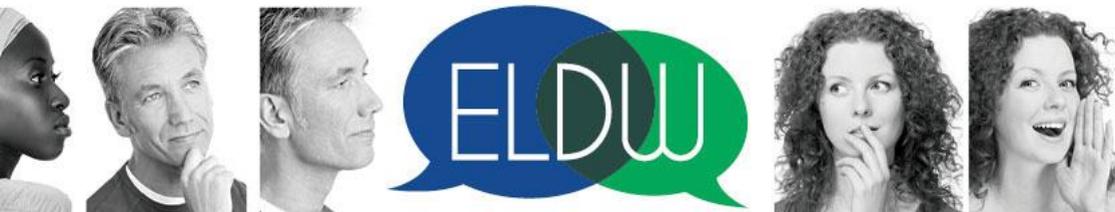


European
Local
Democracy
Week



ASSESSMENT OF THE 2019 EDITION

The Congress

Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**ASSESSMENT OF THE 2019 EDITION
OF THE EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY
WEEK**

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**Andreas Kiefer,
*Secretary General of the Congress***



Dear ELDW partners,

2019 was a special and significant year for the European Local Democracy Week: a year of assessment, reflection and innovation.

After the 2018 Edition, the Congress renewed its commitment to promoting the ELDW and further developing it for the benefit of local and regional authorities and all European citizens. In particular, the Congress adopted a resolution at its November 2018 session based on the work of the reflection group that introduced new arrangements, including the possibility of organising activities throughout the year, and the adoption of a new status – “Partner of the European Local Democracy Week” – to replace the “12-Star status”.

2019 was accordingly the first year of implementation of these new arrangements and saw an increase in the number of municipalities taking part. It was also the first year of implementation of the biennial theme chosen for 2019-2020 entitled “Local democracy: building trust”, which was approved by the Bureau of the Congress on 4 April 2019.

Also in 2019, the Bureau appointed new Thematic Spokespersons, Bryony Rudkin (UK) and Mihkel Juhkami (Estonia), and I would like to thank them for their commitment and dedication to the ELDW.

Against the background of growing distrust in democratic institutions, the local level remains the bedrock of a democracy resilient to populist tendencies, so I firmly believe that the ELDW can make a major contribution to the development of democratic education and the restoration of trust in institutions. It represents a real tool for strengthening local democracy in Europe and beyond.

With regard to the 2019 Edition of the ELDW, let me congratulate the 86 local and regional authorities, their associations and the civil society organisations from 19 countries that celebrated the Week with us and reported on their activities via the ELDW's new website with its new interactive functionality. I look forward to welcoming them and many other old and new partners during the 2020 Edition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Lenzi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'L'.

THE ELDW

The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is an annual pan-European initiative launched in 2007 with the aim of boosting citizen participation at grassroots level. It is co-ordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The events and activities organised in the context of the ELDW are dedicated to bringing citizens and local elected representatives together across the 47 Council of Europe member states.

The ELDW is intended to provide an international framework for cities and municipalities throughout Europe to promote awareness of the rights and responsibilities of each individual in a democratic society, whether as an elected representative, public servant or ordinary citizen.

The ELDW also offers opportunities for its partners to be part of a bigger international community engaged in promoting active citizenship.

A pan-European *community* of local authorities, through which they can share innovative ideas on participation and good practices and conclude twinning arrangements, and thus learn from one another's experience and use it to further develop their activities.

A *community* of elected representatives, who can better inform their citizens, not only about what they can do for their local constituencies, and how they can do it but also about what they can achieve at the pan-European level through their elected representatives.

And lastly, a *community* that enjoys the support of the Council of Europe's recognised expertise, and above all its extensive knowledge of the concept of democratic citizenship and its carefully developed participatory tools.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN TWELVE YEARS OF THE ELDW

A network of cities and associations committed to fostering participatory democracy at the local level has been set up. Over the years, this initiative has brought together more than 1 000 partners. For 2019, more than 250 activities were organised by some 80 partners.

Synergies with other Congress activities have been developed, for instance, with the Congress's co-operation programmes in Ukraine, Armenia, Albania and Georgia – presentations on the ELDW were held during seminars for elected representatives, as a practical Congress tool for strengthening citizen participation. It has also been possible to increase co-operation between the Congress and local partners in the Southern Mediterranean region as a result of the participation of the Tunisian association, *Casamance Ecologie et Paix*, in ELDW 2019.

Synergies exist between the ELDW and other relevant initiatives of the Council of Europe and its international partners, such as the Parliamentary Assembly's Europe Prize, the Intercultural Cities programme, the No Hate Speech Campaign and the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).

