

The Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe

#CINGOYouth Events and Calendar 2025

Engaging, Connecting and Empowering Youth Through Participation

Overview:

Youth participation and active citizenship are crucial components of democratic societies, as emphasized in various international treaties and conventions. According to François Audigier, citizenship involves more than just rights and duties; it encompasses membership and identity within groups, requiring an ethical and emotional commitment. The engagement of young people in political and social processes is vital, as it enriches decision-making with their unique perspectives. However, youth participation faces challenges such as differing legal definitions of "youth," socio-economic barriers, and varying cultural contexts. To overcome these, initiatives must ensure that young people are genuinely involved in decision-making processes, supported in their civic activities, and recognized as active contributors to society. This aligns with the CINGO Youth Strategy objectives to engage, connect, and empower young people, fostering active citizenship and democratic participation.

Youth participation is a cornerstone for the thriving of democracy, the rule of law, and the advancement of human rights. Engaging young people in civic activities and decision-making processes not only strengthens democratic institutions but also fosters a culture of active citizenship. According to the Council of Europe, democracy requires the active involvement of all citizens, including the youth, to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in the governance process. Moreover, youth participation contributes to the development of a vibrant civil society, which is essential for the protection and promotion of human rights. The participation of young people in political processes enhances the legitimacy of democratic institutions by reflecting the voices and needs of a significant segment of the population. Additionally, engaging youth in law-making and policy implementation processes ensures that legal frameworks remain responsive and relevant to contemporary societal issues. Empowering young people to exercise their rights and responsibilities fosters a sense of belonging and commitment to democratic values. Therefore, initiatives like the CINGO Youth Strategy play a crucial role in promoting active citizenship, enhancing democratic engagement, and safeguarding human rights by ensuring the meaningful inclusion of youth in all aspects of societal development. The CINGO Youth Strategy and Program aims to engage, connect, and empower young people across Europe and beyond,

fostering active citizenship and participation in the digital era. The program includes a series of panels and initiatives designed to bring youth together, enhance their skills, and promote civic engagement.

As we move into 2025, CINGO is dedicated to amplifying the voices of young people across its network, providing opportunities for meaningful engagement and leadership in shaping global solutions. Through a series of dynamic events and collaborative initiatives, CINGO aims to empower youth to address critical challenges such as sustainability, social impact, and community resilience. From roundtable discussions with key civil society organizations to hands-on workshops and field visits, this year's calendar offers a diverse platform for youth to connect, innovate, and contribute to lasting change.

February 2025: 27 February 2025 World NGO Day at the Council of Europe

Event: Round Table Meeting on Sustainable and Social Impact Civil Societies

Theme: Strengthening Sustainability in Civil Society Organizations

Overview: In celebration of World NGO Day, this roundtable will bring together civil society organizations and experts to discuss strategies for building sustainable and socially impactful organizations. The event will focus on how NGOs can increase their long-term impact, ensure financial stability, and adapt to changing societal needs. CINGO members will have the opportunity to reflect on their current practices and explore new ways to foster sustainability in their initiatives.

Guest Speakers:

- Ashoka Belgium – Fostering Social Entrepreneurs for Long-Term Impact
- Oxford Saïd Business School – Financial Sustainability for Nonprofits
- Center for European Volunteering – Mobilizing Volunteers for Lasting Change
- The European Social Charter – Social Rights and Sustainable Development for Civil Societies

March 2025: Round Table with CINGO Youth Organizations

Event: Youth Strategy and Needs Reflection Session

Theme: Empowering Youth Organizations Voices with Cooperation

Overview: This roundtable will bring together representatives from various CINGO youth organizations to reflect on the youth strategy and identify key needs for young people in today's global landscape. Attendees will engage in discussions about the importance of youth leadership, opportunities

for greater involvement in decision-making processes, and potential improvements to CINGO's youth-oriented initiatives. Feedback from this event will be used to enhance CINGO's long-term youth strategy.

B. CINGO SC Members' Visit to Brussels Youth Center

Event: Youth Center visits and Workshops with ATD, INGLO and KIYO

Theme: Youth Empowerment through Hands-On Collaboration

Overview: CINGO SC members will visit a youth center in Brussels for a day of workshops and collaborative activities with local youth organizations, including ATD, INGLO, and KIYO. The focus will be on skill development, leadership training, and exploring creative ways for youth to engage in social and civic matters. These workshops will give young people the opportunity to learn from experienced leaders while sharing their ideas on how to shape a more inclusive and supportive society.

April 2025: 7-9 April CINGO General Assembly

Event: Presentation of Youth Activities and Future Plans

Theme: Celebrating Youth Contributions to Global Change

Overview: During the CINGO General Assembly, the youth sector will present its activities and discuss future initiatives aimed at increasing youth involvement in CINGO's mission. The assembly will highlight successful youth projects, share insights from previous engagements, and outline the upcoming priorities for enhancing youth participation in international development and social innovation.

10 April 2025 CINGO Youth Event

Event: Youth-Driven Solutions for Global Challenges

Theme: Innovating for a Sustainable Future

Overview: This youth-led event will provide a platform for young leaders from across the CINGO network to present innovative solutions to global challenges, including climate change, human rights, and economic inequality. Participants will have the chance to showcase their projects, exchange ideas,

and network with international organizations,
fostering collaboration and inspiring new approaches
to tackling these pressing issues.

May 2025: Field Visit to Turkey (Earthquake-Affected Cities)

Event: Engaging with Earthquake-Affected Youth in Turkey

Theme: Rebuilding Communities through Youth Empowerment

Overview: CINGO SC members will visit earthquake-affected cities in Turkey to connect with young people impacted by the disaster. This visit will focus on understanding their experiences, providing psychosocial support, and empowering them to take part in rebuilding their communities. Workshops and community activities will be organized to help the youth develop practical skills and resilience as they navigate the post-disaster recovery process.

August 2025: 12 August 2025 International Youth Day

Event: Celebration of the International Youth Day

Program and details will be announce....