

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



World Forum for Democracy  
STRASBOURG - 2014

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

**From participation to influence: can youth revitalise democracy?**  
Strasbourg, 31st October-6th November 2014

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, through the European Youth Foundation, in the 2014 edition of the World Forum for Democracy.

The 3rd edition of the World Forum for Democracy will engage with young people and with decision-makers and opinion-formers in a reflection on the patterns of exclusion and involvement 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 the reasons for youth exclusion and create conditions for real youth influence.

The core content of the Forum will consist of discussions about successful initiatives and actions for youth citizenship and participation, and new governance solutions to youth democratic inclusion. These initiatives and ideas will be challenged with respect to their potential for strengthening democratic participation, risks they may entail, their transferability, and their impact on democratic institutions and practice as a whole. The initiatives will be discussed in a series of creative laboratories (labs).

More information about the 2014 edition of the World Forum for Democracy can be found [here](#).

300 young participants will be selected by the European Youth Foundation in order to ensure a strong youth dimension during the Forum.

In this edition of the World Forum for Democracy, we wish to invite young people to go one step further and to make concrete proposals for "real democracy". In 2012, the participants in the Youth Assembly of the World Forum commonly rejected the idea of youth being a "sacrificed generation". In 2014, we want young people to get away from problems, limitations and frustrations related to dysfunctioning democratic systems and to take a solution-oriented approach. We want to invite participants to DREAM DEMOCRACY, to reinvent new forms of democratic societies, to bring in their ideas, experiences and visions in order to develop prototypes for new democracies.

### **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 will then contact the organising bodies which will implement the initiatives (labs) in order to receive further information about their structures.

In order to best prepare for the World Forum, selected participants will work together over an **online training platform** between July and October 2014, with the guidance of an international team of trainers. Through the online tool, participants will also be asked to develop a motto for this year's World Forum, as well as a design. These will then be printed on a T-shirt to be worn during the World Forum.

Furthermore, all participants will gather in Strasbourg before the start of the World Forum, thus using the weekend prior to the start of the World Forum to get to know each other, develop their ideas and plan their actions.

**Therefore, all selected participants should arrive on Friday 31st October and depart on Thursday 6th November.** A Youth meeting will take place for all participants on 1-3 November in the European Youth Centre before the start of the World Forum in the afternoon of the 3rd November.

During the preparation meeting, participants will have an opportunity to finalise their prototypes for new democracies, which will have been developed previously online and in participants' local realities. 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 300 participants will be asked to wear the commonly designed T-Shirt. 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 etc...).

### **Profile of participants**

In order to be selected and participate in the World Forum 2014, 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; 75 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 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.

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. Gender balance and geographical balance will also be taken into account.

## **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/>
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 300 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 **4 July 2014**.

## **Deadline for applications**

The application form must be submitted on-line until **Sunday 22nd June 2014 (midnight CET)**, together with a support letter from your NGO/sending organisation.

## **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 Friday 31th October, departure on Thursday 6th November). Participants will be lodged either at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg or in a hotel. Transport between the place of accommodation and the venue of the youth meeting and of the World Forum will be organised.

## **TECHNICAL NOTE ON HOW TO UPLOAD A YOUTUBE VIDEO**

### **Use the following instructions to send us your YouTube video**

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
  - e. 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 4 questions:

- In which way do you respond to the current challenges of young people in relation to democracy through your youth work practice?
- What ideas about an ideal democracy would you already like to share?
- What motivates you to be part of this event?
- Is there anything else we should absolutely know about you?