

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Study session: Youth Democracy Academy for young policy-makers**

27<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

**Organized by:**



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This study session will be organized by DYPALL Network in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

**DYPALL Network** (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level) is a European platform of over 80 civil society organizations and local authorities from more than 30 countries, that aims to involve young people in decision-



making processes at local level, and thus enable municipal and regional authorities to address the needs and interests of youth, engage young people as active actors of problem-solving and increase the level of ownership, commitment and involvement of an important part of our communities.

YP Lab is a resource and mobility centre within DYPALL Network with the focus on research development and capacity building in the field of local youth participation.

In order to realize this ambitious and challenging initiative, DYPALL Network has the following objectives:

- Develop structures and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making at local level;

- Identify best practices and introduce innovative approaches on public governance in cooperation with local authorities and civil society organizations active in the field of youth;
- Foster youth engagement and inclusiveness in representative and participatory democracy processes;
- Build capacity and provide technical assistance on various areas and processes like policy making, advocacy, structured dialogue, co-management, and more;
- Mainstream youth policies at local and regional level (such as youth Guarantee schemes) to develop cohesive and engaged societies.

For more information: <http://dypall.com>

**The Youth Department of the Council of Europe** elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming to promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans. The Youth Portal of the Council of Europe which contains an overview of information about the work of the youth sector, the Council of Europe's youth policy, the current projects and activities. On the youth portal you can read more about the instruments of the Council of Europe in the field of youth:

- Youth Policy
- European Youth Foundation
- European Youth Centres and the Education and Training Programme
- Partnership of the CoE with EU in the youth field

For more information: <https://www.coe.int>

## STUDY SESSION

The study session Youth Democracy Academy for young policy-makers focuses on two of the five strategic priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector: Revitalising pluralistic democracy (1) and Young peoples' access to rights (2).

The long-term goal of the activity is the creation of effective and sustainable involvement of youth in decision-making with local authorities through the building of structures and relations of trust between different actors, by bringing young people closer to decision-makers who are young themselves and can have a peer approach encouraging them in participatory processes in their local communities.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION

During the study session, we aim to equip 20 youth leaders/facilitators with knowledge and skills to implement the principles of the "Educate for Democracy" programme developed by DYPALL Network, the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and the "Have Your Say" developed by Council of Europe. The working methods will be based on the principles of non-formal education, intercultural learning, and experiential and participatory approach, aiming to easily foster and encourage the inclusion of the participants in the learning process, through theoretical and practical sessions, providing them with space for sharing, exchanging, and exploring new points of view on topics such as the core values and principles of democracy, active participation, democratic decision-making, freedom of speech, equality before the law, and social justice, in order to also increase their ability to encourage their own peers into taking part in democratic processes. We will familiarize them with structures of co-management in the Council of Europe that they can use as an inspiration and something to replicate at the local level. By implementing this study session, an increase in international and cross-cultural learning will also be

assured through the participation of a very diverse and motivated group of participants from all over Europe with various local realities and challenges therein.

The specific objectives of the study session are to:

- a) raise awareness of the importance of engaging young people in policy dialogue
- b) share good practices that could inspire young policy-makers to further introduce the youth perspective in policy-making
- c) establish a network of young city councillors, to have direct means of intervention at local and regional levels around Europe on the topic of democratic engagement and citizens' participation
- d) empower 20 young councillors to be committed to revitalising democracy and equip them with the skills to educate other young people to rebuild trust in democracy

## **PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS**

This study session is targeting:

- Youth leaders and young people with a strong interest in youth policy and participation at local level
- City councillors and other elected officials
- Applications from candidates working with different socially excluded groups (young people residents in rural areas, from minorities groups, or vulnerable groups) are encouraged

We welcome applications from all candidates who fulfil the above-mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Moreover, the participants must:

- be able comfortable in a working environment based on the English language
- according to the rules of the Council of Europe, participants should be aged between 18 and 30 years old (exceptional cases can be accepted, when justified)
- be residents of Council of Europe member State; and/or Belarus, Holy See and Kazakhstan
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Study session
- have already planned projects and initiatives to boost youth participation at the local level in cooperation with local authorities and have worked directly with local youth councils are especially welcome
- **committed to implement a follow-up activity in their local communities**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (preferably by 18 pm), and **departure day** is 1st November 2024. The arrival and departure airport is Strasbourg airport.
- **Flight tickets and any other tickets shall be bought only after confirmation from the organisers.** Travel expenses to and from the venue will be fully reimbursed according to the Council of Europe's rules, for the most economic and reasonable tickets, (including all travel costs from the participants' home to the venue in Strasbourg),

- The **enrolment fee** for the study session is 50 EUR per participant. The fee is deducted from the refund of the travel expenses,
- **Visa costs** will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe secretariat will issue an invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the study session,
- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organisers in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in double rooms with private bathroom,
- **Green transportation** is encouraged (such as by train or bus), especially for travels that take less than 12 hours.

### Other information

An **info-pack** with further details on accommodation and programme will be shared with the selected participants.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this Study visit, please **fill in the online application form**: <https://forms.gle/Fas8gpc8G9fFJURb6>

The deadline for applying is **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 by 23.59 CET.**

## CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Antea Pamukovic at [antea.pamukovic@dypall.com](mailto:antea.pamukovic@dypall.com).