

The project:

Young European Leaders for Active Citizenship (#YELAC) was funded with the support of the European Union under the "Europe for Citizens" Programme

Applicable to Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "Networks of Towns"

4 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation

The event involved **29 citizens**, including:

- 1 participant from the city of **Maldegem (Belgium)**;
- 6 participants from the city of **Brussels (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Tallinn (Estonia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Jyväskylä (Finland)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Thiron-Gardais (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Strasbourg (France)**;
- 2 participants from the city of **Tbilisi (Georgia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Kecskemét (Hungary)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Munich (Germany)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Hveragerði (Iceland)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Bridgend (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Convy (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Angus (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Mazsalaca (Latvia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Švenčionys (Lithuania)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Scherpenzeel (Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Apeldoorn (Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **The Hague (Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Belgrade (Serbia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Galdakao (Spain)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Bilbao (Spain)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Valencia (Spain)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Karlstad (Sweden)**

Location/Dates: The event took place in **Rome (Italy)**, on 16/12/2014

Short description: Debate in “World Café” style to encourage collaborative dialogue and active engagement of the participants in identifying and discussing the most pressing European challenges for young people at the local level.

More concretely, the first activity, which took place in the framework of the CEMR conference on citizenship and twinning 2014, served to identify and discuss specific topics and policies of particular interest to young people –such as employment, education, housing and civic participation. Forming groups around different tables to which specific topics were assigned, all of the participants sat at each roundtable for a determined period of time before moving on to another table/topic. The main objective was to identify the most pressing problems for young Europeans at the local level to be discussed individually in future activities of the project in a more focused way.

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Event 2

Participation

The event involved **28 citizens**, including:

- 8 participants from the city of **Brussels (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Maldegem (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Kanepi Vlad (Estonia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Tallinn (Estonia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Thiron-Gardais (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Orleans (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Bridgend (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Newport (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **South Lanarkshire (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Angus (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Inverclyde (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Maribor (Slovenia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Thessaloniki (Greece)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Dublin (Ireland)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Mazsalaca (Latvia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Švenčionys (Lithuania)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Apeldoorn (Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Scherpenzeel (Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Braga (Portugal)**;
- 2 participants from the city of **Cluj-Napoca (Romania)**

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Brussels (Belgium)**, from 23/06/2015 to 24/06/2015

Short description: The aim of the second activity was to have a collaborative dialogue on the most innovative policies and practices in the fields of education, employment and housing coming from the constituencies of young councillors, mayors and participants. These topics were the three most pressing issues for young people in Europe from the local perspective identified in the first activity (the question of participation was addressed in the third activity of the project). To do so, participants identified the most innovative policies and practices in these three fields in their constituencies in order to pool them during the "World Café".

Eurofound also provided the group with evidence-based good practices from their research in this three fields at the local level in order to give complementary inputs. At the same time, *Eurofound* helped us to identify variables of potential success, as well as barriers and transferability conditions. During the activity, participants also had the opportunity to learn about good practices in these three different fields coming from cities that were awarded with the *European Youth Capital* title in the past, (as well as from the *Network of European Youth Capitals*). Finally, participants and young elected representatives had the opportunity to exchange with young MEPS on how to better coordinating between levels of government when implementing EU policies, as well on the challenges of multilevel governance from the youth perspective. There were then both a horizontal and vertical dimensions in the discussion.

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Event 3

Participation

The event involved **30 citizens**, including:

- 1 participant from the city of **Maldegem (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Farciennes (Belgium)**;
- 2 participants from the **city of Huy (Belgium)**;
- 5 participants from the city of **Brussels (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Tallinn (Estonia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Thiron-Gardais (France)**;
- 2 participants from the city of **Orléans (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city **Bridgend (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Dundee (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Convy (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Angus (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Highland (UK)**;
- 3 participant from the city of **Edinburgh (UK)**;
- 1 participant form the city of **Glasgow (UK)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Dublin (Ireland)**;
- 1 participant form the city of **Waxford (Ireland)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Mazsalaca (Latvia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Švenčionys (Lithuania)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Braga (Portugal)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Castricum (The Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Olst-Wijhe (The Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Oestgeest (The Netherlands)**

