

**DEMOCRACY**  
**HERE NOW**



DDP-YD/ETD (2023) 94

Strasbourg, 26 May 2023

**Young Activists for Democracy**  
**Training course**  
29 May – 3 June 2023  
European Youth Centre Strasbourg

**Programme**  
**Rationale**

## Youth revitalising democracy

The Council of Europe Youth Department runs a project entitled Youth revitalising democracy, that follows-up on the results of its 2022 youth campaign Democracy Here

| Democracy Now.

The project aims to restore the mutual trust between young people and democratic institutions and processes, and to secure the implementation of the Call for Action issued by the participants in the 2022 Youth Action Week: Democracy Now!

The project includes activities at European and national level, organised with the support of partner national authorities and youth civil society, advocating for increased political youth participation through lowering the voting age at 16 and for the implementation of the Council of Europe recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes.

## Aim and objectives of the training course

The training course Young Activists for Democracy aims to develop the competences of the participants in advocating to revitalise democracy and to create a group that further supports advocacy actions at European, national and local levels.

Objectives of the course:

- To learn about democracy, human rights, and Council of Europe standards and relevant work in these fields
- To explore the causes and effects of democratic decline in Europe today and the role young people and youth participation can play in revitalising democracy
- To develop participants' competences in activism and mobilization of young people and youth civil society, including using strategies, tactics, and tools for action offline and online, with a view to uphold democratic values.
- To develop cooperation and plans for activist involvement in the project activities at European, national and local levels, notably the Common Actions and advocacy.

## **DRAFT Residential training course programme**

### **Sunday, 28 May 2023**

Arrivals of participants

18:00 - 21:00 Registration in the dining area

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Welcome evening – dining area, Belgian bar

### **Monday, 29 May 2023 – Room 0.1**

8:30 Registration in the dining area, EYCS

9:30 Opening of the training course

The training course programme, methodology, expected results, expectations, and contributions

Getting to know each other and the institutional framework

11:00 Break

11:30 Team building

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Youth revitalising democracy project and the role of young activists

15:15 Exploring the causes and effects of democracy backsliding in Europe and their impact on young people

16:00 Break

16:30 Exploring the causes and effects of democracy backsliding in Europe and their impact on young people (continued)

18:00 Evaluation and reflection of the day

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Organisations and initiatives' fair

### **Tuesday, 30 May 2023**

9:30 Practising democracy and human rights in action

11:00 Break

11:30 Practising democracy and human rights in action

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Democracy and me

15:15 Democracy and human rights: values, principles, connections and standards with Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe

16:00 Break

16:30 Youth revitalising democracy – developing shared vision

18:00 Evaluation and reflection of the day

19:00 Dinner

20:30 Evening programme

## Wednesday, 31 May 2023

- 9:30 Youth participation – a standard for democracy
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Youth participation – a standard for democracy
- 13:00 Lunch
- Free afternoon and self-organised dinner

## Thursday, 1 June 2023

- 9:30 Introduction to activism
- 10:00 Reykjavik Summit results and the role of young activists for democracy, with Matjaž Gruden, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Taking action together: developing the Action Month for Democracy, with Igor Jesih, European Steering Committee on Youth
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Taking action together: developing the Action Month for Democracy
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Presentations of results and feedback  
What do we learn from planning and doing together?
- 18:00 Evaluation and reflection of the day
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Evening programme led by participants

## Friday, 2 June 2023

- 9:30 Parallel workshops on activist competences development
  - Communicating your message **Camelia**
  - Advocacy and cooperation with decision-makers **Darek**
  - Self-care and resilience, with **Dani Prisacariu** Katya
  - Leadership and mobilisation of young people **Lisa**
- 11:30 Break
- 12:00 Parallel workshops on activist competences development
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Support measures for follow-up with:
  - Natalia Militello, European Youth Foundation
  - Youth revitalising democracy
  - Study sessions and national training courses
- 15:30 Developing follow-up at national and local levels  
Consultations with team members
- 18:00 Evaluation and reflection of the day
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:30 Evening programme

## **Saturday, 3 June 2023**

- 9:30 Action Planning (continued)
- Consultations
- 11:00 Break
- 11:30 Follow-up gallery
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Next steps in the project – coordination and planning together
- 16:00 Break
- 16:30 Evaluation
- 18:30 Closure of the training course
- 19:00 Barbeque and farewell party

## **Sunday, 4 June 2023**

Departures from EYCS

### **E-learning programme**

- May 2023 Preparatory units
- 5 June – 30 June Focus on mentoring and follow-up  
Programme to be developed together with the participants