

The Bureau of the Congress

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Summary of projects drawn up and implemented by youth delegates

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Country	Youth delegate	Project
Albania	COPA Besart	<p>Educating the Albanian youth in Tirana on the functions of the Congress at an international level and how this is significant to us at a local level. This goal is to be achieved by cooperation with the Department of Youth of the Municipality of Tirana. The plan is specifically divided into two core projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Working with the foundations of Tirana's youth council 2) Working with the staff of the Department of Youth. In addition to working with these two parts in order to promote youth participation and democracy at local and regional levels, I am also working for their participation in organizations of greater governance, such as the Council of Europe, and the United Nations (always talking about youth participation) Report
Armenia	POGHIOSYAN Lida	<p>The project aims to raise awareness of young people on the ways they could be involved in the matters concerning them and to promote the youth participation through the implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and its best practices and methodologies. The target group will be informed about the role, activities and functions of the Council of Europe with the spotlight on the Congress and the role of youth delegates. Report</p>
Austria	OSL Clemens	<p>Since 2007, an active voting right in Austria is bestowed on young people aged 16. Nonetheless, among many young voters their understanding of politics has proven not very high. Often this deficit can, as it seems, be easily overcome by allowing young people to get in touch with political institutions and dynamics at an early age already, to gain their own impressions and insights.</p> <p>To get acquainted with the regimes of transnational cooperation – to which political education, for some reason, still pays low attention – around 35 young pupils aged 15-17 of the Federal High School “Bregenz-Blumenstrasse” (Austria) will undertake a study trip to Strasbourg. During their stay, they will attend the Congress’ plenary session (19/10/2016, 14h15), visit the European Court of Human Rights, the European Parliament, and get in touch with some of the youth delegates.</p> <p>The main aim is to encourage the pupils to develop a clear understanding of democracy, of rule of law as a guarantee for stability and security, and of human rights as the fundamental basis for peaceful coexistence in our pluralist societies. In preparation for their visit, I gave an introductory class on transnational politics. Report</p>
Azerbaijan	ALIYEVA Sevil	<p>Raise awareness of the youth policy of the Congress amongst Azerbaijani youth and active youth participation in the local democracy of Azerbaijan; Report</p>
Belgium	GODEAUX Nastassia	<p>To raise youth awareness of the ways they could be involved in the matters concerning them and support the youth participation in the local and regional communities. The project's goal is to familiarize young people with the idea of getting informed, exchanging ideas, being able to debate on different topics concerning them and offering solutions formed into arguments, concrete enough to be presented in the related authorities" (Alkistis Giogou, Youth delegate from Greece). More specifically, the Youth Us project in Belgium will aim to include young regulars of youth clubs, in a constructive discussion around the topics to be discussed during the October session, and thus give them the opportunity for their words to be relayed directly, restore their confidence in politics and give them the will to fight for their interests. Report</p>

Bosnia and Herzegovina	DZIHIC Mustafa	<p>To increase Youth participation in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and political parties at Local level and in upcoming Local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2nd October 2016) With this project I want to encourage and support Youth in Local Communities to participate in elections. My project will include training which will raise awareness that voting on elections is something more than civil duty. Also, my project will target political parties in a way that they include more Youth on their voting lists. Project will support Youth to take an active part in a Political life on Local level.</p> <p>1) take an active part in founding "Youth council Center-Sarajevo" 2) achieve good connection between "Youth Council Center-Sarajevo" and Youth department within "Općina Center-Sarajevo" local authority 3) achieve better promotion of Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. Report 1 Report 2</p>
Croatia	BARAC Ivana	<p>1. Develop youth participation and inform young people about the Charter and share practices from other two countries; 2. prevent prejudices - cooperation with countries in the neighbourhood will show participants of this project that we are not that different as the society says to us, but that we can work together with the goal to secure a bright future for all of us; With this research I would like to show how youth policy in Croatia is neglected and how all the activities in achieving objectives are not implemented in the proper way, but only "on paper". As I already mentioned, I think that would make youth in Croatia more familiar with the document and ideas that Council of Europe is trying to introduce them with. Report</p>
Czech Republic	VYBIRALOVA Lenka	<p>The main aim of the project is to raise awareness between youth in regards to the possibilities of involvement and participation in their communities and beyond and making their voice be heard.</p>
Denmark	KRISTIANSEN Kevin Broby	<p>The main problem in the community is the low interest of young people in participation in the decision making locally, but also at the national level. This was also a burning issue articulated by some of the national delegation during last Congress' session. Furthermore, another issue was the lack of knowledge in the non-organized youth. By giving them the tool of best practices and examples, these young people can maybe get that extra push it takes to either organize themselves or simply take action after getting inspired by others. Report</p>
Estonia	PAABO Triinu-Liis	<p>During three days in October 11-13, 79 young people from Tallinn will come together to play the role of a city council member for 3 days and understand better what rights and opportunities the members, that they can elect at the end of 2017 actually have. Youngsters will get more familiar with the work of the Tallinn City Council and will get to know more about Tallinn city youth council and the opportunities of being an active member of the society Report</p>
Finland	MAUNU Maija	<p>The project's main aim is to raise youth's awareness in the ways they could – and should- participate and have a say, through the implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and its best practices and methodologies. Simultaneously, the target group will be informed about the work, the significance and the tools of the Council of Europe, the institution of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, along with its basic principles and objectives, and the role of the youth delegates participating in its sessions.</p>

