

# 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.