



World Forum for Democracy

6 August 2018

Open call for expressions of interest concerning satellite events

Dear Madam / Sir

Since 2012, the Council of Europe is organising the World Forum for Democracy with a view to promoting dialogue and innovation in democratic governance, based on its core values: democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Forum aims at addressing key challenges facing democracy such as the growing disconnect between citizens and institutions or the impact of technology on political parties and the media. It offers a platform for interactive discussions with a highly motivated audience of policymakers, media representatives, academia and activists. It is open to initiatives coming from all horizons that may improve the functioning of democracy.

Every year the Forum addresses a specific theme. This year, the Forum will be held from 19 to 21 November on '*Gender Equality: Whose Battle?*'. Participants will debate new ways to tackle discriminations faced by millions of women and girls, day in, day out. Discrimination takes many forms, impacting women and girls from all walks of life and in every country around the world. Addressing these issues is not only the right thing to do – with real benefits for both men and women – it is also a legal obligation under international law, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

In order to reach out to a wider range of contributors and enrich the debate, the Council of Europe is seeking partners for the organisation of “satellite events” by universities renowned in the sphere of political studies and international relations, non-governmental organisations, municipalities and other institutions.

The organising institutions are free to propose the dates and format of their event, the speakers and the specific topic(s). Possible formats include seminars or a seminar series, lectures in schools, surveys, social media campaigns, or radio/TV debates. The satellite events should take place before the Forum so that their findings can be presented at the Forum and included in the Forum's final report. The organising institutions should prepare a brief presentation of the findings of the event which a

representative would be presenting at the Forum. The travel and subsistence expenses of such representatives would be borne by the Council of Europe.

The Forum Secretariat is open to discuss any other format that the organising institutions would like to propose. The key for any satellite events and initiatives should be innovative ideas, models or prototypes, that are realistic, addressing current issues and problems, having a potential to be replicated in various countries, universities or other environments, something that can lead to a positive change and to the improvement of democracies worldwide.

To that aim, the Council of Europe is launching the present call for expressions of interest to civil society organisations. Potential organisers are expected to submit proposals for satellite events by **15 September 2018**.

Organising a satellite event and then participating in the Forum can bring more visibility to your project/initiative. Your organisation will feature in the Forum's programme and your activities may receive additional media coverage. Participation in the Forum also presents an opportunity to network and build new synergies with like-minded organisations in order to increase the impact of your activities.

Additional information regarding the concept and previous satellite events can be found on the Forum website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/world-forum-democracy/satellite-events-2018>.

If you feel that your event may contribute to this year's Forum please do not hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience, bearing in mind the **deadline of 15 September 2018** for submission of proposals. I am at your disposal for any further information (piotr.walczak@coe.int, tel. +33 (0)3 8841 3562).

Yours faithfully,

Piotr Walczak