

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Training course

LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS FOR QUALITY LOCAL DEMOCRACIES

9th-15th December 2024
Lisbon, Portugal

Organized by:

DYPALL
NETWORK



Kristiansand
kommune



Bufdir



Co-funded by
the European Union

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This activity will be organised by DYPALL Network in cooperation with Kristiansand municipality.

DYPALL Network (Developing Youth Participation at the Local Level) is a European platform of civil society organisations, local authorities and research institutions focusing on youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level. We stand for active and meaningful involvement of young people in local democracies through cooperation with local authorities and we provide the space and the resources for capacity building and exchange of good practices among our members.

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

DYPALL Network's field of action covers four programme areas, with a common goal of fostering quality development of democracies by enhancing youth engagement in local and regional public policy-making. Within these areas, our programmes feature a variety of international projects and activities, as well as tailor-made services for our members, partners, and institutional stakeholders. Our program areas are:

- Quality development for stronger democracies
- Youth empowerment
- Inclusive democracies
- Innovating democracies

For more information, check out DYPAL's website



TRAINING COURSE

The training course “Local youth councils for quality local democracies” will gather 28 youth leaders from local youth councils from Norway, Portugal, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Türkiye and France.

The role of local youth councils is to create youth-based policies, assure youth rights, promote democracy and empower young people to shape their own communities by participating in their democratic life. With this training, we want to provide a comprehensive framework of quality standards fundamental for the participatory, inclusive and sustainable functioning of local youth councils, allowing quality assessments, continuous improvement strategies and youth rights-based approaches to LYC’s strategies.

Objectives of the Training:

- Capacity-building of youth leaders involved in their respective local youth councils
- Exploring tools and resources for quality development of local youth councils at the local level such as the Quality Charter on participatory and inclusive local youth councils, User guide for the Quality Charter and Toolkit for upgrading local youth councils
- Fostering collaboration and networking among youth workers and youth leaders from EU and non-EU countries, facilitating the exchange of best practices and experiences in promoting democracy and active citizenship
- Enhancing intercultural understanding and tolerance, promoting a shared sense of European identity and unity
- Mainstreaming local youth councils as spaces for quality and inclusive youth participation in local democracies

WINTER DEMOCRACY ACADEMY

The training will take place within annual Winter Democracy Academy (WDA), organized by DYPALL Network and various institutional partners who work on youth participation in democracy.

This is an annual event of reference for youth workers, decision-makers, experts from the field, and institutional representatives, providing them all with a space to meet, debate, build their capacities, and cooperate on youth participation issues.

WDA week intends to be a moment for parallel but complementary activities happening in the same venue, advocating for youth participation and providing space for decision-makers and young people to discuss, cooperate, and engage in dialogue between different actors that is fundamental for building a more egalitarian, fair Europe, where human rights, democracy, and intercultural learning and their underlying values are a reality for each European citizen.

This Training course will be one of the activities taking place within WDA and there will be a joint moment in the programme – a Conference that will gather participants of all the activities.

One of the tangible results of the training will be the use of the Quality Charter on participatory and inclusive local youth councils, for upgrading local youth councils.

Some of the elements of the program will result in:

- Assessing local realities to contribute to establishing or improving local youth councils in the participating municipalities
- By understanding each community's specific needs, challenges, and opportunities, youth workers and youth leaders will be able to tailor their initiatives to local realities
- Developing comprehensive plans that consider both immediate and long-term goals will ensure the sustainability and continued success of the local youth councils.

The activities will be conducted using different methods such as simulation, workshops, and group exercises. The training will be based on the non-formal education approach, which will involve equally the trainers and the participants in their learning. It will be based on the “Quality Charter on participatory and inclusive local youth councils”, a practical assessment tool designed to evaluate the structure and functioning of Local Youth Councils (LYCs) with a focus on enhancing their participatory and inclusive nature and increasing their impact. Divided into three areas of assessment, it provides concrete indicators for assessing the local youth council's quality.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants must:

- Be engaged in local youth council (or similar participatory structure) in their municipality
- Be able to work in English
- Highly motivated towards engaging in a European network of local youth councils
- Be available for the full duration of the training
- Be residents of one of the following countries: Norway, Portugal, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Türkiye or France



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Activity will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) at Lisbon Youth Centre
- Arrival day is 9th December 2024 (preferably by 6 pm, but not mandatory)
- Departure day is 15th December 2024 (anytime)
- The arrival and departure airport is Lisbon (Portugal)
- Travelling a maximum 2 days before or 2 days after the designated travel dates is allowed; otherwise, the ticket will not be eligible for reimbursement
- In the case of arriving earlier or departing after the designated travel days please note that the organisers will not cover the cost of your stay for the extra days
- Flight tickets shall be bought only after confirmation from the organisers. Travel expenses to and from the venue will be reimbursed up to a maximum per country/per participant (including all travel costs from the participant's home to the venue):
 - Portugal: 40€
 - France: 309€
 - Croatia, Norway: 395€
 - Turkey, Estonia, Finland: 580€
- Reimbursement will be done via bank transfer after the activity (within 2 months)
- Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in *shared rooms of 4 people* at the Lisbon youth centre hostel
- There is no participation fee



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this activity please fill in the online application form:

<https://forms.gle/VLH8mJU53Ss3q2Gt5>

The deadline for applying is 7th November 2024 by 23.59 CET.

FUNDING

The activity is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union through the Norwegian National Agency.

For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Sofia Vacchi at sofia.vacchi@dypall.com.

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