



## World Forum for Democracy

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

#### **Freedom vs control: For a democratic response**

Strasbourg, 18-20 November 2015

The Joint Council on Youth, decision-making structure co-managed by representatives of governments and youth NGOs, has agreed to involve the youth sector of the Council of Europe in the 2015 edition of the World Forum for Democracy.

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Forum for Democracy will engage with decision-makers and opinion-formers in a reflection on how to maintain a balance between freedom and control for security in European societies and will explore new ways of engaging young people in re-visioning the democratic arenas of today. The Forum will explore initiatives and structures to successfully address approaches for the protection of freedom in democracies facing violence and extremism. Young people's life experiences and local, national or international initiatives will be important elements of the World Forum.

In 2012, the Council of Europe launched a campaign on Young People Combating Hate Speech Online. It aims to combat racism and discrimination, as expressed online as hate speech, by mobilizing young people and youth organisations to recognise and act against such human rights violations. A campaign for human rights online. The campaign is not designed to limit freedom of expression online. Neither is it about everyone being nice to each other online. It is against hate speech online in all its forms, including those that most affect young people, such as cyber-bullying and cyber-hate. The campaign focuses on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. The World Forum for

Democracy 2015 offers a great platform for linking the campaign to the topic of freedom vs. control.

The core content of the Forum will consist of discussions about successful initiatives and actions which have as a starting point real-life initiatives and untested, novel ideas, by public authorities or grassroots actors, which will be critically examined by an interdisciplinary international panel. General guiding principles will be then drawn to encourage and support future policy responses and field action. The initiatives and ideas to be presented at the forum will be discussed in labs and roughly cover the four following key categories:

- How much control kills democracy?
- Freedom from fear in a diverse society?
- Is learning of democratic culture adequate today?
- Is freedom of expression and information a reality?

The concept note about the 2015 edition of the World Forum for Democracy can be found [here](#).

75 young participants will be selected by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in order to ensure a strong youth participation during the Forum. Prior to the Forum, the participants will study the initiatives (labs) and make contact with the organisers of the labs in order to receive further information about their structures. Afterwards the participants will select the laboratories they are interested in.

In this edition of the World Forum for Democracy, we wish to invite young people to share their own testimonies and initiatives in relation to freedom of expression and control.

For this purpose, applicants should send a 1-minute video (see instructions below) explaining their motivation, and how they relate to the dilemma between freedom and control. The video should be inspiring and based on real-life testimonies or examples of how participants themselves are concerned by the topic.

Based on these videos, a 10-minutes introductory movie will be compiled and presented in the opening session of the World Forum for Democracy 2015.

## **Preparing for the World Forum on Democracy**

Once selected, participants will be informed about the 20 labs which will take place and will be invited to choose their preferred labs. They can make contact with the organising bodies which will implement the initiatives (labs) in order to receive further information about their structures.

A small online space will be created for participants to get to know each other, share ideas and experiences beforehand and consult documents related to the World Forum.

In order to best prepare for the World Forum, selected participants will gather in Strasbourg two days before the start of the World Forum to get to know each other, develop their ideas, plan their actions and work together with the guidance of an international team of trainers.

**Therefore, all selected participants should arrive on Monday 16 November and depart on Saturday 21 November.** A Youth meeting will take place for all participants on Tuesday 17 November and morning of Wednesday 18 November in the European Youth Centre before the start of the World Forum in the afternoon of the 18 November.

Participants will be asked to be innovative and to link their local youth work context to the event in Strasbourg.

## **During the World Forum for Democracy**

During the World Forum, participants will represent Youth and join the different labs. In order to be recognisable as "Youth Ambassadors", the 75 participants will be asked to wear the commonly designed T-Shirt or accessories. Participants will be given particular roles in the labs according to their interests and competences (rapporteurs, audience, critical thinkers...).

Altogether, young people should be active partners and contributors to this World Forum, bringing in own ideas and initiatives.

