



DDP-YD/ETD (2023) 225

Strasbourg, 26 October 2023

Human Rights Education as a catalyst for boosting Democratic Participation of Young Refugees in Europe

Study session organised by **Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE)**
in cooperation with the Youth Department of Council of Europe

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, room 0.1

13-17 November 2023

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Sunday, 12 November

Arrival of participants
19:00 Dinner
20:30 Welcome evening

Monday, 13 November

- 08:30 Registration and travel reimbursement formalities (dining room)
09:15 Opening and Welcome - with SARAH WALTER Deputy to the Executive Director of the European Youth Centre.

Getting to know each other
Presentations of VYRE and the Council of Europe

Overview of the programme and objectives of the study session
Expectations of participants

- 11:00 Break
11:30 Agreements and Codes of Conduct
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Team Building activity
Terminology and key concepts
16:00 Break
16:30 Participants and their context
18:00 Reflection Groups
19:00 Dinner
20:30 Intercultural evening

Tuesday, 14 November

- 09:15 Exploring and discussing populism, with Dr. ROLF GOLLOB, Zurich University of Teacher Education (online)
11:00 Break
11:30 Root causes and Consequences of Populism
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Populism and its impact on the self-image of young refugees
16:00 Break
16:30 Human Rights basics
18:00 Reflection Groups
19:00 Dinner
20:30 NGOs' Bazar

Wednesday, 15 November

- 09:15 Review of the day's programme
09:30 The work of the Council of Europe with young refugees, with LEYLA KAYACIK, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees
10:45 Break
11:15 Exchange about initiatives and projects relevant for democratic participation of young refugees, with:

- NIDAA BOTMI, Senior Project Officer at the Anti-Discrimination Department, No Hate Speech and Cooperation Unit (Council of Europe)
- ANCA-RUXANDRA PANDEA, project Youth Revitalising Democracy (Council of Europe)

13:00 Lunch

Free Afternoon

Dinner in town

Thursday, 16 November

09:15 Essentials of Human Rights Education

11:00 Break

11:30 Youth Participation

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Advocacy Cycle & (Re)framing Narratives

16:00 Break

16:30 Sharing experiences and competences by participants

18:00 Reflection Groups

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Self-organised evening

Friday, 17 November

09:15 Possibilities for support by the European Youth Foundation (EYF) with MARGIT BARNA, project officer

11:00 Break

11:30 Follow Up: Developing Action Plans

13:00 Lunch

14:30 The way forward - Future cooperation

16:00 Break

16:30 Evaluation and Closing

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Farewell party

Saturday 18 November

Departure of participants

AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY SESSION

Aim: This study session aims to empower young refugees in combating populism and countering the dominant negative narratives, in order to play a part in constructing firmer democratic and inclusive European societies.

Objectives

- To reinforce the leadership and competences of young refugees and migrants to lead civic initiatives that combat populism, and promote democracy and active citizenship;
- To understand the roots, causes, and consequences of rising populism that mainstreams hate speech against refugees and minorities, representing a major threat to democracy and human rights;
- To identify mechanisms populist movements rely on for gaining support, and have a grasp on concepts, principles and practices of youth-led grass-root civic activism for countering populism.
- To practise building effective counter narratives that promote young refugees as valuable contributors to their hosting societies, rather than "victims" and "(economic)burdens"; while looking into the interconnection links between 'Othering' and exclusion mechanisms/ social fragmentation.
- To share lessons learned, best practices and (un)successful experiences among the participants; mapping/documenting initiatives across Europe addressing xenophobia & populism, and to create space for networking and future collaboration among participants, as well as international institutions invited to the study session.