As ELDW partners are mainly small communities and remote towns, the ELDW has helped make them better known outside their own countries and showcase their good practices on citizen participation in the rest of Europe. The ELDW has served as a platform for sharing these good ideas between Council of Europe members at the subnational level, thus building a bridge between EU member states and their neighbours.

By maintaining direct contacts with municipalities, as well as NGOs and associations active at the local level, the Congress is able to directly promote its own instruments and materials and, more broadly, those of the Council of Europe (such as the European Charter of Self-Government, the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and the educational game, "Europe Matters – A Question of Values") among towns and cities while encouraging the implementation of these tools.

FIGURES FOR 2019¹

In 2019, the European Local Democracy Week was officially held throughout the year with the main event taking place in the week of 15 October. This was an innovation devised by the Reflection Group and adopted by the members of the Congress in November 2018 to give the participating entities greater flexibility in organising their events.

National associations of local authorities, national and international organisations and institutions and civil society organisations also contributed to the success of the Week by disseminating information and raising awareness of the 2019 theme through their networks.

As a result of this joint effort, 86 partners from 18 countries (see Appendix 1) registered on the official website to take part in the 2019 European Local Democracy Week. More than 250 activities were organised as part of the ELDW, covering either the main theme, “Local democracy: building trust”, or other related issues of current interest.

Of the 86 registered partners, six were associations. 19 of the participants in this 12th edition of the ELDW obtained the title of “Partner of the European Local Democracy Week 2019”. This year, too, 19 partner countries were represented, including 12 that have participated every year.²

¹ Data based solely on the information registered and uploaded on the ELDW website.

² See Appendix 2 – Representation of countries 2012-2019.



PARTNER OF THE EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK

19 partners representing four countries obtained the status of “Partner of the ELDW 2019”, thus making their participation in the Week particularly important. After the reform of the initiative, the concept of “Partner of the ELDW” was launched in 2019 in the form of an application process for particularly committed towns and associations which, on registering for the latest ELDW, undertook to:

1. Allocate a specific budget for citizens’ participation;
2. Run an ELDW promotion campaign using the ELDW visual identity decided on and provided by the Congress;
3. Carry out a number of specific activities linked to the year’s leading theme;
4. Organise an event with a European or pan-European dimension. A Congress representative may be invited to it;
5. Extend the social scope of the initiative by reaching out to groups that may feel excluded (children, women, Roma and Travellers, people with disabilities, etc.);
6. Promote the participation of young people and youth organisations;
7. Implement sustainable initiatives;
8. Implement innovative activities and projects.

After an assessment of compliance with the criteria, the “Partner of the ELDW” status was awarded to the following municipalities:

1. Ahmetbey (Turkey)
2. Avcılar (Turkey)
3. Beşiktaş (Turkey)
4. Büyükçekmece (Turkey)

5. Çiğli (Turkey)
6. Çorlu (Turkey)
7. Edremit (Turkey)
8. Fastiv (Ukraine)
9. Kadıköy (Turkey)
10. Kharkiv (Ukraine)
11. Kyiv (Ukraine)
12. Lüleburgaz (Turkey)
13. Lviv (Ukraine)
14. Râmnicu Vâlcea (Romania)
15. Tekirdağ (Turkey)
16. Union of the Municipalities of Central Anatolia (Turkey)
17. Union of Municipalities of Turkey (Turkey)
18. Valongo (Portugal)
19. Zeytinburnu (Turkey)

MAIN THEME OF ELDW 2019

The notion of democracy has undergone a paradigm shift in the last few years, moving from representative democracy – which no longer enjoys unanimous support – to a genuine desire among the population to be involved in decision-making.

For some years now, European societies have faced a **democratic and institutional crisis**, due mainly to citizens' growing distrust of public administrations and politicians. Citizens no longer feel represented by the people they elect, and the authorities' failure to consult them has only compounded the erosion of this relationship of trust, which is, nevertheless, crucial for a democracy to function properly.

The subnational level, being close to the population, can enable this trust to be strengthened through the critical role played by local authorities in responding to citizens' concerns. This is why the theme of “**Local democracy: building trust**” was chosen for European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) 2019 and 2020, with the aim of emphasising the key role of local democracy in our European countries and enabling citizens' trust in our democratic system to be restored.

The biennial theme chosen gives local authorities considerable leeway in selecting the activities to be undertaken. However, the underlying concept is **open government**, which is based on three pillars: participation, transparency and accountability.

Citizens' participation is the basis of democracy and good governance, two key principles of our society that the Council of Europe and the Congress stand for and defend. In order to achieve this, local authorities must support citizens' involvement in decision-making processes, for example by creating digital tools.

Transparency fosters better public governance since it enables the implementation of legal, fair and effective public action. The disclosure by local authorities of data and information on such areas as public expenditure, the award of public procurement contracts, policy development and impact,

and the performance of the civil service is a means of preventing possible corrupt conduct by the administration and its officials.

