

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

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, 42 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

1) Presentation of the project MY EUROPE and of the event in Strasbourg (15min).

2) Information session (45min)

- EU policies in favour of youth participation

Representative of Europe Direct Strasbourg (tbc)

- Presentation of Youth policies of the CoE and of the following tools: Code of good practices for civil participation in the decision-making process and Charter on the Participation of young people in local and regional life.

Representative of the COE Youth Department (tbc)

3) Debate on the concept and definition of youth participation in the decision making process (30 min)

4) World Café (2h30)

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 5 thematic tables led by a Café Leader. Participants will move from table to table every 30 minutes and will contribute to the discussion on each table with the facilitation of the Café Leader.

MY EUROPE world Café wants to formulate recommendations responding to 5 key themes identified as the main issues to be tackled to encourage and facilitate youth participation in the decision making process:

- *Evaluation of the Code of Good practices for civil participation of the CoE as a tool for youth participation;*
- *Evaluation of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life “Have Your Say!” as a tool for youth participation;*
- *Youth participation in the democratic life at regional level: exchange of good practices;*
- *Youth participation in your local communities: exchange of good practices (focus on civil society organisations' initiatives);*
- *Interests, needs and expectations of young people regarding the issue of participation.*

Wednesday 26 June

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

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.

12:15 - 14:15 Lunch

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

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.

Speakers:

- Lilla Merabet, Conseillère Régionale (Alsace), Vice-Présidente de la Commission Jeunesse et Economie Sociale et Solidaire
- Jo Spiegel, Mayor of the Municipality of Kingersheim (tbc)
- Representative of the Youth Advisory Council of the Council of Europe

Experts/Facilitators:

- Brigitte Ludmann, Youth Express network (tbc)
- Chuck Hirt, Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (CEE-CN) (tbc)
- Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities (tbc)

Thursday 27 June

10:00 - 13:00: Plenary of the INGO's Conference. Focus on: "NGO participation in the decision making process: a model or a reality?"

Organised in cooperation with the INGO Conference

Language of work: English and French.

Location: Building Agora of the Council of Europe

This plenary session will be the occasion for MY EUROPE participants to present to the INGO Conference the final recommendation on youth participation drafted during the two previous days. It will be followed by an exchange with INGO Conference members. The session will also allow exchanges between practitioners from civil society and local and national authorities from different countries, who can share experience on the practice of NGO participation in democratic decision making or on efforts to introduce rules and mechanisms for such a practice.