

# DEMOCRACY RELOADING

## Stakeholder Conference

**Municipalities - Youth - Democracy**

**Program Draft**

**Portimão, Portugal, 26-29 October 2021**

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.

### The objectives of the Conference:

- to reflect on the role and the opportunities of municipalities in reloading democracy
- to officially introduce the Democracy Reloading Strategic Partnership for municipalities, and present the outcomes and lessons learnt from the *Democracy Reloaded* activities between 2015-2020
- To exchange good practices and Erasmus + projects of youth participation in decision making as tools for developing local democracy,
- To reflect on the use of the Democracy Reloading Toolkit and to identify its further potentials,
- To support the development of relevant national and European networks of stakeholders, practitioners of youth participation in municipal decision-making and local democracy.
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*\*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 - 16th March 2021
19.00	Dinner
20.00	Welcoming activities
21.00	A creative sightseeing by night led by local youth

Time	2 WEDNESDAY - DEMOCRACY & TOOLKIT - 17th March 2021
9.30	<b>Official opening speeches by organisers</b> (Bureau International Jeunesse and E+ Portuguese National Agency) and Portuguese official representatives (Portimão city,

	Portuguese national authority)
10.00	<b>Europe / Democracy / Municipality / Youth:</b> An Inspiring keynote speech
10.30	<b>The role of municipalities in engaging young people in democratic participation</b> A panel discussion with different stakeholders (youth representatives, municipality representatives, experts, researchers)
11.00	Coffee-break
11.30	<b>Presenting the Democracy Reloading Strategic Partnership</b> - through personal stories of people involved in the Democracy Reloading project
13.00	Lunch break
14.30	Presentation of the <b>Democracy Reloading Toolkit</b> and the new language versions
15.00	Coffee-break integrated in the working groups
17.00	<b>WORKING GROUPS:</b> Discussing the first experience with the Toolkit, exploring its potentials, looking at how the Toolkit can support the development of relevant competences of municipalities
19.00	Dinner

Time	3 THURSDAY - MUNICIPALITIES & YOUTH PARTICIPATION - 18th March 2021
9.30	<b>Conclusions of the working groups</b> Introduction of the daily program
10.00	<b>Good practice workshops</b> Participants will present their experience and practices in 30-45 minute workshops
11.00	Coffee-break integrated
12.15	<b>Good practice workshops continue</b>
13.15	Lunch break
14.30	<b>How to further strengthen municipalities in developing local democracy through youth participation in decision-making?</b> Round table discussion with representatives of municipalities and other experts.
15.30	Coffee-break
16.00	<b>Future Plans of Democracy Reloading Partnership</b> 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 - 19th March 2021
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9.00

Optional cultural program for those who leave later that day

### Invited organisations

European Commission, Youth Unit, EC-CoE Youth Partnership, Council of Europe, Youth Department, InterCity Youth, SALTO Youth Participation, Europe Goes Local, ALDA European Association of Local Democracy



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