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Edinburgh (United Kingdom)**, on 09/12/2015

Short description: The aim of the 3rd activity was mainly to discuss about the challenges with respect to youth participation in public affairs and politics in general from the perspective of local and regional government. The first part of the activity consisted in an exchange of best practices of youth participation at the local level between young elected representatives. Participants pooled best practices in their respective constituencies and provided their views on the transferability of the practices presented. *Eurofound* assisted in this exercise and presented a short overview of their research on good examples of youth participatory initiatives from the local level. The *European Youth Capital 2015*, Cluj-Napoca, also presented its participative budgeting initiative in the framework of the title that they were awarded with by the European Youth Forum.

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The second part of the workshop consisted in an exchange of impressions and views on how to strengthen youth participation from a multilevel governance perspective. More concretely, young elected representatives and representatives of institutions working on youth-related issues had the opportunity to discuss how to strengthen coordination between different levels of government to enhance youth participation from a vertical perspective, as well as learning about the different structures and organisations at the European level working on this field (main documents, initiatives, etc.).

The idea was for young local and regional elected representatives to learn how to create synergies between their work and the one at the European level (Council of Europe structures on youth, European Youth Forum, etc.). Not only to have better guidance and learn about other practices coming from other levels of government (European), but to also encourage them to participate in the EU decision-making process on youth-related issues from a vertical perspective to influence legislation and to mainstream youth participation at all levels.

Event 4

Participation

The event involved **27 citizens**, including:

- 1 participant from the city of **Maldegem (Belgium)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Farciennes (Belgium)**;
- 5 participants from the city of **Brussels (Belgium)**;
- 2 participants from the city of **Stara Zagora (Bulgaria)**;
- 3 participants from the city of **Nicosia (Cyprus)**;
- 2 participant from the city of **Orléans (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Oustreham (France)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Lille (France)**;
- 3 participants from the city of **Tallinn (Estonia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Berlin (Germany)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Düsseldorf (Germany)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Mazsalaca (Latvia)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Švenčionys (Lithuania)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Braga (Portugal)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Castricum (The Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Oestgeest (The Netherlands)**;
- 1 participant from the city of **Oslo (Norway)**

Location / Dates: The event took place in **Nicosia (Cyprus)**, on 22/04/2016

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Short description: The objective of the last activity of the project aimed at collecting the main conclusions of the project with respect to the different topics addressed. In this respect, we discussed several policy recommendations (covering employment, education housing and civic participation) in order to guide the next steps of the *Standing Committee of Young Local and Regional Elected Representatives of CEMR*, the main CEMR structure working on youth-related issues from the end of the project onwards.

The following questions were addressed to young local and regional elected representatives and participants in the last activity:

- What are the main conclusions you draw from each of the three different activities of the YELAC project? Have you already used some of the outcomes of the activities you attended in your own municipality?
- Could you choose two or three main policy recommendations for each of the topics we identified as important to address for young people (education, housing, employment and participation)?
- What is the main challenge with respect to each of these four topics in the future and how can the Standing Committee of Young Local and Regional Elected Representatives help to address them at the EU level from a bottom-up perspective?
- How could the multi-level governance of youth policies be strengthened in order to deliver a better response to the challenges particularly affecting young generations?

Twitter hashtags:

#YELAC and **#CEMR2014** (for the first event)

News and articles about the project in the press and other websites

<http://lobiettivonline.it/giovani-e-cittadinanza-attiva-primo-rapporto-del-progetto-yelac/>

<http://www.ccre.org/en/activites/view/36>

<https://www.holyrood.com/articles/news/european-young-councillors-meet-edinburgh>

<http://europourlescitoyens.org/les-exemples-de-bonnes-pratiques/young-european-leaders-for-active-citizenship-yelac/>

<http://www.ccre.org/en/actualites/view/3004>

Power Point Presentations, Event Agendas and Background documents:

<http://bit.ly/2gGmd6r>