Local governments must also demonstrate their **accountability** by means of rules, laws and mechanisms that ensure that government listens to citizens and meets their demands.

The practice of open government ensures better decision-making, greater public trust in institutions and more effective services, thus curbing abuses of power.

The main objective of the 2019-2020 theme is to encourage local authorities to involve their citizens in local public life, and the many partners involved have shown that local councillors know the benefits this can provide for their communities. The joint shaping of local democracy by citizens and their representatives ensures the viability of Europe's political and social fabric. The public authorities must listen and learn in order to devise better policies and improved services. Citizens' involvement in decision-making also gives legitimacy to the decisions taken by those authorities. Furthermore, that involvement provides a sense of belonging and of shared objectives and makes local communities places where people want to live and work, both now and in the future.

It should be noted that the Congress pays particular attention to participation and transparency. At its November 2018 and April 2019 sessions, it adopted a range of resolutions and recommendations on open government at the local level, directed both at national governments and at local and regional authorities. They dealt with transparency and open government, the European Code of Conduct for political integrity in local and regional governance, conflicts of interest, nepotism and the protection of whistleblowers and have now been published in the form of a compendium of texts on ethical governance.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE PARTICIPANTS³

Numerous activities were organised during this 12th edition of the ELDW, most of them relating to the biennial theme, which is quite broad-based and enables municipalities to deal with various aspects it involves: dialogue with citizens and increased involvement in decision-making, improved operation of local government and greater transparency in the process and, indeed, the development of new participatory mechanisms. However, and alongside the activities carried out on the main subject, municipalities were also able to take measures in related areas such as the participation of various groups of citizens in the community, the involvement of young people, etc.

ESTABLISHING TRUST BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THEIR LOCAL ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The many partners of ELDW 2019 fully complied with the biennial theme, “Local democracy: building trust”, in the organisation of their activities, some examples of which are provided below.

1. Improving local dialogue as a bridging factor

The opening session of the ELDW by the municipality of Uccle and the **Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region** (Belgium), which focused on the entrenchment of local democracy, brought together numerous participants and enabled experience to be shared with regard to participation, the use of digital platforms and public meetings.

Open spaces for dialogue and interaction between the population and local institutions make it possible to strengthen community cohesion and a sense of belonging and foster the active involvement of the population. The municipality of **Amadora** (Portugal) chose to hold public meetings enabling

³ Based solely on information submitted by the ELDW partners, whether on the official website or by email.

citizens to engage in a dialogue with the municipal executive on the quality of life in the town, while learning more about how it operates.

Some municipalities, such as **Huddinge** (Sweden), gave their citizens an opportunity to provide feedback on municipal services with a view to improving them.

In **Zhytomyr** (Ukraine), the province organised a neighbourhood festival for local citizens to meet their representatives and for the latter to speak about the local authorities they represent.

With the rise of new technologies, the Romanian municipality of **Râmnicu Vâlcea** has developed an online platform that provides a new means of interacting with the mayor and enables citizens to obtain information on the town's public services and point out problems with service management.

2. Raising citizens' awareness of how their local authorities operate

Many participants organised activities aimed at raising citizens' awareness of how their local authorities operate, thus enabling them to understand how decisions are taken and how they can influence this process in a climate of mutual trust.

The municipality of **Lviv** (Ukraine) informed its young citizens about the many means of public involvement available to them: electronic petitions, participatory budget, public hearings and competitions for social and cultural projects. A discussion also took place on "how students can influence the development of the city".

Marbella municipal council (Spain) met residents and associations to inform them about how the political bodies operate, then replied to questions asked by residents about the local administration in general.

It is crucial for citizens to be made aware of the role of local public institutions so that they can fully participate in them. The municipality of **Cascais** (Portugal) decided to hold local government open days to provide information

on the role, powers and responsibilities of elected representatives and on the way the administration operates.

In this connection, the town of **Kirklees** (United Kingdom) held a public debate enabling citizens to say what they expect of a town councillor or, more particularly, find out about his/her role.

3. Justifying trust through the transparency of local government

Several municipalities decided to focus their activities on the subject of transparency, which is now a key factor in maintaining trust between citizens and local councillors. The municipality of **Çorlu** (Turkey) set up a live broadcast to enable all its citizens to follow the municipal council's proceedings, an initiative which was highly appreciated by the population.

The city of **Büyükçekmece** (Turkey) took the same initiative, coupled with the publication of all the city council's decisions on the municipality's website to enable them to be viewed at any time.

In order to build greater trust, the municipality of **Lüleburgaz** (Turkey) signed Transparency International's Local Transparency Pledge. The city council's decisions have started to be broadcast live on YouTube.

