



DDP-YD/ETD (2020) 112

29 June 2020, Strasbourg

“Hear me out! Take me in!”
Promoting Diversity
through Youth Political Participation

Online - Workshop
Programme

12 June- 26 June 2020 Module 1: Youth Participation, realities and practices

E-learning platform of the Youth Department - <https://e-learning4youth.coe.int/>.

Monday, 29 June 2020 from 14-18:00 CET

The e-meeting provides an introduction to the different practices, challenges and ideas to promote diversity in youth political participation. It explores intersectionality in political participation.

- 14.00 Introduction opening of the meeting, by *Lena Höglund*
Welcome words and introduction to the Council of Europe, *Stefan Manevski, Educational Advisor, European Youth Centre Strasbourg*
- 14.20 Team building activities with *Tanya Lyubimova*
- 14.40 Political participation in the digital age, input and exchange with *Asha Allen, European Women's Lobby*
- 16.00 Take a step forward – online activity on privilege and discrimination
- 17.10 Empathy and power, discussion on manifestations with *Tanya Lyubimova and Laia Comerma*
- 17.30 Evaluation session with *Asha Vidanovic and Lena Höglund*

Tuesday, 30 June 2020 from 14-18:00 CET

The meeting analyses good practices to promote diversity and will reflect on existing tools, approaches and possible follow-up projects to promote diversity in political youth participation, including the co-management in the Council of Europe's youth sector.

- 14.00 Opening and introduction to activity with *Lena Höglund*
- 14.15 Discrimination under (de)construction with *Laia Comerma, Balint Gyevai and Ariane Takyi*
- 15.10 Diversity Thermometer with *Lena Höglund, Tanya Lyubimova and Dan-Aria Sucuri*
- 16.10 Campaigning for good
- 17.05 Advisory Council on Youth and co-management, exchange with *Andrea Ugrinoska*, Chair of the Advisory Council on Youth
- 17.45 Evaluation and closing of the day with *Asha Vidanovic, Lena Höglund*
Closing of the webinars and follow-up activities

1 July - 10 July 2020 Module 2: Creating follow-up projects (e-learning platform of the Youth Department)

Aim and Objectives

The online workshop "Promoting Diversity through Youth Political Participation" will explore challenges and good practices from political youth organisations in promoting participation in an inclusive, meaningful and sensitive to diversity approach. The objectives of the activity are:

1. To analyse the connection between diversity, power and rhetoric and see how this impacts young people's political participation
2. To discuss challenges and issues which prevent young people with diverse backgrounds to take part in the political decision-making process
3. To map good practices in supporting inclusive and meaningful youth participation in political youth organisations
4. To introduce existing Council of Europe approaches for youth participation and explore the instruments of the Youth sector of the Council of Europe.

Youth Participation at the Council of Europe

Participation is an essential element of citizenship in a democratic society and a democratic Europe. Youth participation is not an end in itself, but a means of achieving positive changes in young people's lives and of building a better society. The sustainability of the Council of Europe's core values, Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, relies also on the creativity, competencies, social commitment, and contribution of young people as well as on their confidence in the future. Youth policies and youth work practice must support young people to realise their full potential as autonomous members of society, enabling them to develop life plans and exercise their democratic citizenship.

In recent years, there have been a growing number of initiatives promoting and strengthening youth involvement at very different levels – international, regional, national and local. Different policy standards also exist on the level of the Council of Europe, to guide the development and improvement of meaningful youth participation systems. One such standard is the [revised European Charter on the Participation of](#)

[Young People in Local and Regional Life](#), adopted in May 2003 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe recommends that its member States facilitate and encourage youth participation in politics and civil societies at both local community and national levels and to make youth participation a priority in public policies. A manual, [Have your say!](#), was also published by the Council of Europe to support the implementation of the recommendation. The manual is a collection of reflections and questions that can help those working at local level to find their own ways of achieving meaningful participation by young people.

In January 2020, the Council of Europe adopted its Youth sector strategy 2030. The new strategy provides policy guidance and a broad political roadmap for the period 2020-30. The strategy defines that the:

“Council of Europe youth sector should aim at enabling young people across Europe to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe’s core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, notably by ... broadening youth participation, so that young people participate meaningfully in decision-making, on the basis of a broad social and political consensus in support of inclusion, participatory governance and accountability.”

The strategy defines that the thematic priority of the Council of Europe’s youth sector for the next 10 years is *“revitalising pluralistic democracy, with special emphasis on:*

- increasing the capacity of youth civil society to advance participatory democracy and democratic citizenship within and beyond their memberships;*
- conducting more policies and governance processes in a meaningful, participatory manner, involving diverse groups of young people and their representatives/organisations;*
- strengthening youth policy and youth work in removing barriers to youth participation.”*