



DFD-YD/ETD (2025) 80

Budapest, 14 April 2025

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

TRAINING COURSE

on

Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights and Democracy



17 – 21 June 2025

European Youth Centre Budapest

Deadline to apply: 6 May 2025



Background

In 2025, artificial intelligence is everywhere. And while it offers humanity great possibilities, it also comes with serious potential risks to the enjoyment of human rights, the functioning of democracy, and the observance of rule of law. These trends have been further accelerated after the emergence of generative AI in recent years. The speed of these developments sometimes prevents critical reflection, transparency in decision-making and well-designed regulation.

While digital environments provide people with additional opportunities of engagement and development, they pose significant challenges to the realisation of human rights and to the development of participatory democracy. The Council of Europe has undertaken to address these risks in a comprehensive manner conducive to innovation.

In 2024 the Council of Europe adopted a [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#). This convention is a first-of-its-kind global legally binding instrument designed to ensure that AI upholds common standards in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to minimise the risk of those rights and principles being undermined as a result of the use of AI. The convention adopts a risk-based approach to the design, development, use, and decommissioning of AI systems, which requires carefully considering any potential negative consequences of using AI systems.

Young people are particularly concerned by digitalisation of virtually all aspects of our societies. Developing their competencies to both engage critically and autonomously in the digital era, and to take part in decision-making about such developments, are necessary components of supporting young people to be fully autonomous and active citizens.

In the youth sector of the Council of Europe, this has been approached through a focus on AI literacy, as reflected in the [Declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#) (2021). AI Literacy refers to the competences required as a young person to act and respond to the opportunities and challenges brought by AI developments and algorithmic systems. Young people have placed concerns about the impact and, credibility and inclusiveness of AI at various meetings and fora, such as the Action Week for Democracy (2022) and the event Confidence in Tomorrow (2024).

In the current [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#), AI is understood in relation to democracy and young people. This importance has been strengthened by the Reykjavik Summit Declaration and the recognition of youth participation and agency in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Joint Council on Youth at its 51st meeting (October 2024) reiterated the importance of addressing the impact of AI for young people's rights, notably in view of the forthcoming 10th European Conference of Ministers of Youth (Malta, October 2025).

In January 2025, the Youth Department organised a consultative meeting "HOW CONFIDENT? - Artificial Intelligence, Young People and Youth Work" with the purpose to not only look at current challenges, but pave a way forward. A key outcome of the meeting was hence the development of a Roadmap, grounded in a bottom-up approach that centred the voices of young people. This process captured their concerns, reflections, and concrete proposals, ensuring their perspectives were not only heard but will also be integrated into future policy directions. The roadmap serves as a foundation for actionable policy recommendations,

reflecting the collective input and aspirations of the participants of the consultative meeting. The Roadmap identifies six areas of action, of which capacity building for youth organisations is a key element.

Following this path, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe is organising the Training course for youth workers on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights and Democracy, an activity taking place at the European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary from 17 - 21 June. The training course will bring together youth workers and young people active in youth organisations, to reflect on the implications of artificial intelligence on youth work from the perspective of human rights and democracy.

The training course will offer a space for reflection on the realities of youth work in an era of artificial intelligence, explore these through a human rights lens, and make concrete plans for the future.

Objectives

The course aims at strengthening the capacity of youth workers to act in a youth work landscape strongly affected by developments within artificial intelligence (AI), to understand these developments through a human rights lens, and to recognise their own role as stakeholders.

The initial objectives of the Training Course are:

- To explore the concepts and principles behind AI and related topics, and how it affects the daily life of young people;
- To create a common understanding of AI literacy, and for participants to reflect on the competences needed to act as multipliers;
- To reflect on contemporary AI developments that impact young people and youth organisations, and to critically reflect on these through a human rights lens;
- To strengthen participants capacity and autonomy in learning and imparting knowledge on AI literacy, in particular the connections with young people's access to rights;
- To support youth organisations and youth work providers to respond to the needs and expectations of young people regarding AI, and to meaningfully contribute to AI governance processes and discussions;
- To map existing frameworks and stakeholders concerned with AI regulation in Europe, including Council of Europe, and suggest how these frameworks and connections can be applied and used in a youth work context.

The training course

The training course will be designed using non-formal education methodology. Participants are expected to participate actively through group work, discussions and role plays/simulations. In the end of the week, participants will be asked to create follow-up plans to be implemented in their local youth work context.

The training course will address the following competences:

- Knowledge of artificial intelligence principles, background, development, implementation and societal impact;
- Ability to critically reflect on the relationship between artificial intelligence and human rights and democracy, and to identify possibilities and limitations.
- Understanding of how artificial intelligence technologies impact the lives of young people;
- Confidence, skills and tools to address the topic with young people (e.g. in youth work or through non-formal education);
- Knowledge of relevant stakeholders and regulations: including the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence

Prior to the activity, participants are expected to engage with a short online module as preparation.

Profile of participants

Participants of the training course are expected to be:

- Youth workers and youth leaders
- Multipliers and facilitators of youth activities
- Young people active in youth organisations, youth centres or institutions

Participants should be interested to learn and develop competences on Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and youth work. It is expected that participants can act as multipliers within their youth work context following the training course. Previous expertise on artificial intelligence is not a requirement to attend the training.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country signatory of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30
- Be committed to attend for the full duration of the course
- Be able to work in English.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Logistical questions

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the training course will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. Participants are expected to arrive on 16 June and depart on 22 June.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any access needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

Participation fee

A participation fee of 60 euros will be collected from all participants. For participants booking their own travel, the fee will be deducted from the reimbursement of travel costs.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the seminar. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

How to apply

Everyone interested in taking part in the seminar must apply by filling in the online form at <https://forms.office.com/e/M9CbmVTKFy> before **6 May 2025**.