

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Study Session **LOCAL YOUTH COUNCILS AS ADVOCATES FOR DEMOCRACY**

23rd–29th November 2025
European Youth Centre Strasbourg,
France

Organized by:



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ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The Study session is organised by DYPALL Network in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

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 the local level
- Identify best practices and introduce innovative approaches to public governance in cooperation with local authorities and civil society organisations active in the field of youth
- Foster youth engagement and inclusiveness in representative and participatory democracy processes
- Build capacity and provide technical assistance in various areas and processes like policy-making, advocacy, structured dialogue, co-management, and more
- Mainstream youth policies at the 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 programme areas are:

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

For more information: www.dypall.com

The **Youth Department of the Council of Europe** is part of the Directorate for Democracy within the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (“DGII”) of the Council of Europe. The Department 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 Council of Europe youth sector works to empower young people across Europe to embrace, promote, and benefit from the core values of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

It focuses on strengthening young people’s access to rights, deepening their knowledge, and developing their skills so they can actively engage in democratic life. It is also encouraging meaningful participation in decision-making on all levels.

For more information: www.coe.int/en/web/youth/home

STUDY SESSION

This study session focuses on two of the five strategic priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector: Revitalising pluralistic democracy and Young people’s access to rights.

The activity aims to contribute to the quality development of participatory youth structures by building the capacity of members of local youth councils (LYCs) and similar bodies across Europe. The role of LYCs in shaping youth-based policies, promoting democracy and youth rights, and fostering intergenerational dialogue is increasingly recognised. By strengthening their policy and advocacy competencies, this study session will empower young people to effectively represent youth interests and take an active role in democratic processes at the local level.

The long-term goal is to provide a comprehensive framework of standards and tools that support the participatory, inclusive, and sustainable functioning of local youth councils. Through this, young people will be better equipped to advocate for youth rights and participate meaningfully in local governance, enhancing both democratic culture and youth empowerment in their communities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION

This study session will gather 20 young people involved in local youth councils and youth policy advocacy to engage in a programme based on the principles of non-formal education, intercultural learning, and participatory methods. The programme will combine theoretical and practical elements, giving space for exchange, co-creation, and mutual learning.

The specific objectives of the study session are to:

- Mainstream local youth councils as spaces for quality and inclusive youth participation at the local level
- Build the capacity of local youth council members in the areas of youth policy and advocacy
- Explore tools and resources such as the Quality Charter on Participatory and Inclusive Local Youth Councils, its User Guide, and Toolkit developed by DYPALL Network
- Foster collaboration and networking among local youth councils from across the Council of Europe countries
- Enhance intercultural understanding and promote a shared sense of European unity

The study session will also contribute to broader initiatives promoted by the Council of Europe and its partners, such as the Have Your Say! manual, the Youth Policy Essentials MOOC, and the Shaping Youth Policies in Practice project.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The Study Session is targeting:

- Members of local youth councils or similar youth participatory structures at the municipal level
- Young people actively involved in youth policy-making or youth advocacy at the local level
- Participants who are between 15 and 25 years old
- Participants with a strong interest in youth advocacy and policy, and motivated to build their capacities to effectively represent youth in democratic processes

Moreover, participants must:

- Be able to work in English, the working language of the study session
- Be residents of Council of Europe member States, or Belarus, Holy See, or Kazakhstan
- Be available to attend the full duration of the study session

- Be committed to implementing follow-up activities in their communities
- Have experience with or plans for strengthening local youth councils, especially in cooperation with local authorities

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

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 23rd November 2025 (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 29th November 2025. The arrival and departure airport is Strasbourg airport or other airports in the surroundings (e.g. Paris, Frankfurt, Basel) that offer train/bus connections to Strasbourg
- **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
- 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 a 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 the final programme will be shared with the selected participants.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

<https://forms.gle/SdmzPhyfSPyM37526>

The deadline for applying is 11th August 2025 by 23.59 CET.

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Emma Genovese at emma.genovese@dypall.com





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