



Republic of Albania
Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports



COUNCIL OF EUROPE **CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

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Budapest, 3 October 2011

Training course on youth participation and youth policy in Albania

Tirana, Albania, 20-27 November 2011
(arrival and departure days included)

Course presentation **Call for participants**

Note: *This call is addressed to candidates residents in the states party to the European Cultural Convention other than Albania. The candidates resident in Albania have to follow the recruitment procedure with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania.*

This course is organised in partnership with:



Youth participation and youth policy in the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest political organisation, created in 1949 on the basis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Today, the organisation brings together 47 member states and its mission in relation to its core values remains fully relevant, as the purpose of building a more cohesive and united Europe remains a permanent challenge.

Youth participation and youth policy development have been the priorities of the Department of Youth of the Council of Europe for many years now. National youth policy reviews, providing support for youth organisations through training courses and through European Youth Foundation are just a few examples of how these priorities are put in practice in the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

The intergovernmental and international co-operation on youth policy development, with particular focus on setting standards and supporting their implementation was stressed during the last Council of Europe conference of the Ministers responsible for youth that was held in Kiev in October 2008. The final document of the conference, "The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020", calls for promoting young people's active youth participation in democratic processes and structures.

Furthermore, the new developments in the youth field include the adoption of the European Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, a focus of the Council of Europe to become more active within the member states supporting them to further develop their democracies, an approaching European ministerial conference in 2012 focusing on the youth access to human rights.

Youth participation is not a static concept; it changes all the time as new ways of participation are being developed this requiring the development of new strategies and the constant involvement of young people in the process. The concept of youth participation needs to be addressed through concrete examples of participation at a local level through increased transparency and through examples of co-management of youth policy, between NGOs and governments.

Training courses on democratic youth participation of young people have taken place in Serbia and Turkey, being organised in cooperation with national authorities on youth, allowing a tailored approach to the needs of each country and a more consistent follow-up at local and national level.

Cooperation between the Council of Europe and Albania in the field of youth participation and youth policy

The national youth policy reviews realised by the Council of Europe have the aim to support the development of a country's youth sector, at its wish, by having an international team of experts analysing its policy and its capacity to deliver and implement it. Issues of concern in the field of youth are selected by both the international team and the government in question and the analysis is based on both research, field visits, governmental sources and a national hearing of the recommendations of the international review team.

Albania went through such a process in 2009 and 2010, the review becoming final and public in March 2010.¹

The review highlights the progress made by Albania in the years following the collapse of the Communist regime in respect to youth participation and youth policy development. A National Youth Strategy has been developed in 2006 and it covers the period of 2007-2013, being developed in a process of consultation with youth organisations and young people. The strategy has been accompanied by a National Youth Action Plan, and efforts to create different structures that will further support the policy development at local and regional level in Albania and the youth field: a National Youth Agency with local and regional offices is to be set up and the Albanian Youth Council has been revived after a period of absence from the scene. As well, efforts to draft a law on youth that will provide the support mechanisms for representation and legal infrastructure are currently made by the Ministry.

With support of UNICEF, a network of youth parliaments has been established in Albania in the past 7 years, while also the so called children' governments (student councils) continue to improve their functioning.

A training programme aiming to increase youth participation in decision making and to strengthen youth leadership, focusing also on the Revised Charter on Youth Participation at Local and Regional level has been already organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports in April 2011, with more than 250 active young people and youth representatives attending.

The youth policy reevaluation also suggests several areas where further action is needed in order to ensure that youth participation is a reality and opportunity for all young people in Albania and that youth policy development and implementation is realised with the support of all stakeholders.

The number of active youth NGOs is still low and the support measures to enhance their existence, such as favourable law and funding opportunities are scarce. The recognition and support for non-formal education/learning is still limited and that more structured and focused information systems for young people need to be developed.

¹ Howard Williamson & all, Youth Policy in Albania. Conclusions of the Council of Europe international review team, Council of Europe Publishing, 2010. The publication is available [here](#).

While there is a huge progress in respect to youth participation, a real commitment to this issue and youth NGOs, along with serious support from international donors, further action is needed to strengthen the overall infrastructure. International work and cooperation of Albanian youth NGOs needs to be further supported, especially in the context of EU accession.

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A training course on youth participation and youth policy

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The training course is organised by the Council of Europe Department of Youth in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania and with the support of the United Nations Population Fund Albania.

