



World Forum for Democracy

2017

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Is Populism a problem?

Youth training Strasbourg, 6th-7th November 2017

World Forum on Democracy, Strasbourg, 8th-10th November 2017

As a response to the success of the 2016 edition of the World Forum on Democracy, the Joint Council on Youth has agreed to involve the youth sector of the Council of Europe, through the Youth Department, in the 2017 edition of the World Forum for Democracy.

The sixth edition of the Council of Europe's World Forum for Democracy will engage with decision-makers, young people and opinion-formers to review novel initiatives and approaches which can enhance democratic practices and help parties and media, but also other political actors, to re-connect to citizens, make informed choices and function optimally in 21st century democracy.

In this period of transition from representative to post-representative democracy, the World Forum for Democracy will explore ideas and initiatives which address some of the following questions:

- Given the complexity of political agendas and the vacuum of convincing answers, how to express protest or accede to power without populism?
- How to nourish political culture which embraces a long-term perspective and resist populism?
- Are there social structures that can replace political parties in building social capital and providing frameworks for grassroots political debate participation and decision making? Is there a danger of such social structures (e.g. faith groups) becoming more politicised?
- Should stronger intra-party democracy be encouraged or would internal leadership debate only lead to more personification of politics and weaker parties?

- How to make sure that online media and communities foster pluralism and deliberation rather than extremism and polarisation?
- Can we support the emerging online media with user-based rather than advertisement based business models which have a strong ethos of pluralism and user participation?
- Should there be changes in the voting systems (issue-based voting in addition to or instead of party-based voting, limitations of mandates, non-partisan legislatures, popular recall etc.)?

The core content of the Forum will consist of discussions about successful initiatives and actions, which have real-life initiatives as a starting point. General guiding principles will then be drawn to encourage and support future policy responses and field action. The draft concept note about the 2017 edition of the World Forum for Democracy can be found [here](#).

In this context, the Youth Department will invite 60 young people to participate and engage with decision-makers and opinion-formers in a reflection on the question of populism: its various forms as well as real stories.

In this edition of the World Forum for Democracy, we wish to invite young people who have been involved either through youth organisations, political parties, political movements or other projects in initiatives related to the question of populism.

For this purpose, applicants should send a 1-minute video (see instructions below) explaining what populism means to them. The video should be inspiring and based on a real-life testimony of how participants themselves are concerned by the topic.

Preparing for the World Forum on Democracy

Once selected, participants will be informed about the different labs and side events that will take place and will be invited to choose their preference for attending. They can make contact with the organising bodies which will implement the initiatives (labs) in order to receive further information about their structures. One of the side events will be a simulation exercise on the guidelines for civil participation in political decision-making. There will be up to ten places available for the youth participants in this event.

A small online space will be created for participants to get to know each other, share ideas and experiences beforehand and consult documents related to the World Forum.

In order to best prepare for the World Forum, selected participants will gather in Strasbourg two days before the start of the World Forum to learn about the Council of Europe and its work with youth, to get to know each other, to develop their ideas, plan their actions and work together with the guidance of an international team of trainers.

All selected participants should arrive on Sunday 5th November and depart on Saturday 11th November. A Youth meeting will take place for all participants on Monday 6th and

Tuesday 7th November in the European Youth Centre before the World Forum begins on 8th of November.

During the World Forum for Democracy

During the World Forum, the youth participants will join the different labs and side events. Participants may be given particular roles in the labs and side-events according to their interests and competences (rapporteurs, moderators, audience, critical thinkers...).

Altogether, the youth participants should be active partners and contributors to this World Forum, bringing in their own ideas and initiatives. Beyond the labs and side-events, the participants may organise parallel activities to make their voices heard and present their visions of whether populism is a problem or not (flashmobs, creative walls, living library, storytelling etc...).

Profile of participants

In order to be selected and participate in the World Forum 2017, youth applicants should:

- Be aged 16-30 (exceptions can be made in special cases);
- Be resident in Europe; 15 places will be made available for participants from other regions outside the European continent;
- Be able to communicate and work in English;
- Be actively involved in civil society democracy initiatives;
- Be motivated to contribute to developing new ideas on youth and democracy;
- Be ready to share own challenges faced in relation to populism and its effects on society;
- Be ready to adopt a solution-oriented approach by bringing in new ideas and visions on the question of populism;
- Be available to participate fully in the World Forum for Democracy and the preparation process beforehand.

The youth representatives will be chosen on the basis of these criteria and the video to be submitted. The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

A few limited places will allow for participants from the previous editions of the World Forum to participate.

Application, procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply in 2 parts:

1. An online application form should be completed via this link:
<http://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

2. A short **1** minute video should be posted on YouTube, with the link attached to the online application form (see **instructions** below).

The Youth Department and its team of trainers will select 60 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. The selection will also take into account balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed if their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by **Tuesday 13th September 2017**.

Please note that selected participants requiring a visa to come to Strasbourg will need to start visa procedures immediately after being informed of their selection.

Deadline for applications

The application form including the video link must be submitted on-line before **Tuesday 11 July at CET 13:00 (1 p.m.)** together with a support letter from your NGO/sending organisation if this is relevant. In case of technical problems with the use of the platform, please send an e-mail to youthapplications@coe.int. For any other questions please send an e-mail to WFDYouth@coe.int. You are strongly advised to apply before the deadline in order to check that your registration is complete. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Working language

The common working language of the event will be English. Candidates must be able to use English independently in order to be able to work and communicate efficiently.

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa costs will be reimbursed upon presentation of the relevant receipts, according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire event (pre-Forum meeting and World Forum) can be reimbursed. The payment will be made by bank transfer after the World Forum. Prepaid tickets for travel can only be arranged in exceptional and justified cases.

Accommodation

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Council of Europe (arrival on Sunday 5th November and departure on Saturday 11th November). Participants will be accommodated at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg (EYCS). You might be requested to share a room. The EYCS is fully accessible to young people with disabilities and ready to adapt to young people's special needs in order to ensure full inclusion and quality working conditions. Wi-fi is not provided in the rooms.

TECHNICAL NOTE ON HOW TO UPLOAD A YOUTUBE VIDEO

Use the following instructions to send us your video¹. **In view of the high number of applicants expected you should please note that in case of technical difficulties in viewing the video your application will be refused. Please therefore make sure that your video can be viewed in advance.**

On YouTube:

1. Create a google account if you do not already have one at <https://accounts.google.com/SignUp>
2. Go to youtube.com
3. Click the Upload link at the top of the page.
4. Select the video you'd like to upload from your computer. You can also record a video from your webcam, or create a video slideshow.
5. Once the upload is completed YouTube will notify you that your video is done uploading and processing
6. ADJUST YOUR PRIVACY SETTINGS: When you upload a video, it should be set as a "Public" video, which means that anybody can view it.
[if you have problems with having a public video you should find a way of sending it separately]
7. Copy the URL address of the video in to your online application form.

All videos should be sent with the application within the time limit **(Tuesday 11 July at CET 13:00 (1 p.m.))**.

Content info

Applicants must reply to the following question with a 1 minutes video and insert the link to the video on the on-line application form

VIDEO SUBJECT: What does populism mean to you?

¹ Please keep in mind that your video might be chosen to be used on the Forum's social media communication platforms during the World Forum for Democracy. Therefore, you should be clear, inspiring, honest and creative! Enjoy...