

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

International Conference **European Network of Local Youth Councils (ENLYC) in the Digital Age**

8th–12th December 2026
Lisbon, Portugal

Organised by:



Co-funded by
the European Union

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ABOUT WINTER DEMOCRACY ACADEMY

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.

It aims to contribute to the sharing of new and innovative approaches for building more resilient democracies from a youth participation perspective, setting the ground for present and future cooperation among relevant stakeholders in the field of youth policy, research, and promotion of democracy.

The Winter Democracy Academy is a co-organized event between DYPALL Network and European and national institutions promoting democracy, human rights, and youth participation. It is also an umbrella for the presentation of relevant and innovative work carried out in this field, thereby informing and creating opportunities for future collaborations and synergies.

The fourth edition of the Winter Democracy Academy under the theme “AI and Digital Technology as Drivers for Youth Democracy”, taking place during the week of the International Human Rights Day, between 7th and 12th December 2026. Read more about this year's edition [here](#).

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 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 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

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Under the umbrella of the Winter Democracy Academy (WDA) and as part of the broader “Engage, Connect and Empower Local Youth Councils in Europe” (ECE-LYCE) project, the international conference “**European Network of Local Youth Councils (ENLYC) in the Digital Age**” will gather 40 local youth council representatives and support staff in Lisbon, Portugal, for three days of dynamic exchange, digital innovation, and strategic collaboration.

In an increasingly digital world, local youth participation structures must evolve to stay inclusive, responsive, and effective. This conference offers an interactive, participant-driven, and practical learning space to explore how digital tools and artificial intelligence can be used responsibly to reinforce youth voices, streamline youth council management, and foster democratic innovation at the local level.

Through a mix of plenary sessions, parallel workshops, study visit, and networking spaces, participants will analyze different local youth council models, reflect on local youth engagement, explore digital solutions including AI and co-create future strategies. A major highlight during the WDA will be the official launch of the new European Platform for Local Youth Councils, featuring an interactive digital assessment tool. Furthermore, during the conference, key upcoming ECE-LYCE project activities will be officially announced, including the Youth Councils Twinning Activities and the Recognition Awards.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Analyzing diverse models of Local Youth Councils across Europe to identify adaptable frameworks
- Sharing real-world case studies, successes, and challenges in the work of Local Youth Councils
- Familiarising the newly developed European Platform for Local Youth Councils and conducting hands-on testing of the interactive digital assessment tool
- Enhancing networking, and peer-learning among different LYC stakeholders

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants must:

- Be an active member of a Local Youth Council (LYC) or a support staff for a Local Youth Council (LYC) in their municipality
- Have direct experience in managing, coordinating, supporting, or facilitating the activities of a LYC, or hold a position of responsibility within the structure
- Possess a good working knowledge of English to fully participate in an international training environment
- Demonstrate strong motivation to actively engage, share practices, and collaborate within a European network of youth council peers
- Be fully available to attend the entire duration of the conference (8th – 12th December 2026)

During the selection process, we will pay attention to motivation and relevant experience, while ensuring geographical representation and, where possible, a diverse range of backgrounds, professional careers, and qualifications.

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

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 2026 (preferably by 6 pm, but not mandatory)

- Departure day is 12th December 2026 (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 of selection from the organisers. Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to a maximum of 300 EUR/per participant (including all travel costs from the participant's home to the venue and back)
- 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 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/xoyJjdUUc4tCJ3iF6>

The deadline for applying is 12th October 2026 by 23.59 CET.

FUNDING

The activity is organised within the “Engage, Connect and Empower Local Youth Councils in Europe” (ECE-LYCE) 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 Marija Krstevska at marija.krstevska@dypall.com



WINTER DEMOCRACY ACADEMY

Core partners



Contributing partners

