

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Building Resilient Communities –
Youth Work at Municipality Level**
during COVID-19 times

International Conference: Braga, Portugal

21st – 26th march, 2022

Organized by:



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This Conference will be organized by DYPALL Network in with the support of Braga Municipality (Portugal).

DYPALL Network (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level) is a European platform of over 70 civil society organizations and local authorities from more than 30 countries, that aims to involve young people in decision-



making processes at 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 important 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.

In order to realize this ambitious and challenging initiative, 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 organizations 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.

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

CONFERENCE

This Conference is an event designed for youth workers, youth leaders and public officers from local and regional authorities that work with youth in their local realities from Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal, Turkey, The Republic of North Macedonia, Latvia, Greece, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

The Conference represents a vital platform for CSO's and LA's all around Europe to come together, explore and discuss new tools and practices organized or to be implemented for youth in order to respond to the new challenges consequent from a pandemic, with a specific focus on sustainable practices and tools that promote resilient and more prepare communities to cope with extraordinary circumstances.

It will allow youth workers, youth leaders, young people and public officers from local and regional authorities to work together for 4 days focused on different fields related to youth such as unemployment, education, health, housing among others, with special attention to specific measures implemented or to be developed during these pandemic times.

The Conference is a result of a needs assessment made to DYPALL Network member and other partners organizations, that highlighted the lack of

knowledge and, even, references that could provide them with some guidance during these challenging times. To improve their local action and impact, competences, and skills, it's crucial and essential that stakeholders meet to discuss, reflect, exchange and develop their knowledge to work together on such themes.

Our Conference will allow around 36 practitioners (youth workers, municipality workers, NGOs/CSOs representatives, and other relevant stakeholders) from 15 countries to meet and to explore ways to share and reproduce good practices of youth work at local level, contributing to increase the quality of youth work development within our organizations and public bodies at local level. The Conference will balance presentations made by key speakers, exchanges of best practices, thematic round tables and working groups. In this way we will be able to create a good learning atmosphere, suitable with the diverse profiles of participants. The Conference will follow non-formal education methodology where we will be able to address the different learning styles and profiles in a way that it will maximize their active participation during all programmed activities. We will also use a diversity of methods that will include focus group discussions, brainstorming, and experiential learning exercises. We will also have moments based on peer-learning and with a strong focus on a diversity of methods that support the structured learning moments between young people, youth workers and public officers.

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 how to deal and cope with COVID-19 pandemic and its recover and to build more resilient communities, from a youth work perspective, directly on the field. We realized that currently there is a huge diversity in terms of approaches and strategies to support this that have a positive social impact. We identified that in all the partner countries there was the need to develop better strategies and mechanisms to support the development of financially sustainable social enterprises, particularly those of migrant youth who face even more challenges. It is our belief that there is a huge potential in terms of developing future cooperation projects to build more resilient communities, from

a youth work perspective, and to foster the potential of growth and exchange among the partners' countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference “Building Resilient Communities - Youth Work at Municipality Level during COVID- 19 times” represents a vital platform for youth and municipality youth workers all around Europe to come together, explore and discuss new tools and practices organized or to be implemented for youth in order to respond to the new challenges consequent from a pandemic, with a specific focus on sustainable practices and tools that promote resilient and more prepare communities to cope with extraordinary circumstances.

Sharing good practices and offering opportunities to network, the Conference will combine well-working examples with concrete workshops on how to adapt these winning practices to one's local reality, having as a priority the capacitation of municipalities' resources (humans and financial) to learn how to do so and to answer the questions of inclusion of all groups in society, which are somehow excluded and need special attention during this period.

The specific objectives of the Conference are to:

- ❖ Share and analyze best practices implemented during a pandemic;
- ❖ Develop the capacity of LA and CSO and their youth workers to work together on the field of youth public policy to provide answers to the new challenges;
- ❖ Identify and promote good practices and mechanisms for building resilient communities;
- ❖ Share innovative practices and tools to magnify to reach LA and CSO in regard to all groups of society;
- ❖ Develop more inclusive approaches to create responses to young people needs, especially the ones with fewer opportunities;

- ❖ Allow youth CSO and LA to share their best practices in terms of cooperation between local authorities and civil society, with a specific focus on strategies to decrease the impact of the pandemic in young people's lives.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The direct target group of the International Conference are youth workers, municipality workers active in the field of youth, and local stakeholders.

Moreover, the participants must:

- be able to work in English;
- be willing to contribute with their experience at the Conference;
- be residents of partners Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal, Turkey, The Republic of North Macedonia, Latvia, Greece, Finland, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden;
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Conference;
- have relevant experience in the topic and are currently supporting the creation and implementation of practices and projects with the focus on COVID-19 recovery and building resilient communities;
- be highly motivated towards learning about models and local youth policies to build resilient communities.

Two participants will be selected **per country**, namely:

- Municipality officer working within the youth department of the municipality;
- Local youth worker working with and for youth and young people;

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 21st March 2022 (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 26th March 2022. *The arrival and departure airport is Porto (OPO), Portugal.*
- Travelling **maximum** 2 days before **or** 2 days after the designated travel dates is allowed; otherwise the ticket will not be eligible for reimbursement;
- **Flight tickets** shall be bought **only after confirmation from the organizers**. Travel expenses to and from the venue will be reimbursed up to a maximum per country/per participant (including all travel costs from the participants' home to the venue): Portugal, Spain - 180 €; Germany - 275 €; Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia – 360 €; Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Turkey - 530 €.
- **Reimbursement** will be done via bank transfer **after** the Conference (approximately in one month);
- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organizers in a Hotel in Braga city center, Portugal. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in shared rooms/dorms and that the rooms do not necessarily have a private bathroom. There is no possibility to be accommodated in a private room.

Other information

- An **info-pack** with further details on accommodation and programme will be shared with the selected participants;
- There is **no participation fee**

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this Study visit, please **fill in the online registration form**: <https://forms.gle/2KjrMXWW8a34dvja8>

The deadline for applying is **6th January 2022 by 12 pm (midday) CET**.

FUNDING

The activity is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, implemented by the Agência Nacional Erasmus+ Educação, which performs the function of being the National Agency for the Erasmus+ programme in Portugal. For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Mafalda Ferreira at mafalda.ferreira@dypall.com.