Beyond the labs, the participants will organise parallel activities to make their voices heard and present their visions of democracy (flashmobs, creative walls, living library etc...).

## **Profile of participants**

In order to be selected and participate in the World Forum 2015, applicants should:

- Be aged 16-30 (exceptions can be made in special cases);
- Be resident in one of the 50 signatory States of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe; 30 places will be made available for participants from other regions outside the European continent;
- Be able to communicate and work in English;
- Be actively involved in civil society Democracy initiatives;
- Be motivated to contribute to developing new ideas on youth and democracy;
- Be supported by a youth organisation or network or informal group working on democracy; some non-organised individuals will also be accepted;
- Be ready to share own challenges faced in accessing freedom of expression and dealing with control and violence;
- Be ready to adopt a solution-oriented approach by bringing in new ideas and visions of democracy;
- Be ready to dream democracy;
- Be available to participate fully in the World Forum for Democracy and the preparation process beforehand
- Experience or involvement in the No Hate speech movement at local, national or international level will be an asset;

As far as possible, participants should be representative of the variety of youth in Europe. Therefore, special attention will be given to young people from marginalised backgrounds, representatives of minority organisations or youth movements.

Some places will allow for participants from the previous editions of the World Forum to participate.

## **Application, procedure and selection of participants**

All candidates must apply in 2 parts:

1. An online application form should be completed via this link:  
<http://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>
2. A short 1 minute video should be posted on YouTube, with the link attached to the online application form (see [instructions below](#)).

The organising team will select 75 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. The selection will also take into account balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed if their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by **16 September 2015**.

### **Deadline for applications**

The application form must be submitted on-line before **Sunday 30 August (midnight CET)**, together with a support letter from your NGO/sending organisation.

In case of technical problems with the use of the platform, please send an e-mail to [WFD2015Youth@coe.int](mailto:WFD2015Youth@coe.int).

### **Financial and practical conditions of participation**

#### **Working language**

The common working language of the event will be English. Candidates must be able to use English independently in order to be able to work and communicate efficiently.

#### **Travel expenses**

Travel expenses and visa costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire event (pre-Forum meeting and World Forum) can be reimbursed. The payment will be made by bank transfer after the World Forum.

Prepaid tickets for travel can be arranged.

#### **Accommodation**

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Council of Europe (arrival on Monday 16 November and departure on Saturday 21 November). Participants will be lodged at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (EYCS). The EYCS is fully accessible to young people with disabilities and ready to adapt to young people's special needs in order to ensure full inclusion and quality working conditions.

## TECHNICAL NOTE ON HOW TO UPLOAD A YOUTUBE VIDEO

Use the following instructions to send us your video.

YouTube:

1. Create a google account if you do not already have one at <https://accounts.google.com/SignUp>
2. Go to youtube.com
3. Click the Upload link at the top of the page.
4. Select the video you'd like to upload from your computer. You can also record a video from your webcam, or create a video slideshow.
5. Once the upload is completed YouTube will notify you that your video is done uploading and processing
6. ADJUST YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS: When you upload a video, by default it's set as a "Public" video, which means that anybody can view it. You can easily change the privacy settings while you're uploading the video in the "Privacy Settings" section. Or, if you've already uploaded the video, you can change the privacy settings by following the steps below:
  - a. Visit your Video Manager
  - b. Find the video you'd like to change, then click the Edit button.
  - c. In the "Privacy Settings" drop down menu, select 'Unlisted'
  - d. Click Save changes
7. Copy the URL address of the video in to your online application form

### Content info

+ Your video should be less than 2 minutes long and answer these 5 questions:

1. What are your/ your families'/ friends' experiences with freedom of expression vs. control?
2. In which way do you respond to the current challenges of young people in relation to freedom of expression and control against extremism through your youth work practice?
3. What ideas have you about drawing the line between freedom and control?
4. What motivates you to be part of this event?
5. Is there anything else we should absolutely know about you?