Abstract

The turnout is low in elections in general and in the European Parliament elections in particular. This situation reflects the more widespread phenomenon of disenchantment with democracy and its institutions, which is particularly prevalent among young people. In view of this situation, in September 2008 we decided to research into university students’ participation in the elections to the European Parliament to be held in June 2009. The study was designed in three phases, in which different questionnaires were administered. This article presents the results obtained after the third questionnaire. On the basis of these data, the aim of this article is, on the one hand, to research into the possible reasons why young people decided to vote or abstain in the European Parliament elections. On the other hand, it also shows how low levels of participation are a social problem which ought to be seen against an educational background.

Keywords

Participation, non-participation, European Parliament elections 2009, young people, civic and political education.