



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT, YOUTH,
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
DIRECTORATE FOR STEM AND VET PROGRAMMES



Presidency of Malta
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Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
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10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action

Valletta, Malta, 8-9 October 2025

The 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth, titled 'Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action', will be held in Valletta, Malta, on 8-9 October 2025.

Ministers responsible for youth will assess developments since the last conference in view of the Reykjavík Declaration and agree the main orientations for European youth policy in the years to come. This Conference will present a key opportunity to renew commitments, exchange best practices, and advance concrete actions to strengthen the resilience of our democracies through enhanced youth participation – in particular by including young people's perspectives in policymaking.

Furthermore, it will provide a unique platform to assess developments in the youth field and provide orientation for European youth policy and the Council of Europe's youth sector. To achieve this, the Conference will bring young people and policymakers together, to foster meaningful dialogue and decisions that will lead to effective results.

Conferences of ministers responsible for youth are a crucial decision-making platform at European level. Starting from the first Council of Europe conference held in Strasbourg 1985 they have become catalysts for innovative youth policies through open dialogue, resulting in youth policy recommendations to member States confirming the Council of Europe's role in standard-setting and intergovernmental cooperation on youth policy in Europe.

Objectives

- Emphasise the Council of Europe's key role as a youth policy actor within the architecture of international organisations and European institutions.
- Provide a strategic vision for the future work of the Council of Europe youth sector building on Reykjavik Declaration.
- Strengthen youth perspectives in policy development to ensure that young people and their organisation and networks can be agents in shaping their futures at all levels in Europe and promote innovative approaches to youth participation in democratic and civic spaces, based on the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy and the New Democratic Pact for Europe.
- Support policymakers with the tools to develop inclusive, youth-centred policies and youth work strategies at local, regional, national, European, and global levels, including through intergovernmental cooperation within the Council of Europe.
- Reaffirm the Council of Europe's support of Ukraine in the field of youth as a priority for the Organisation, through specific intergovernmental activities and cooperation with non-governmental youth organisations and networks fostering young people's participation in

democratic life and the recovery of Ukraine, including through youth policy and youth work development.

Expected Outcomes

The 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth is expected:

- to adopt a **final declaration “Young People for Democracy; Youth Perspectives in Action”**
- to commit to the **Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective** as a guiding document for policy advancement within the Council of Europe and the member States
- to endorse the conclusions of the **4th European Youth Work Convention**, held in Valletta, Malta on 27-29 May 2025
- to welcome progress in the adoption of the **Charter on the participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life**