



# **Youth Political Participation During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

ACEEEO Online Symposium on Youth Participation

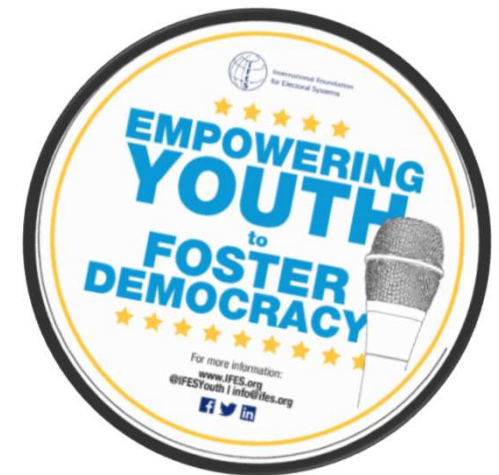
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# International Foundation for Electoral Systems

- IFES supports young people to create democratic habits
  - Formal and nonformal programs, election-cycle activities
  - Civic awareness and political knowledge
  - Develop democratic values and beliefs
  - Prepare first-time and young voters to participate
  - Build advocacy skills



# Global Youth Population

- Global Youth Population
  - Appx. 16% are aged 15 to 24
  - 50% are 30 years old or younger
- Europe and Eurasia
  - 1/3 of the population are under 30
- Members of Parliament
  - Only 2.2% under the age of 30



Images: IPU, 2018



# COVID-19's Impact on Youth Participation

- Social distancing and stay-at-home orders
- School closures and learning gap
  - Democratic learning gap
- Access to virtual learning and internet is limited
- Postponed elections
  - Voter registration, voter education, Election Day participation



IFES Kyrgyzstan Democracy Camp participant post on Instagram



# IFES Program Adaptations



IFES Nigeria & Yiaga Africa, Public debate on elections policy



IFES North Macedonia, Youth Public Policy Academy



IFES Ukraine & YODA, Coffee with the State



# Enhancing Youth Participation During COVID-19

- Build partnerships with young people and networks
- Create opportunities for youth to participate in elections
- Engage young people in designing and disseminating voter education
- Explore proactive voter registration measures
- Engage young people on the platforms they use

