



DFD-YD/ETD (2025) 17

Strasbourg, 28 January 2025

# European Youth Conference Young people in local and regional life: Democracy in action!

5-7 February 2025  
Youth Centre Braga  
Portugal

## Draft programme

In partnership with



## **Tuesday, 4 February 2025**

Arrival of the participants

14:00 Registration at the Braga Youth Centre

19:00 Dinner at the Braga Youth Centre

20:00 Welcome activities

## **Wednesday, 5 February 2025**

### **Realities of youth participation at local and regional level**

- 9:30 Official opening of the conference, with
- Ricardo RIO, Mayor of Braga
  - Luis GUEDES, Municipal Youth Council of Braga
  - Nina GRMUŠA, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth and Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
  - Veronique BERTHOLLE, Congress Spokesperson on Youth, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg
- 10:40 Introduction to the programme, expected results and methodology of the European Youth Conference  
Getting to know each other
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Exploring youth participation in our local and regional realities (parallel groups)
- 13:00 Break
- 14:30 Exploring youth participation in our realities (continued)
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Conclusions of the exploration of the realities of youth participation  
Daily evaluation  
Information about dinner and evening
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:15 Informal evening with youth civil society in Braga

## **Thursday, 6 February 2025**

### **The Charter – strengthening youth participation**

- 9:30 Young people revitalising democracy: the role of the Council of Europe in anchoring democratic values, keynote with Matjaž GRUDEN, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe
- 10:00 Introduction to the process and main revisions of the Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life with dr. Zsuzsanna RUTAI, expert of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and Ruxandra PANDEA, Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 10:40 Introduction to the work of working groups on the Charter revision  
Parallel working groups on the revised text of the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life (coffee break included)
- 13:00 Lunch

14:30 Reports from the working groups

Next steps in the process of revision of the Charter with:

- Aida KARIMLI, rapporteur of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Eva KOTNIK, Advisory Council on Youth and Riccardo VENTURINI, European Steering Committee for Youth, members of the drafting group

16:00 Information on the afternoon and evening in Braga

Discover Braga from different perspectives:

- Braga and student participation – offered by *AUMinho, Academic Association of the University of Minho*
- Youth social intervention in Braga – offered by *Youth Red Cross – Delegation of Braga*
- Youth work in Braga – offered by *Youth Department of Braga's Municipality and FAJUB*

19:30 Arrival at Forum Braga

Youth participation and solidarity with:

- Margarida BALSEIRO LOPES, Minister of Youth and Modernisation of Portugal

Launch of the photo exhibition "Between light and darkness", photos by Konstantin and Vlad Liberovich, Yurka Dyachyshyn

Dinner offered by Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth (IPDJ)

## Friday, 7 February 2025 What next?

9:30 Introduction to the day

9:45 Solidarity with Ukraine and Lviv European Youth Capital, with (roundtable):

- Andriy CHESNOKOV, Deputy Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- Andriy MOSKALENKO, Deputy Mayor of Lviv
- Maria BOVSUNOVSKA, Head of the Lviv - the European Youth Capital 2025 project
- Sina RIZ À PORTA, board member, European Youth Forum

10:40 Making local and regional youth participation a reality – introduction to the working groups on next steps to be taken

11:00 Break

11:30 Parallel working groups on proposals for the follow-up:

- Networking
- Education and training
- Youth policy measures
- Etc.

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Working groups continued

15:30 Reports of the working groups

16:15 Break

16:40 Human rights for all, participatory dance performance,

Closing session with:

- Jorge ORLANDO QUEIROS, European Steering Committee on Youth
- Veronique BERTHOLLE, Congress Spokesperson on Youth and Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg
- Sina RIZ À PORTA, board member, European Youth Forum
- Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Head of the Youth Department

20:00 Dinner at Bom Jesus do Monte

Farewell party at SETRA Bar

## Saturday, 8 February 2025

Departures of participants

### About the conference

The European Youth Conference takes place in Braga, between 5 and 7 February and is co-organised by the [Council of Europe Youth Department](#) and the [Braga Youth Centre](#), and in partnership with the [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#), the [Municipality of Braga](#), the [Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth](#) and the [European Youth Forum](#).

The conference aims to strengthen youth participation in decision making at local and regional levels, and therefore contribute to the revitalisation of democracy. It will bring together approximately 130 young representatives of local and regional youth councils, youth civil society and local authorities to learn from practices of youth democratic participation and to take part in the consultations concerning the revision of the [European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life](#) carried by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in partnership with the [Joint Council on Youth](#).

#### Aim and objectives of the conference

The conference aims to strengthen youth participation in decision-making at local and regional levels, and therefore contribute to the revitalisation of democracy.

#### Objectives

- To discuss the practices, challenges and opportunities for youth participation in decision-making at local and regional levels with view to critically reflect and learn from each other;
- To provide participants the opportunity to contribute to the revision of the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life ;
- To reflect on and prepare the grounds for the future implementation of the revised Charter and the possible support measures for young people, local youth councils and organisations, as well as local authorities;
- To learn about youth realities in Braga and the initiatives on youth participation of the municipality;
- To motivate participants to take action to strengthen the local youth participation in the follow-up of the conference.