

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Youth Takes the Floor: a training course on how to increase youth participation in decision-making

Training course in Braga, Portugal

20th – 26th March, 2022

Organized by:



ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This Training course will be organized by DYPALL Network.

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>

TRAINING COURSE

This Training course is designed for **youth leaders, youth workers** and **municipality officers responsible for youth** from all Council of Europe member states.

During the Training course, the participants will be able to develop competencies to create and empower youth participation structures and instruments that enable young people to take an active part in decision-making processes at the local level.

They will have the opportunity to explore effective standards, models and structures for youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level, based on good practices and models mapped by DYPALL Network across different European countries, in order to give them the possibility to transfer this experience into their own local reality. This will allow the participants to gain skills and knowledge to support young people in the effective decision-making process. Moreover, they will develop a deeper understanding of the different realities, experiences and opportunities of the role of young people in the development and sustainability of our democracies. We also expect that the project can contribute to a better understanding of youth participation in the decision-making process from both sides of the Mediterranean in our partner's countries, and debate about their potential and challenges.

The idea of this project was born out of the need identified by the partners to work together on the theme of creating structures and conditions that support young people in becoming competent and engaged citizens and that allow them to take an active role in decision-making processes that will influence their future. This is the reason why the training course will rely on the empowerment of their competencies, creativity, social commitment and ability to contribute to the development of their communities.

We have identified the importance of creating opportunities to learn from each other's realities, on both sides of the Mediterranean see, by observing the

implementation of best practices projects on the theme of youth participation involving good practices directly on the field. We realized that currently there is a huge diversity in terms of approaches and strategies to support youth engagement and young people 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 digital engagement in order to further fostering the youth policies. It is our belief that there is a huge potential in terms of developing future cooperation projects for capacity building of youth workers to foster the potential of growth and exchange among the partners' countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING COURSE

During the Training course the participants will be able to take part actively in a sharing space in order to better understand the role of young leaders in our democracies. Moreover, they will have the opportunity to develop a common understanding of youth participation in decision making processes through identifying and presenting different instruments and structures of and for youth participation in decision making processes from both sides of the Mediterranean in our partner's countries, and debate about their potential and challenges. Furthermore, they will have the opportunity to explore several models and structures of youth social engagement that support such practices, as well as to transfer this experience into their own local reality. This will allow the participants to gain skills and knowledge to support young people in creating an efficient structure in order to foster the youth policies. Moreover, they will develop a deeper understanding of the different realities, experiences and opportunities for youth social entrepreneurship and local youth policies for social engagement. We also expect that the project can contribute to a better

understanding of youth workers on how to support the implementation of digital platforms that can enhance youth participation.

The specific objectives of the Training course are:

- ❖ to mainstream key models of youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level across the key stakeholders responsible for the field of youth at the local level;
- ❖ to create a connection and common understanding between the key stakeholders responsible for the field of youth at the local level (youth leaders, youth workers and representatives of local authorities from the same municipality);
- ❖ to capacitate youth leaders, youth workers and representatives of local authorities to implement digital solutions into their youth participation structures and spaces;
- ❖ to identify and present different instruments and structures of and for youth participation in decision-making processes from both sides of the Mediterranean in our partner's countries, and debate about their potential and challenges;
- ❖ to develop competencies of participants in implementing and creating such instruments and structures at the local level as youth policies, youth action plans, local youth councils and co-management;
- ❖ to capacitate youth leaders, youth workers and representatives of local authorities to implement digital solutions into their youth participation structures and spaces;
- ❖ to introduce participants to the principles of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and “Have your say” manual, as well as the outcomes of the European Youth Work Agenda;
- ❖ To create a local action plan developed by the participants that consist of representatives of local authorities and civil-society organizations, to be implemented at their local level after the end of the training.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This study visit is targeting youth leaders, youth workers and youth municipality officers. Moreover, the participants must:

- be able to work in English;
- be willing to contribute with their experience to the Training course;
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Training course;
- be residents of a Council of Europe member state, Algeria, Morocco or Tunisia;
- have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation at the local level;
- be highly motivated towards learning about models and local youth policies for youth engagement in the decision-making process.

The participants need to fit one of the following profiles:

1. Municipality officer working within the youth department of the municipality.
2. Local youth worker or youth leader working with and for youth.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 20th March 2022, and **departure day** is 26th March 2022;

- Travelling **maximum** 2 days before **or** 2 days after the designated travel dates is allowed (in which case the organizers will not cover the costs of stay on the extra days);
- **Flight tickets** shall be bought **only after confirmation from the organizers**. Organizers will reimburse 70% of travel cost of max of 400€ (including all travel costs from the participant's home to the venue in Braga and, if needed, COVID tests)
 - example: if the travel costs are 400€ the organizers will reimburse 280€; if the travel costs are 240€ the organizers will reimburse 168€;
 - Visa costs: organizers will reimburse 70% of visa cost of max of 100€
 - example: if the visa costs are 100€ the organizers will reimburse 70€; if the visa costs are 60€, the organizers will reimburse 42€.
- **Reimbursement** will be done via bank transfer **after** the Training course (approximately in one month);
- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organizers in Braga. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in shared rooms;

Other information

- Participation fee: 50€ for participants from EU countries, 25€ for participants from non-EU countries;
- An **info-pack** with further details on accommodation and program will be shared with the selected participants;

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this Training course, please **fill in the online registration form**: <https://docs.google.com/forms/>

The deadline for applying is **31st January 2022 by 12 p.m. (midday) CET.**

FUNDING

The activity is co-funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. For more information: <https://eyf.coe.int>

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Sara Bottesin at sara.bottesin@dypall.com.