



## **“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<sup>\*1</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye**. 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

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<sup>1</sup> \*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.

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.**

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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\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Türkiye**. 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. **Darejan Murdashvili**, Council of Europe expert, Georgia, and Head of Gori Office of Civil Society Institute (CSI), Georgia, and **Natia Aphkhazava**, Council of Europe expert, Georgia, and Head of the Batumi Branch, Ajara, of CSI, will present the Council of Europe's Civil Participation in Decision-Making Toolkit, which was authored by the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise for



Good Governance in co-operation with the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG), Italy. **Natalia Chornogub**, Council of Europe expert, Ukraine, and Head of NGO “Park Natalka” in Kyiv, will share her expertise in participatory public space planning. She has worked to bring together public authorities and citizens to foster greater citizen engagement in public space planning and revitalisation of public spaces in more than 30 cities throughout Ukraine. Other experts will include **Oleksii Kovalenko**, Council of Europe expert, Ukraine, head of NGO Civil Society Development Forum, Kyiv. He is the main author of the Council of Europe’s Civic Lab Toolkit, UChange tool, and School Participatory Budgeting toolkit, and one of the initiators of the All-Ukrainian Public Budget, a participatory tool supported by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine. He will present Civic Lab and UChange together with **Olesia Arkhypska**, Council of Europe expert, Ukraine, co-chair of the Open Government Partnership Coordination Council in Ukraine, and expert on governance, NGO Civil Society Development Forum, Kyiv.

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## Agenda

# “Engage Citizens in Local Decision-Making!”

## Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy

Moise Palace, Zagrad 6, 51557 Cres  
Cres island, Rijeka, Croatia, 3-7 October 2022

### Monday 3 October 2022

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08.30: Departure from hotel to venue (participants meet at hotel reception)

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09.00-09.30: **Registration and Coffee**

09.30-10.00: **Welcome and Introduction**

*Cornelia Perle, Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, Council of Europe*  
*Sanja Bojanić, University of Rijeka, Centre for Advanced Studies*  
*Marin Gregorović, Mayor of Cres*

10.00-10.45: **Introduction of Participants and Setting Policy Objectives for participants and their respective regions vis-à-vis participatory democracy**

*Gazela Pudar Draško, University of Belgrad, Institut of Philosophy and Social Theory*

10.45-11.10: **Models and Levels of Citizen Engagement, the Policymaking Cycle, and introduction to Council of Europe Standards and Guidelines**

*Council of Europe expert Jeff Lovitt, Cornelia Perle, Council of Europe*

11.10-11.30: **Group exercise on local policy prioritisation**

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### COFFEE BREAK

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11.50-12.50: **Participatory Tools and Deliberative Democracy, including Context, Practice and Approaches in the Participants' Regions**

*Gazela Pudar Draško and Irena Fiket, University of Belgrad, Institut of Philosophy and Social Theory*

12.50-13.15: **Q&A**

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### LUNCH

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- 14.15-15.15: **Participants' exchange of experience**  
 moderated by *Gazela Pudar Draško* and *Irena Fiket*
- 15.15-17.00: **Designing Public Consultations – Group Exercise**  
 facilitated by *Jeff Lovitt*, *Gazela Pudar Draško* and *Irena Fiket*

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**Tuesday 4 October 2022**

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- 08.30: Departure from hotel to venue (participants meet at hotel reception)
- 09.00-09.10: **Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation**  
*Council of Europe expert Jeff Lovitt*
- 09.10-09.30: **Civil Participation in Decision-Making Toolkit – Introduction & Structure**  
*Darejan Murdashvili, Civil Society Institut, Georgia*
- 09.30-10.30: **Mapping Challenges to Participation Against Principles of Participation**  
*Natia Aphkhazava, Civil Society Institut, Georgia*

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**COFFEE break**

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- 11.00-12.45: **Community Assessment and Simulation Exercise**  
 Presented by *Darejan Murdashvili* and *Natia Aphkhazava*

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**LUNCH**

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- 13.45-15.00: **Stakeholder Assessment and Simulation Exercise**  
 Presented by *Darejan Murdashvili* and *Natia Aphkhazava*

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**COFFEE break**

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- 15.20-15.40: **E-Tool and Visualisation of Results**  
 15.40-17.00: **Strategies for Citizens Participation**  
 Presented by *Darejan Murdashvili* and *Natia Aphkhazava*

