

Meaningful youth participation in democratic life - conference

Bulgaria, Sofia, June 5 - June 6, 2025



Join us for a two-day international conference aimed at creating synergies between exciting strategies, programmes, and plans for youth empowerment toward meaningful participation and consolidating the efforts of practitioners and policymakers in the domain.

Objectives of the Conference

- To explore the common understanding of meaningful youth participation in democratic life and examine methods, tools, and approaches on how to enhance it in the context of local youth work policy;
- To provide an overview of the existing national and international practices in the field of youth participation, and reflect on how to strengthen and further develop them
- To understand how Europe Goes Local (European Charter of Local Youth Work) tools can support reflection and further development of youth work practices.
- To stimulate knowledge-sharing and create favorable conditions for future collaborations.
- To examine how Erasmus+ (Youth Participation Projects) can contribute to the development of youth participation in local governance.

Participants:

The conference will include some 100 participants from the national and European levels with the following profiles:

- Municipal representatives and officers who are responsible for youth work policy development and implementation;
- Representatives of national and international youth work organizations who are engaged in creating youth work policy;
- Youth workers engaged in youth participation and community development;
- Young people from participatory structures (youth councils, advisory boards, etc.).

Methodology

During the event, approaches central to the non-formal education and experiential learning will be applied. The event will be in a hybrid format, including:

- Panel discussions with stakeholders, experts, and practitioners;
- Workshops and reflections based on Europe Goes Local (European Charter on Local Youth work) tools;
- Knowledge exchange and networking among participants to enhance youth work practices.

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Organizer:

This conference is organized by the **Bulgarian National Agency** – HRDC of the European Youth programmes.

Report:

A full report from this conference is available for viewing and download [here](#).