The United Nations Population Fund Albania is one of the major donors of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports in regard to implementation of Youth Policy and its Action Plan. UNFPA's main contribution over the years has been in the areas of peer education and trainings, advocacy and awareness for healthy lifestyles with the main focus reproductive health; design and development of health education curriculum.

Aims and objectives of the training course:

The training course aims to develop participants' competences in enhancing youth participation at local, regional and European level, but as well to stimulate co-operation and contribution of different actors in the youth field in Albania in view of youth policy development and implementation.

The training course follows a national youth policy review in Albania conducted by an international team of the Council of Europe and published in 2010. The national youth policy review is available [here](#).

The objectives of the training course are:

- To develop participants' knowledge and understanding about the Council of Europe's approaches to youth participation and principles of youth policy development and implementation, particularly the revised European Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life and the Manual "Have your Say!";

- To reflect on the role, responsibilities and values of different stakeholders in Albania in promotion and development of youth participation and youth policy;
- To share experiences and views on related with enhancing youth participation in Albania and identify good practices;
- To support the participative development and implementation of youth policies at local and national level while involving all stakeholders in the process;
- To reflect on the practical use of the national youth policy review;
- To reflect and discuss the role of the local youth councils and their contribution to making youth participation a reality at all levels;
- To support co-operation between various actors and stakeholders involved in youth work at local, national and international level;
- To develop personal and social competences such as negotiation, cooperation and conflict management skills, as well as team work competence;
- To develop future cooperation projects between the participants aimed at reinforcing youth participation in youth policy.

Programme elements and methodology of work

The programme elements of the training course include: youth participation as a human right, introduction to the Revised Charter on Youth Participation in Local and Regional Life and the accompanying manual 'Have Your Say!', the national youth policy review along with the national strategy for youth and the national action plan, but as well examples of good practice and tools in enhancing youth participation and the development of youth policy, while emphasizing the role of youth work and youth organisations.

The programme will foresee space for sharing and debate of realities, challenges and good practices of participants, but as well will encourage and support development of follow-up projects.

The methodology of work

The programme is developed by an international team of trainers selected by the Council of Europe.

Working languages

The course will be held in Albanian and English with simultaneous translation.

Dates and venue

The training course will take place in Tirana, Albania between 21 -26 November 2011. Participants are expected to arrive on 20 November and depart on 27 November 2011.

Profile of participants

The training course will bring together experienced youth workers, youth leaders and other practitioners who have the possibility to further promote and facilitate youth participation in their daily work, but as well decision makers and/or representatives of national or local youth authorities able to foster a participative approach to youth policy development and implementation.

The course will bring together 30 participants, out of which 6 will be international participants, residents in other states party to the European Cultural Convention than Albania.

Interested candidates should fulfill the following profile:

- Be youth workers, youth leaders or civil servants actively working in youth organisations or youth services;
- Have already experiences in projects related to youth participation and/or youth policy in their realities;
- Be motivated and interested in exploring the concept of youth participation and youth policy and ready to share their experiences and knowledge with other participants;
- Be in a position to multiply the experience gained during the course in their realities, particularly through networking and follow-up activities with partners from Albania;
- Be supported by a youth organisation, state institution or other body, that will ensure their support for the participant's participation and initiatives (participants need to attach to their application a support letter from this organisation);
- Be available for the full duration of the training course;
- Be able to work in English;
- Be residents in one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Turkey;
- Be preferably between 18 – 35 years of age.

Knowledge of Albanian language is an added value for the candidates.

Selection procedure

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at <http://youthapplications.coe.int/>.

The preparatory team will select participants on the basis of the profile outlined above, ensuring a balanced group (sex, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations).

A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed as to whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list, by 26 October 2011.

All application forms must be completed by **19 October 2011**.

Financial conditions for participants

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The travel reimbursement will be done by bank transfer after the course. Only those participants who attend the course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania and the UNFPA Albania.

Enrolment fee

An enrolment fee of 60 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Other activities of the Department of Youth

If you are interested in other activities related to international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond with the requirements of the course, please note that the Department of Youth organises several other activities, including study sessions and training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers. Some of these offers are run within a Partnership on Youth, jointly run with the European Commission.

Further information about the courses can be obtained from the Department of Youth and the Partnership sites: <http://www.coe.int/youth> and <http://www.youth-partnership.net>