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Ruuti - participation system for young people

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The aim of Ruuti is to ensure that the voices of the young people of Helsinki are heard in municipal decision-making.

Ruuti provides young people in Helsinki opportunities to involve themselves in decision-making and other matters close to them. The aim is to give young people opportunities to discuss and dispute matters, to share their own ideas and to guide them toward active citizenship. Ruuti offers young people an arena to make a better city and surroundings.

Ruuti consists of activities and events organised by young people. Through Ruuti, young people can, for example, establish activity groups, take part in the activities of existing groups, run for the core group and engage in discussions with the city's decision-makers.

A meeting with the decision makers, "Päättäjämiitti", which is held annually in spring, brings young people and municipal decision-makers together. The Ruuti Student Union Days give students the chance to express ideas on how to make the school environment better. Ruuti presents itself at RuutiExpo. It challenges the young people of Helsinki to try out different forms of participation and meet with the city's decision-makers.

Ruuti is for all the young people in Helsinki

The Ruuti core group is an annually elected group of twenty young people, aged between 13 and 17. The aim of the core group is to serve as a link between the young people and decision-makers of Helsinki.

Ruuti Budget, a participatory budgeting programme, gives young people an opportunity to influence the contents and use of funds of youth work in their own area.

[Ruuti.net](#) is a website that keeps track of the youth activity groups and showcases different ways of youth participation and provides young people a direct channel for submitting ideas and initiatives.

Ruuti operates under the City of Helsinki Youth Department and Department of Education. The other departments and officeholders of the City of Helsinki are committed to the principles of Ruuti and the effectiveness of the model is monitored by the city administration.