



European Local Democracy Week





What is the European Local Democracy Week?

The “European Local Democracy Week” (ELDW) is a pan-European event held every year in October.

Local and regional authorities from the 47 member states of the Council of Europe are invited to organise public events, with the aim of:

- ▶ **Focusing the attention of European citizens** on local democracy, to increase their knowledge and involvement in local politics.
- ▶ **Encouraging elected officials** to increase and deepen their dialogue with citizens to revitalise local democracy.
- ▶ **Promoting the role of the Council of Europe** and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in strengthening local democracy and the respect of human rights across Europe.

The ELDW takes place around the 15th of October as a tribute to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which was opened for signature on that date in 1985.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is responsible for the coordination of the ELDW.



What concrete examples of ELDW initiatives ?



What concrete examples of ELDW initiatives have already been implemented?

- ▶ **Public discussion on participatory budgeting projects** – Metz, France;
- ▶ **Public debates on participatory democracy** with elected representatives in municipalities of Andalusia region, organised by Junta de Andalucía – **Spain**;
- ▶ **School competitions, workshops and expositions** to educate young people on human rights and democracy – Tbilisi, **Georgia**;
- ▶ **Citizen survey** on improving local democracy – Katowice, **Poland**;
- ▶ **Neighbourhood meetings connecting 13 municipalities**, under the leadership of the association 'Polignano R-Evolution' – **Italy**;
- ▶ **Drama workshops on children's rights** – Büyükçekmece, **Turkey**;
- ▶ **Election of schools' self-government bodies** – Oulianovsk, **Russia**;
- ▶ **Open days** in the public administration services – Kairouan, **Tunisia**.





How to take part in the European Local Democracy Week?

The ELDW is open to local and regional authorities, associations, NGOs and other national organisations in Europe and beyond.

The ELDW officially takes place every year during the week of 15 October. However, participants may choose to schedule their European Local Democracy Week at a more convenient time around this date.

All information on registration is available on the ELDW website.

www.coe.int/demoweek

The website of the ELDW contains

- ▶ General information, thematic ideas, reference texts, events from previous years, as well as a toolkit.
- ▶ Logos, posters and leaflets, downloadable in several languages.
- ▶ A list of national co-ordinators, partner associations and contacts details for Congress ELDW Team.



Which status to choose?

- ▶ **Partners** are local and regional authorities which implement activities in the framework of the ELDW.
- ▶ **Associations** of local and regional authorities, as well as NGOs and other European and international organisations are invited to take part in the ELDW and encourage initiatives to be implemented in their communities.
- ▶ **The “12 STAR” label** is awarded to participants who, at the time of their registration, commit themselves to fulfil the following five criteria :
 - 1 **Allocate** a specific budget for ELDW activities.
 - 2 **Launch** a promotion campaign using the graphic visuals provided by the Congress.
 - 3 **Organise** a number of activities linked to the current main theme of the year.
 - 4 **Involve** different groups of citizens in the initiatives, in particular young people.
 - 5 **Organise** an event with a European dimension, to highlight the role of local authorities in building a democratic Europe.

3 STEPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELDW

- 1 fill in the online registration form www.coe.int/demoweek-registration and create your own ELDW account,
- 2 plan and organise events related to the main theme of the year and to topical issues in your community, using the visual identity of the ELDW,
- 3 make your activities visible through the ELDW website by uploading them to your account.

What is the added value of the ELDW for your community?



- ▶ **Promoting** a participative culture by engaging citizens in community life and in local politics.
- ▶ **Enhancing** the quality and intensity of citizens' participation in local affairs and their knowledge of European organisations.
- ▶ **Increasing** the trust of citizens in elected representatives and institutions, by encouraging their participation in a more open and transparent decision-making process.
- ▶ **Strengthening** the sense of mutual responsibility between citizens, elected representatives and their communities.
- ▶ **Developing** exchanges between citizens.
- ▶ **Giving** a European dimension to the activities of your community.

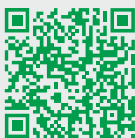
Contact



democracy.week@coe.int



www.coe.int/demoweek



www.coe.int/congress

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. It comprises 636 elected representatives representing more than 200,000 local and regional authorities.

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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