

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Training course
**STRENGTHENING LOCAL YOUTH
COUNCILS IN THE AI AGE**

13th–20th September 2026
Mollina, Spain

Organised by:



Agência Nacional
Erasmus+ Juventude/Desporto
Corpo Europeu de Solidariedade



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

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

TRAINING COURSE

This training activity aims to empower members of Local Youth Councils (LYCs) with the skills, knowledge, and critical understanding needed to assess and improve the quality of the consultative bodies they are part of. The initiative supports members of the European Network of Local Youth Councils (ENLYC) in contributing to the development of a long-term strategy for strengthening meaningful youth participation at the European level.

The training focuses on the practical use of the Quality Charter for participatory and inclusive Local Youth Councils, developed by DYPALL Network within the LYCIS project. Participants will learn how to apply this toolkit to evaluate the effectiveness of their Local Youth Councils and identify areas for improvement.

The activity is framed within the growing relevance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in civic participation and youth work. It aims to strengthen participants' critical AI literacy and support a reflective approach to how digital tools can enhance (but not replace) democratic participation processes. Special attention is given to ethical, inclusive and rights-based use of emerging technologies in youth engagement.

The methodology is based on non-formal education principles, combining peer learning, group work, simulations, case studies, reflection activities, and exchange of practices among participants from different local realities. Participants will analyse real challenges faced by Local Youth Councils and co-create practical recommendations and action plans to strengthen participation structures at the local and European levels.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

- Strengthen understanding of democratic participation and the role of Local Youth Councils (LYCs) in local governance
- Develop practical skills in using the Quality Charter to assess and improve LYCs
- Enhance critical thinking and AI literacy in the context of youth participation and civic engagement
- Promote ethical, inclusive and rights-based approaches to the use of digital tools and AI in youth work
- Build participants' capacity to design and implement actions that strengthen youth participation at the local level
- Improve facilitation and peer-learning competencies for working within youth councils and youth networks

25th UNIVERSITY ON YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The training course will take place within the framework of the 25th University on Youth and Development (UYD), the longest-standing youth university of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

Since 2000, the UYD has represented an international hub that gathers, for one week, hundreds of young people, youth workers, experts from the field and institutional representatives, providing them all with a space to meet, debate, build their capacities and cooperate on youth policy issues with the Council of Europe and other international organisations. The activities taking place within the UYD allow for the sharing of knowledge and good practices, the planning of future actions to empower young people and the designing of common messages advocating for a youth perspective that is transversal to common priorities.

The 2026 edition, under the theme “AI, Youth, and Peace: Preventing cybercrime and digital harm through responsible AI governance”, will strengthen individual digital safety competencies while also addressing broader challenges linked to AI-enabled digital harms and cybercrime. The programme will explore how youth engagement, critical AI literacy, and responsible governance approaches can help prevent digital harm and contribute to more democratic and peaceful societies.

Please note that you are applying specifically for participating in the Training course “Strengthening Local Youth Councils in the AI age”, which will involve joint moments with participants of other activities of UYD, but you will not be able to switch between the activities.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Participants must:

- Be an active member of a Local Youth Council (LYC) or a similar youth participatory structure at the municipal level
- Have experience in managing, coordinating, or facilitating the activities of the LYC or be in a position of responsibility within the structure
- Have a good knowledge of English to participate effectively in an international training environment
- Be strongly motivated to engage in a European network of youth council representatives
- Be available to attend and fully participate in the entire duration of the training course and the joint sessions of the University on Youth and Development (UYD)

We strongly encourage applications from pairs of participants or colleagues representing the same LYC.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travelling days and expenses

- Activity will take place at the Centro Eurolatinoamericano de Juventud (CEULAJ) in Molina (Spain): <https://ceulaj.injuve.es/>
- Arrival day is 13th September, and departure day is 20th September 2026
- Travelling a maximum of 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):
 - 10 - 99 km: 28 EUR
 - 100 - 499 km: 211 EUR
 - 500 - 1999 km: 309 EUR
 - 2000 - 2999 km: 395 EUR
 - 3000 - 3999 km: 580 EUR
 - 4000 - 7999 km: 1188 EUR
- For participants who need a visa, an invitation letter will be provided, and the visa costs will be covered up to 100€
- 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 at the <https://ceulaj.injuve.es/>. There is no possibility of being accommodated in a single room.

Other information

- An Info pack with further details on accommodation and the final programme will be shared with the selected participants.
- There is no participation fee.



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

<https://forms.gle/nvbpNi94CRSzyVHz8>

The deadline for applying is 28 June 2026 by 23.59 CET.

FUNDING

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

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

CONTACTS

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





DYPALL
NETWORK