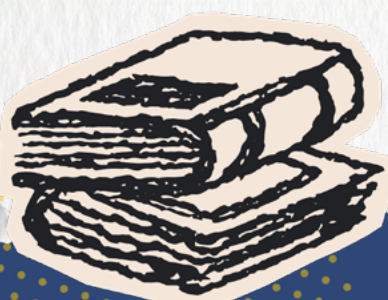


COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ADVANCING PARTICIPATORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN GEORGIA



PROJECT

Advancing Participatory and Human Rights-based Local Democracy in Georgia

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

Council of Europe

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

01 October 2024 - 31 December 2027

ESTIMATED START DATE OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES FOR THE SELECTED YOUTH0

15 November 2026

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

30 October 2026





INTRODUCTION

The Council of Europe is inviting young people from across Georgia to join the next generation of **Youth Laboratories (hereinafter “Youth Labs”)** - informal, youth-led spaces where young people come together around issues that matter to their communities and turn ideas into practical action.

The call is launched within the Council of Europe Project **“Advancing Participatory and Human Rights-based Local Democracy in Georgia”**, implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities under the **Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2024-2027**, with the support of the Austrian Development Agency as a part of the International Partnerships Austria.

Since 2025, Youth Labs have brought together young people from different regions of Georgia to explore local challenges, develop initiatives and learn through action. During their **first cycle**, the Labs took part in practical learning activities, mentoring, peer exchange, a Summer Camp and national meetings, and developed and implemented initiatives responding to issues in their communities.

The **next cycle** will build on this experience while opening the door to new cohort – young people with new ideas and new forms of cooperation.

The new cohort will first take part in a short series of online onboarding Webinars in **November 2026**, followed by **an in-person Winter Camp - the InoHub Academy**, planned in **December 2026**. The Academy will bring together newly selected participants and representatives of existing Youth Labs for several days of practical exchange, teamwork and planning.

Depending on participants' interests, location and ideas, participants may join an existing Youth Lab or explore the development of a new one.



WHAT IS A YOUTH LAB?

A Youth Lab is a space for young people who want to understand how they can contribute to their communities and turn ideas into meaningful local action.

Labs bring young people together around issues that matter locally, from youth participation and human rights to inclusion, digital and media literacy, environmental protection, community engagement and other priorities identified by young people themselves.

There is no single model for what a Youth Lab has to look like. What makes it a Lab is the way people work together: identifying a real local issue, exploring possible solutions, testing ideas, learning from what happens and taking responsibility for making things happen.

Youth Labs are not traditional organisations, and they are not simply training programmes. They are informal, youth-led spaces where participants learn by doing, support one another and gradually build the confidence, skills and connections needed to contribute to their communities.

During the first cycle, 13 Youth Labs across Georgia developed and implemented local initiatives, worked with communities and different local actors, and learned from one another through the national InoHub network. The new cohort will have an opportunity to become part of this experience and to help shape what comes next.



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WHAT IS INOHUB?

Being part of a Youth Lab also means becoming part of InoHub, the national network connecting Youth Labs across Georgia.

InoHub brings together young people, Youth Labs, mentors and experts to create opportunities to exchange experiences, learn from one another, develop ideas and build connections across regions.

It is designed as a peer-driven space, where participants are not only recipients of support but also contributors to the experience of others. A challenge faced by one Lab can become a useful lesson for another, an idea developed in one region can inspire action elsewhere and connections between young people can open opportunities that would be difficult to create alone.

InoHub therefore offers a wider community around each local Youth Lab, a place to learn, exchange, cooperate and stay connected as your work develops.

New participants will have the opportunity to contribute to this network and help shape its next stage.



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MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT

Youth Labs are supported by a **network of mentors** who accompany young people as they move from ideas to action. Mentors provide practical guidance, ask the right questions, help teams reflect on challenges and support them in finding their own solutions.

During the new cycle, mentors will work with Youth Labs according to their needs, as identified during the InoHub Academy. Mentors may support Labs based on thematic expertise, regional proximity or a combination of both.



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For new participants, mentorship will provide an additional source of support as they find their role within a Lab, develop ideas, work with others and begin implementing their plans. Mentors will also help Labs reflect on what is working, what needs to change and how to maintain momentum over time.

The mentoring support aims to help Youth Labs gradually develop confidence, skills and shared responsibility to work independently and sustain their activities.



