



DDCP-YD/LTTC Serbia (1)
2012

Strasbourg, 20th January

**Training seminar for trainers
on democratic youth participation and youth policy
for social inclusion in Serbia
Stara Planina, 5-11 March 2012**

**PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Note: Please note that the selection of participants is realised separately. If you are a resident in the Republic of Serbia, please send this application form to: trening@mos.gov.rs. If you are a resident of a state party to the European Cultural Convention other than Serbia, please send this application form to: anca-ruxandra.pandea@coe.int. To check the states party to the European Cultural Convention, please click [here](#).

Youth Policy and Youth Participation in the Council of Europe and Serbia

Created in 1949 to promote and defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, the Council of Europe now encompasses 47 member states. Youth and youth issues are a constant concern for the organisation, which develops youth policy standards at European level through the work of the Youth Department.

Youth participation and youth policy development have been the priorities of the Department of Youth Council of Europe for many years now. National youth policy reviews¹, providing support for youth organisations through training courses and other activities in its European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest 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.

Social inclusion of young people and access of young people to their social rights has become a constant priority of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe since 2008. A long-term project, Enter! Access to social rights for young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, was organised by the youth sector between 2009 and 2011. The three-year project aimed at “developing youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods”. The Enter! Youth Conference took place in September 2011 and gathered young people and youth workers from a disadvantaged categories to share practices and work together on a Recommendation to be passed on by the Committee of Ministers to member states. In participants’ message to the Council of Europe the commitment of the Council of Europe and its member states to be equally committed to improving the access to social rights for all young people through implementing sustainable youth policies at local and national level that are based on social rights and are realised in consultation and partnership with all young people.

To follow-up and consolidate the results of Enter! Project, the Youth Department will focus on developing activities in partnership with local and national authorities that will aim at creation of youth policies that ensure access to social rights of all young people and youth structures and mechanisms of participation that are representative for all youth.

In the recent years, significant progress was achieved in the field of youth policy in Serbia. Starting with the establishment of a Ministry of Youth and Sport in 2007, and continuing with the establishment of a National Youth Strategy in the immediate year, achievements started to unfold in the country:

- a network of local youth offices has been developed in the country along municipalities and local authorities, fostering youth participation at a grassroots level;
- a youth law was adopted in 2011, regulating the sector and providing a common understanding for youth work context. The law is the first official document to define youth work and non-formal education in Serbia, it defines the different youth policy structures and the support mechanisms.

Training courses on democratic youth participation of young people have taken place in Serbia, Turkey and Albania, being organised in cooperation with national authorities on

¹ For further information on national youth policies review, please see [here](#).

youth, allowing a tailored approach to the needs of each country and a more consistent follow-up at local and national level.

The Council of Europe has supported youth policy developments in Serbia, notably by organising, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport, two courses on democratic youth participation and youth policy in 2009 and 2011. The courses focused on developing competences of youth workers, youth leaders and civil servants in enhancing democratic youth participation at local, national and European levels and to further stimulate co-operation between different actors in youth work and youth policy development and implementation in Serbia. The courses led to the creation of a network of experienced youth workers and leaders able to further support youth participation in Serbia.

Building on the achievements of the two previous courses and the interest of developing further more the access to social rights of all young people the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia will organise a training course for trainers in order to support development and sustainability of quality youth work in Serbia.

The aim and objectives of the long term training course:

The course **aims** to develop the competences of twenty-five trainers, coming from Serbia and the neighbouring area, in order to contribute to the development of the quality of youth work in Serbia, based on the quality standards developed by the Council of Europe.

The course **objectives** are:

- to increase the knowledge on the Council of Europe values and principles, as well as work particularly in the youth sector and in respect to youth policy, youth participation and social inclusion of young people;
- to develop the knowledge and understanding of participants on youth work, non-formal education, youth policy, youth participation and social inclusion;
- to further increase knowledge about the Council of Europe's Revised Charter on Participation of Young People at Local and Regional level, the Have your Say manual on youth participation and the European Social Charter;
- to develop the competences in advocacy for youth work, non-formal education and participatory youth policy;
- to develop the competences in developing, planning and implementation of educational activities based on the values and principles, notably intercultural non-formal education, but as well as quality criteria of the Council of Europe;
- to initiate the development a national network of trainers able to further support work on youth participation and social inclusion at local and national level.

