



Presidency of Malta  
Council of Europe  
May - November 2025  
Présidence de Malte  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Mai - Novembre 2025



# *Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action*

Youth Event of the 10<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe  
Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

6 - 8 October 2025 | Malta



## PROGRAMME



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT  
FOR YOUTH, RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION



KUNSILL NAZZJONALI  
TAZ-ZGHAZAGH



EUROPEAN  
YOUTH FORUM

# Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action

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## Programme

### Monday, 6 October 2025

Arrival of participants

**14:00 – 19:00** Registration

**19:00** Dinner and welcome activities

### Tuesday, 7 October 2025

**9:15** Opening of the youth event, with:

- Keith AZZOPARDI TANTI, *Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation, Malta*
- Cherise SULTANA, *President, National Youth Council, Malta*
- Maurizio CUTTIN, *Vice-Chair, Advisory Council on Youth*

**9:40** Introduction to the youth event objectives, programme, methodology, getting to know each other

**10:30** The road to Malta: 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers, its outcomes and youth perspectives, with:

- Miriam TEUMA, *Chair, European Steering Committee on Youth*
- Noah KRAMER, *Chair of the Programming Committee on Youth, Advisory Council on Youth*
- Andreea SCRIOȘTEANU, *Vice-President, European Youth Forum*

**11:00** Break

**11:30** Strengthening young people's role in democratic revival and protection of human rights: the New Democratic Pact for Europe and the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, with:

- Matjaž GRUDEN, *Director for Democracy, Council of Europe*

**12:15** Introduction to working groups on youth perspectives for a New Democratic Pact for Europe

1. Learning and practicing democracy  
Arno SCHROOYEN, *facilitator*; Maria-Nadia TISMĂNARU, *rapporteur*.
2. Protecting democracy  
Anna KNOBBOUT, *facilitator*; Eva KOTNIK, *rapporteur*.
3. Innovating democracy  
Riika PASANEN, *facilitator*; Emili KHACHATRYAN, *rapporteur*.
4. Creating a shared narrative about democracy  
Agnes GKOUTZIAMANI, *facilitator*; Stanislava STEFANOVA, *rapporteur*.

**13:00** Lunch

**14:30** Working groups continued

**16:00** Break

**16:30** Presentations of the results of the working groups

**18:00** Departure for dinner by bus

**19:00** Dinner reception hosted by the Maltese authorities for participants in the youth event and in the 1539<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (Mdina, Malta)

**22:30** Departure to Grand Hotel Excelsior by bus

## Wednesday, 8 October 2025

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- 9:00** Strengthening a youth perspective in the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), with:
- Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS, *President of the PACE*
  - Despina CHATZIVASSILIOU, *Secretary General of the PACE*
- 9:40** Reviewing the proposals for the New Democratic Pact for Europe
- 11:00** Break
- 11:30** Youth advocacy and engagement: follow-up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth
- 13:00** Lunch
- 14:30** Youth proposals for the New Democratic Pact for Europe, exchange of views with:
- Alain BERSSET, *Secretary General, Council of Europe*
  - Francesca CAMILLERI VETTIGER, *President of the Ministers' Deputies and Permanent representative of Malta to the Council of Europe*
- 16:00** Break
- 16:20** Coffee talks, with:
- Naomi CACHIA, PACE, *youth rapporteur, Committee in Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee)*
  - Max LUCKS, PACE, *youth rapporteur, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy*
  - Véronique BERTHOLLE, *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, thematic spokesperson on youth*
- 17:30** Conclusions and closing of the youth event, with:
- Rareş VOICU, *President, European Youth Forum*
  - Nina GRMUŠA, *Chair, Advisory Council on Youth*
  - Tobias FLESENKEMPER, *Head of the Youth Department*
- 18:20** Departure for dinner
- 18:45** 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth: **dinner reception hosted by the Maltese authorities, Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta**

## Thursday, 9 October 2025

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- 10th Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth** - Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta
- 7:45** Departure of the group from the Grand Hotel Excelsior to the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for youth
- 8:15** Arrival of the delegations and refreshments at the Mediterranean Conference Centre
- 9:30 – 18:00** 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth
- 18:15** Cocktail followed by dinner reception hosted by the Maltese authorities at the terrace of the Mediterranean Conference Centre

## Friday, 10 October 2025

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Check out and departures of participants

Optional side events

- 8:00 – 10:00** Breakfast meeting: **EYCA and the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card** (Grand Hotel Excelsior, Floriana)
- 10:15 – 12:30** Parallel events
- **AI & Youth:** Co-shaping Policies for a Responsible Future by Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ (Aula Magna, Old University, St. Paul's Street, Valletta)
  - **Vote at 16:** A Choice or a Right? by the Maltese National Youth Council (Auberge d'Arragon, Valletta)
  - **On-site visit to Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ** (Maltese Youth Agency; St Joseph High Road, St.Venera)
- 12:30** Lunch for participants in side events

## About the youth event

In 2024, the Committee of Ministers welcomed the decision of the Maltese authorities to organise the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in 2025 in the framework of its presidency of the Committee of Ministers. In respect of the co-management and the tradition of the youth sector, the Conference of Ministers will also be attended by young people who will furthermore take part in the youth event preceding the conference.

The youth event aims to:

- secure a youth perspective in the process of developing the New Democratic for Europe;
- be a space for youth representatives to understand and plan the follow-up to the Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, notably in respect of the implementation of a youth perspective in the member States, and the key points raised by the Declaration to be adopted by the Ministers;
- enhance the networking and advocacy capacities of the participants.

The youth event will gather some 80 young participants:

- national youth delegates, members of the national delegations for the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth representing national youth councils, or similar organisations;
- members of the Advisory Council on Youth;
- representatives of international youth organisations, Congress youth delegates and Maltese youth civil society.

The youth event is prepared by a group nominated by the Joint Council on Youth and composed of representatives of the Advisory Council on Youth, the European Steering Committee on Youth, the European Youth Forum and the Maltese National Youth Council.

The youth event is part of the:

### New Democratic Pact for Europe

Democratic backsliding, disinformation, impunity, and authoritarianism are undermining democracy in Europe. People are increasingly afraid and frustrated. It comes at a time when democratic security – the resilience of our democratic institutions, freedoms, and values – is our first line of defence against the threats we face. A collective response is needed. There is no quick fix and no single solution. With the New Democratic Pact, the Council of Europe unites with its partners to boost solutions that work and create new responses. To identify them, consultations are needed. The Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows.



### Youth revitalising democracy

The project, led by the Youth Department, aims at strengthening processes of revitalising democracy through youth participation and agency, directly responding to the priorities set by the Reykjavik Summit of Heads of State and Governments, in particular the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy. It builds on the successful implementation of the youth campaign Democracy Here | Democracy Now (2022) and the Call for Action, containing 50 proposals for actions to revitalise democracy to be implemented on medium term by youth civil society, member states and the Council of Europe. The activities enhance democratic youth participation through standards and support measures to youth participation in decision-making processes at local or national level, and the creation/maintenance of an enabling environment for youth civil society, as well as provides opportunities for education about human rights and democratic values.

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