

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**W(e-)participate – Harnessing Digital Innovation
for Youth Participation at the Local Level**

Study Session, EYC – Strasbourg, France

27th September – 3rd October, 2020

Organised by:



Organisers

DYPALL Network will organise this Study Session in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

DYPALL Network (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level) is a European platform of over 60 civil society organisations and local authorities from more than 30 countries, that aims to involve young



people in decision-making processes at the local level, and thus enable municipal and regional authorities to address the needs and interests of youth, engage young people as active actors of problem-solving and increase the level of ownership, commitment and involvement of an essential part of our communities.

YP Lab is a resource and mobility centre within DYPALL Network with the focus on research development and capacity building in the field of local youth participation.

To realise this ambitious and challenging initiative, 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 policymaking, 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.

For more information: <http://dypall.com>

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local, national and European levels. It provides funding and educational support for international youth activities aiming to promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism. It seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and ways of expression of young Europeans. The Youth Portal of the Council of Europe which contains an overview of information about the work of the youth sector, the Council of Europe's youth policy, the current projects and activities. On the youth portal you can read more about the instruments of the Council of Europe in the field of youth:

- Youth Policy
- European Youth Foundation
- European Youth Centres and the Education and Training Programme
- Partnership of the CoE with EU in the youth field

For more information: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth>

Study Session

The study session "W(e)-participate: Harnessing Digital Innovation for Youth Participation at the Local Level" aims to create a shared understanding of digital participation among youth workers and municipal representatives and to examine and exchange good practices on the field to promote its implementation. The study session will serve as a forum to interrogate the challenges and opportunities of digital participation, as well as to assess the needs among youth organisations and municipalities that can help to guarantee a successful and meaningful implementation of digital participation processes.

The working methods used during this study session will be based on the principles of nonformal learning, 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. 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, participants will be able to examine a variety of practices and models of digital participation and of mechanisms and structures that support such practices, as well as to transfer this experience into their local reality. This will allow the participants to gain skills and knowledge to help young people participation through and with said digital tools. Moreover, they will develop a deeper understanding of the different realities, experiences and opportunities for digital participation.

We have identified the importance of creating opportunities to learn from each other's realities by observing the implementation of best practices projects on the theme of digital participation tools in the field of youth participation. We realised that currently, there is a considerable diversity in terms of approaches and strategies to support this effort, namely as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. We identified that in all the member countries of the Council of Europe, there was the need to develop better strategies and mechanisms to support the development of sustainable, meaningful and effective forms of participation supported by digital participation tools.

Objectives

The specific objectives of this Study Session are to:

- Discuss and create a common understanding of what digital youth participation is;
- Map realities, opportunities and challenges of digital participation among youth workers and local representatives;
- Exchange and discover good practices around and outside Europe of the usage of digital tools for youth participation;
- Reflect on the youth policy of the Council of Europe and the role of digital participation therein;
- Plan and discuss strategies to adapt and implement these best practices and policies of digital participation at the local level;
- Produce a publication with practices in and outside Europe to promote the usage and understanding of digital youth participation.

Profile of participants

This study session is targeting youth workers, youth leaders, youth researchers and youth municipality officers working with or interested in developing their competencies working with digital participation tools at the local level. Moreover, the participants must:

- be able to work in English;
- according to the rules of the Council of Europe, participants should be aged between 18 and 30 years old (exceptional cases can be accepted, when justified);
- be willing to contribute with their experience to the Study Session;
- be residents of Council of Europe member state countries; some exceptions are possible depending on the participants' application form.
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Study Session;
- have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation at the local level or experience with digital tools to support youth participation;
- be highly motivated towards learning about models and structures of digital participation.

Practical information

Travelling days and expenses

The activity is organised in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. For more information: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth>

- **Arrival day** is 27th September (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 3th October 2020. The arrival and departure airport are Strasbourg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart or the Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg EuroAirport (alternative).
- **Flight tickets** shall be bought **only after confirmation from the organisers**. Travel expenses to and from the venue will be fully reimbursed according to the Council of Europe's rules, for the most economic and reasonable tickets, (including all travel costs from the participants' home to the venue in Strasbourg).

- The **enrolment fee** for the study session is 50 EUR per participant. The fee is deducted from the refund of the travel expenses.
- **Visa costs** will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe secretariat will issue an invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the study session.
- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organisers in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in single rooms with private bathroom.

Other information

- An **info-pack** with further details on accommodation and programme will be shared with the selected participants.

COVID-19 related information

- In view of the current situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the selection of the participants will be made to secure that the travel rules set in place by France and the health and sanitary measures of the Council of Europe are fully taken into account.

Registration procedure

To **apply** for participation in this Study session, please **fill in the online registration form**: <https://bit.ly/weparticipate>

The deadline for applying is **27th of July 2020 by 12 p.m. (midday) CET.**

Contacts

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Alexandre Fonseca at alexandre.fonseca@dypall.com