



DDP-YD/ETD (2023) 284

Budapest, 20 November 2023

## **Youth Participation in Digital Governance: where to engage?**



A consultative meeting about youth participation in Digital Governance and its role in the 2030 Strategy of the Council of Europe youth sector.

**European Youth Centre, Strasbourg**  
29-30 November 2023

# **Background note**

## About the consultative meeting

This consultative meeting will explore current and emerging opportunities of youth participation in Digital and Internet Governance processes. It will support the Youth Department in engaging meaningfully with the relevant questions concerning young people and their participation in digital governance and suggest priorities within this area of work. It will furthermore seek synergies between the existing processes and the priorities of the Youth Sector.

The conclusions and proposals from the consultative meeting will be presented to the Joint Council on Youth and support the implementation of the Youth for Democracy programme.

The consultative meeting will bring together youth workers and experts in the field of youth participation in digital and Internet Governance:

- To review the current and recent developments in Digital Governance, especially those connected with youth participation and young people's access to rights;
- To create a common understanding and overview of how the topic of youth participation in digital governance relates to the work of the Youth Department, especially in relation to the current priorities of the Youth Sector and in relation to connected topics (Artificial Intelligence Literacy, digital citizenship education, youth participation...);
- To make proposals to consistently integrate a focus on digital governance in Youth for Democracy programme in the period 2024-2027, particularly in respect to non-formal education and youth work, human rights education and youth participation;
- To provide direction for future contributions to, or participation in, external processes on digital governance, and identify spaces and conditions for meaningful youth participation.

## Participants

The consultative meeting will bring together some 15-20 experts and practitioners, representing a wide range of stakeholders involved in youth participation in digital governance with the Council of Europe and its partners, including:

- youth organisations and civil society actors implementing programmes, research in the field of Internet Governance and connected fields
- trainers, youth workers and educators active with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe or with experience in external digital governance processes

## The topic – in brief

The Council of Europe has worked significantly in the past 10 years on questions pertaining digitalisation, human rights, democracy, and young people. The No Hate Speech Movement Youth Campaign brought the question of hate speech online and its impact on young people. The campaign also brought to the attention the question of youth participation in decision making concerning the internet, particularly in connection with the Internet Governance Forum and other similar fora.

A seminar on youth participation in Internet Governance in 2017 resulted in a set of conclusions and recommendations, including the call “to give a priority to youth participation in Internet Governance in youth, education and children policies” and to “include youth representatives in every panel in Internet Governance conferences”.

The Youth Department has also approached the topic through activities on Artificial Intelligence. Rather than a focus on the technical aspect of AI, the Youth Department has promoted the concept of “AI literacy”, supporting young users of AI to understand the human rights and societal consequences of modern technologies. Digital literacy is a prerequisite to engage in Internet Governance.

The question of digitalisation was furthermore picked up in the campaign Democracy Here | Democracy Now, including the flagship activity of the campaign in 2022, the Youth Action Week. The activity resulted in a Call for Action that gave special attention to the area of digitalisation. It called, among other things, for stakeholders to secure “Accessibility and free access to Internet and technology” and for clear ways to involve young people in decision-making about the internet.

These priorities are also reflected in the Youth Sector Strategy 2030, in which Internet Governance and AI are understood in relation to their impact on democracy. The strategy furthermore emphasises the importance of youth participation in governance processes and calls for ways to strengthen it.

Externally, Youth Sector of the Council of Europe has previously engaged with the Internet Governance Forum and The European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG); two major international fora for discussions around Internet Governance. As a partner, the Youth Department has contributed to discussions on topics of particular interest to youth; human rights questions such as data protection and security, artificial intelligence, internet regulation and policies, cybercrimes, online hate speech and access to services.

## Useful Links

*Council of Europe’s work on Digital Governance:*

- The Internet Governance webpage of the Council of Europe : [Internet Governance - Freedom of Expression \(coe.int\)](#)
- The Artificial Intelligence webpage of the Council of Europe : [Conseil de l'Europe et intelligence artificielle - Intelligence artificielle \(coe.int\)](#)

*The Youth Department’s work on Digital Governance:*

- Webpage of the seminar on Youth Participation in AI Governance (2020): [Artificial Intelligence - Youth \(coe.int\)](#), including a [declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#) and the [report](#) of the seminar
- Training Course on Artificial Intelligence Literacy with Young People (2022), [webpage of the course](#)
- Webpage of the Consultative Meeting on Education about digital citizenship in youth programmes (June 2023) : [CM Digital citizenship - Youth \(coe.int\)](#)

*Other links:*

- [Democracy Here | Democracy Now](#) campaign, including the flagship activity of the campaign in 2022, the Youth Action Week. The activity resulted in a [Call for Action](#) that gave special attention to the area of digitalisation.
- [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#)
- [Guide to human rights for internet users](#)
- [Internet Governance Forum](#)
- [The European Dialogue on Internet Governance \(EuroDIG\)](#)

## **Practical information: how to get to the EYCS**

Details of the facilities can be found here <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-strasbourg>

### **From the Strasbourg-Entzheim airport (SXB)**

Take the shuttle train direction Strasbourg city to gare centrale (central station)  
The shuttle train stop is located outside the airport, a few minutes' walk from the terminal.  
Tickets can be bought inside the terminal or on the train platform.

You can also take a taxi which will take between 40 and 90 minutes to get the EYCS depending on traffic. It costs about 60 Euros and is reimbursed if your trip takes place between 21:00 and 7:00.

### **From the train central station (gare centrale)**

Take the tram A (direction Illkirch Graffenstaden) or tram D (direction Port du Rhin / Kehl Rathaus) > stop "homme de fer"

At "homme de fer" change for tram B (direction Hoenheim gare) > stop "wacken"

At "wacken", change for tram E (direction Robertsau L'Escale) > stop "parlement européen"

From here, it is 5 minutes' walk to the EYCS, rue Pierre de Coubertin.