

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Training Course **Local youth councils for democratic engagement and media literacy**

08th–14th December 2025
Lisbon, Portugal

Organised by:



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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 on 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

The training course will gather 20 youth leaders and youth workers from local youth councils from around Europe, focusing on the development of competences, dialogue and sharing of experiences among the participants interested in developing or improving their local youth councils (LYC).

With this training, we aim to provide a comprehensive framework of quality standards fundamental for the participatory, inclusive and sustainable functioning of local youth councils. To achieve this, we will equip LYC stakeholders (young people who are members of LYC and youth workers who support the work of LYC) with practical skills, knowledge, and tools to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their local youth councils.

Objectives of the training:

- Capacity-building of local youth councils representatives through the use of NFE (non-formal education) methodology
- Exploring practical tools and resources for quality development of local youth councils, such as the Quality Charter on participatory and inclusive local youth councils and the Toolkit for upgrading local youth councils
- Examining the impact of social media on youth engagement at the local level, and the role of LYCs in promoting media literacy to counter misinformation and polarisation
- Fostering collaboration and networking among youth workers and youth leaders from EU and non-EU countries, facilitating the exchange on challenges and best practices in promoting democracy and active citizenship, both online and offline
- Mainstreaming local youth councils as spaces for quality and inclusive youth participation in local democracies, through the European Network of Local Youth Councils (ENLYC)

WINTER DEMOCRACY ACADEMY

The training course will be organised within DYPALL Network's Winter Democracy Academy (WDA), organised by DYPALL Network and various institutional partners who work on youth participation and democracy. The [Winter Democracy Academy](#) is an annual event where stakeholders from different European countries and institutions gather under an umbrella framework designed to foster institutional cooperation. It is a space for exchanging knowledge and building synergies to work towards making our democracies more responsive from a youth participation perspective.

The European Union and the Council of Europe have increasingly recognised the importance of media literacy and addressing disinformation, particularly among young people. Several initiatives and frameworks at the European level address these issues. From 2019, the European Media Literacy Week - a European

Commission initiative - aims to highlight the societal importance of media literacy and promote media literacy initiatives and projects across the European Union. While the European Media Literacy Week is a specific initiative, the broader concept of media literacy is an ongoing priority for the European Union.

The third edition of the Winter Democracy Academy addresses the complex and urgent relationship between youth engagement, social media, and the preservation of democratic values. As digital spaces increasingly shape public discourse and youth participation, they also introduce serious challenges – from disinformation and echo chambers to manipulation and distrust in institutions.

The objectives of the WDA 2025 Edition are to:

- **Understand** the impact of social media on democratic engagement
- **Promote** media literacy to counter misinformation and polarisation
- **Equip** young people with tools for digital civic advocacy
- **Encourage** dialogue and cross-sector cooperation

The WDA offers the possibility of having several activities taking place simultaneously in different spaces of the venue, to increase the number and diversity of topics covered within the event, but also stimulate synergies between the different activities taking place.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants must:

- Represent a Local Youth Council or similar participatory mechanism
- Be able to work in English
- Be prepared to share experiences and engage in structured discussions with other youth council members across Europe
- Be strongly motivated to engage in ENLYC, an European Network of Local Youth Councils
- Be available to attend and fully participate in the entire duration of the training course
- Be a resident of one of the following countries:
 - **EU member states**
 - **Third countries associated to the Programme:** North Macedonia, Serbia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Türkiye
 - **Third countries not associated to the programme** (Western Balkans (Region 1) - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Neighbourhood East (Region 2) - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine

More than one application from the same Local Youth Council is encouraged.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Activity will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) at Lisbon Youth Centre:
<https://cil.ipdj.gov.pt/en/home>
- Arrival day is 8th December 2025 (preferably by 6 pm, but not mandatory)
- Departure day is 14th December 2025 (anytime)
- The arrival and departure airport is Lisbon (Portugal)
- 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 needing a visa, an invitation letter will be provided, and visa costs will be reimbursed up to 100€ per participant
- 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 of 3 people, with a shared bathroom, at the Lisbon Youth Centre hostel:
<https://www.pousadasjuventude.pt/pt/pousadas/pousada-de-lisboa-parque-das-nacoes/>
- There is no participation fee

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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

<https://forms.gle/Krcw65cVD2JMxBho7>

The deadline for applying is 21st October 2025 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 Samantha Wright at samantha.wright@dypall.com





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