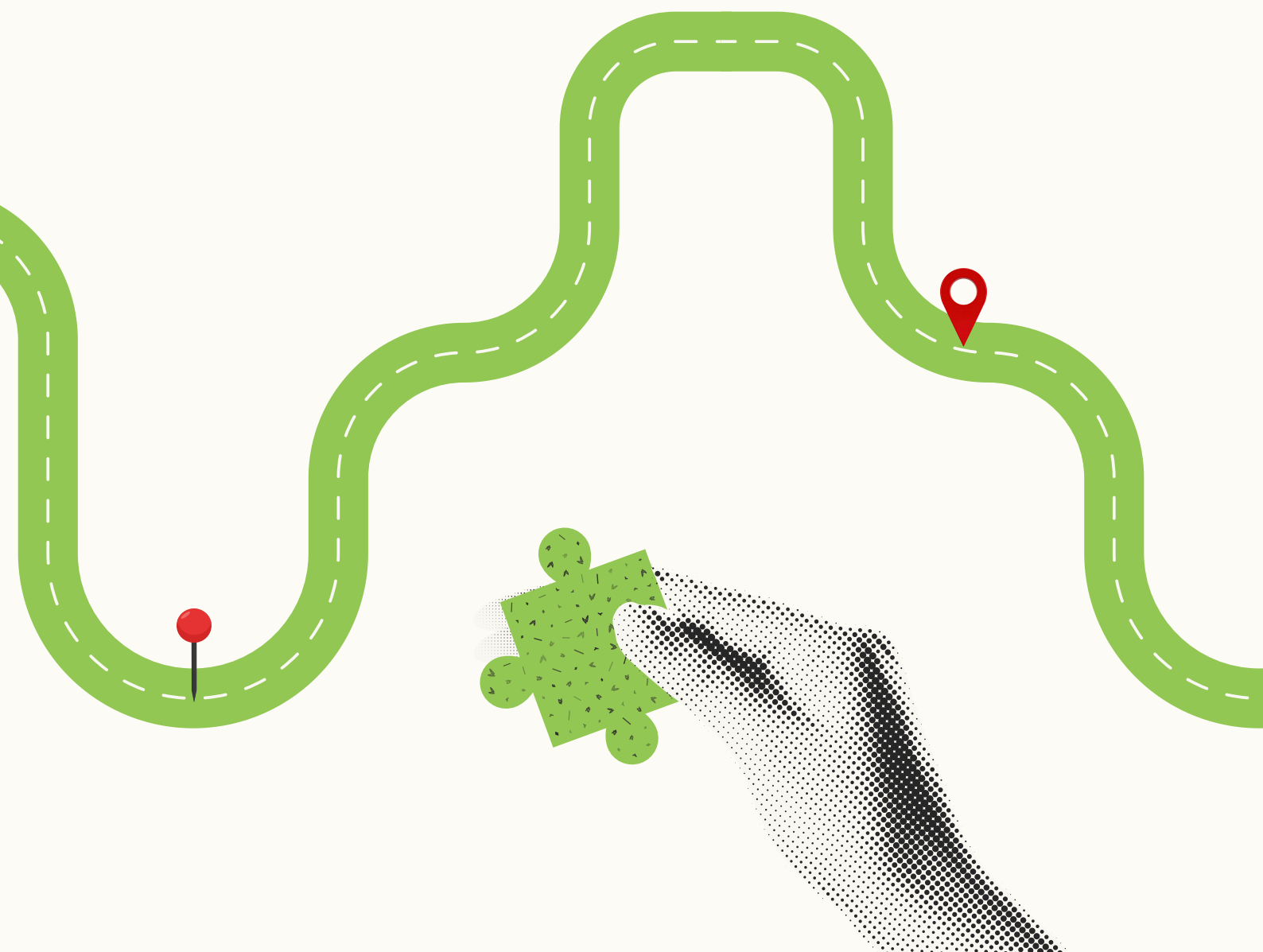


Call for Participants

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES: How to start?



A CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
19-21 OCTOBER 2026
EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE BUDAPEST



About the Workshop

The Council of Europe Youth Department and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in partnership with DemNet Foundation, invite applications for a capacity-building workshop on citizens' assemblies to be held at the European Youth Centre Budapest on 19–21 October 2026.

