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# ***Space for participation?***

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# *Structure of presentation*

 What does research tell us about youth participation?

 What do young people tell us about the problems with democracy and political participation?

 What kind of political space do we want?



- Political interest
  - Membership in traditional political organisations (parties, unions)
  - New political and social movements
  - political activism
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- No general decline of political participation
  - The role of the young people in bringing about these changes, is often not verifiable statistically.
  - What has changed is the form of participation



# *Space for youth participation?*

- Lack of youth adequate information
- No youth specific issues
- No ideals that could mobilise young people
- No easy access to politicians and parties
- No meaningful integration of young people in political organisations
- No external efficacy – system responsiveness
- Lack of opportunities or tokenism
- No real power of young people/youth institutions
- No acceptance of young people in society



# *Structural and cultural context of political space*

- Globalised capitalism
- Dismantling of welfare state and individualised risk
- Consumption society, individualism and de-politicisation



# *Creative political space?*

- Lack of system responsiveness and accountability
- Lack of truth and morality
- Lack of cooperation and con-creation



# *What makes political space creative?*

**Relational awareness**  
**Ego awareness**  
**Construct awareness**



**Wishing you an enjoyable and  
creative meeting**

