

# **Association of European Election Officials**

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

**4<sup>th</sup> GEO Conference, Washington  
Orsolya Nagy**





## ***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

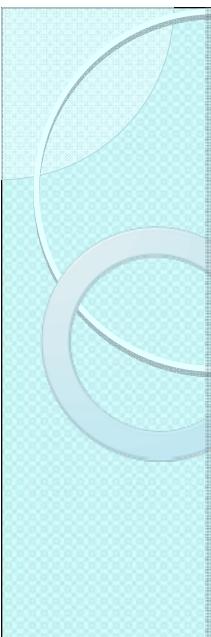
- Improvement of practical knowledge about election system, system of voting, historical background
- Information about programs of political parties and candidates
- Improvement of skills and abilities of youth voters
- Civic education: „votocracy” vs. Democracy



## ***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

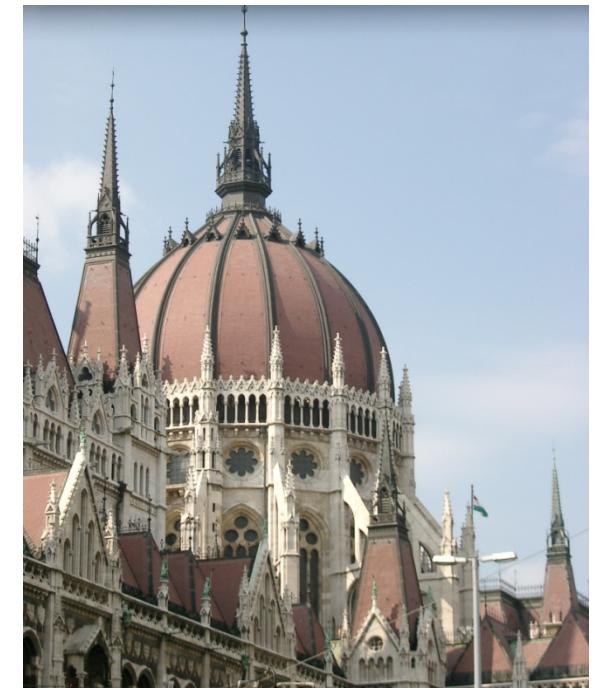


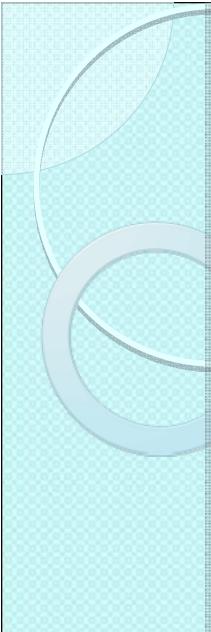


## ***Education projects of the ACEEEO***

### ***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](http://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

**firstvoter** Accessible version

- Events / news
- Our story
- Democracy in the world
- Global elections day
- Active participation in democracy
- Electoral education materials
- Young people in Europe
- A historical survey of development of the electoral rights
- European Parliamentary Elections
- What happens in the polling-booth?
- Articles from experts
- Election calendar
- Useful links
- Click on the map of Europe
- Anecdotes and jokes
- Forum

Name   
Password

**Log in** Registration [Forgot your password?](#)

May:  
1 + 2  
3 + 4  
5 + 6  
7 + 8  
9 + 10  
11 + 12

**What happens in the polling-booth?**

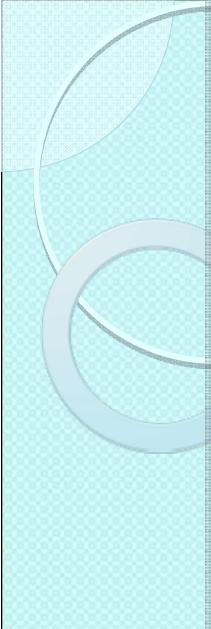
How can you get information about your precinct? What happens if you could not be at your permanent residence on the day of elections? What do you have to take with you? Who will be present at the polling station? What do you have to pay attention to while completing the ballot paper? You can get the answers to your questions by the help of this test vote below.

Rules of preparing and conducting elections are specified by the election law in each country. Although these rules may differ from each other in some details we think that presenting the case of the European Parliamentary elections held in Hungary on the 13th June, 2004 we can provide with useful and interesting information the youth about what happens in the polling station apart from their nationality and country.

**European Parliamentary Elections**

**Test voting**

► [Flash version \(810 kbyte\)](#)  
► [HTML version](#)

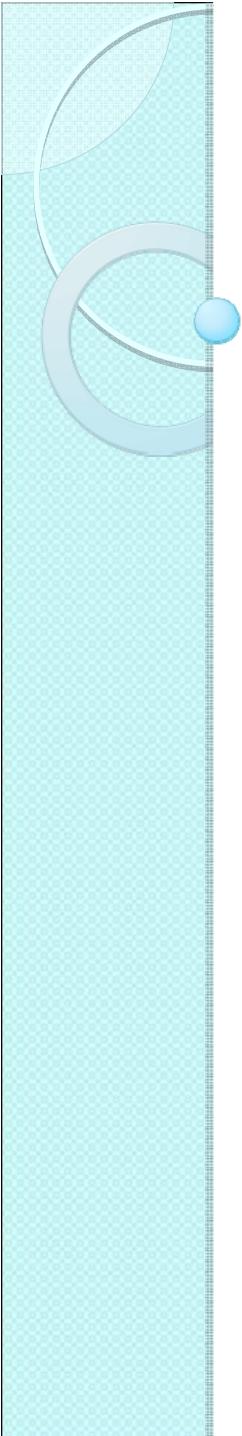


# *Education projects of the ACEEEO*

## *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!**

