

**DEMOCRACY
HERE NOW**



DDP-YD/ETD (2023) 9

Strasbourg, 26 January 2023

**Conference
Evaluation and follow-up of the
Democracy Here | Democracy Now youth
campaign**

30 January – 3 February 2023

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

Draft programme

Under the patronage of the

**PRESIDENCY
OF ICELAND**

Council of Europe
11/2022 – 05/2023



**PRÉSIDENTIE
DE L'ISLANDE**

Conseil de l'Europe
11/2022 – 05/2023

Monday, 30 January 2023

- Arrival of participants
- 18:00 Registration at European Youth Centre Strasbourg (until 22:00)
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Welcome evening and drinks

Tuesday, 31 January 2023

- 8:00 Registration of participants
- 9:15 Official opening of the conference with:
 - Ragnhildur Arnljótsdóttir, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the Council of Europe and Chair of the Committee of Ministers
 - Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe
 - Spyros Papadatos, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth
 - Véronique Bertholle, Deputy to the Mayor of Strasbourg
- 9:50 Introduction to the context of the conference, its aim, objectives and programme
- 10:15 Exploring the experiences and expectations of the participants (working groups)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Working groups continued
- 12:15 Presentations of the working group results
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Presentation of the results of the study on the implementation of the Democracy Here | Democracy Now youth campaign by Silvia Volpi, consultant
- 15:00 Recalling the Call for Action launched by the participants in the Youth Action Week
Working groups on the implementation of the Call for action
 1. Access to rights
 2. Meaningful youth participation
 3. Digitalisation
 4. Youth peace
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Working groups continued
- 17:15 Presentation of the results of the working groups
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Networking and sharing evening

Wednesday, 1 February 2023

- 9:30 Democracy now: how can we support young people to revitalise democracy? with
 - Ambassador Breifne O'Reilly, Permanent Representative of Ireland (tbc)
 - Véronique Bertholle, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
 - Iordanis Chorooglou, Conference of INGOs
 - María Rodríguez Alcázar, President of the European Youth Forum
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Building a common vision on revitalising democracy
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Workshops for learning from different initiatives aimed at revitalising democracy:
 - Preparing youth to stand in elections, with *Massimo Rotunno, Fantapolitica! (Italy)*
 - Preparing young people to vote, with *Alexandra Chatzimimikou, Youth Empowerment Centre (Greece)*
 - Let's get political! Advocating political change on youth issues, with *Caroline Vogt, German Federal Youth Council (Germany)*

- Developing the capacity of municipalities for youth participation, with *Gianluca Rossino, Europiamo (Italy)* and *Amal Hamich, Bureau International Jeunesse (Belgium)*
- Young people and democracy in times of war, with *Olga Donets* and *Olena Glazkova, Donetsk Youth Debate Centre (Ukraine)*
- Campaigning for democracy in non-democratic environments, with *Marharyta Voryhava* and *Dzmitry Herylovich, Belarusian national youth council RADA (Belarus)*
- Online tools for democracy, with *Nils-Eyk Zimmermann, DARE Network (Germany)*
- Preparing citizen participation with board games with *Daryna Sokolova, Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy (Council of Europe)*

16:30 Break

17:00 Open space networking, sharing and partnership-building

18:00 Closure of the day

Self-organised dinner and free evening

Thursday, 2 February 2023

9:30 The follow-up to the Democracy Here | Democracy Now youth campaign: aim, objectives and activities foreseen

10:15 Working groups on follow-up work at national and regional level

11:00 Break

11:30 Working groups continued

12:15 Presentations of the working group results

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Further defining the follow-up activities at European level in 2023:

1. Training and capacity building
2. Common action days
3. Advocacy at national and international level
4. Communication and visibility

16:00 Break

16:30 Presentation of the results of the working group

17:00 Evaluation with participants

17:15 Next steps in the project

Closing speeches with:

- Ambassador Fakhraddin Ismayilov, Permanent representative of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Rapporteur Group (GR-C) of the Committee of Ministers on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment
- Dāvids Garšva, European Steering Committee for Youth
- Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

18.30 Aperero

19:00 Festive dinner

Friday, 3 February 2023

Departures

About the conference

The Youth Department has started the implementation of the project “[Youth revitalising democracy](#)”, a response to the challenges faced by democratic systems and institutions in recent years. The project follows up the youth campaign Democracy Here | Democracy Now and aims to strengthen the commitment of young people to the values of democracy and human rights, as well as their role and contribution to processes of democratic revitalisation.

In this context, 80 young activists, representatives of the youth civil society and of national authorities come together in the Evaluation and follow-up conference to take stock of the results of the youth campaign “[Democracy Here | Democracy Now](#)” and to plan the follow-up in 2023 and beyond in all its aspects together. The conference takes place in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 31 January to 2 February 2023.

The objectives of the conference are:

- to take stock of the results of the Democracy here | Democracy now youth campaign at local, national and international level, with a particular attention to the key issues and good practices emerging from it;
- to facilitate networking, sharing and learning from each other;
- to develop a shared understanding of the follow-up project and the role of the participants within it, along with communication channels and support measures;
- to further develop the plan of activities in the framework of the follow-up project, with a particular view to the activities at national and local level and their synergy with the activities foreseen at European level.

For more information read www.democracyherenow.coe.int