

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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DYPALL Study Session

“Transferring positive practices of Democratic Youth Participation Models from European to Local Level”

9 - 15 October 2016, European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France

Study session organised in co-operation with the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

Background & Context

DYPALL stands for **Developing Youth Participation at Local Level**, and as a network it started developing in 2011, with the purpose of fostering the potential of young people to be active citizens and actors of real social change in their local communities as well as in their regional and international realities.

Our experience strengthened our belief that involving young people in decision making is an intrinsic way to empower them and to increase their sense of belonging and active citizenship. This involvement should include not only the support by local authorities to activities aimed for young people but also a broader dimension, where youth has an active voice and is a fundamental actor of the development of their local communities.

The network itself is built on the principles of creating an effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authority's demands willingness and commitment from both parts, but also the development of knowledge, sharing of experience and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the development of strategies, building structures and relations of trust and cooperation between actors. This necessity and the similar experiences of several partners, made visible the common need to **establish a network that could work in a stable and systematic way on themes of common interest and strengthen the cooperation among local authorities (LA), civil society organizations (CSO) and young people, where the creation of mutual understanding and learning spaces are the main goals.**

Among a wide range of diverse but complementary activities implemented by and with its members, DYPALL Network has involved and strengthened the cooperation among municipalities and organisations working in the field of youth at local level. This initiatives and all the different local, national and European experiences strengthened our belief that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially regarding the decision-making processes on issues of direct concern and interest of youth. It is essential to look at youth as a forceful and creative source of solutions for our societies that can largely contribute for their sustainable development.

For more information on the network and what we do visit us at: <http://dypall.com/>

Study Session

The study session aims to offer space for 35 young people, youth leaders, youth workers, representatives of institutions and decision makers to gather and research the positive practices of meaningful participation implemented on European Level. The main idea is to go into depth in discussing this processes, and also gather youth workers, officials and experts

that will share their previous experience, difficulties and obstacle, as well as effective methods and systems of democratic youth participation models on European and local level.

This study session will offer space for young people and youth leaders to gather and research the positive practices of meaningful participation implemented on European Level. These activities directly correlate with the purpose of the network and its long-term programme objectives, which include sharing best practices in terms of strengthening the cooperation between local authorities and civil society. The study session will serve as a platform for developing strategies and structures for cooperation, and will allow youth organizations and municipalities to share best practices of cooperation between local authorities and the civil sector.

The **working methods** used during this study session will be based on the principles of non-formal education, intercultural learning, experiential and participatory approach, aiming to easily foster and encourage the inclusion of the participants in the learning process. The entire learning process will be based on participative and active learning approach allowing the participants space for sharing, exchange and explore new topic and points of view on youth work and policy making on European and local level. Sessions will be a combination of theoretical and practical parts where participants will be offered to get in touch with the core value and principles of active participation and cooperation.

During the study session as guests that will be invited will be people that are already having a role in important processes of youth participation that are happening on European level. They will share their own experiences from being part of the process and how in their opinion it can or cannot be transferred to local level.

During the study session we intend to encourage the strengthening of partnership among the participants, providing them the space and reinforcement to develop new partnerships within the network as well among other policy and decision makers. This would ensure the continuation of the self-sustainable collaboration among the partners on topic of democratic inclusion and youth participation in decision-making processes.

As a direct result to this project we intend to offer space for participants to develop clear actions plans that they will have the opportunity to develop after the study session in their local communities. They will have to define the steps they should take in order to transfer the model they think will be suitable for their reality and then start implementing those steps.

Please note that the arrival day is 8 October, and the departure day is 16 October 2016.

Objectives

During this study session, activities will be developed to reach the following objectives:

- To share positive practices of youth participation in civil and political life on the local, national and European level
- To strengthen cooperation and feeling of belonging among the participants and in relation to the DYPALL network
- To promote a common understanding on youth participation and its main values and approaches
- To support participants involvement in current and future initiatives of DYPALL network and the Council of Europe
- To understand and analyse the various realities of youth participation at local level (challenges, opportunities, solutions)
- To explore inclusive approaches to foster the participation of young people facing social exclusion (Roma, NEETs, migrants, people with disabilities, refugees and other minority groups)
- To support and encourage development of initiatives that promote youth participation, with focus on young people experiencing social exclusion

Participants Profile

The Study Session will be a space for development of our competences, dialogue and sharing of experiences among 35 participants with the following profile:

- Youth workers and educators from NGOs and other institutions working with young people
- Public officers / Civil servants or elected representatives from local institutions with responsibilities in youth issues
- Youth leaders and young people with interest in youth participation
- Researchers in youth issues on local level
- Applications from candidates working with different socially excluded groups are encouraged

The participants must be:

- 18-30 years old (exceptions are possible)
- Able to work in English
- Willing to contribute with their experience to the study session
- Coming from Council of Europe members countries* (exceptions are possible)
- Being able to attend the whole duration of the Study Session
- Have relevant experience in the topic
- Motivated to do follow-up activities after the Study Session

Whenever possible, candidates from the same locality or region **are encouraged** to apply together, especially if they come from public bodies and civil society (double/triple applications).

* Council of Europe member countries: Albania, Andora, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, FYRO Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Practical and financial conditions

Venue and accommodation

The study session will take place at the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg.

Accommodation and meals will be provided by the Council of Europe at the Youth Centre.

Travel and subsistence expenses

Travel expenses to and from Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe.

Participation fee

The enrolment fee for the study session is **50 EUR** per participant.

The fee is deducted from the refund of the travel expenses.

Visas

Visa costs will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe secretariat will issue invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the study session.

Registration Procedures

To apply for participation in the study session, please **fill in the online registration form here:**

<http://goo.gl/eKb3AD>

The deadline for application is **31 July 2016**, latest by 23:59 Central European Time.

SELECTION WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY 16 AUGUST 2016

Organizers

Within DYPALL Network, Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) has the lead role in organizing this study session. For more information www.cid.mk

The study session is organised in co-operation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. For the Youth Department, youth participation is a key dimension of young people's inclusion in society and democratic development.

For more information www.coe.int/youth

Contacts

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at training@dypall.com