

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Hybrid training process to establish a pool of
**YOUTH FACILITATORS FOR
DEMOCRACY**

Including:

- a training course in April 2025 in Portugal
- a strategic meeting in summer 2025 in Italy

Organised by:

DYPALL
NETWORK

**CLIMBING
THE
LADDER**

e **EDYN**
European Democracy Youth Network

AER
Assembly of European Regions

Nordland
FYLKESKOMMUNE

SQLearn
e-learning experts

YEP
EUROPE

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

This activity will be organised by DYPALL Network.

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 www.dypall.com



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project addresses the need for effective and meaningful structures, mechanisms and spaces for the active engagement of young people in policy-making and decision-making processes, at local, regional, national and European levels. It is coordinated by DYPALL Network in cooperation with the following partners: Europiamo ETS (Italy), Nordland County Council (Norway), SQ Learn (Greece), European Democracy Youth Network (Slovakia), YEPP Europe (Germany) and the Assembly of European Regions (France).

The project consortium also counts on the expertise of an ad-hoc Advisory Group on Youth Engagement, composed of 12 experts from different countries in Europe with concrete experience in mechanisms, structures, and models of youth engagement to strengthen the planning, researching and delivery of the main project outputs.

You can explore the project website at [this link](#).

TRAINING PROCESS AND STRATEGIC MEETING

The general aim of this hybrid training process is to empower and train young people (youth facilitators for democracy) to support different organisations intending to implement/improve mechanisms of youth engagement.

It will consist of different digital preparatory steps, including webinars and online learning modules, before a training course to be held in person in Portugal, in April 2025, led by DYPALL Network. Combining digital and in-person educational elements, the training will equip participants with valuable knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for this role.

After completing the training, the youth facilitators for democracy will join a dedicated network established within the project, which will continue working online and prepare for the strategic meeting in person in Italy, during the first half of summer 2025. There, they will explore new training and capacity-building opportunities and design their first actions to support local and regional authorities in revitalising democratic processes. During the meeting, they will elaborate a strategic plan, containing the next steps they agree to work on as a network (including specific goals, activities and targets).

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING PROCESS

- Based on previous publications of the Climbing the ladder project, develop participants' understanding of mechanisms and structures for youth involvement in policy-making and decision-making processes.
 - Upgrade the participants' skills and provide them with tools to facilitate democratic processes and engage effectively with local and regional authorities / other entities.
 - To get familiar with, test and disseminate the digital platform as a resource for meaningful youth engagement in Europe.
 - Establish and strengthen a network of youth facilitators for democracy to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing across Europe.
 - Shape the attitudes and values necessary for promoting active citizenship and democratic engagement among different stakeholders, including policy-makers.
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PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants must:

- Be preferably between 18-25 years old;
- Be motivated to become a youth facilitator in the field of democracy, supporting different organisations (public and private) to implement/improve mechanisms of youth engagement;
- Be able to work comfortably in English;
- Be currently or previously directly involved in youth engagement models and mechanisms (youth council, youth advisory group, co-management body, youth panel, etc);
- Have experience working with/for local and regional authorities, foundations, youth-led entities, etc..;
- Preferably, be in contact with an organisation that would be interested in being supported and using the project resources to improve/implement mechanisms of youth engagement.

In the selection process, we will pay attention to motivation and relevant experiences, while ensuring geographical representation and, when possible, a diversity of backgrounds, professional careers and academic qualifications.

Important: the activity is dedicated to participants from EU member states and third countries associated to the Programme (EU members states + Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Türkiye and Serbia).

ACTIVITIES OF THE HYBRID TRAINING PROCESS

The following activities will be implemented throughout the training process:

- A first online webinar to kick off the process, introduce the project and its main results and get to know who is in the group (planned for late February or early March);
- A few digital educational modules to complete in pairs and/or individually, focused on key project results, including the published publications, and other useful resources;
- A second online webinar to consolidate previous learnings and prepare for the upcoming training course in Portugal (planned for late March);
- The in-person international training course taking place in Portimão, Portugal (7th to 12th of April);
- An in-person strategic meeting taking place in Italy during the second half of June.

Active participation in all activities is expected during the TC in Portugal and the subsequent strategic meeting in Italy.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

The training course aims to have a more comprehensive approach to support young people in becoming facilitators of democratic processes, revitalising a space of political dialogue and creating the basis for the development of new policies in line with the needs and vision of new generations.

The international TC will take place in Portimão, in the south of Portugal, and it will last for 4 full working days plus the travel days (1 arrival day and 1 departure day). The training will be based on non-formal education principles and methods, encouraging proactive participation during different sessions, including individual work, teamwork and small group tasks, discussions in plenary, reflection moments and intermediary/final evaluation sessions.

Further information regarding this TC, including a detailed info pack, and the following strategic meeting will be sent to selected participants a few weeks before each activity.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION OF THE TRAINING COURSE

- The activity will take place in Portimão (Portugal)
- Arrival day is 7th April 2025 (preferably by 6 pm, but not mandatory)
- Departure day is 12th April 2025 (anytime)
- The arrival and departure airports are Lisbon or Faro (Portugal). Both options imply a bus/train travel to reach Portimão.
- Travelling a maximum of 2 days before or 2 days after the designated travel dates is allowed. Travel tickets for lengthier travels 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) depending on the distance:
 - 100 – 499 km: 180 EUR
 - 500 – 1999 km: 275 EUR
 - 2000 – 2999 km: 360 EUR
 - 3000 – 3999 km: 530 EUR
- Reimbursement will be done via bank transfer after the activity (within 2 months)
- Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organisers. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in shared rooms. There is no possibility to be accommodated in a single room
- There is no participation fee



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

<https://forms.gle/uvPWaJ3t6Ko7fq3RZ>

The deadline for applying is 7th February 2025 by 23.59 CET.

FUNDING

This hybrid training process and the strategic meeting will be organised by DYPALL Network within Climbing the Ladder - fostering a culture of youth engagement project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union (KA3, European Youth Together).

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

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Samantha Wright at samantha.wright@dypall.com





DYPALL NETWORK

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