

Association of European Election Officials

**„By the authority of the ballot, not the
force of the bullet...”**

4th GEO Conference, Washington

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Investing in democracy by educating young voters

1. main tasks and challenges of youth voters' education
2. education projects, programs implemented by the ACEEEO



The „ideal” voter

- is informed about voting procedure
- is motivated to participate on elections
- knows and understands parties', candidates' program,
- is able to make a conscious choice.



Cornerstones of youth voters' education

- Improvement of practical knowledge about election system, system of voting, historical background
- Information about programs of political parties and candidates
- Improvement of skills and abilities of youth voters
- Civic education: „votocracy” vs. Democracy



Young voters – a group with special needs:

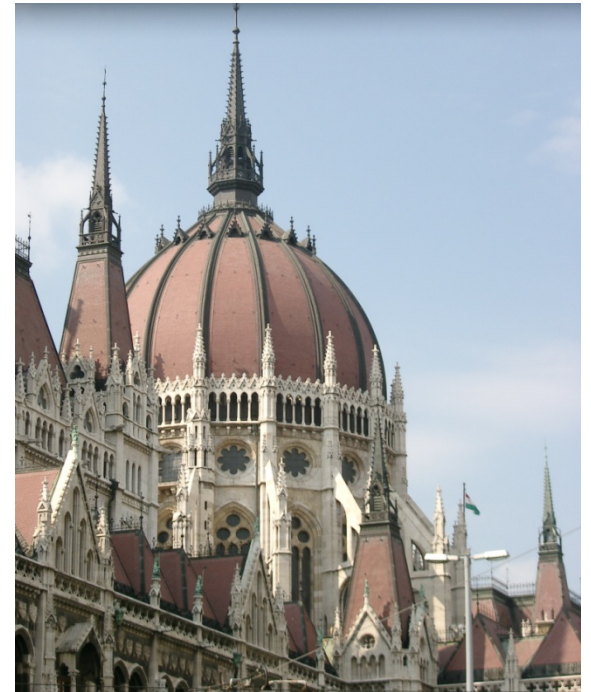
- Political communication is in competition with other types of communication: advertisements, pop stars, movies, TV series etc..
- If politicians want to be taken seriously by young people, they have to take them seriously too
- Get into immediate contact with youth
- Formulate message in plain words
- Learning by doing



Education projects of the ACEEEO

First time voters in the House of the Nation

- traditional history lesson in the Parliament
- Educational movie about election history, election systems and process
- Personal discussion with youngsters
- Visiting the session rooms of the Parliament



Education projects of the ACEEEO

Who would you choose?

- online computer test
- helps youth to orient their political preference
- compares the user's political preferences with questions and statements taken from election documents of political parties contesting the elections.



Education projects of the ACEEEO

- www.firstvoter.org
- widens the knowledge of the youth about elections and voting
- animations, downloadable education materials
- internal communication system with forum, chat, message board



Education projects of the ACEEEO

Handbook on youth voters education

- Result of a project supported by European Commission
- Joint work of youth activists from Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Spain
- may be used as a compass during the lessons, out-of-school classes and trainings
- Handbook & CD containing interactive education materials, interactive quiz and outlines to facilitate the education



I look forward to your comments

Thank you for your attention!

