



“Engage Citizens in Local Decision-Making!”

Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy – Cres Island, Croatia

Working Language: English

Dates:

Online induction meeting: 19 September 2022, 09.00-12.00 CET
Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy on Cres Island, Rijeka, Croatia: 3-7 October 2022
Training needs assessment (individually): November 2022
Online focus group meetings (per country): December 2022
6 online courses: January - February - March 2023
Closure meeting: March 2023

The School on Participatory Democracy, organised by the Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy of the Council of Europe, will be an interactive learning and sharing event on the theory and practice of participatory democracy for practitioners from local authorities and civil society from **Croatia, Kosovo*¹, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia**. The working language of the event will be English.

The School on Participatory Democracy comprises an online induction meeting and the School on Participatory Democracy itself in Rijeka, Croatia. Standards and instruments of the Council of Europe on participatory democracy will be presented by international experts with broad experience in the field, and an interactive learning environment will provide opportunities to learn about best practice examples, to share experiences and to interact with experts and other practitioners on how to effectively engage citizens in political decision-making.

The **Preparation and Introduction Meeting** will introduce the participants to concepts and values underlying civil participation in political decision-making and share Council of Europe standards and guidelines on civil participation. It will address some of the most prevalent challenges that the participants face in increasing citizen engagement and introduce the agenda for the Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy, a five-day event in the University of Rijeka on the Cres Island, Croatia.

At the **School on Participatory Democracy in the University of Rijeka, on Cres Island**, participants will meet together for an event that will combine presentations, case studies, tools and models for inclusive citizen engagement with interactive group exercises and roundtable discussions. The sessions will cover a variety of approaches to citizen engagement at the local level, strategies for maximising inclusion, exercises for designing public consultations plans, and include toolkits and case studies on a range of themes pertinent to participatory policymaking at the local level, including public space planning, urban planning, and participatory budgeting.

The School on Participatory Democracy will introduce Council of Europe guidelines and standards on participatory policymaking, as well as the introduction of tools for citizens engagement designed by Council of Europe experts.

¹ *All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Six online follow-up sessions will be offered after the School on Participatory Democracy to deepen knowledge of specific tools, and a final experience-sharing event will provide space to finalise the learning process.

Participants

Civil society representatives and public officials (including elected officials) from local authorities in **Croatia, Kosovo*², Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia**. The participants are required to have working knowledge of English, as the training will be held in English. Participants from the side of government and civil society should be already working or planning to work on shaping or implementing policy decisions where citizen engagement is an important driver of informed, effective, and sustainable policymaking.

Lecturers

The School on Participatory Democracy will be led and moderated by:

- **Jeff Lovitt**, who designed the Council of Europe's Participatory Democracy Academy, which has been implemented in several Council of Europe member States since 2019. Jeff also co-designed and facilitated the Council of Europe Winter School on Participatory Democracy that ran from November 2021 – May 2022. He is the author of two Council of Europe books on Civil Participation in Political Decision-Making in the Eastern Partnership countries and was a member of the International Experts Panel of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) from 2016-2021.
- **Gazela Pudar Draško**, Director, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. Gazela is an Executive Board member of the Institute for Democratic Engagement Southeast Europe (IDESE) and a member of the Network for Academic Solidarity and Engagement (MASA).
- **Irena Fiket**, Research Fellow, Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade. Her research topics include citizen participation, democratic innovation, deliberative democracy, European identity, European public sphere, European Higher Education and the Western Balkans. Irena is one of the founders and a member of the Standing Group on democratic innovation at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR).

Other experts and authors of Council of Europe tools for fostering civic participation will demonstrate their experience and tools to engage citizens in decision-making processes.

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Agenda

Online induction: Preparatory Introduction to Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy, 09.00-12.00 CET, Monday 19 September 2022

09.00-09.10: **Welcome by Markus Adelsbach, Head of Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, Council of Europe**

09.10-09.15: **Welcome by hosts Gazela Pudar Draško, University of Belgrade, and Sanja Bojanić, University of Rijeka**

09.15-09.20: **Introduction by Cornelia Perle, Senior Programme Adviser, Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, Council of Europe**

09.20-09.25: **Introduction by Council of Europe lead expert Jeff Lovitt and Introduction of Participants (in chat)**

– **moderated by Council of Europe expert Jeff Lovitt**

09.25-09.40: **Current Approaches to Civic Participation in Decision-Making – Jeff Lovitt**

- Concepts and Values underlying political decision-making
- Levels of engagement
- Models of participation

----- 09.40-09.45: 5-minute break -----

09.45-10.15: **Participants' achievements and challenges vis-a-vis civil participation: Discussion and Q&A**

10.15-10.40: **Participants' expectations from School on Participatory Democracy, Q&A**

----- 10.40-10.45: 5-minute break -----

10.45-11.00: **Council of Europe work in the field of participatory democracy – Cornelia Perle**

11.00-11.10: **Introduction to the agenda of the School on Participatory Democracy – Cornelia Perle**

11.10-11.30: **Introduction of Experts – moderated by Jeff Lovitt**

11.30-11.50: **Logistics for the Event & Questions**

11.50-12.00: **Concluding remarks**

Agenda

“Engage Citizens in Local Decision-Making!”

Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy

Cres island, Rijeka, Croatia, 3-7 October 2022

Sunday 2 October 2022: Arrival of participants

Monday 3 October 2022 (09.00-17.00)

09.00-09.30: **Registration and Coffee**

09.30-09.45: **Welcome and Introduction**

09.45-10.30: **Introduction of Participants (tour de table) and Setting Policy Objectives for participants and their respective regions/countries vis-à-vis participatory democracy**

10.30-10.45: **The Policymaking Cycle and Entry-Points for Citizens Engagement and Participation**

10.45-11.10: **Q&A and group exercise on local policy prioritisation**

11.10-11.30: **Coffee break**

11.30-12.00: **Models, Mechanisms and Levels of Inclusive Citizens Engagement, including Council of Europe standards and guidelines**

12.00-13.00: **Participatory Tools and Deliberative Democracy, including Context, Practice and Approaches in the Participants' Regions**

13.00-13.30: **Q&A**

13.30-14.30: **Lunch**

14.30-15.30: **Participants' exchange of experience**

15.30-17.00: **Designing Public Consultations – Group Exercise**

**Tuesday 4 October 2022
(09.00-17.00)**

09.00-10.30: **Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation and Mapping Challenges to Participation Against Principles of Participation**

10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-17.00: **Civil Participation in Decision-Making Toolkit**

11.00-11.30: **Civil Participation in Decision-Making Toolkit – Introduction & Structure**

11.30-12.45: **Community Assessment and Simulation Exercise**

12.45-13.45: Lunch

13.45-15.00: **Stakeholder Assessment and Simulation Exercise**

15.00-15.20: Coffee break

15.20-15.45: **E-Tool and Visualisation of Results**

15.45-17.00: **Strategies for Citizens Participation**

**Wednesday 5 October 2022
(09.00-13.30)**

09.00-09.40: **Public Consultations and Citizens Engagement on Public Space Planning and Implementation**

09.40-11.00: **Group exercise on participatory public space planning**

11.00-11.20: Coffee break

11.20-13.30: **CivicLab Toolkit**

11.20-11.40: **Presentation of CivicLab Toolkit**

11.40-12.10: **Presentation of best practices of use of CivicLab Toolkit**

12.10-13.00: **Group exercise simulation**

13.00-13.30: **Presentation of results of group work and discussion with participants on potential use of civic participation tools**

Free afternoon

**Thursday 6 October 2022
(09.00-17.00)**

09.00-13.00: UChange Toolkit

09.00-09.15: **Presentation of UChange Toolkit**

09.15-09.45: **Presentation of best practices of use of UChange Toolkit**

09.45-11.30: **Group exercise simulation**

11.30-12.00: Coffee break

12.00-13.15: **Presentation of results of group work and discussion on potential applications of UChange**

13.15-14.15: Lunch

14.15-17.00: School Participatory Budgeting Toolkit

14.15-14.40: **Presentation of School Participatory Budgeting Toolkit**

14.40-15.00: **Presentation of best practices of use of School Participatory Budgeting Toolkit**

15.00-16.00: **Group exercise simulation**

16.00-16.20: Coffee break

16.20-17.00: **Presentation of results of group work and Q&A**

**Friday 7 October 2022
(09.00-17.00)**

09.00-10.30: **Citizens' Assemblies**

10.30-10.50: **CSO-Government Co-operation Models**

10.50-11.20: Coffee break

11.20-12.30: **CSO-Government Co-operation Exercise, followed by development of local/country Action Plans on citizen engagement**

12.30-13.30: **Presentation of results of group work and Q&A**

13.30-14.30: Lunch

14.30-15.15: **Potential Application of Participatory Democracy Tools – group work**

15.15-16.00: **Presentation of results of group work and Q&A**

16.00-16.30: **Feedback and evaluation session**

16.30-17.00: **Closing Session, including concluding remarks and next steps**



Saturday 8 October 2022: **Departure of participants**
