

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



## Study session: Climbing the ladder

Capacitating youth leaders to facilitate youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level

24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Organized by:



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This Study session will be organized by DYPALL Network in cooperation with the Assembly of European Regions (AER) and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

**DYPALL Network** (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level) is a European platform of over 78 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>

**The Assembly of European Regions (AER)** is the largest independent interregional organisation in broader Europe, with around 140 regional authorities as members from 30 countries. Established in 1985, AER is a forum for regional politicians to engage in interregional cooperation and to voice regional interests on the European stage. AER was a key player in the creation of the advisory bodies to the Council of Europe (Congress of Local and Regional Authorities) and the European Union's Committee of the Regions. Since its inception, one of the AER's key priorities has been raising awareness and understanding of the relevance of European policies for regions and their citizens, basing its activities on the principle that sharing information, offering platforms to exchange views and experiences, and creating opportunities to debate issues of general European concern all and contribute to boosting a sense of ownership of the European project among the citizens.

The AER also works extensively in the field of youth policies. Dedicated working groups are established to exchange regional expertise and experiences on how to empower youth, increase their employment opportunities, and strengthen their role in society through education and traineeship, employment, and civic engagement. Furthermore, the AER runs three youth flagship programmes:

- Eurodissey is the AER's youth mobility programme operating between the AER member regions since 1985, aimed at improving the chances of

young Europeans to integrate into working life through work experience abroad;

- The Summer Academy is a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices on regional development in Europe. It was established in 1996 and each year it engages around 150 young participants aged between 18 and 30 years old from across Europe in a dialogue with decision-makers;
- The Youth Regional Network was established in 2008 as a forum of regional-level youth parliaments, Councils and organisations from wider Europe providing youth aged between 15-30 years old a collective voice on the European stage.

**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>

## STUDY SESSION

The study session “Climbing the ladder - Capacitating youth leaders to facilitate youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level” focuses on two of the five strategic priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector: Revitalising pluralistic democracy (1) and Youth work (4).

Specifically, it aims to revitalize pluralistic democracy and promote quality development and recognition of youth work through sustainable actions plans, valorizing the role that young people can play in these processes.

In regards with the priority of Revitalising pluralistic democracy, it focuses on the instruments for youth participation, as the aim of the session is to equip youth delegates, youth workers, representatives of local youth councils and similar participation structures with practical knowledge and skills to foster processes of meaningful youth participation at the local level all around Europe.

In regards to the priority of Youth work, the activity will produce follow-up strategies to disseminate the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, the recently adopted Final Declaration of the 3rd EYWC (specific focus on the Policy frameworks and the Bonn process) and the report on youth work adopted by the Statutory forum of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, that has seen the direct involvement and contribution from the previous generation of Youth Delegates to the Congress.

The study session also builds on the outcomes achieved by the two precedent study sessions implemented in 2020 and 2021 by DYPALL Network, always in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

You can read more about them [here](#).

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION

The participants will expand their knowledge about youth work and youth participation in decision-making processes, including most recent trends, while improving their practical skills in facilitating short activities and designing a youth dialogue process. Moreover, the participants will complete the study session with a clearer vision and a step-by-step working plan on how to implement the outcomes of the session and be more engaged as young facilitators for democratic processes in their local and regional realities. They will work together on the production of a set of qualitative guidelines for the development of training activities dedicated to the target group of “youth leaders”.

The specific objectives of the study session are to:

- ❖ bring together and train 25 Youth leaders from all around Europe about youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level and youth work, in line with the most recent recommendations, structures, models;
- ❖ create and test a learning module based on non-formal education that includes vital skills (such as advocacy principles, outreach strategies, facilitation skills) to encourage youth leaders to take action at the local level and multiply their learnings and attitudes with their peers;
- ❖ explore the impact of Covid19 in the traditional and formal processes of youth participation (youth councils, youth organisations, youth delegate program, etc) and map new forms of participation that emerged during the pandemic (from the experience of DYPALL Network and that of the participants – e-participation, blended mobilities);
- ❖ reflect on various tools, both traditional and digital, that can boost the active participation of young people in their local societies;
- ❖ empower 25 young facilitators committed to revitalising pluralistic democracy and foster youth political participation from the local to the European level.

# PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This study session is targeting:

- Current and Former Youth delegates to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- Youth leaders and young people with a strong interest in youth participation;
- Young representatives of local youth councils and similar participation structures;
- Youth workers who are committed to empowering young people as key actors of decision-making processes.

Previous experience in the youth sector, specifically related to youth participation in decision-making processes and youth work, is not necessary but is welcomed. Participants who have already planned projects and initiatives to boost youth participation at the local level in cooperation with local authorities are especially welcome. The same criteria apply to young people residents in rural areas, from minorities, or vulnerable groups.

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 residents of Council of Europe member State; we are also eager to involve 1 participant from Morocco and 1 from Algeria. Other exceptions may be possible depending on the application form;
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Study session;

- have relevant experience in the topic of youth participation and youth engagement;
- be highly motivated towards learning about models and local youth policies for youth participation.

We also encourage and support participation of participants from disadvantaged groups.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The arrival and departure airports are *Strasbourg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart or the Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg EuroAirport (alternative)*;
- **Flight tickets and any other 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). Expenses over 350 euros shall be confirmed by the organisers before the purchase;
- **Covid test** necessary to travel to Strasbourg and back are also a subject of reimbursement;
- 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;
- **Green transportation** is encouraged (such as by train or bus), especially for travels that take less than 12 hours.

### **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;
- Participants of the Study session will need to follow sanitary protocols of the Council of Europe.

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

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

The deadline for applying is **20<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

## **CONTACTS**

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gianluca Rossino at [gianluca.rossino@dypall.com](mailto:gianluca.rossino@dypall.com).