

# CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

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## 1° DYPALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**“Youth Policy at Local and Regional level:  
Developing our territories trough youth  
participation in decision making”**

## Background & Context

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Since 2011 Cooperative ECOS and their international partners have dedicated efforts in fostering the potential of young people to be active citizens and actors of real social change in their local communities, as well as in their regional and international realities. In the wide range of implemented activities, we can stress the DYPALL Network where we have been involving and strengthen the cooperation among municipalities and organisations working in the field of youth. This project and all the different local, national and European experiences strengthened our belief that it is crucial to develop a new culture of youth participation, especially when in regard to decision-making processes on issues of direct concern and interest of youth. It is essential to look at youth as a forceful and creative source of solutions for our societies that can largely contribute for their development.

We believe that creating an effective and sustainable involvement of youth on decision-making with and in cooperation with local authorities' demands willingness and commitment from both parts, but also the development of knowledge, sharing of experiences and tools to create and to develop further these spaces of shared decision-making. This demands the development of strategies, building of structures and relations of trust and cooperation between actors.

Fortunately, we can already find few but still a diverse range of practices across Europe in terms of having young people directly involve in decision-making at local and regional level, where strong bonds and cooperation are boosting the involvement and participation of youth and youth organisations in representative democracy structures in their local communities. However, we still miss a deeper reflection, a space and structures for the development of competences of the youth workers, youth leaders, local authorities' officers responsible for youth and other people involved in developing and supporting structures to enhance youth participation at the local level.

## International Conference

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With this international conference we want to highlight the importance to develop the quality of youth work done at local level. Following the conclusion of the II European Youth Work Conference held in April 2015 we want to bring into reflection how can local youth organisations and local authorities work together to develop local youth policies. Something that is often developed at national level, but rarely developed at local and regional level.

We believe that for complex and demanding challenges solutions need to come from the grass roots level. With this international conference we aim to increase the capacity and awareness of local authorities, youth workers and youth leaders to be able to cooperate for the development of local youth policies that are able to address, specific policy fields such as employment, youth participation, inclusion and youth emancipation.

## Objectives

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- > To identify and to promote structures and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making and debate about their potential and challenges on public governance;
- > To develop more inclusive approaches to foster the participation of young people with fewer opportunities into spaces such as local youth councils and youth fora;
- > To develop the capacity of the participants to work together (civil society and public authorities) on the field of youth public policy;
- > To allow youth organizations and municipalities to share their best practices in terms of cooperation between local authorities and civil society;
- > To support the development and implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes at local and regional level in coordination with all relevant stakeholders.

## Participants Profile and Conditions

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The Conference will be a space for development of our competences, dialogue and sharing of experiences among different actors in the youth field, public officers, youth leaders and youth

workers, experts and researchers on youth policies development, co-management and structured dialogue.

**Organisations partners in the project** should select **2 participants** to this event:

- The responsible for the implementation of the DYPALL Network within the organisation;
- 1 representative of the municipality (counsellor or officer/youth worker)

The organizers will fully cover board and lodging during the activity days and will reimburse till a maximum defined per country 100% of your travel expenditures, upon previous agreement and confirmation with the organizers.

## Draft Program

Day1 Youth Participation	Day 2 Youth Employment	Day 3 Youth Inclusion &Emancipation	Day 4 1st Annual Meeting of DYPALL MOs
Official Opening Session	Panel: Youth as an engine for our local economies development	Round Table: How to make Youth Policy More Inclusive to all young people	Our Network – who we are? What we do?
Youth Panel -Youth Challenges in Youth Participation in Europe	Best Practices Sharing: Innovative and Inspiring examples into youth policy for better quality jobs for youth	Gallery of Initiatives of Practices contribution of Youth Emancipation	Where we want to go as a Network
Best Practices in Action: Meaningful Youth Participation	Working Groups: Identifying experiences for better employment and entrepreneurship policies	Youth Policy in Practice: Visits to local youth organizations and local public entities	Networking and Structured Space for Follow Up Projects
Sharing of Local Youth Policy Practices in Europe	Workshops: Entrepreneurship, Increasing Employability tools for supporting job search; existing youth support programmes "Youth Guarantee"	Cultural Evening	Funding Opportunities for our initiatives
Competences Development: Presentation skills; Communication and Facilitation of youth groups (from theory into practice)			

## Venue

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The International Conference will take place in the city of Portimão, situated in the Barlavento area of Algarve region. Portimão is located closed the Atlantic Ocean.

You can check the venue [here](#)

You can check some photos of the city of Portimão [here](#)

## Registration Procedures

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So **if you** are interested in taking part in this training, please **fill in the online registration form here**: <https://form.jotformeu.com/algarve2020/dypallregistration>

The deadline to receive the registration form is the **14<sup>th</sup> of February 2016**.

In case you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us at our e-mails: [ana.morgado@ecos.pt](mailto:ana.morgado@ecos.pt) and/or [bruno.antonio@ecos.pt](mailto:bruno.antonio@ecos.pt)

## Coordinating Organization

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ECOS – Cooperativa de Educação, Cooperação e Desenvolvimento, is an organization run by professional youth workers and educators active on the development of youth programs and Structure Dialogue on local, national and European level. ECOS has as its main goal of action the promotion of non-formal education and social integration. Through our activities, we try to contribute to the development of a more human, sustainable, fair, inclusive, participative, democratic, equitable, cooperative, dialogical and integrated society.

Our **Mission** is to contribute to the development, nurturing learning, the construction of trust bonds and fruitful alliances among social actors, entrepreneurs and institutions (through dialogue and cooperation) and articulating agendas of action.

Our scope of **intervention** are on the following axes:

1. Creation of spaces for structured dialogue, cooperation and collective construction among diverse social, business and institutional actors;

2. Promotion, design, implementation and evaluation of playful, educational, social, cultural and sustainable development projects, in formal and non-formal spaces, through non-formal education, always in a way that it complements formal education and contributes to lifelong learning;
3. Development of organizations capacity to do a more efficient management of their resources and projects through training and new technologies of information and communication;
4. Monitoring, support, assessment and consultancy to individuals, organizations, institutions and respective educational programs and social intervention projects;
5. Promotion, recognition and validation of non-formal education and other alternative pedagogical methodologies that contribute to social transformation.

## Contacts

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