France	MARQUES DUARTE Paul	<p>1. To highlight the youth participation process that already exist at local and regional level and to develop new ones</p> <p>2. In partnership with the League of Education, create a one-day festival about youth participation in Rennes, in schools, colleges and universities.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to provide information to young people (their rights, the European Youth Charter, how they can have a say..)</p> <p>Examples of actions during the festival: a phone booth to talk about youth implication (then broadcasted on local radio), a poster contest, a local TV show, a giant chalkboard installed on the town hall square to write on...</p> <p>3. Develop the festival with the Leagues of Education of other regions to perhaps make it a national day celebrating youth participation! Report</p>
Georgia	CHAPIDZE Giorgi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To foster the engagement of young people in policy planning and implementing processes at grassroots level 2. Raise the youth's awareness about the opportunities they can use to participate in decision-making process 3. To advocate and strengthen the representativeness of youth voice 4. To set up a constructive dialogue framework between youth and policymakers in order to promote democracy 5. To establish cooperation mechanisms between local authorities and youth representatives in order to foster involvement 6. To promote initiatives on how to make youth voices heard in local governmental institutions 7. To provide young people with the knowledge on how to coordinate their ideas 8. To raise young people's awareness about their rights to information and consultation concerning local policies 9. To advocate the establishment of community-based youth organizations working on regional self-governmental issues 10. To develop the sense of initiative among youngsters to take part in democratic processes. Report
Greece	GIOGIOU Alkistis	<p>The Youth Us Project aims to raise youth awareness through the implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. The target group will be informed about the work, the significance and the tools of the CoE & the CLRA, along with its basic principles & the role of the youth delegates. Therefore, I have been invited to share my experience and spread the project in the national TV channels ERT1,TV100 & ERT3 (on 26.3.16,28-29.3.16) & I have held 4 seminars in local schools (on 14.4.16,20.4.16,09.5.16,9/2016), to an audience of 240 children (12–16 years old).A group of 40 students have applied for the project, have learned about some practices of the Charter (info tests, polls, leaflets ,diagrams etc),are currently editing a video about raising youth awareness which will be launched internationally through the social media and will shortly attend official meetings in order to learn about the Charter & discuss the topics of the 31st Session. Report</p>
Hungary	VINCZI Alexandra	<p>Raise awareness amongst youngsters with the topics of active citizenship, democracy and participation. I wish to gather good practices and new and fresh opinions on the matters concerning Local and Regional Authorities, and make sure that the great ideas of young people back home are really heard. I wish to contribute to teaching our youngsters how to be part of a new kind of society, where the decisions are made considering all points of views.</p> <p>Ultimately I would like to show the target group of my project the international dimension of the project – since many of us youth delegates are working with the same basic ideas – and show them that although we live in different parts of Europe, youngsters are ready and want to be involved everywhere. Report</p>

