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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 Youth Ministers on the theme ‘Young People for Democracy: Youth Perspectives in Action’, will be held in Valletta, Malta, on 8-9 October 2025, preceded by a youth event starting on 7 October 2025.

Ministers responsible for youth will assess developments since their last conference in light of the Reykjavik Declaration and agree on the main orientations for European youth policy in the years to come, building on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030.

Young people from all member States will play a key role in the conference by putting youth perspectives in action given their crucial role in triggering social and democratic transformation. Together with ministers responsible for youth, young people will identify youth forward-looking initiatives aimed at strengthening democratic participation, harnessing digitalisation, promoting young people’s rights, fostering youth work, and for building inclusive and peaceful societies. These discussions will shape decisions guiding European youth policy and provide essential input for the Council of Europe’s youth sector.

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

- Provide a strategic vision for the future work of the Council of Europe youth sector, building on the Reykjavik Declaration and the findings of the mid-term review of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030.
- Emphasise the Council of Europe's key role as a youth policy actor within the architecture of international organisations and European institutions.
- 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.
- 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.

- Promote innovative approaches to youth participation in democratic and civic spaces based on the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy.
- Take stock of achievements regarding youth policy development within the Council of Europe and in its member States since the last conference of ministers responsible for youth in 2012.

Expected Outcomes

The conference of ministers responsible for youth is expected:

- to adopt a **final declaration** reaffirming *inter alia* the importance of **youth participation** and **rights**.
- to commit to the **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.
- Give impetus for the revision of the **Charter for Young People's Participation in Local and Regional Life**.