



DJS/TC Serbia (2009) 1

Strasbourg, 24 August 2009

TRAINING COURSE ON DEMOCRATIC YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN SERBIA

**Belgrade (Serbia)
19 – 25 October 2009**

Note: This call is open only for residents of one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Serbia. Residents of Serbia interested in this call should apply directly to the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia at www.mos.gov.rs or by email omladina@mos.gov.rs.

Presentation of the course

Call for Participants

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; 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 Directorate of Youth and Sport 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. The participation of young people in public life requires that public life is organised in such a way that it makes a real participation offer and makes participation and involvement possible and enticing. However, studies indicate that many young people perceive public authorities as corrupt and thus unattractive for joining. 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. Participation reaches wider than the city council, the region and local structures and politics. It concerns schools and universities, urban environments and even family life. It flourishes in an environment that encourages open and frank interactions and dialog.

Youth participation is also not a static concept, it changes all the time as new ways of participation are being developed. However, they still need the development of strategies that should be implemented and young people should be constantly involved in this process.

This training course is co-organised by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia.

Aims and objectives of the training course

The main aim of the course is to develop participants' competences in enhancing democratic youth participation on local, national and European levels and to stimulate co-operation between different actors in youth work and youth policy development and implementation.

The course has the following specific objectives:

- To explore the meaning of youth participation and its different forms and to discuss the ways it can be promoted and fostered;
- To explore links between democratic youth participation, human rights education and intercultural learning;
- To reflect upon the roles, responsibilities and values of the different actors (NGO, civil servants, local authorities, international institutions) in promoting and developing youth participation in Serbia;

- To share views and exchange experience related to enhancing youth participation in participants' youth work realities;
- To familiarise participants' with the Council of Europe's approaches to youth participation and principles of youth policy development and implementation;
- To develop effective ways of implementing youth policies on local and national levels;
- To reflect on the practical use of the national youth policy reviews and the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;
- To develop personal and social competences, such as negotiation skills, co-operation and conflict management skills and team work;
- To develop a strong network and possibly plan future cooperation projects between the participants.

Dates and venue

The course will be held from 20 – 24 October 2009 (5 working days) in Belgrade. The participants should plan to arrive on **19 October** and to depart on **25 October**.

Participants

This course will bring 30 participants – 25 youth workers, youth leaders and representatives of local and national authorities + 5 participants from outside Serbia (mainly from the neighbouring countries).

All participants should:

- Be youth workers, youth leaders or civil servants actively working in youth organisations or youth services;
- Be motivated and interested in exploring the concept of youth participation and youth policy;
- Be in a position to multiply the experience gained during the course in their realities;
- Be available for the full duration of the course;
- Be able to work in English;
- Be residents in one of the parties to the European Cultural Convention other than Serbia. Residents of Serbia interested in this call should apply directly to the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Serbia at www.mos.gov.rs or by email omladina@mos.gov.rs.
- Be preferably between 18 – 35 years of age.

Working languages

The course will be held in English.

Application procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at <http://courses.opencontent.it/>.

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 20 September 2009.

Deadline for applications

All application forms must be completed by **15 September 2009**.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

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 whole course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia and the Council of Europe.

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 Directorate of Youth and Sport

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 Directorate of Youth and Sport 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 Directorate of Youth and Sport and the Partnership sites: <http://www.coe.int/youth> and <http://www.youth-partnership.net>

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