WHAT WILL THE NEW PHASE LOOK LIKE?

Selected members' journey will start with a few online sessions and continue with an intensive in-person Winter Camp – InoHub Academy.

Online onboarding Webinars

NOVEMBER 2026

Before meeting the existing Youth Labs, selected participants will take part in a short series of practical online Webinars. The purpose is to get to know the Youth Labs and InoHub, explore how to identify issues that matter in their community, turn ideas into action, work effectively as a team and engage with people and organisations.

Winter Camp - InoHub Academy

DECEMBER 2026

The InoHub Academy will bring together the new cohort and representatives of existing Youth Labs for several days of learning, teamwork, exchange and new connections. It will provide a space for participants from across Georgia to share experiences, build connections and become part of the wider InoHub community.

The Academy will provide opportunities to strengthen both practical skills and participants' understanding of human rights, democracy and meaningful youth participation, and to explore how these principles can guide Youth Labs' work and the initiatives they develop in their communities. Participants will brainstorm together on real ideas and challenges, develop actionable plans that can contribute to more inclusive, participatory and rights-based communities, and strengthen useful skills such as project management, communication and public speaking, storytelling and social media, negotiation, teamwork and partnership-building.

A strong emphasis will be placed on learning by doing and learning from one another. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about initiatives already implemented by Youth Labs and explore ways to engage with their communities and local actors around the issues they want to address. The Academy will also help new participants better understand how Youth Labs work in practice and how they can contribute to their further development.

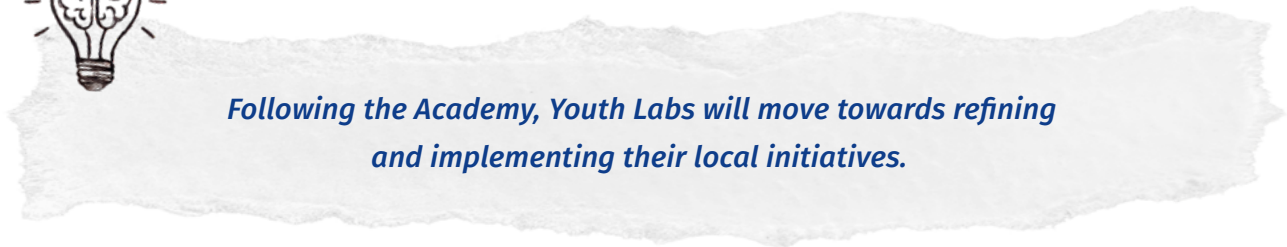
By the end of the Academy, participants will have developed clearer ideas and practical next steps for their Youth Labs, while also building relationships with peers, mentors and other members of the InoHub network who can support them as they move from ideas to action.



WHAT COMES AFTER ACADEMY??

The Academy is not the end of the process - it is the point at which the new cycle begins.

Following the Academy, Youth Labs will move towards refining and implementing their local initiatives. Participants will have access to mentoring, peer exchange, targeted online capacity-building and other opportunities to learn, grow and achieve meaningful positive change in their communities.



Following the Academy, Youth Labs will move towards refining and implementing their local initiatives.

What is important is that participation does not end with attending an event: Youth Labs are built through continued engagement, experimentation, reflection and action in the community.



WHO CAN APPLY?

The call is open to young people aged 18-29 from Georgia.

We are looking for young people who have a genuine interest in their communities and are ready to contribute their time voluntarily to local initiatives and actively participate in their implementation.

Candidates do not need to be an experienced activist, project manager or community organiser. They may already have an idea they want to develop, or may simply know that there is something in their community they would like to change and want to explore how to act on it.

WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE WHO:

-  have a permanent residence in the municipality or region where they want to engage
-  are strongly motivated to remain involved beyond individual events
-  are interested in local community issues, youth participation, democracy, human rights or related areas
-  are open to working with people who have different experiences and perspectives

- ☀ are willing to take responsibility, learn from others and contribute to a team
- ☀ have fewer opportunities to participate in civic, educational or development opportunities

Young people from rural, remote, mountainous or minority-populated areas, and young people with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

Joining Youth Labs is an opportunity to learn through action and become part of a wider community of young people working on issues that matter to them.

