

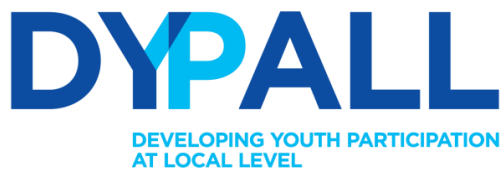
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Study visit to Ghent

27th May – 1st June 2024

Ghent, Belgium

Organized by:



Erasmus+

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ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

This activity will be organized by DYPALL Network and Bataljong.

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 center 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>

Bataljong is a network of experts in local policy for children and youth, including youth officers, youth councilors, and youth council volunteers. With a focus on enhancing democratic processes, Bataljong provides ongoing support to local governments in establishing and maintaining platforms for youth engagement in decision-making in Flanders, Belgium. Through collaborative efforts, Bataljong assists in creating inclusive spaces where young people can voice their opinions, contribute with ideas, and actively shape the policies and programmes that affect their lives. By fostering meaningful interactions between youth and local authorities, Bataljong aims to strengthen community bonds, promote civic responsibility, and cultivate a sense of ownership among young citizens. Through its dedication to promoting youth participation, Bataljong plays a crucial role in fostering a vibrant and inclusive democracy at the grassroots level.

For more information: <https://bataljong.be/>

STUDY VISIT

The Study visit to Ghent aims to identify different approaches, tools, and mechanisms available to support the active involvement of youth in local governance processes. The event will bring youth workers from twelve countries to learn about the practices in Flanders and exchange experiences and ideas with colleagues from other participating countries.

The event's focal points encompass several key questions aimed at enhancing youth participation in public policy development and local governance within municipalities such as to explore various methods used to engage young people in the process of shaping public policies at the municipal level.

Furthermore, it examines the potential programmes that can be implemented at the local level to support the effectiveness of youth councils and youth centres. This includes initiatives related to their establishment, development, evaluation, capacity building, and political impact.

Lastly, the event will conduct assessment on how the existing practices in Belgium compare against those adopted in other participants' countries. This comparison will offer valuable insights into the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement in youth participation strategies across different contexts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY VISIT

During the activity, participants will have the opportunity to learn about youth participation in Ghent, the European Youth Capital 2024. It will also serve as a platform for networking and getting to know other European organisations working in the area of youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level.

Furthermore, the Study visit will be based on the non-formal education methodology, which includes sharing practices and active engagement of the participants.

The specific objectives of this Study visit are:

- Exploring and gaining a comprehensive understanding of youth policies and various models of youth participation at the local level within Flanders, particularly in Ghent;
- Identifying and learning innovative strategies that can effectively support youth workers in expanding youth participation within their local contexts;
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices of youth engagement in local democracies through reflection and discussion to uncover the potential of different engagement approaches;
- Provide insights into the functioning of local youth councils and other participatory mechanisms in Ghent;
- Learning about the participatory processes taking place within Ghent;
- Comparative analysis of the opportunities and challenges that municipalities face concerning youth participation in Belgium and the partner countries;
- Expanding the partners' network and fostering new synergies across Europe.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This Study visit to Ghent is targeting 28 participants that must fit on of the two profiles:

- Municipality officer working within the youth department of the municipality
- Local youth worker working on youth participation in decision-making

All the participants must:

- be able to work in English;
- participate in the full duration of the activity;
- commit to sharing good practices
- commit to implementing new-found knowledge in their youth work

Please note that there will be preparatory tasks (online) for the participants before the Study visit in Belgium.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travelling days and expenses

- Activity will take place in Ghent, Belgium
- **Arrival day** is 27th May, 2024 (preferably by 6 pm), and **departure day** is 1st June, 2024. *The recommended arrival and departure airport is Zaventem airport in Brussels, Belgium.*
- Travelling **maximum** 2 days before **or** 2 days after the designated travel dates is allowed; otherwise, the ticket will not be eligible for reimbursement

- In the case of arriving earlier or departing after the designated travel days please note that the organisers will not cover the cost of your stay for the extra days

- **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 participant's home to the venue in Ghent):
 - Belgium (10 - 99 km): 23 EUR
 - Portugal, The Republic of North Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Slovenia, Serbia (500 – 1999 km): 275 EUR
 - Türkiye (2000 – 2999 km): 360 EUR
 - Georgia, Armenia (3000 – 3999 km): 530 EUR

- **Reimbursement** will be done via bank transfer **after** the Study visit (within 2 months)

- **Accommodation and meals** will be provided by the organizers. Please note that the accommodation will be provided **in triple rooms** in Ibis Gent Centrum Dampoort. There is no possibility to be accommodated in single nor double room.

Other information

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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this Study visit please **fill in the online application form**: <https://forms.gle/8tjWTtpw4JKH4HUr9>

The deadline for applying is **18th April 2024 by 23.59 CET**.

FUNDING

The activity is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union through JINT (National Agency in Flanders) For more information: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/>

CONTACTS

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