



MY EUROPE event on "Youth and Politics", 25-27 June 2013, Strasbourg

Draft Agenda

From 25th to 27th June, in Strasbourg, ALDA will organise, in cooperation with the INGO Conference, three days of activities on the topic "Youth and politics" within the project MY EUROPE. This project, co-funded by the European Commission, gathers 14 partners from Albania, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Macedonia and Malta. Its main goal is to increase specific interests and expectations of citizens about EU political agenda and empower citizens to play a full part in the democratic life at local and European level, through public debates that involves citizens, citizens associations and policy makers, therefore stimulating a sense of ownership of European identity through democratic dialogue.

The main objective of the event "Youth and Politics" is to give a chance to youngsters to express their needs and interests to local and European policy makers and to fight against their exclusion from the participation to political life. The event will seek to sensitize youngsters about the value of their vote and the power of their active participation in political life as a drive for change.

The main expected result of the event is to draft recommendations on youth participation in the decision making process that will be presented during the plenary session of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe ((International Non Governmental Organisations) held on Thursday 27th June.

Tuesday 25 June afternoon

Arrival of participants

14:00- 18:00 Information session and world café on youth participation in the decision making process.

Language of work: English only (a support for French participants will be provided).

Location: Centre Culturel St Thomas, 2 rue de la Carpe Haute, Strasbourg

Objective: draft recommendations to encourage and facilitate youth participation in the decision-making process addressed to public and private structures dealing with youth issues. This document will be completed and amended with the results of discussions that will be held during the following days and be presented during the plenary session of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe ((International Non Governmental Organisations) held on Thursday 27th June.

Draft agenda

14:00 - 14:15: Registration of participants

14:15 - 14:30: Presentation of the project MY EUROPE and of the event in Strasbourg

Ms Marine Henry, ALDA project manager

14:30 - 14:50: Presentation of Youth policies of the CoE and of Charter on the Participation of young people in local and regional life.

Ms Mara Georgescu, Council of Europe Youth Department

14:50 - 15:15: Presentation of the Code of good practices for civil participation in the decision making process



Mr Chuck Hirt, Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (CEE-CN)

15:15 - 15:30: Coffee break

15:30 - 18:00: World Café on youth participation in the decision making process

Moderated by Mr Alfonso Aliberti, ALDA project manager

The main goal of the World Café organised within this framework is to brainstorm and propose recommendations integrating the contributions of experts and practitioners on ways and means to encourage and facilitate youth participation in the decision-making process. The activity is organised in an interactive and creative way around 4 thematic tables led by a Café Leader. Participants will move from table to table every 25 minutes and will contribute to the discussion on each table with the facilitation of the Café Leader.

Once the first part is completed, the Café Leaders will be asked to do instant reports in plenary session. This part aims at presenting the suggestions, opinions and recommendations collected around the tables and at integrating them in an open discussion with a larger public. This second part will last around 30 minutes.

MY EUROPE world Café wants to formulate recommendations responding to 4 key themes identified as the main issues to be tackled to encourage and facilitate youth participation in the decision making process:

- Table 1: How to improve the cooperation between local and regional authorities and youth associations in order to strengthen youth participation in the decision making process?

Café leader: Mrs Joan Agius, Councillor, Zejtun Local Council

- Table 2: How can local and regional authorities and youth associations enable youth participation in the decision making process (tools and mechanisms)?

Café leader: Mrs Claudia Meschede, Assembly of European Region

- Table 3: What are the biggest barriers to youth participation in your local context and what would you imagine as solution to address this challenge?

Café leader: Mrs Nadezhda Koleva, Head of EYDS Department, Municipality of General Toshevo

- Table 4: From consultation to partnership, how would you evaluate your (or your organisation's) level of participation in the decision making process and how do you think it could be improved?

Café leader: Chuck Hirt, Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (CEE-CN)

20:00 Dinner at the Restaurant La Chaine d'Or, 134 Grand Rue, 67000 Strasbourg

Wednesday 26 June

10:00 - 12:00: Elaboration of the draft recommendation

Language of work: English only

Location: Centre Culturel St Thomas, 2 rue de la Carpe Haute, Strasbourg

Participants will meet during the morning to draft a document of recommendations elaborated on the basis of the results of the World Café organised the day before. This document will be discussed and completed with representatives of NGO's and Local Authorities during the conference of the afternoon.

Exercises proposed by Mr Alfonso Aliberti, ALDA project manager

12:15 - 14:00 Lunch at Centre Culturel St Thomas

14:30- 16:45: Conference-debate on the role of young people in the decision-making process and the opportunities developed at local level to encourage citizen participation

Youth participation in the decision making process: why and how? Have your say!

Organised in cooperation with the INGO Conference

Language of work: English and French.

Location: Building Agora of the Council of Europe. Room G.03

The main objective of this conference-debate is to allow an open discussion between young people, representative of local and regional authorities and representatives of NGOs coming from the enlarged Europe about youth participation in the decision making process and to exchange good practices on this field. The public will be widely encouraged to share its point of view. The draft recommendations will be completed and amended according to the discussions.

Moderator: Israël Mensah, Vice-Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee and representative of the Conference of INGOs on the Council of Europe Youth Advisory Council.

Speakers:

- Lilla Merabet, Conseillère Régionale (Alsace), Vice-Présidente de la Commission Jeunesse et Economie Sociale et Solidaire.
- Mihai Floran, member of the bureau of the Youth Advisory Council of the Council of Europe.
- Laurence Mauler, Head of Youth Department, Municipality of Strasbourg.

Three young persons having attended the activities organised on 25th afternoon and 26th morning will be representing the group in the panel and begin the debate with the speakers just after their presentation.

Experts/Facilitators:

- Chuck Hirt, Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (CEE-CN)
- Biljana Zasova, Project Coordinator, Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

16:45 - 17:30: Proposition and vote of the amendments to the draft recommendations.

20:00 Dinner at Restaurant Au Dauphin, 13 Place de la Cathédrale, 67000 Strasbourg

Thursday 27 June

9:30 - 13:00: Plenary of the INGO's Conference. Focus on: "NGO participation in the decision making process: a reality of still a challenge ahead?"

Organised in cooperation with the INGO Conference

Language of work: English and French.

Location: Building Agora of the Council of Europe. Room G.03

Moderator: Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Chair of the Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee of the Conference of INGOs

Speakers:

- Spokesperson on behalf of the participants in the event organised by ALDA from 25 to 27 June on the participation of young people in public life
- Nicolas DETRIE, Director, YesWeCamp, Marseille, France (tbc)
- Ludvig SANDBERG, Social Forum, Sweden
- Tom ELKINS, Compact Voice Manager, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, United-Kingdom
- Ihor KOHUT, Director of the Ukrainian School of Political Studies
- Danka LATKOVIC, Governmental Office for NGO co-operation, Montenegro

Rapporteur: Conclusions and outlook: Antonella VALMORBIDA, Director of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and in charge of the INGO working group on the promotion of the Code of good practice for civil participation in the decision-making process

13:00 Departure of participants