

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**Study session: Youth Democracy Academy**

8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Organized by:**



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This Study session will be organized by DYPALL Network 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 80 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 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 Youth Democracy Academy focuses on two of the five [strategic priorities](#) of the Council of Europe youth sector: Revitalising pluralistic

democracy (1) and Young peoples' access to rights (2).

Specifically, it aims to revitalize pluralistic democracy and young people's access to rights namely by supporting the active participation of young people in decisions and actions at the local and regional level by educating young people about democracy, participation, combating fake news and developing critical thinking by using the "Educate for Democracy" programme developed by DYPALL Network.

This programme is based around the following topics: citizen participation, understanding and experiencing democracy, increasing the impact, media literacy and critical thinking, democracies at risk and youth leadership. Some activities in the training modules aim to explore the topic and share knowledge among participants; others offer the opportunity to experience the subject and reflect on our perception of a concrete issue; other activities develop specific competencies and/or invite us to take action to address particular problems.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION**

During the study session, we aim to equip 30 youth leaders/facilitators with knowledge and skills to implement the "Educate for democracy" programme. The programme is composed of training modules based on non-formal education methodology appealing to young people so they could explore the concept and values of democracy innovatively, tackling it from local, national, and European perspectives. During sessions, participants will deepen their facilitation skills and get to familiarise themselves with the tools to spread their acquired knowledge about democracy in their local realities. In this hectic time that Europe is going through, it is important to rebuilt trust in democracy by giving the space for young people to have a critical look at the existing democratic system in Europe and their role in it.

The specific objectives of the study session are to:

- a) to further develop young people's sense of critical thinking and skills for information analysis and fact-checking
- b) to bring young people closer and discuss their approach to existing challenges and threats to democracy Europe is going through, such as a lack of social bonds and solidarity, a generalised sense of insecurity, growing populism and misinformation and environmental challenges,
- c) to empower 30 young facilitators committed to revitalising democracy and equip them with the skills to educate other young people to rebuild trust in democracy

## PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This study session is targeting:

- Youth leaders and young people with a strong interest in youth participation and democratization,
- Young people with experience in peer education, facilitation or training
- Applications from candidates working with different socially excluded groups (young people residents in rural areas, from minorities groups, or vulnerable groups) are encouraged.

We welcome applications from all candidates who fulfil the above-mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Moreover, the participants must:

- be able comfortable in a working environment based on the English language

- 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; and/or Belarus, Holy See and Kazakhstan
- be able to attend the whole duration of the Study session
- have relevant experience in facilitation, specifically related to youth participation is not necessary but is welcomed
- having already planned projects and initiatives to boost youth participation at the local level in cooperation with local authorities are especially welcome
- **committed to implement a follow-up activity in their local communities**
- **available to be engaged in future activities of DYPALL Network as facilitators/trainers of Educate for Democracy programme**

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Travelling days and expenses

- **Arrival day** is 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The arrival and departure airport is Budapest airport.
- **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 Budapest). Expenses over 350 euros shall be confirmed by the organisers before the purchase,

- 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 Budapest. Please note that the accommodation will be provided in double 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.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To **apply** for participation in this Study visit, please **fill in the online application form**: <https://forms.gle/XcQneSd5JNULqfuw6>

The deadline for applying is **18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 by 23.59 CET**.

## CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Antea Pamukovic at [antea.pamukovic@dypall.com](mailto:antea.pamukovic@dypall.com).