This workshop is the next activity in the programme "Strengthening Democratic Resilience through Youth Engagement and Deliberative Democracy" (September 2025 – May 2027). The programme aims to build awareness and practical capacity for deliberative democracy — in particular, youth citizens' assemblies — across Council of Europe member states.

It draws on a robust normative framework: the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)6 on deliberative democracy, the Congress's Recommendation 472 (2022) "Beyond Elections: The Use of Deliberative Methods in European Municipalities and Regions", and the new European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life (2025), which calls explicitly on local and regional authorities to devise democratic processes for the consultation and engagement of young people, including youth assemblies and other practices of deliberative democracy.

The workshop is designed as a hands-on, practical learning experience. Participants will leave with a solid understanding of how citizens' assemblies work, what it takes to plan and run one, and how to build the political and institutional support needed to make it happen — with a specific focus on the local and regional level.

Programme overview

Participants are expected to arrive on the evening of Sunday 18 October and depart on Wednesday 21 October. All participants will be hosted at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

The programme runs across three active days (see page 2.)

Date	Focus	Key elements
Sunday, 18 October 2026	Arrival	Registration; Welcome dinner
Monday, 19 October 2026	Seminar Day 1: What are citizen's assemblies and how to build one?	Introduction to citizens' assemblies and their key principles; case studies from Ireland, France, Germany, and other European contexts; planning the first steps (question framing, governance, recruitment); group work: beginning to draft your own citizens' assembly proposal.
Tuesday, 20 October 2026	Seminar Day 2: From planning to practice	The in-between phase (information, facilitation, recommendations); follow-up and connecting with administration; local and regional dimension (with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities); finalising and presenting assembly proposals; closing session and next steps.
Tuesday, 20 October 2026	Public panel discussion	High-level panel open to diplomatic, civil society, academic, and municipal stakeholders. Two panels: (1) international evidence on citizens' assemblies; (2) citizens' assemblies at the local level – opportunities and how to start. Workshop participants attend as an informed audience; panel discussions serve as direct expert input to the sessions that follow.
Wednesday, 21 October 2026	Informal morning session and departure	Optional informal morning session; departures from 11:00 AM

Who Should Apply?

We are looking for approximately 30 participants from across Council of Europe member states who are motivated to bring citizens' assemblies to life in their own contexts.

The workshop is specifically designed for:

- Young activists and civil society representatives engaged in democratic participation, youth organisations, or civic advocacy
- Representatives of local and regional authorities with responsibility for citizen engagement, youth policy, or democratic innovation
- Staff of youth centres, civil society organisations, or schools on political education with an interest in participatory methods
- Individuals with a concrete idea or project underway for a citizens' assembly or deliberative process in their municipality, region, or organisation

Participants should be of 18 years of age and citizens of a Council of Europe member state. Geographic diversity is a key selection criterion, and we particularly encourage applications from Central and Eastern Europe. The workshop will be conducted in English; a working level of English is required.

Why Apply?

Selected participants will benefit from:

- Two full days of practical, expert-led training on how to design, plan, and deliver a citizens' assembly
- Access to a high-level public panel on deliberative democracy with international and Hungarian experts
- Dedicated input from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on embedding deliberative processes at the municipal and regional level
- Structured group work to develop a citizens' assembly proposal tailored to your own organisation or community, with expert feedback
- Connection to a growing European network of young deliberative democracy practitioners and advocates
- Full coverage of travel, accommodation, and meals for the duration of the workshop, in accordance with Council of Europe rules

How to apply?

To apply, please complete the online [application form](#) by 7 September 2026. Applications received after this date cannot be considered.

The application form will ask you to provide:

Your name, age, country of residence, and organisational affiliation
A short description of your current work or engagement in democratic participation (max. 200 words)

A brief statement of what you hope to take away from the workshop and how you would apply it in your work or community (max. 200 words)

Key dates

Call opens	10 August 2026
Application deadline	7 September 2026
Notification of results	21 September 2026
Arrival in Budapest	18 October 2026
Workshop	19-21 October 2026
Departure	21 October 2026

Contact

For questions about the workshop or the application process, please contact the Council of Europe Secretariat [here](#).

This event is part of the Council of Europe programme "Strengthening Democratic Resilience through Youth Engagement and Deliberative Democracy" (May 2026 – May 2027), implemented by the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in partnership with DemNet Foundation.