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**Wednesday 5 October 2022**

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- 08.30: Departure from hotel to venue (participants meet at hotel reception)
- 09.00-09.50: **Public Consultations and Citizens Engagement on Public Space Planning and Implementation**  
Council of Europe expert *Natalia Chornogub*
- 09.50-11.30: **Group exercise on participatory public space planning**  
facilitated by *Natalia Chornogub*

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**COFFEE BREAK**

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- 11.45-12.05: **Presentation of CivicLab Toolkit** (online)  
*Oleksii Kovalenko* and *Olesia Arkhypska*, *Civil Society Development Forum, Ukraine*
- 12.05-12.15: **Presentation of best practices of use of CivicLab Toolkit** (online)  
*Oleksii Kovalenko* and *Olesia Arkhypska*
- 12.15-13.15: **Group exercise simulation**  
with support from *Darejan Murdashvili*, *Natalia Chornogub* and *Natia Aphkhazava*
- 13.15-13.45: **Presentation of results of group work and discussion with participants on potential use of civic participation tools**

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**FREE AFTERNOON**

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**Thursday 6 October 2022**

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- 08.30: Departure from hotel to venue (participants meet at hotel reception)
- 09.00-09.15: **Presentation of UChange Toolkit (online)**  
*Oleksii Kovalenko and Olesia Arkhypska(online)*
- 09.15-09.30: **Presentation of best practices of use of UChange Toolkit (online)**  
*Oleksii Kovalenko and Olesia Arkhypska*
- 09.30-11.30: **Group exercise simulation**  
with support from *Darejan Murdashvili, Natalia Chornogub and Natia Aphkhazava*

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**COFFEE break**

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

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**LUNCH**

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- 14.15-14.30: **Presentation of School Participatory Budgeting Toolkit (online)**  
*Oleksii Kovalenko and Olesia Arkhypska*
- 14.30-14.45: **Presentation of best practices of use of School PBToolkit (online)**  
*Oleksii Kovalenko and Olesia Arkhypska*
- 14.45-16.00: **Group exercise simulation**  
with support from *Darejan Murdashvili, Natalia Chornogub and Natia Aphkhazava*

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**COFFEE BREAK**

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

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**Friday 7 October 2022**

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08.30:	Departure from hotel to venue (participants meet at hotel reception)
09.00-09.15:	Bridge from participatory democracy to deliberative democracy <i>Cornelia Perle</i> , Council of Europe
09.15-09.40:	Presentation on Citizens' assemblies, including Q&A <i>Marcin Gerwin</i> , Centre for Blue Democracy,
09.40-10.30:	Different forms and application of deliberative democracy <i>Irena Fiket</i> University of Belgrad, Institut of Philosophy and Social Theory Q&A and discussion of potential application of citizens' assemblies and other forms of deliberative democracy in participants' local context <i>Gazela Pudar Draško</i> , University of Belgrad, Institut of Philosophy and Social Theory
10.30-10.40:	Council of Europe Tool box on citizens participation <i>Cornelia Perle</i> , Council of Europe

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**COFFEE BREAK**

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11.20-12.30:	<b>CSO-Government Co-operation Exercise</b> , followed by development of local/country Action Plans on citizen engagement facilitated by <i>Jeff Lovitt</i> , <i>Gazela Pudar Draško</i> and <i>Irena Fiket</i>
12.30-13.30:	<b>Presentation of results of group work and Q&amp;A</b>

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**LUNCH**

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14.30-15.15:	<b>Potential Application of Participatory Democracy Tools – group work.</b> facilitated by <i>Jeff Lovitt</i> , <i>Gazela Pudar Draško</i> and <i>Irena Fiket</i>
15.15-16.00:	<b>Presentation of results of group work and Q&amp;A</b>
16.00-16.30:	<b>Feedback and evaluation session</b> – facilitated by <i>Jeff Lovitt</i> and <i>Natalia Chornogub</i>
16.30-17.00:	<b>Closing Session, including concluding remarks and next steps</b> <i>Cornelia Perle</i> , Council of Europe
19.00:	<b>Farewell Dinner</b> Restaurant Nono Frane (Ul. Riva creskih kapetana 10, 51557, Cres, Croatia)

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