



DDCP-YD/JP- SOUTH (2013) 3

Budapest, 28 October 2013

Euro-Arab Training Seminar  
**Cooperation and Action for Democratic Youth  
Participation**

29 November – 6 December 2013  
European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

**Course Description  
Call for Participants**

## Democratic Youth Participation

The 'Arab spring' movements initiated in 2011 happened at a time when many young people in European and Arab societies realised their potential to influence and make a difference, leading to their engagement in social and democratic change using social media. After two years the drive for social and democratic change in both regions, often strengthened by the economic crisis, is still strong. Recent public protests in, among others, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, Tunisia while all very different in purpose seem to have in common an expression of discontent of younger generations with political decision making processes.

In both European and the Arab regions, young people seem to have realised that their future depends on their own ability to claim their rights and shape their lives. Young people have been in many occasions at the forefront of the change movement experimenting with new ways of participation, using social media and exploring different ways of self-organisation and decision making.

Faced with the realisation that social change, however, requires a long-term and persistent commitment of many stakeholders that make up the democratic political processes, Human rights education, democratic participation and social inclusion have gained importance.

The concept of *democratic youth participation* was introduced in the Euro-Arab training courses of the Council of Europe in 2012 and has the potential to embrace and represent both the central values and the thematic issues relevant for youth leaders to develop and secure inclusive democratic approaches in youth projects, programmes and policies.

These central values include:

- Democracy
- Youth participation
- Human rights
- Quality and recognition of non-formal education and youth work,
- Human rights education and education for democratic citizenship

The Council of Europe's youth sector is committed to cooperating and working together with partners in the Southern Mediterranean and Arab regions, chiefly with the League of Arab States, in order to promote intercultural dialogue and the development of youth policy and youth work based on democratic participation of young people.

This cooperation builds on the successful experiences of the recent years, which have included training courses in human rights education, a long-term training course on non-formal education and youth projects and a series of activities on youth policy cooperation. This experience has been supported by the Arabic version of *Compass* – the manual for human rights education with young people and, in the near future, of the Arabic version of *Mosaic* – the Training Kit for Euro-Mediterranean youth work as tools for introducing human rights and democracy in youth work and non-formal education activities.

The Council of Europe's youth sector has been active in Euro-Arab cooperation for nearly 20 years. The Council of Europe has supported dialogue between youth organisations and institutions concerned with youth policy, and later has focused on capacity-building for human rights education, intercultural dialogue and development of non-formal education. In the past ten years the possibilities for cooperation were reinforced by the programme of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of

Youth. Since 2006, the Council of Europe has also actively been cooperating with the League of Arab States, namely in the organisation of the Euro-Arab youth fora, co-organised with the European Youth Forum, and whose next edition is planned to be held in Qatar in December 2013.

The social and political changes brought about by what has become known as the *Arab Spring* have placed new responsibilities and opened new opportunities for this cooperation. The Council of Europe is now implemented the *South* programme which, with the financial contribution of the European Union, seeks to support the process of consolidation and development of democratic processes in the South Mediterranean. In this framework, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe has set the basis to develop a programme of capacity-building for democratic youth participation particularly addressed at the Maghreb region, complemented by the cooperation among youth researchers. **A training course for trainers** was thus held in Saleh/Rabat (Morocco) in April 2013, together with an inter-regional seminar for youth researchers.

The Council of Europe and the League of Arab States have implemented in December 2012 a first **training course for trainers for democratic youth participation**. The course was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in December 2012 in cooperation with the *Observatoire National de la Jeunesse* of Tunisia.

These two activities have in common the focus on trainers and multipliers as a target group, and in taking democratic youth citizenship as the central concept for the programme and for the follow-up in the form of the projects of the participants. They were also organised as first step in a longer term process of supporting learning and action in relation to democratic youth participation and intercultural dialogue. This process ought to include international and regional cooperation and seeks to have an impact on the national and local realities of the youth organisations taking part in the course. The graphic below illustrates the process envisaged.



## Aims and Objectives

The training seminar aims to further develop and consolidate the competences of youth leaders and multipliers in democratic youth participation in their role as trainers, activists and project managers through youth projects and non-formal education with young people in the context of Euro-Arab and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

Specific objectives:

- To share experiences on the concepts of democracy, human rights and democratic citizenship and their relevance for local, national or international youth projects in European and Arab societies
- To discuss and identify criteria for quality in youth projects related to democratic youth participation
- To explore current developments and new trends in democratic participation in the European and Arab contexts
- To review and enhance participants' competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes) in working as trainers/facilitators with democratic participation in non-formal learning settings.
- To strengthen participants competences to work with Compass and the T-Kit Mosaic, and adapting their activities to their contexts
- To support participants in developing cooperation projects based on democratic youth participation and aiming to impact on youth policies
- To foster Euro-Arab cooperation and exchange between youth organisations and youth leaders and develop informal networks and partnerships for action at national and regional level.

