

# YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL LIFE:

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!

European Youth Conference, 5-7 February 2025, Braga, Portugal



In partnership with:

## 4 FEB ARRIVAL DAY AT BRAGA YOUTH CENTRE

**14:00 - 21:00** Registration of participants at BYC

**19:00** Dinner

**20:00** Welcome activities



## 5 FEB REALITIES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

①  
(BYC)

### 09:30 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Ricardo RIO, Mayor of Braga

Luís GUEDES, Municipal Youth Council of Braga

Veronique BERTHOLLE, Congress Spokesperson on Youth, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg

Nina GRMUŠA, Chair of Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

### 10:20 Musical moment

Mafalda MARTINS, winner of Braga Young Talents Awards

### 10:30 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME, expected results and methodology of the European Youth Conference

(Getting to know each other)

### 11:00 Break

① ②  
(BYC) (HPH)

### 11:30 EXPLORING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN OUR LOCAL AND REGIONAL REALITIES

Parallel groups

①  
(BYC)

### 13:00 Lunch

① ②  
(BYC) (HPH)

### 14:30 EXPLORING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN OUR REALITIES - Parallel groups continued

### 16:00 Break

① ②  
(BYC) (HPH)

### 16:30 CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPLORATION OF THE REALITIES OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Information about the evening

①  
(BYC)

### 19:00 Dinner

**20:15** Informal evening with youth civil society



**6 FEB**

## THE CHARTER – STRENGTHENING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

**1**  
(BYC)**09:30 YOUNG PEOPLE REVITALISING DEMOCRACY:  
the role of the Council of Europe in anchoring  
democratic values**

Matjaž GRUDEN, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe

**10:00 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROCESS AND MAIN  
REVISIONS OF THE CHARTER on the participation  
of young people in local and regional life**Zsuzsanna RUTAI, expert of the Congress of Local and  
Regional Authorities

Ruxandra PANDEA, Youth Department, Council of Europe

**10:40 INTRODUCTION TO THE WORKING GROUPS  
ON THE CHARTER REVISION****1 2**  
(BYC) (HPH)**11:00 Coffee break****11:30 WORKING GROUPS ON THE REVISED TEXT OF  
THE EUROPEAN CHARTER on the participation  
of young people in local and regional life****1.** Youth participation  
and its principles EN**2.** Young people have  
rights EN**3.** Young people have  
structures and spaces  
for youth  
participation EN - FR**4.** Youth perspectives in  
policy making EN**5.** Young people have tools,  
opportunities and full  
support for participation EN**6.** Dissemination, evaluation  
and review of the Charter  
and Introduction EN**1**  
(BYC)**13:00 Lunch****14:30 WORKING GROUPS REPORTS****15:10 NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS OF REVISION OF  
THE CHARTER**Aida KARIMLI, rapporteur of the Congress of Local and  
Regional Authorities

Eva KOTNIK, Advisory Council on Youth

Riccardo VENTURINI, European Steering Committee on Youth

**15:45 Information on the afternoon and evening****4**  
(gnration)**5**  
(Rector's UM)**7**  
(Redcross)**16:00 DISCOVER BRAGA FROM DIFFERENT  
PERSPECTIVES – CITY TOURS BY CIVIL SOCIETY**Braga and student participation – offered by AUMinho,  
Academic Association of the University of MinhoYouth social intervention in Braga – offered by Youth Red  
Cross – Delegation of BragaYouth work in Braga – offered by Youth Department of  
Braga's Municipality and FAJUB

### MEETING POINTS

**Braga Youth Centre:** Rua S. Margarida /  
Largo Senhora-A-Branca**Hotel Vila Galé:** Rua do Raio (Bus Stop)**Forum Braga:** Main Entrance of Forum Braga

TO DINNER:

**18h45** BYC ⇒ Hotel ⇒ Forum**19h00** Hotel ⇒ Forum**19h30** Hotel ⇒ Forum

FROM DINNER:

**23h00** Forum ⇒ Hotel**23h00** Forum ⇒ Hotel ⇒ BYC**23h30** Forum ⇒ Hotel

6 FEB

## THE CHARTER – STRENGTHENING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

8

(Forum Braga)

