _____

Date: _____

Glossary

Decision-making process:
The process of deciding about something important, especially in a group of people or in an organization. It is a management strategy and process for selecting the most sensible solution from a set of alternatives to achieve the best result.

Governance:
Governance is about the culture and institutional environment in which citizens and stakeholders interact among themselves and participate in public affairs. Governance represents the norms, values and rules through which public affairs are managed in order to ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment and broad participation. It is sometimes confused and misinterpreted as a synonym for „management" which has a different meaning. „Management" refers to individuals or groups of people who are given the authority to achieve certain results, while „governance" refers to how power is distributed and shared, how policies are formulated, the priorities set and the stakeholders made accountable.

Cross-border governance structures:
The operational and regulatory framework enabling different public and private actors to cooperate between border areas. These are structures aimed at long-term cooperation aimed for solving joint challenges through sustainable projects and integrated, multi-level and multi-sectoral strategies within a given cross-border territory. Cross-border governance structures can take different, more or less organised forms: cooperation protocols, conventions, agreements, consortia, etc., depending on the objectives of the various initiatives, the public culture, the resources mobilized.

Ecosystem Resources: Ecosystem services are the set of services that natural systems generate for humans. It is a concept linked to that of „natural capital", i.e. the physical, monetary and welfare value offered by biodiversity to mankind. The services that nature and the environment offer us, often considered as obvious and little considered, constitute all that is necessary for our survival: air, water, soil, nutrients, vegetation, animals, raw materials that contribute to our welfare and economy. According to the definition proposed by the MEA (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment), a research project born with the support of the United Nations, ecosystem services are the „multiple benefits provided by ecosystems to mankind" (MEA, 2005). The 4 main categories of ecosystem services are: life support, regulation, procurement, cultural.

Overtourism:

Translated as „tourist overcrowding", it is defined by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) as „the impact of tourism on a destination, or parts of it, that unduly and negatively affects the quality of life perceived by citizens and/or the quality of visitors' experiences". This is the overcrowding of tourists, concentrated in some periods of the year in cities and sites, which can cause damage to monuments, the environment and residents.

1. **Age**

☐ 14-19
☐ 20-25
☐ 25-30
☐ >30

2. **Gender**

☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ Diverse
☐ I would prefer not to answer

3. **The city/village where you live**

_____

4. **Are you part of any local association (cultural, sports, environment groups, animal welfare...)?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ If yes, which one(s)

_____

5. **Does your municipality involve young people in public decision-making (youth city council, surveys and events for young people, recruitment for participative activities, youth debates, promotion and involvement in civic service...)?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I don't know

6. How much do you agree with these statements referring to the territory where you live
Use a scale from 1 to 5 (1 – completely disagree; 5 – completely agree)

In the town where I live, there are many initiatives to involve young people in the decision-making processes of the territory (youth are called upon to participate in the discussion of public issues in their municipality, to express their opinion, are called upon to participate in the discussion of public issues in their municipality, to express their opinion, to be actively involved in decision-making processes)

(1)   (2)   (3)   (4)   (5)

I would like to be better informed, through channels and tools suitable for young people, on the activities of local government (municipal activities and work, meetings, topics under discussion, work forecast and decisions to be discussed)

(1)   (2)   (3)   (4)   (5)

I would like to be more involved and take an active part in the decision-making and government processes of the territory (I would like to be more concretely useful for my municipality and territory by personally carrying out activities and helping with community work and intervening in public debate if I can participate as a young citizen)

(1)   (2)   (3)   (4)   (5)

More opportunities and tools should be provided for young people to take action in the territories and contribute to the choices of governance together with the competent bodies (participatory activities, work tables with the municipality, apps and social platforms where to build comparison and interaction between citizens, young people and institutions, etc.)

