

DEMOCRACY RELOADING

Launching Conference

Municipalities - Youth - Democracy

Program Draft

Portimão, Portugal, 3-6 November 2020

The aim of the Conference is to support municipalities in improving their competences in strengthening and developing local democracy through youth participation in decision-making.

Specific objectives of the Conference:

- To recognise the roles of municipalities engaging young people in decision-making as a way to improve local democracy,
- To take stock of the outcomes and lessons learnt from the *Democracy Reloading* activities between 2015-2020,
- To officially introduce and launch the **Democracy Reloading Online Toolkit***,
- To identify ways of using and promoting the online Toolkit,
- To support the development of relevant national and European networks of stakeholders, practitioners of youth participation in municipal decision-making and local democracy.

**Democracy Reloading is a brand and a program of the national agencies of the Erasmus+ Youth Program, grounded in the values and principles of democracy, human rights, equality and the rule of law. It is aiming to support municipalities in improving local democracy through engaging young people in decision-making and using Erasmus+ funding. In the last year of the program an online Toolkit was created that is based on a set of 24 competences. The 24 competencies are required for a local (municipal) or regional government to design, implement and evaluate a successful youth participation structure, to engage young people in the decision-making and develop local democracy.*

Moderators: Bruno Antonio and Laszlo Foldi

Rapporteur: tbc

Time	1 TUESDAY - ARRIVAL & WELCOME - 3th November 2020
19.00	Dinner
20.00	Welcoming activities
21.00	A creative sightseeing by night led by local youth

Time	2 WEDNESDAY - DEMOCRACY & TOOLKIT - 4th November 2020
9.30	Official opening speeches by organisers (Bureau International Jeunesse and E+ Portuguese National Agency) and Portuguese official representatives (Portimão city, Portuguese national authority)

10.00	Europe / Democracy / Municipality / Youth: An Inspiring keynote speech
10.30	A panel discussion with different stakeholders (youth representatives, municipality representatives, experts, researchers) on the role of municipalities in engaging young people in decision as a tool to improve local democracy
11.00	Coffee-break
11.30	Personal learning stories of people involved in the Democracy Reloading project Presentation of the Map of Competence and the online Toolkit
13.00	Lunch break
14.30	Experimenting with the online Toolkit Participants discover the learning tool in small groups, how it can help to develop relevant competences of field administrators and elected representatives, individually or as a team
16.00	Coffee-break integrated in the working groups
17.00	Potentials and the limitations of the Toolkit Intervention by three municipality representatives about their needs and reflection on the Toolkit
19.00	Dinner

Time	3 THURSDAY - MUNICIPALITIES & YOUTH PARTICIPATION - 5th November 2020
9.30	Conclusions of the first day Q & A session Introduction of the daily program
10.00	How can the Toolkit support municipalities? What support measures and activities are needed? How can we promote the Toolkit and reach out to other municipalities? Working groups based on the profile of participants: NA staff, municipality officers, trainers and consultants, youth workers
11.00	Coffee-break
12.00	Presenting the outcomes of the working groups
13.00	Lunch break
14.00	Innovative Practices, Related Research and Information Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SALTO Participation ● Europe Goes Local ● Participatory Budget ● ALL-YOUTH project ● Other topics and practices offered by participants and strategic partners
15.30	Coffee-break

16.00	Future Plans of Democracy Reloading brand and other plans of strategic partners (EU, Council of Europe, Committee of Regions and other associations of municipalities) Closing by distinguished guests
17.00	Cultural program
19.30	Dinner out

Time	4 FRIDAY - DEPARTURE DAY - 6th November 2020
9.00	Optional cultural program for those who leave later that day

Invited organisations
European Commission, Youth Unit
Council of Europe, Youth Department and European Youth Foundation
EC-CoE Youth Partnership
European Committee of the Regions
CoE Congress of Local Authorities
ALDA European Association of Local Democracy
Council of European Municipalities and Regions
SALTO Youth Participation
Europe Goes Local
Intercity Youth Local
European Youth Forum
Advisory Youth Council of the Council of Europe
ERYICA
UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Initiative



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