### 19:30 YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND SOLIDARITY

Margarida BALSEIRO LOPES, Minister of Youth and Modernisation of Portugal

Maryna MYKHAILENKO, Ambassador of Ukraine to Portugal

Nina GRMUŠA, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth

**Launch of the photo exhibition "BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS"** - Konstantin and Vlada LIBEROVIH, Yurka DYACHYSHYN

**SERENATA** with SINA - Grupo de Fados da Associação Académica da Universidade do Minho

**Dinner** offered by Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ)



7 FEB

## WHAT'S NEXT?

1

(BYC)

### 09:30 Introduction to the day

### 09:45 SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE AND LVIV EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL

Andriy CHESNOKOV, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine

Andriy MOSKALENKO, Deputy Mayor of Lviv

Maria BOVSUNOVSKA, Head of Lviv - European Youth Capital 2025 project

Sina RIZ À PORTA, board member, European Youth Forum

### 10:40 MAKING LOCAL AND REGIONAL YOUTH PARTICIPATION A REALITY – introduction to the working groups on next steps to be taken

1

(BYC)

2

(HPH)

### 11:00 Coffee break

### 11:30 PARALLEL WORKING GROUPS ON PROPOSALS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP

1. Developing a platform for local and regional youth participation EN

2. Capacity building for youth councils and authorities EN/FR

3. Educational resources on youth participation EN

4. Information and dissemination of the Charter EN

5. Advocacy and policy measures in support of the Charter implementation EN

6. Making youth participation playful, fun and enjoyable EN

1

(BYC)

### 13:00 Lunch

### 14:30 WORKING GROUPS CONTINUED







(BYC)

## 15:30 WORKING GROUPS REPORTS

### 16:15 Coffee break

### 16:40 Dance participatory performance by ENT'ARTES "HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL"

## 17:00 CLOSING SESSION

Jorge ORLANDO QUEIROS, European Steering Committee on Youth

Fernando VIEIRA, President, National Federation of Youth Associations

Veronique BERTHOLLE, Congress Spokesperson on Youth and Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg

Sina RIZ À PORTA, board member, European Youth Forum

Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe



(BOM JESUS)

## 20:00 Dinner at Bom Jesus

**Musical moment with TUM** – Tuna Universitária do Minho



(SETRA BAR)

## Farewell Party: Setra Bar

Evening offered by the Municipality of Braga

## MEETING POINTS



**Braga Youth Centre:** Rua S. Margarida / Largo Senhora-A-Branca

**Hotel Vila Galé:** Rua do Raio (Bus Stop)

**Forum Braga:** Main Entrance of Forum Braga

**SETRA Bar:** Largo de Santa Cruz



### TO DINNER:

**18h45** Hotel ⇒ Bom Jesus

**18h50** Hotel ⇒ BYC ⇒ Bom Jesus

**19h35** Hotel ⇒ Bom Jesus

**21h10** Tuna ⇒ Bom Jesus

### FROM DINNER:

**23h15** Bom Jesus ⇒ Setra

**23h35** Bom Jesus ⇒ Setra

**00h05** Bom Jesus ⇒ Setra

## 8 FEB DEPARTURE DAY

### ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The European Youth Conference takes place in Braga, between 5 and 7 February and is co-organised by the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Braga Youth Centre, and in partnership with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the Municipality of Braga, the Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth and the European Youth Forum.

The conference aims to strengthen youth participation in decision making at local and regional levels, and therefore contribute to the revitalisation of democracy. It will bring together approximately 130 young representatives of local and regional youth councils, youth civil society and local authorities to learn from practices of youth democratic participation and to take part in the consultations concerning the revision of the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life carried by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in partnership with the Joint Council on Youth.

### AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference aims to strengthen youth participation in decision-making at local and regional levels, and therefore contribute to the revitalisation of democracy. The objectives of the conference are:

- To discuss the practices, challenges and opportunities for youth participation in decision-making at local and regional levels with view to critically reflect and learn from each other;
- To provide participants the opportunity to contribute to the revision of the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life;
- To reflect on and prepare the grounds for the future implementation of the revised Charter and the possible support measures for young people, local youth councils and organisations, as well as local authorities;
- To learn about youth realities in Braga and the initiatives on youth participation of the municipality;
- To motivate participants to take action to strengthen the local youth participation in the follow-up of the conference.

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