Competences addressed by the course:

- knowledge and understanding of the values and principles of the Council of Europe ;
- knowledge and understanding of the specifics of youth work and non-formal education, including youth workers training;
- knowledge and understanding of the Council of Europe Revised Charter on Participation of Young People at Local and Regional level, European Portfolio for Youth Leaders and Youth Workers, the Have your Say manual on youth participation and the European Social Charter;
- knowledge and understanding of youth policy and youth policy mechanisms particularly in respect to social inclusion and participation of young people;
- competence to advocate for youth work, non-formal education and youth policy;
- planning of educational activities based and through the values and principles of the Council of Europe;
- development of educational approaches, based on non-formal education;

- design, implementation and evaluation of training programmes;
- work in intercultural teams and with intercultural groups;
- organization and facilitation learning process of groups and individuals;
- self-directed learning;
- to reflect and ensure quality of intercultural non-formal education.

The course aims to also initiate the development of a national network of trainers able to ensure quality in different youth educational training programmes.

Methodology and structure of the long term training course

The long term training course is designed in three phases, each of them meant to develop participants' competences. The course is based on non-formal education principles and approaches, being at the same time a mutual learning situation, where participants can compare their approaches to training and to youth policy and youth participation work at local and national level. The course will also include a practice phase practice, where participants will have to implement a training project on youth participation and youth policy. To the extent possible, the Ministry of Youth and Sport will associate participants with projects funded by the Ministry.

The course relies also on a distance-learning dimension that will begin in March 2012 and continue until a second seminar and is meant to support and assist participants' competence development and their training project implementation.

The learning process of the course will thus include three distinct but interrelated phases:

Phase 1 – The first residential seminar, 5-11 March 2012, Serbia

The seminar will be an important element in learning and skill development, but a well for group building and preparing for the project phase. Plenary sessions and working groups will provide opportunities of exploring different issues and deepening participants' competences. The seminar will finish with the identification of training projects for human rights education to be practiced by the participants between the two residential seminars.

Phase 2 – Project implementation and distance learning (March 2012 – February 2013)

In order to consolidate the learning of the first seminar, and to further develop training competences, participants will have to gain practice on one training project (a training course in which they take a trainer role). To support them in this phase, distance learning will be offered by the team of trainers through e-learning platform of the Youth Department along with mentoring and support visits to the projects. Participants are expected to commit to minimum 1h/week for e-learning.

A third phase is currently planned to involve a second seminar in February 2013 that will be dedicated to evaluation of the second phase and consolidation of learning. Important sessions will be dedicated also to networking and future plans. Additionally, specific workshops will be offered to develop particular competences of the participants.

Participants and profile

The course will bring together 25 participants: **20 trainers and experienced youth workers resident in the Republic of Serbia** and **5 international participants** from states party to the European Cultural Convention other than Serbia (mainly from neighbouring countries of Serbia).

All participants should:

- be trainers, youth workers, youth leaders or civil servants/youth office coordinators actively working on issues of youth policy, youth participation and/or social inclusion at local, national or European level;

- be motivated and interested to explore the concept of youth participation and youth policy;
- be in a position to multiply the experience gained in the course in their realities, through training projects;
- be able to follow-up the results of the training course within their organisations or institutions;
- be available to attend the full duration of the courses, and commit themselves to a minimum 1hour/week to e-learning based activities;
- have ICT competences necessary to fully participate in e-learning phase of the training course and have access to internet for 1-2 hours/week;
- be able to work autonomously in English, both oral and written communication;
- be aged between 18-35 years, exceptions can be made on basis of strong justification.

The **international participants** should, in addition to the above criteria, also:

- be able to act as resource persons in the training course;
- be interested in developing cooperation projects on youth policy and youth participation with NGOs and institutions from Serbia;
- be supported by an organisation/institution.

Priority will be given to participants residing/ or actively working in South East Europe.

Working languages

The course will be held in English.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Please note that the selection of participants is realised separately. If you are a resident in the Republic of Serbia, please send this application form to: training@mos.gov.rs.

If you are a resident of a state party to the European Cultural Convention other than Serbia (international participants), please send this application form to: anca-ruxandra.pandea@coe.int. To check the states party to the European Cultural Convention, please click [here](#).

Deadline for applications

All application forms must be duly completed and submitted by **15 February 2012**.

Financial and practical conditions for participants

International participants

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed, based on relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The travel reimbursement will be done by bank transfer after the course. Only participants who attend the entire duration of the course will be reimbursed. You will have to organise your travel from your place of residence to Belgrade and back. *Bus transport from Belgrade to Stara Planina will be provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia.*

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. The accommodation will be arranged in hotel Stara Planina, www.hotelstaraplanina.com, in double rooms.

Participants resident in the Republic of Serbia

Travel

Bus transport between Belgrade and Stara Planina will be provided and organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia. Travel expenses from place of residence to Belgrade are the responsibility of Serbian participants.

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.

Other activities of the Directorate of Youth and Sport

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 details please consult our webpage www.coe.int/youth or contact one of the European youth centres.

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