Participants will have opportunities to develop practical skills, work with peers from different parts of Georgia, receive mentoring, participate in the InoHub Academy and contribute to the development and implementation of a local initiative.

They will also have opportunities to connect with organisations and actors working in areas relevant to their initiative, including civil society, local actors, media, business and other partners.



Participants will have the opportunity to take an idea that matters to them and work with others to explore what can actually be done about it.

Most importantly, participants will have the opportunity to take an idea that matters to them and work with others to explore what can actually be done about it.

Participation in project activities is free of charge. Organisational costs related to participation in the Winter School and InoHub national meetings will be covered by the project in accordance with the Council of Europe rules and procedures.



WHAT WILL WE EXPECT FROM YOU?

Youth Labs are based on active participation and shared responsibility.

The initiative calls for voluntary participation, personal initiative, and the principles of civic and shared responsibility. Accordingly, membership involves not only taking part in events organised by the project, but also a commitment by selected participants to engage actively and continuously in the Lab's activities.

If selected, participants will be expected to take part in the onboarding webinars and InoHub Academy, contribute actively to discussions and group work, and remain engaged in the activities of your Youth Lab during the implementation cycle.



*Participants will be expected to be open to different perspectives,
willing to share responsibility and ready to learn from both
successes and challenges.*

Participants will be expected to be open to different perspectives, willing to share responsibility and ready to learn from both successes and challenges. They will also be expected to contribute to the development and implementation of your Lab's initiatives and to respect the principles of inclusion, non-discrimination, safety and mutual respect.

Participants do not need to have all the answers to community issues before applying. What matters is strong motivation to stay engaged, willingness to ask questions, work with others and take the next step.

HOW WILL THE PARTICIPANTS BE SELECTED?

The selection will focus not only on applicants' experience, but primarily on their motivation, local connection and potential for sustained participation.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:



Motivation and commitment

A clear interest in joining the Youth Labs process and willingness to remain engaged voluntarily beyond individual events.



Local presence and connection

Permanent residence in the municipality or region where the applicant intends to engage, allowing them to contribute to local activities and continuity.



Interest in local action

Genuine interest in issues affecting the applicant's community and in youth participation, democracy, human rights or related areas.



Teamwork and shared responsibility

Willingness to collaborate, listen to different perspectives, share tasks and contribute constructively to a group.



Potential contribution to a Youth Lab

Skills, experience, ideas, local connections or perspectives that could contribute to the development and sustainability of a Lab.



Readiness to learn by doing

Openness to experimentation, feedback, reflection and practical action rather than participation primarily for training purposes.



Diversity and complementarity

The final selection will have a balanced combination of geographical, gender, social and experiential diversity, including the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.



Potential fit with existing or new Labs

Applicants' interests, location and areas of motivation will be considered when exploring whether they are best placed within an existing Lab or could contribute to a potential new Lab.



HOW CAN YOU APPLY??

- Applicants should complete [this survey](#) to apply
- Applications must be received **by 30 October 2026 (23.59 Georgian time)**. Applications received after the abovementioned date will not be considered.
- The information session on the application process will take place on 15 October 2026 at 14:00 (Georgian time) via Zoom platform:
 - [Link](#)
 - Meeting number: 690 5270 5007
 - Passcode: 076303



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General information about the project “Advancing Participatory and Human Rights-based Local Democracy in Georgia” can be found on the [website of the Council of Europe](#)

Any question related to the Call should be submitted by **25 October 2026** (by midnight GMT+4), in English or in Georgian, to the following e-mail address: **anna@forset.ge**

NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND ENROLLMENT IN THE PROJECT

- Applications will be reviewed by the expert facilitators in close coordination with the Project team.
- Priority will be given to diverse regional representation, gender balance, minority inclusion, and potential for impact.
- Selected applicants will be notified by **the mid-November**
- Not selected applicants will be notified by **no later than 30 November 2026**

Personal data submitted as part of the application process will be processed solely for the purpose of this selection procedure and in accordance with the applicable Council of Europe data protection rules.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

STAGES	INDICATIVE TIMING
Call opens	12 October 2026
Q&A period	12 October – 25 October 2026
Information session	15 October 2026 at 14:00
Application deadline	30 October 2026
Interviews with shortlisted candidates	Start of November 2026
Notification of selected participants	November 2026
Onboarding webinars	End of November 2026
Winter Camp - InoHub Academy	December 2026