

# Work in progress - Erasmus Project in Finland(From Lukas Eichinger, Julia Kaluza and Adrian Ströle)

## 1. Has the voting age been changed in your country since WWII?

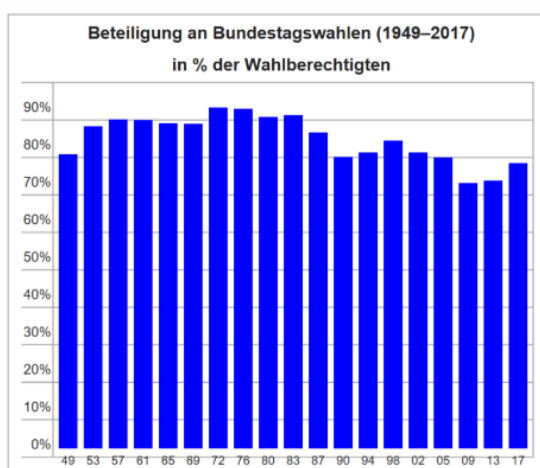
- 1945: The age limit for the right to vote is raised from 20 to 21 years.
- 1974: The age of majority, and thus the age limit for the right to vote, is also reduced to 18 years (effective from 1 January 1975).
- 1995: In Lower Saxony, the voting age for local elections is reduced to 16.

## 2. Are there any differences in voting ages in different kind of elections (e.g. parliamentary, presidentials etc.)?

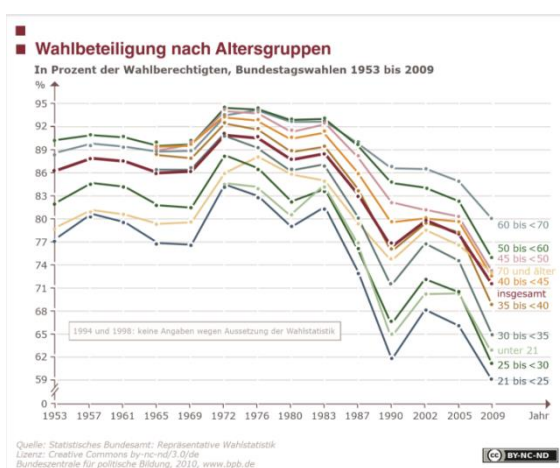
- No there aren't any differences in voting ages in different kind of elections, except in Lower Saxony the voting age is reduced to 16 for the local elections (only for the local elections).

## 3. What were the voter turnouts among the young in the previous elections in your country?

- Voter turnout is an important indicator of the level of political participation and political interest. The electoral turnout by election is calculated by the number of votes cast according to election in relation to the totality of voters. For Germany, this means that voter turnout is higher when voters are older. In Germany about 78% of the voters took part in 2017, in the parliamentary elections. Among the rest, a decline is also in Scandinavia (Finland, Sweden) noticeable.



1)



2)

1)source: <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wahlbeteiligung>

2)source: <http://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/zahlen-und-fakten/bundestagswahlen/55594/nach-altersgruppen>

#### 4. Has the situation among the young in your country changed since WWII (e.g. are there less young voters now than before)? If so, how?

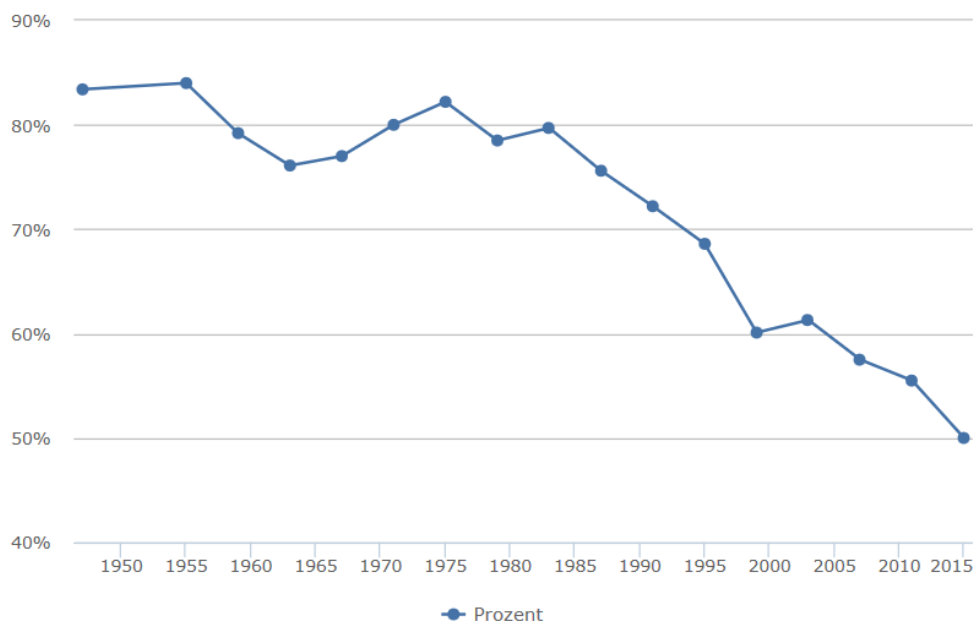
- The Federal Statistical Office of Germany, leads information to the election turnout in Germany. From 1953 these are distinguished after the age of the voters. In this statistics is the election turnout of 21 to <25-year-old from 1953 to 1957 easily rose. Nevertheless, from 1957 to 1969 the election turnout decreased about nearly 10%. To reach an election turnout from a total of 84% under 25-year-old in 1972. From 1969 the election turnout, up to two exceptions decreased in the years 1983 and 2002, steadily. The figures of the voters also follow this trend under thirty. All together can be found out that 50 to <70 year-old are the highest election turnout of all age groups. Since 1953 the number of the young voters, just as the whole election turnout, decreases.
- The sinking of the election turnout is maybe explained by the stability of the political system in Germany, is assumed from the fact that the voters do not give her vote, just because they are widely contented with the politics.

#### 5. "If the voter turnout among the young in your country is considered alarmingly low, what is being/ has been done about it"

- Many German do not go to the polls and they become more and more. The following chart which shows that the voter turnout for example in Bremen has enormously decreased.

##### Immer weniger gehen wählen

Wahlbeteiligung Bremen; Angaben in Prozent auf Basis Hochrechnung



source: <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bremen-wahl-wie-man-nichtwaehler-aktivieren-koennte-a-1033178.html>

- But with the older people young people also stopped to vote as much as they did some years ago.
- One reason for this problem is that the political education is too low. This is why there are hold elections for the youth so that young people can realize how important elections are.
- Another problem is that it is too uncomfortable to vote in the opinion of many people. There should be more possibilities to vote for example in supermarkets, restaurant, ... .
- In addition to that people have the opinion that politics should be more distinguishable especially party programs.
- Furthermore people don't ask for crisis management, they are looking for real solutions of problems.
- Besides the politics should sometimes be more comprehensible.
- At last point you could introduce obligation to vote.

source: <http://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/bremen-wahl-wie-man-nichtwaehler-aktivieren-koennte-a-1033178.html>

## **6. "Your personal POV: how to increase young people's interest and participation in politics in general?"**

- Like I've already written, interest in politics already begins at young age, which is why you should arouse the interest of pupils in school for example with "elections" for young people.
- But the interest should not only be arouse, it should also be taught as important and self-evident.
- At last thing I believe you have to make it much easier to vote.