

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

International Seminar on
Strengthening Local Democracies

The role of Local Youth Councils (LYCs) in Europe

29th April 2026
Brussels, Belgium

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

This activity will be organised by DYPALL Network in partnership with Bureau International Jeunesse (BIJ), Forum des Jeunes, Bataljong and CRECCIDE.

DYPALL Network (Developing Youth Participation at the Local Level) is a European platform of civil society organisations, local authorities and research institutions focusing on youth participation in decision-making processes at the local level. We stand for active and meaningful involvement of young people in local democracies through cooperation with local authorities and we provide the space and the resources for capacity building and exchange of good practices among our members.

DYPALL Network has the following objectives:

- Develop structures and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making at local level
- Identify best practices and introduce innovative approaches on public governance in cooperation with local authorities and civil society organisations active in the field of youth
- Foster youth engagement and inclusiveness in representative and participatory democracy processes
- Build capacity and provide technical assistance on various areas and processes like policy-making, advocacy, structured dialogue, co-management, and more
- Mainstream youth policies at local and regional level (such as youth Guarantee schemes) to develop cohesive and engaged societies

DYPALL Network's field of action covers four programme areas, with a common goal of fostering quality development of democracies by enhancing youth engagement in local and regional public policy-making. Within these areas, our programmes feature a variety of international projects and activities, as well as tailor-made services for our members, partners, and institutional stakeholders. Our programme areas are:

- Quality development for stronger democracies
- Youth empowerment
- Inclusive democracies
- Innovating democracies

For more information visit www.dypall.com

HEAD-OFFICE

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YP LAB

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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACIES

Recent Eurobarometer data reveals a concerning trend: young people's trust in democratic institutions is declining, while exposure to misinformation and extremist narratives is rising.

However, we believe the solution lies at the local level. Initiatives like the European Youth Strategy and the Democracy Reloading partnership have shown that when young people are given a seat at the table - specifically through Local Youth Councils (LYCs) - they become more resilient to populism and more likely to engage in lifelong democratic process.

This seminar brings together youth leaders, ENLYC members, and local stakeholders to debate how we can improve the quality, outreach, and impact of these vital democratic spaces.

Date: 29th April 2026

Location: Bureau International Jeunesse (BIJ), Brussels, Belgium

Working language: English

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- Exchange practices that support the quality development of LYCs in Europe
- Promote the recognition of LYCs as a relevant youth participation mechanism that can contribute to young engagement in public policy development
- Discuss how LYCs can increase their impacts on the awareness and engagement of young people in other democratic processes (e.g. participating or running for elections, etc.)
- Support the discussion and reflection on the current situation of LYCs in Belgium

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PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The participants must be:

- Youth work professionals (coordinators / managers / youth workers / supporters) directly responsible for supporting or managing a Local Youth Council (LYC) within a Belgian municipality
- Committed to strengthening local democracy
- Able to work in English
- Ready to actively contribute to workshops and international networking

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The seminar will take place in Brussels (Belgium) at the

📍 Bureau International Jeunesse (BIJ) on the 29th April 2026.

PROGRAMME

9:30 Welcome space

10:00 Opening remarks

Presentation of Belgian models and practices

- How are LYCs organised in Flanders?
- How are LYCs organised in Wallonia?

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Round table for exchanging international practices “The role of LYCs in strengthening local democracies”

Examples from a few countries across Europe

12:30 Networking lunch

13:30 Parallel workshops:

W1: Assessment Tool for LYCs

W2: E-learning Tool of Democracy Reloading

W3: How to engage youngsters in the LYCs?

14:30 Field visit TBC

16:30 Departures

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APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply for participation in this activity please fill in the online application form:

<https://forms.gle/yDP1hrawztnEnwqZ6>

The deadline for applying is 15th April 2026 by 23.59 CET.

FUNDING

The activity is funded by the Bureau International Jeunesse (BIJ).

CONTACTS

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Marija Krstevska at marija.krstevska@dypall.com

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