Within the context of the Council of Europe campaign for human rights online, the **No Hate Speech Movement**, the training course will place specific emphasis on role on combatting Hate Speech in the context of Euro-Arab Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation [www.nohatespeechmovement.org](http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org)

## Methodology and structure of the seminar

The training seminar will consist of three phases and build on the principles of non-formal learning, human rights education and non-formal learning. The methodology builds on principles of participation, learner-centeredness and dialogical learning. This includes peer to peer support, mentoring and sharing (and learning from participants experiences with training for democratic youth participation following their involvement in one of the two courses for trainers).

### **Phase 1 – E-learning - getting ready for the course (November 2013)**

The main aim of this phase is to support participants to assess their learning priorities through a revised self-assessment of their competences and the development needs of their organisation and its projects with young people.

### **Phase 2 – The residential training seminar (29 Nov – 6 Dec 2013)**

The seminar is the central phase for learning and skills developments within the training course: the trainers and participants work together face-to-face and, more importantly, the participants share and discuss their experiences with implementing democratic youth participation projects based on the initial training that they experienced in Saleh or Hammamet. The seminar will conclude on the quality criteria for future national or international cooperation projects to be implemented by the participants after the seminar.

### **Phase 3 – Follow-up (January - July 2014)**

This phase is mainly for consolidating learning, supporting participants in their follow-up (projects, learning) and enabling networking between participants and trainers. Some new learning units will be proposed as well based on individual needs of participants. Particular attention will be devoted to the follow-up of the projects of participants in view of securing their feasibility. The participants are expected to remain connected with the participants from the courses in Hammamet and Saleh who remain active and committed to learning and to cooperate.

The participants are also expected to develop a project or initiative within their organisation addressing youth needs regarding education for Democratic Youth Participation. Support in analysing the needs of the organisation and the community will be provided by peer learners and, the trainers. Where possible, institutional support can be given to the implementation of the follow up projects by the Council of Europe and the League of Arab States.

### **Profile of participants**

Youth leaders active in organisations or youth groups working on education for Human Rights, and/or democratic participation through Youth work, with a *priority* for participants of the training courses for trainers for democratic youth participation held in Tunisia and Morocco in the framework of the cooperation between the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe and the South programme.

All applicants must have proven experience with projects for democratic youth participation and have the motivation and capacity to share experiences and learning further for projects within their organisations during the timeframe of the course.

The League of Arab States and the Council of Europe will, in principle, each invite 15 youth trainers and leaders. Each group of 15 participants should be balanced in relation to sex and reflect the diversity of their communities.

All participants must also:

- be aged between 18 and 35 years
- be able to work in English or French
- be resident in a member state of the Council of Europe or of the League of Arab States
- be available and fully committed to take part in the training seminar, including the preparatory and follow up phases
- Be able to act as trainers or multipliers within their organisations or youth group
- be committed to learn and to apply the values and approaches of the training course, notably human rights, democratic participation and intercultural dialogue
- be involved in youth or community projects in their organisation or youth group
- be involved in an organisation or network, institution, formal and/or informal group that is ready to support them throughout the course and its follow-up
- possess a sense of responsibility for one's own actions and a commitment to personal and community development.

## Practical and financial conditions

### Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the training seminar in Budapest for the participants from Council of Europe member states will be fully reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either by bank transfer after the seminar or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

Travel organisation and expenses for the participants from the League of Arab States countries will be provided by the League of Arab States.

Support for the Visa applications to Hungary will be provided by the Council of Europe.

### Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary.

### Working languages

English and French will be the working languages of the training course, both for e-learning and the residential training seminar. Simultaneous interpretation English-French will be provided for the residential seminar.

## Procedure and deadline for application

All those interested to apply for the seminar are invited to apply on-line at <http://youthapplications.coe.int> by **7 November 2013**.

### Further information

If you have questions or are in need of further information, please do not hesitate to contact Zsuzsanna Molnar, programme assistant at [zsuzsanna.molnar@coe.int](mailto:zsuzsanna.molnar@coe.int) or Menno Ettema, educational advisor at [menno.ettema@coe.int](mailto:menno.ettema@coe.int).

For information about the online application form, please contact Gabriella Tisza, [gabriella.tisza@coe.int](mailto:gabriella.tisza@coe.int).

### Other Courses of the Youth Department

If you are interested in a training course in international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond with the requirements of this course, please note that the Youth Department organises other training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from <http://www.coe.int/youth>