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Budapest, 3 March 2023

Study session

« I have a say! »

Ensuring democratic participation of youth by Voting@16

Study session organised within the [Youth for Democracy Programme](#)
in cooperation with the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions -
[OBESSU](#)

European Youth Centre Budapest, room A

20 – 24 March 2023

Draft Programme

Sunday, 19 March 2023

Arrival of participants

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Welcome evening

Monday, 20 March 2023

09:30 Opening, Welcome and Introductions: project organisers, objectives, expectations, code of conduct and getting to know each other

with Balint MOLNAR, *Executive Director, European Youth Centre Budapest*
Anna WEINRICH and Nadine TOYE, *OBESSU Board members*

11:00 Break

11:30 Teambuilding, presentation of the agenda of the study session

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Democracy and us – *exploring personal experiences, perspectives and aspirations between participants and the democracies we live in*

16:00 Break

16:30 Democracy in a dystopian scenario – *exploring and reflecting about situations where challenges to vote are introduced in our democracies*

18:00 Reflection groups & handbook – *pooling reflections on the activities of the day towards the drafting of the handbook*

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Game night

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

09:30 Pros and cons of voting@16 – *exploring the opportunities and challenges of lowering the voting age to 16*

11:00 Break

11:30 Good practices on voting@16 – *exploring successful policies to lower the voting age to 16*

with Alexander-Constantin MANDA, *Youth Activist and Researcher, Romania*

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 The Council of Europe work in the field of Revitalizing Democracy – good practices and possible support measures

with Anca-Ruxandra PANDEA, *Senior Project Officer, Youth Department, Council of Europe [online]*

16:00 Break

16:30 Map the vote - *Overview and mapping of existing voting rights across the Council of Europe member states*

18:00 Reflection groups & handbook – *pooling reflections on the activities of the day towards the drafting of the handbook*

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Output meetings

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

09:30 How do you rights? – *Q&A with guest speakers, exploring advocacy tools and strategies for rights-based advocacy campaigns*

with Giuseppe AVIGES, *founder of the Mouvement National Lycéen (MNL)*
Dave KOCK, *Youth Panel member of the European Youth Card (EYCA)*

11:00 Break

11:30 Making links – *exploring the importance, opportunities and challenges of working together to lower the voting age to 16*

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Free afternoon and dinner in the city

Thursday, 23 March 2023

09:30 Shadow election on vote@16 – *closing reflections on all the advocacy points explored so far both in favour and against vote@16*

11:00 Break

11:30 Map your own – *participants map their own organisations: resources, roles, structure and processes*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Action plans: the basics – *how to implement a successful advocacy campaign to lower the voting age to 16 and expand rights to participation*

16:00 Break

16:30 Action plans: the basics II – *how to implement a successful advocacy campaign to lower the voting age to 16 and expand rights to participation*

18:00 Reflection groups & handbook – *pooling reflections on the activities of the day towards the drafting of the handbook*

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Self-organized night

Friday, 24 March 2023

09:30 Presentation of the action plans – *sharing feedback and learn from each other's action plans*

11:00 Break

11:30 Finalisation of the handbook – *where the work of the handbook is finalised and reflected upon*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Evaluation & reflection groups – *wrapping up the learning experience and evaluating the overall quality of the study session*

16:00 Break

16:30 Finalisation of the handbook (volunteers)

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Farewell party

Saturday 25 March 2023

Departure of participants

Aim and objectives of the study session “« I have a say! »Ensuring democratic participation of youth by Voting@16”

Aim: To improve the democratic participation of young people and school students through empowering them to advocate for access to rights and the right to vote more specifically. The methods used are drawn from non-formal education (peer learning, exchange, debates and other interactive forms of teaching and learning).

Objectives:

1. To discuss good practices and different examples from around Europe and beyond on enabling the right to vote at 16.
2. To discuss what democratic culture is, and what are the enablers and barriers for it in Council of Europe countries.
3. To give tools to young people, school student unions and youth groups to campaign for the right to vote at 16 and to demand an inclusive, fair democratic culture at different levels and in various contexts.
4. To draft a handbook for youth groups on campaigning for vote at 16 and for a democratic culture in their communities (involving other measures such as citizenship education, pluralistic democracies, other forms of citizenship participation, etc.).