(1)   (2)   (3)   (4)   (5)

7. In your opinion, what are the greatest challenges and problems that a mountain area (or an area bordering the mountains) like the one you live in must face today?
Please, select max 3 areas that you think are most relevant

☐ management of ecosystem resources

☐ management of humanenvironment interactions

☐ climate change

☐ land abandonment and soil depletion

☐ geomorphological risk

☐ land use

☐ economic development

☐ lack of job opportunities

☐ over-tourism

☐ lack of services

☐ scarcity of educational possibilities

☐ the difficulty of mobility connection

☐ other, please specify

_____

8. Which States are included in the Carpathian mountain region?

☐ France

☐ Italy

☐ Switzerland

☐ Germany

☐ Austria

☐ Luxembourg

☐ Czech Republic

☐ Poland

☐ Hungary

☐ Slovakia

☐ Ukraine

☐ Lithuania

☐ Romania

☐ Moldavia

☐ Croatia

☐ Serbia

☐ Bulgaria

☐ Liechtenstein

☐ Principality of Monaco

9. Which States are included in the Alpine mountain region?

☐ France

☐ Italy

☐ Switzerland

☐ Germany

☐ Austria

☐ Luxembourg

☐ Czech Republic

☐ Poland

☐ Hungary

☐ Slovakia

☐ Ukraine

☐ Lithuania

☐ Romania

☐ Moldavia

☐ Croatia

☐ Serbia

☐ Bulgaria

☐ Liechtenstein

☐ Principality of Monaco

10. What aspects of the territory where you live interest you most?
Please, select max 3 answers

☐ Environment/sustainability

☐ Politics/government

☐ Social services/welfare

☐ Public spaces and urban planning

☐ Mobility

☐ Services/business activities

☐ Sports infrastructures and events

☐ Events and entertainment

☐ Other, please specify

_____

11. On which themes and aspects of the territory and the environment in which you live would you like to be more actively involved at the level of decision-making?
Please, select max 4 topics

☐ Renovation of public spaces and buildings, purchase of street furniture, work on road infrastructure

☐ Planning sports, cultural, gastronomic and themed events, competitions and festivals

☐ Environmental sustainability and energy demand

☐ Local cultures and cultivation processes, management of agri-food systems, sustainable tourism development

☐ Promotion of cultural, social, historical and architectural heritage

☐ Mobility systems, intermodal links and infrastructure, reduction and management of transport impacts on the environment

☐ Protection of natural heritage and biodiversity, human-environment interaction and coexistence with wildlife and ecosystems of the territory

☐ Opportunities, difficulties, aspirations and prospects for life and work in mountain areas, which sectors and new jobs can create new possibilities to remain

☐ Abandonment and disuse of mountain villages, how to support the needs of the aging population, scenarios of rethinking the ancient mountain settlements

☐ The future of mountain crafts, who will take care of them and how they will be rethought according to new visions of living in the mountains

☐ Forest and forest resource management, what is used, how to make supply chains more sustainable and innovation for new processes and markets

☐ Other, please tell us what you would like to be engaged in:

_____

12. Have you ever talked about some of these issues of interest directly with people from the municipality or relevant bodies, or on a particular occasion of public debate (city council, school events, public talks)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, on which occasion(s)?

_____

13. How would you assess your interaction/dialogue/collaboration with local government bodies in your city?

☐ absent

☐ scarce

☐ medium

☐ good

☐ excellent

14. In your opinion, which are the greatest obstacles to more participation of young people in local decision-making in the local government bodies?
Please, select max 3 aspects

☐ Politics

☐ Administrative barriers

☐ Unwillingness on the part of government actors

☐ Unavailability, lack of available staff in government bodies

☐ Mistrust on the part of the governors

☐ Lack of initiative on the part of young people

☐ Mistrust on the part of young people

☐ Small number of young people remaining in the territory

☐ Deficient age groups and underrepresentation of the needs of each

15. Do you have any ideas, even general, on what could be done to overcome these barriers, at least partially?

_____

_____

16. Do you think there are actors (public institutions, civil society organizations, private, etc.) in the territory that could help young people as intermediaries with government bodies to facilitate and increase the participation of young people?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

☐ If yes, could you more closely specify which one(s)?

_____

17. Are you aware of projects and initiatives aimed at improving and increasing the involvement of young people in the decision-making processes of the territories (in your municipality, province, region, or nation)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please could you provide information you are aware of?

_____

18. Are you aware of the existence of local cross-border governance structures, including in the field of youth cross-border governance structures?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ If yes, please could you briefly describe which ones you are aware of?

_____

19. Keeping the topics you have previously selected in mind, in which you would like to be more actively involved (question 10), if, starting from today, you could contribute by acting concretely to take care of your territory, what would you do first and what would you need to participate?

Please indicate the first 3 actions that you would like to implement (thinking about the issues you would like to work on) and list up to 5 aspects/conditions that you consider essential to successfully achieve them:

3 actions:

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

5 aspects/tools/conditions/contexts needed:

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

☐ _____

Thank you very much for your participation!

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