

## Call for Participants

Democracy's Firewall – Outsmart Disinformation, Protect Free Speech

A Council of Europe Hackathon

Satellite Event at the European Youth Centre Budapest

20 June 2025

Application Deadline: 2 June

## Background

Online disinformation and manipulation are among the most pressing threats to democracy today. Despite significant efforts at national and European levels, the evolving nature of this challenge demands fresh thinking, innovative ideas, and collaborative action.

## The Hackathon

Under its [New Democratic Pact](#), launched by [Secretary General Alain Berset](#), the Council of Europe has decided to organise a [Hackathon](#) which will be held on **20 June at its Headquarters in the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg**.

Teams of young people from our member states will search for creative solutions, with help from prominent experts in the field. It will be an opportunity for large-scale collective brainstorming.

## The EYCB Satellite Event

In parallel with and connected to the Hackathon in Strasbourg, the European Youth Centre Budapest is organising a satellite event. This event, while not formally part of the Hackathon, will nonetheless connect to the main event in several points and its outcomes will inform the collective brainstorming as well.

We are now calling on interested participants to be part of this satellite event and thus of the larger collective brainstorming on the challenges posed by disinformation to our democracies and the on the possible solutions to fight back while protecting free speech and expression in line with the core values of the Council of Europe.

## Programme

The detailed programme of the event is available on this link: <https://go.coe.int/xzA1F>

## Participant Profile

We are looking for interested participants between the ages of 18-30 who can demonstrate an interest in the topic of the Hackathon and the satellite event and are able to work in English.

## **Logistics**

### *Travel expenses*

Local travel expenses to and from Budapest will be reimbursed.

### *Accommodation*

Participants coming from outside Budapest will be provided with accommodation for the 19 and 20 June upon request at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

### *Meals*

Meals will be provided for all participants on 20 June and participants accommodated at the European Youth Centre Budapest will be provided with breakfast on 20 and 21 June.

### *How to apply*

Interested participants can apply by filling out the online application form until midnight 2 June 2025 : <https://forms.office.com/e/8Tv8kLDgeN>