



DDP-YD/ ETCD (2026)15 rev

Strasbourg, 10 February 2026

Study Session

“Reclaiming the Narratives: Empowering Marginalised Youth through Digital Advocacy”

Study session organised within the [Youth for Democracy programme](#) in cooperation with the [Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization Youth](#)

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

16-20 February 2026

Draft Daily Programme

Sunday, 15 February	
Arrival of Participants	
19:00	Dinner
21:00	Welcoming evening with ice breaking games and drinks

Day 1	Monday, 16 February
09:30-11:00	Official opening of the study session, introduction of UNPO and Youth Network, Code of Conduct Introduction of participants' communities, learning about each other and team building (<i>Poncho activity</i>) Welcome words by <i>Sophie Kwasny</i>, Head of Education, Training and Co-operation Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Youth and UNPO: Expectations, Opportunities, and Impact by <i>Mercè Monje Cano</i> , UNPO Secretary General
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	What is digital advocacy?
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Timeline of successes (<i>presentation of (digital) advocacy campaigns</i>)
18:00-18:30	Reflection time
19:00	Dinner and free time

Day 2	Tuesday, 17 February
09:30-11:00	Amplifying Marginalized Narratives in Digital Spaces: Youth Voices, Citizen Journalism, and Digital Activism <i>Bruce Mutsvairo</i>, Professor, Department of Media and Culture at Utrecht University
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Purposeful Platforms in a Digital Age <i>Leanne Mohamad</i>, Palestinian human rights activist, public speaker, community organizer
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Messaging: designing a message and choosing your audience
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Messaging: effective channels of communication
18:00-18:30	Reflection time

19:00	Dinner and free time Networking world cafe
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Day 3	Wednesday, 18 February (Palais de l'Europe, room 10)
09:30-11:00	Digital security in the work of the Council of Europe With Ana TOKHADZE , Digital Development Unit, Council of Europe and Moiritz TAYLOR , Data Protection Unit, Council of Europe
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:30	Addressing Misinformation and Disinformation and the work of the Council of Europe in the field with Elena BRODEALA , Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Council of Europe and Menno ETTEMA , Hate Speech, Hate Crime and Artificial Intelligence Unit, Council of Europe Reflection time
13:00-14:30	Lunch
	Free afternoon in the city

Day 4	Thursday, 19 February
09:30-11:00	Project group work
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Digital advocacy in a Shifting World Zumretay Arkin , Vice President, World Uyghur Congress
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Project group work
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break
16:30-18:00	Project group work
18:00-18:30	Reflection time
19:00	Dinner and free time World Cinema

Day 5	Friday, 20 February
09:30-11:00	How to create a network
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Presentation of projects
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Presentation of projects
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break

16:30-18:00	Appreciation time and Closing ceremony
18:00-18:30	Reflection time
19:00	Dinner

Saturday, 21 February

Safe departure home!

Aim and objectives of the study session

AIM:

To strengthen the capacity of young activists from stateless, unrepresented, indigenous communities and minorities by equipping them with digital advocacy, narrative-building, and critical media skills to reclaim their stories, counter harmful narratives, and effectively participate in democratic and human rights processes at various levels.

Objectives:

1. To enhance participants' understanding of how digital spaces influence democracy, human rights advocacy, and the representation of marginalised communities in diverse political and cultural contexts.
2. To develop participants' skills in digital advocacy, strategic communication, and narrative-building, enabling them to amplify their communities' voices and advance their right to self-determination in online and offline spaces.
3. To explore the impacts of disinformation, hate speech, and shrinking civic space on marginalised peoples, and to equip participants with practical tools to counter these challenges through inclusive and rights-based approaches.
4. To foster intercultural dialogue, solidarity, and mutual understanding among participants from diverse unrepresented and indigenous communities, strengthening collective responses to shared challenges.
5. To reinforce capacity-building and collaboration within the UNPOy network by encouraging peer learning, joint initiatives, and sustained engagement between young activists and UNPOy.
6. To support participants in designing and implementing follow-up initiatives within their communities after the Study Session, ensuring projects are collaboratively developed, digitally informed, and aligned with UNPOy's mission and values.