



DDP-YP/ETD (2023) 126

Budapest, 8 June 2023

Consultative Meeting

Education about digital citizenship in youth programmes

A consultative meeting about integrating and addressing digital citizenship in the Youth for Democracy programme of the Council of Europe, particularly in respect to non-formal education, youth work, human rights education and youth participation

**European Youth Centre
Budapest**

Room B

21-22 June 2023

**DRAFT PROGRAMME
Concept Note**

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Arrivals of participants at the European Youth Centre Budapest

19:00 Dinner at the European Youth Centre Budapest

Wednesday, 21 June 2023

8:30 – 9:00 *Registration (ground floor European Youth Centre Budapest)*

09:30 Opening of the meeting, rationale, its aim and objectives

Introduction to the work of the Youth Department and of the Council of Europe in the field of digital citizenship education, the scope and function of the consultative meeting

with Rui GOMES, Head of Education and Training Division, Youth Department

Setting the scene and sharing expectations for the consultative meeting

11:00 Break

11:30 Dimensions of digital citizenship: areas, scope, definitions, and key domains

with Alicja PAWLUCZUK, Consultant, Youth Department

Working groups on a deeper exploration of the digital citizenship

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Practices and approaches to education about digital citizenship with and for young people

Learning from partners and stakeholders

- *Juha KIVINIEMI, SALTO Digital Resource Centre (tbc)*
- *Olena STYSLAVSKA and Janice RICHARDSON, experts, Education Department (tbc)*
- *Elisa RAPETTI and Georg PIRKER, DARE Network (tbc)*

Sharing and discussion in the group

16:00 Break

16:30 Exploring dilemmas in respect to digital citizenship education

18:00 Conclusions and closure of the day

19:30 *Barbeque dinner hosted in the garden of the European Youth Centre Budapest*

Thursday, 22 June 2023

9:30 Identifying youth needs and competencies in respect to digital citizenship

What do young people want and need? – Getting started *with*
Noah Kramer, Advisory Council on Youth (tbc)
Debora BARLETTA, UNITED for Intercultural Action (tbc)
Andrew SUSHKO, Human Constanta (tbc)

11:00 Break

11:30 Identifying youth needs and competencies in respect to digital citizenship (continued)

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Proposals for the work of the Council of Europe

16:00 Break

16:30 Proposals for the work of the Council of Europe

Presentations of proposals

Next steps and follow-up to the consultative meeting by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

Plenary evaluation

18:00 Closing session with:
Noah KRAMER, Advisory Council on Youth (tbc)
Arlinda TOPCIU, European Steering Committee for Youth (tbc)

Self-organised dinner

Friday, 23 June 2023

Departure of participants

Concept Note

In a world that becomes increasingly digitalised, the exercise and fulfilment of one's own human rights become more dependent on one's own capacities to access, utilise digital resources and critically engage with digital technologies and environments. While digital environments provide people with additional opportunities of engagement and development, they also pose significant challenges to the realisation of human rights and to the development of participatory democracy. These trends were further accelerated by technological developments and deployments, particularly Artificial Intelligence related, and the restrictions imposed by the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citizenship and human rights education aims to empower learners to exercise and defend their human rights to contribute to building a culture of democracy and human rights. Fundamental to achieving this goal is the capacity of people to participate in society, including to participate in decision making. This capacity to participate must extend to aspects of digital transformation and requires the recognition and assurance of the rights, the structures and spaces for participation, and the relevant support including literacy.

Young people are particularly affected, both positively and negatively, by digitalisation of virtually all aspects of our societies. Developing their competencies to both engage critically and autonomously in the digital era, and to take part in decision-making about such developments, are necessary components of supporting young people to be fully autonomous and active citizens.

The Council of Europe recommendation [CM Rec \(2019\)10 on developing and promoting digital citizenship education](#) provides a framework for development of digital citizenship competences for all forms of education (formal, non-formal and informal) with a view to secure that people can fully exercise their rights and responsibilities, as well as take part in democratic life in an increasingly digitalised world.

Defining digital citizenship as "the capacity to participate actively, continuously and responsibly in communities (local, national, global, online and offline) at all levels (political, economic, social, cultural and intercultural), the recommendation identifies 10 domains of competence, relating with being online, well-being online and rights online to be addressed through democracy and human rights education.

More recently, the Council of Europe has embarked on developing a Convention on artificial intelligence, human rights, and democracy to identify and standardise principles on which we govern the development, the deployment and use of Artificial Intelligence in our societies¹.

The Youth Department 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. Numerous tools and initiatives were developed through the campaign, including Bookmarks – A Manual for Combatting Hate Speech Online through Human Right Education. 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.

¹ To read more about the work of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the foreseen convention, please check here: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/artificial-intelligence/cai>

Artificial intelligence was also tackled through a series of seminars and training courses, with aimed to further equip young people, youth workers and trainers with the relevant competences in respect to understanding and using artificial intelligence, and meaningfully participating in public debates about it.²

The question of digitalisation was also picked up in the campaign [Democracy Here | Democracy Now](#), including the flagship activity of the campaign in 2022, the Youth Action Week. The [Call for Action](#) that resulted from the activity invites stakeholders to secure “Accessibility and free access to Internet and technology”, as well as formal and non-formal digital citizenship opportunities. Digital technologies have also been significantly used in the education and training work of the Youth Department, with a focus on hybrid learning that attempted to secure the principles and educational approaches underpinning human rights education and non-formal learning.

Further developing education for citizenship and human rights in the digital era involves engagement with digital technologies and stakeholders associated with it, from companies to governments and international organisations, and requires a reflection not only on the content of learning, but also the process of learning and the underpinning educational approaches and human rights standards.

Given the complexity of the issues, the Council of Europe Youth Department organises a consultative meeting bringing together experts and stakeholders of the youth sector to reflect how to integrate digital citizenship in the Youth for Democracy programme in the period 2024-2027, particularly in respect to non-formal education, youth work, human rights education and youth participation.

Aims and objectives of the meeting

The consultative meeting will bring together experts and practitioners in digital citizenship matters, including youth work and human rights education practitioners, with a view to:

1. develop a common understanding of key concepts and definitions underpinning digital citizenship and digital citizenship education
2. share and learn from practices and research on digital citizenship and digital citizenship education
3. review the competences that young people need in order to fulfil their human rights and participate in democratic life in the digital environment
4. make proposals to consistently integrate and address digital citizenship in the 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 (including participation in decision making concerning Artificial Intelligence and Internet Governance).

² To read more about the work of the Youth Department on Artificial Intelligence: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/artificial-intelligence>