Iceland	EINARSDOTTIR Rut	<p>After the last congress session I went and met with the recently founded Youth Council in my hometown. Although they had existed for over a year, they had made no real impact, as they did not know where to start. After speaking to other youth delegates we have realized that this is an all too common problem all over Europe, and providing a concrete report of best practices will give ideas and inspiration to young leaders all over Europe, giving them further unity. Report</p>
Ireland	KEATING Lucas	<p>My project set out to find ways to encourage young people to become involved in politics and bridge the divide between elected representatives and young people. I want to include young people in a constructive discussion around the topics being discussed in politics, and thus give them the opportunity for their word to be relayed directly, restore their confidence in politics and give them the will to fight for their interests. Too often the voice and opinions of young people are not heard! First I began by meeting various youth groups, Waterford Youth County Council, Ogra Fianna Fail (Young Fianna Fail) and began discussing with its young members how they became interested in politics as well as educating them on the work of the COE and CLRA. I also contacted every youth town and county council in Ireland - almost 50 - and again asked for their opinions on this matter - how can we encourage more young people to get involved in politics? After this I went to my local school, Colaiste Muire Cobh. I am involved in Politics I applied for this position as Youth Delegate for Ireland because I found myself wanting to make a difference. I began to wonder, a person either wants to make a difference or doesn't, can we change this? how can a persons' mind-set be changed? it's like some people will play soccer, some will play hurling. I then began to look at this and began wondering why do some towns have a higher percentage of people playing soccer over hurling and some have a higher percentage laying hurling over soccer. The reason - the opportunities and facilities provided by the club. If the soccer club is active in encouraging young people to get involved in the club, then of course it will have a very high membership rate. So to encourage young people to become involved in politics we should apply the same method. We need councils and the government to become active in encouraging young people to become involved in decisions that are being made and to look for the opinions that young people have. I then met with the secretary of my national delegation, Mr Liam Kenny, and we began to look at this. We decided that we could look to lobby the Irish Government to sign the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. This charter is signed by some nations already but is not signed by the Irish Government. We felt together that if we could begin to lobby various groups and try to get this document signed by the government it would help to encourage young people to get involved in politics as they would see the Government making an effort to recognize young people. The active participation of young people in decisions and actions at local and regional level is essential if we are to build more democratic, inclusive and prosperous societies.</p> <p>Local and regional authorities, as the authorities closest to the young person, have a very important role to play in promoting youth participation and they will be the first group that we begin to lobby. This will be undoubtedly a long process, and more than likely will not be signed by the October session but we will work to ensure that this document will get signed by the Government. As this document focuses on enhancing channels for young people to participate I am confident that young people will get involved, at the end of the day this is what all sporting clubs do every day to get new members and it works extremely well for them!</p> <p>Document (pdf) : Charter participation</p> <p>Report</p>

Italy	MAZZUCATO Erika	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform thousands of young people about their rights, their chances, their opportunities to make their voice heard by the Council of Europe, by the Congress and by the Italian Local and Regional Authorities in particular; 2. Give my contribution to fill in the democratic gap; 3, raise the awareness of the Institutions on the importance to get young people involved in their communities; 4. Stimulate dreams, hope, trust in our common future and in our Europe; 5. Collect data concerning youth participation; 6.learn best practices concerning youth engagement and active participation; 7. stimulate and encourage young people because they want to get their hands on their future, they want to be hands-on people and they have at the same time the responsibility to hand on the Europe built by the Founding Fathers and Mothers to next generations;
Lithuania	JONUSAITE Rita	<p>To educate young people on ways to take part in decision making processes besides voting. That they can seek for cooperation with their local and regional authorities and present tools for them, one of them would be the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young people in Local and Regional life. As a result young people will be encouraged to use all possible ways of participation to become active members of their societies. Besides every day activities regarding this matter a workshop took place with more than 20 participants discussing reasons behind low level of participation as well as possibilities to actually get involved and make a change cooperating with the local and regional and even national authorities.</p> <p>Report</p>
Moldova	DONI Corneliu	<p>My project consists of monitoring the local public administration from Chisinau. I formed an initiative group with 3 people and we analyse the activity of the mayor of the city and the local council. We focused on the problem of the excess of the billboards. In order to understand better the point of view of citizens, we created a local survey in which 781 people from Chisinau participated and the results were very disappointing. 78% are dissatisfied with the activity of local public administration and 90,3% dislike the aspect of the city. Therefore, we sent our results to our local public authorities and asked them to undertake concrete actions in order to solve the problem of billboards. We advertised our activity on some youth Facebook groups, sites of different NGOs and soon I will participate on a national radio show where I will speak about our activity.</p>
Montenegro	JOVICEVIC Dimitrije	<p>The main goal of this project is to promote importance of quality implementation of the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life in Montenegro. Report</p>
Netherlands	ROOD Sebastiaan	<p>Many city and regional councillors are supportive in attitude for youth participation, but lack the expertise on how to realize proper inclusion of young people into decision making processes. We try to deliver in the need of these delegates to provide them with practical know how in how to foster youth participation in ways that will both satisfy young people and the councillors themselves.</p>
Poland	OTREBA Paulina	<p>The project's main goal is to raise the youth's awareness in the ways they could participate and have a say, through the implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and its best practices and methodologies. Simultaneously, the target group will be informed about the work, the significance and the tools of the Council of Europe, the institution of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, along with its basic principles and objectives and the role of the youth delegates participating in its sessions. Report</p>

