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Newsletter

WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

Spotlight

The **World Forum for Democracy 2016** will take place on **7-9 November 2016** in Strasbourg, France. The Forum will focus on **how education can help bridge the social divide and become a real asset for our diverse democracies.**

The **call for lab submissions** is now available at: www.world-forum-democracy.org

Interested organisations/institutions worldwide are invited to express their interest in presenting an example/initiative to make education more democracy-centred or to revitalise democracy through education by 15 May 2016. Selected initiatives will be notified in June 2016.

Follow-up of the World Forum for Democracy

Participatory Democracy Incubator

Citizens Forum, Portugal

Following his participation in the World Forum for Democracy 2015, Manuel Arriaga, visiting Research Professor at New York University, launched in Portugal an initiative called Citizens' Forum. Its aim is to engage citizens in improving democratic institutions, and to restore the public's trust in political leaders. It will bring together periodically a demographically representative panel of Portuguese citizens, who will learn how political institutions function, gather public and expert input, and deliberate on how democratic representation could be improved. Their recommendations will be shared in an open debate with political and executive decision-makers.

Citizens Jury, Ghent, Belgium

The World Forum for Democracy 2015 hosted a Hackathon, a creativity workshop, which gathered an eclectic mixture of visionary people representing local elected representatives, civil servants, founders of innovative participatory platforms and projects, experts in the field of innovation and social change. They have designed innovative prototypes and solutions for the Council of Europe Participatory Democracy Incubator.

Inspired by the Hackathon, the city of Ghent is going to organise a citizens' jury, to involve its communities in the decision-making process on new traffic regulation in the context of spatial policy plan for 2030. Citizens can also express their ideas via an online platform www.ruimtevoor.gent.

Upgrading Democracy, France



In April 2016, the French think tank Renaissance Numérique published a White Paper titled "Démocratie: mise à jour" (Upgrading Democracy). The report demonstrates how digital tools allow a new paradigm of governance for states and democratic systems. It identifies proposals to upgrade the public and democratic "software" towards more transparency, efficiency, participation and representativeness. The report has several references to the initiatives presented in the World Forum for Democracy, including the Hackathon.

[Index for Participatory Democracy in Cities](#)

An Index for Participatory Democracy in Cities has been developed in the context of the Participatory Democracy Incubator. The Index serves as a tool of self-assessment for cities, to critically evaluate and improve their structures for citizens' participation. The Index is based on a questionnaire related to the Index indicators, including: commitment, regulatory and policy framework, advisory boards and commissions, civic associations, range of issues, range of tactics, grassroots problem-solving, young people, transparency, monitoring and evaluation.

Confirmed Speakers



Photo: Michaëlle JEAN, Canada, Secretary General of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie at the World Forum for Democracy 2015

We are happy to announce that the following personalities have confirmed their participation in the Forum:

Juan Diego Calisto Aguirre, Peru, Director and Founder of Ruwasunchis

Kageki Asakura, Japan, Dean of Shure University

Veronica Cretu, Moldova, President of the Open Government Institute

Colin Crouch, United Kingdom, Political Scientist, University of Warwick, coined the term "post-democracy"

Macamo Elisio, Mozambique, Professor of Sociology at the Centre for African Studies, University of Basel

Yacoov Hecht, Israel, Educator and pioneer of democratic education

Marie-Louise O'Donnell, Ireland, Senator-Taoiseach's Nominee

Yasutomo Suzuki, Japan, Mayor of Hamamatsu

Sakena Yacoobi, Afghanistan, Executive director of the Afghan Institute of Learning

Calendar



In order to disseminate the results of the World Forum for Democracy 2015, of the Incubator for Participatory Democracy, and to raise awareness for the upcoming World Forum for Democracy, the Secretariat is participating in a number of events and conferences:

5 - 9 April 2016: "World Congress of the International Association for Political Science Students", Berlin, Germany

2 - 4 May 2016: "Re:Publica" Conference on Technology and Society, Berlin, Germany

Relevant readings in the light of the 2016 World Forum for Democracy:

11 April 2016: "[Education is the key to tackling disenchantment with democracy](#)", by Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General for Democracy, Council of Europe

12 April 2016: [Final Declaration of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education](#): "Securing Democracy through Education"

19 April 2016: Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [Recommendation 2088 \(2016\)](#)¹: "Towards a framework of competences for democratic citizenship"

[Compendium on Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe](#), Council of Europe/ERICarts

More information and news about the World Forum for Democracy can be found at:

- ✓ www.world-forum-democracy.org
- ✓ www.facebook.com/wfdemocracy
- ✓ www.twitter.com/wfdemocracy (#CoE_WFD)



Satellite Events

Since its first edition in 2012 the World Forum for Democracy has gained recognition as an arena for seminal discussions on issues of modern democracy. In order to reach out to a wider range of contributors and enrich the debate, **the Forum welcomes the organisation of "satellite events" by universities renowned in the sphere of political studies and international relations, non-governmental organisations, municipalities and other institutions.** This idea has been successfully implemented for the first time in 2015, when five outstanding universities organised satellite events. The Satellite events should be related to the Forum's annual topic and can be organised at any time, before, during and after the Forum. The Forum' Secretariat is open to receive such initiatives and offers its support and participation.