



## ENGAGE CITIZENS IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING!

### **School on Participatory Democracy 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 In Ankara, Türkiye**

**Application Deadline: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy, Directorate General II of Council of Europe has the pleasure to invite practitioners from local authorities and civil society organizations from Türkiye, who wish to broaden their knowledge of participatory democracy concepts and tools at local level to attend the forth “School on Participatory Democracy”.

The School on Participatory Democracy Tools is organised by the **Division of Elections and Participatory Democracy of the Council of Europe** in cooperation with the **Association of Civil Society Development Center - STGM** within the framework of the EU-funded project entitled "Monitoring Freedom of Association", which is currently being implemented by the Association of Civil Society Development Centre (STGM). Standards and instruments of the Council of Europe on participatory democracy will be presented by international and Turkish experts with long-standing experience in the field. An interactive learning environment will provide opportunities to learn about good practice examples, to share experiences and to interact with experts and other practitioners on how to effectively engage citizens in local political decision-making. [The first School on Participatory Democracy Tools](#) was organised in Winter 2021/22 with [a one-week training in Tbilisi/Georgia](#).

The training in Türkiye comprises an online introduction meeting, on the **2<sup>nd</sup> October**, followed by a face-to-face training on **9 – 13 October** in Ankara. An assessment of the further training needs will define the follow up in-depth trainings, that are planned for 2024.

The **Introduction Meeting** will provide participants with concepts and values underlying civil participation in local political decision-making and share Council of Europe standards and guidelines on civil participation. It will address some of the most prevalent challenges that the participants face in increasing citizen engagement and introduce the agenda for the face-to-face training in Ankara.

Following this, the experts will assign some “homework” to the participants, such as reflection on their experiences as far as participatory tools are concerned, so to have some “food for thought” to be shared during the in-presence School in October.

At the onsite training “**School on Participatory Democracy**” in Ankara participants will meet for a 5-day training that will combine presentations of concepts, case studies, tools and models for inclusive citizen engagement with interactive group exercises and roundtable discussions. The sessions will cover a variety of approaches to citizen engagement at the



local level, strategies for maximizing inclusion, exercises for designing public consultations plans, and include toolkits and case studies on a range of themes pertinent to participatory policy making at the local level.

A training needs assessment, which will be conducted in December, will identify further training needs and areas of interest of the participants, which will be followed up in 2024.

### **Who can participate?**

Public officials (including elected officials) from local authorities (LAs) and representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) from Türkiye. **Working language will be English**, the participants are required to speak sufficient English to express themselves and share their experience. Participants from the side of municipalities and civil society should be already working or planning to work on shaping or implementing policy decisions where citizen engagement is an important driver of informed, effective, and sustainable policymaking. Participants from an institution and a CSO of the same municipality will have the opportunity to jointly develop a practical strategy to be implemented in their community.

30 participants will be selected, 15 representing municipalities and 15 being representatives of the national and local civil society.

### **Criteria for the selection of participants**

Participants will be selected against the following criteria:

- Fluency in English
- Gender balance
- Geographical distribution
- Balance between CSOs and LAs representatives
- Experience in participation to decision making process of municipalities or monitoring and evaluation of decision-making processes would be an asset for CSOs
- Experience on working with CSOs for involving them in the decision-making process would be an asset for representatives of the municipalities.

### **What to expect of the school?**

The goal is to create a shared understanding and knowledge of Council of Europe's values and standards on civil participation and relevant tools to be implemented in participants' specific local contexts.

### **Lecturers:**

The training cycle will be moderated by Mrs Anna Ditta (ALDA+) and Natalya Chernogub (NGO "Open Data association")

**Anna Ditta.** Trainer and practitioner with more than 15 years' experience in the capacity building of CSOs and LAs, as well as on citizens' mobilization, having as methodological reference the Council of Europe Code for civil participation. For the Council of Europe, she already moderated the Academy for local civil participation in Sarajevo (2021) and Belgrade



(2022), addressed to LAs and CSOs and aimed at presenting the CoE standards and tools, as well as support the cooperation between the trainees in their local realities.

**Natalya Chernogub.** Council of Europe Expert, Head of NGO “Open Data association”, think tank. Her research topics include citizen participation in public space planning, democratic innovation, open data. Natalia is a head of an open data committee of the Public Council of the Ministry of digital transformation of Ukraine. She has been co-facilitating the School of Participatory democracy in Georgia and in Croatia and is a long-standing Council of Europe expert and trainer for Civil Participation.

### **Logistics and costs:**

The School on Participatory Democracy will take place in Ankara. The travel and accommodation costs of participants, meals and the closure dinner will be covered by STGM within the framework of the EU-funded project entitled "Monitoring Freedom of Association".

**Working Language:** English

### **How to apply?**

We invite interested practitioners of local authorities and civil society to fill out a registration form in order to apply for the Council of Europe School. The application deadline is **18<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 18:00**. Selected participants will receive written notification and logistical information by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

To apply, please click on the

[REGISTRATION FORM FOR MUNICIPALITIES](#)

[REGISTRATION FORM FOR CSOS](#)

### **Key dates:**

- Deadline for the interested candidates to apply for the School: 18th September 2023
- Information to the candidates about the selection results: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023
- Online introduction meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, 10.00 - 12.00 Türkiye time
- Council of Europe School on Participatory Democracy Tools: 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Assessment on further training needs: December 2023

### **Contacts**

The agenda of the School is attached to the present call for participants and available on the website of the hosting organizations: STGM.

For questions related to the contents of the School:

Anna Ditta : [anna.ditta@alda-europe.eu](mailto:anna.ditta@alda-europe.eu)



For questions related to the logistics of the event:  
Ezgi Karataş, [ezgi@stgm.org.tr](mailto:ezgi@stgm.org.tr)