Romania	BLIDARU Madalin Catalin	1. Promote the Revised European Charter on Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. 2. Encourage youth mainstreaming at municipal level by organizing a debate with local elected representatives on proposals for youth participation and inclusion in the policy-making process. Report
Russian Federation	NURIEV Aynur	1. Promote youth activities for the good of local communities 2. Increase transparency of the elected candidates (representative bodies) 3. Through increased transparency show young people that much needs to be done for the good of communities and so that youth has a real chance to take a seat RESULTS so far: a web platform is being created to promote transparency of the elected deputies and youth activities as well as to facilitate youth activities through competition with elected deputies CoE Charter on Youth Participation will be promoted there as a cornerstone of the youth participation right to have a say and be elected at local and regional levels. Report
Serbian	SKARO Milica	The important goal of the project is to start the dialogue between young people and local representatives and political personalities, in order for them to learn what obstacles local representatives have when they wish to approach youth issues in their communities. Also they will learn how their local councils work and how they can get involved in their work. Moreover, they will get introduced to the Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional life and how it can help them fulfill their rights. On the regional level the main goal is to share the experience and knowledge when addressing the youth participation in the development of the local community, and to gather young people and motivate them to recognize how they can help each other. Report
Slovak Republic	PANIKOVA Nina	This was also a burning issue articulated by some of the national delegation during last Congress' session. I will address this problem which is also unfortunately connected with radicalisation of young people in Europe. I will address the High school parliamentarians from Turiec Region in Slovakia and call on them to try to engage those who are not interested in public affairs and try not to exclude these individuals but take them on board.
Slovenia	STEGER Tine	To achieve recognition by the main decision makers at local level that involvement of people in reconstruction process is important is one of my major objectives. Secondly, I would like to activate especially young people in settlement Fala to actively participate in co design process of new, planed playground. We should empower them to give many suggestions, proposals. Report
Spain	VIVAS DEL TORNO Carlos	The project supports international cooperation between the work groups through modern methods of communication (skype connections etc), along with more interactive procedures (videos etc.), which will make the project more approachable to young people. It is also very important that the young people involved feel that their ideas are taken into account and will be heard and possibly used in practice.
Switzerland	RUFENER Adrien	The project's main aim is to raise youth's awareness in the ways they could – and should - participate and have a say, through the implementation of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and its best practices and methodologies. Simultaneously, the target group will be informed about the work, the significance and the tools of the Council of Europe, the institution of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, along with its basic principles and objectives, and the role of the youth delegates participating in its sessions. This project should also be the opportunity to stress the links between the different policy levels, especially the regional/local levels with the European one. Report

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	MILOSHEVSKI Martin	<p>My first goal is through practical implementation of the Manual on the revised European Charter on the Participation of Young people in Local and Regional Life of Council of Europe, to train members of local youth councils, to detect particular youth issues and find solutions for overcoming this issue, create plan for advocacy & lobbying and submit request in the municipality their initiative to be included in the municipality budget for 2017.</p> <p>My second goal is to raise the level of youth information through promotion of the Council of Europe, promotion of the Manual on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young people in Local and Regional Life, promotion of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, and youth participation in the session of the Congress. Report</p>
Turkey	DOGAN Mehmet Murat	<p>Gain an in-depth understanding of European and Turkish experience in local governance, politics. Raise awareness and knowledge about the challenges of local democracy and participation (especially the problems that Turkish local authorities are facing). Exchange experiences, practices, opinions related to local governance, democracy, participation etc. Offer a space to collect different and unique country-specific ideas and solutions to some problems. (Get ideas and inspirations on the related topics/issues) Create a synergy between the youth delegates. Introduce different funding opportunities that are provided by local authorities. Increase youth delegates' understanding of youth participation and governance principles. Learning different methods, tools to develop/implement local projects focusing on local youth participation. Report</p>
Ukraine	LIUSHAN Maksym	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To start a project of the development of the future leaders of Ukraine 2. To increase the level of knowledge of Ukrainian youth about the Council of Europe and the Congress, 3. To give an opportunity for active youth to feel themselves in the shoes of the member of the Congress, by simulating the plenary sitting of the Congress and giving an opportunity to the youth to take a floor. 4. To give an opportunity for active youth to feel themselves as experts and reporters, by proposing for 7 participants to develop a report on one of the Councils of Europe work directions and present the report during the sitting. 5. To popularize the Congress among Ukrainian youth, to stimulate bigger amount of youth to apply for the right to become the youth delegate for the next Congress Sessions. 6. To stimulate and support cooperation of the youth from different regions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To start the project on active co-operation between local authorities and youth delegates of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe, that could become an example for the members of the Congress' 31st Session in October. 2. Increase level of knowledge of the youth from member countries about Dnipropetrovsk, public administration and executive power structures, examples of the active youth participation in the life of the city and region. 3. To create a report on the working process of the local authorities of the Dnipropetrovsk city and on youth involvement in the life of the city and region. Report
United Kingdom	SAIDI Michelle	<p>To Promote the importance of Europe in the United Kingdom. Hear the voices of young people and how they would have voted in the referendum if they could. Help shape the views of young people in Manchester regarding the views they take on Europe Create ways that will make young people feel a part of Europe Educate the youth of Manchester about Europe the continent and what that means. Report</p>