The municipality of **Râmnicu Vâlcea** (Romania) held a debate on the local budget and organised five neighbourhood meetings with citizens. It also decided to make the report on the city's economic and environmental development available to its citizens to raise their awareness of projects already carried out and those to come.

4. Improving citizen participation through local consultation and decision-making processes

Numerous municipalities implemented new and interactive methods of citizen participation. The municipality of **Hakkari** (Turkey) decided to carry out a survey of its citizens with the aim of improving the municipal services available. Public assessment of services is one of the best ways of improving

the quality of life in the community. At the same time, the town organised neighbourhood meetings.

In the same vein, the municipality of **Çiğli** (Turkey) developed a system of suggestion boxes and installed them throughout the city to enable residents to express their views and make proposals for improving services.

In **Kruševac** (Serbia), the municipality held a public debate to introduce ways of participating in local public life to its citizens.

The municipality of **Çorlu** (Turkey) set up a neighbourhood assembly to involve all citizens in decision-making.

GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE TO FOSTER THEIR PARTICIPATION

The participation of children and young people has become a key issue that needs to be highlighted as far as ELDW activities are concerned. In order to guarantee broad citizen participation not only today but also in the future, many municipalities have decided to focus their activities on young people. Teaching tomorrow's young citizens about democracy and the decision-making processes is a leap of faith in the future of local democracy.

The municipality of **Büyükçekmece** (Turkey) decided to involve children as users in naming new municipal parks, the aim being to raise their awareness of participation and citizenship from a very early age.

Rize (Turkey) organised a programme directed at students of political science on strengthening trust in local governments. The city's mayor discussed such issues as transparency, democracy, how the various institutions operate and citizens' responsibilities.

In order to encourage young people to become involved in local decision-making processes and ensure that young citizens participate in specific local initiatives, the **Kirklees** (United Kingdom) Electoral Services outreach team installed an information kiosk to provide students with support and advice and inform them about the advantages of elections and the right to vote.

Three years ago, the municipality of **Farkadona** (Greece) set up a Municipal Youth Council, the members of which were re-elected this year. At its annual meeting, young people discussed the participation and engagement of children and young people.

A school class together with the Pupils' Parliament of the municipality of **Niš** (Serbia) visited city hall and local councillors to gain an understanding of how the local government operates and of the role played by each individual. This municipality also set up a Youth Council, which enables young people to play their part in resolving issues that affect them and to become involved in shaping the municipality's youth policy. Developing this type of mechanism encourages young people to take an active role in decision-making.

In **Kadıköy** (Turkey), the municipality organised a theatre workshop with the aim of enhancing residents' influence over decisions taken by the local government, emphasising the social dimension of problems encountered in daily life and describing the dynamics of oppression.

The municipality of **Valongo** (Portugal) has introduced numerous activities for young people, notably through the creation of a participatory youth budget. This initiative shows young people that the local authority has a genuine desire to meet their needs, while at the same time involving them in taking decisions on projects.

In **Lüleburgaz** (Turkey), the municipality organised courses on entrepreneurship in its upper secondary schools. These enabled young people to find innovative solutions to various local social problems and make life easier for disadvantaged groups. Pupils were reminded in these courses that people from all sections of society must act responsibly towards others in order to restore trust.

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES – INTEGRATING UNDER-REPRESENTED SOCIAL GROUPS

Some ELDW activities were specifically aimed at the integration of minorities and under-represented groups, as well as the involvement of lower-profile sections of society in decision-making processes. The overall objective of these activities was to include each member of the community in order to guarantee greater support for democratic processes and decisions. Accordingly, some municipalities organised events involving such groups as elderly people, women, refugees and migrants and people with disabilities.

A democratic society is based on the principle of the participation of all its members. Lack of accessibility is an obstacle to full participation in daily life and is an equality problem. To address this issue, the city of **Huddinge** (Sweden) held a meeting for senior citizens entitled “Assistive devices to facilitate the everyday life of the visually impaired”. Statements by participants enabled the municipality to gain a better understanding of the needs of this section of the population and find solutions to improve their quality of life.

In **Bağcılar** (Turkey), the municipality set up a Women’s Council to highlight the problems, needs and expectations of women in the city. The council is a forum that enables them to clearly express their opinions, propose solutions, make decisions and take action.

The cosmopolitan city of **Kharkiv** (Ukraine) has set up a Public Council on Inter-Ethnic Relations to support the work done by national NGOs in the Kharkiv local authorities’ decision-making processes with regard to the development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities. This public body has proven to be a practical tool for listening to the voices of all residents and increasing their involvement in local decision-making while uniting the various nationalities living in the city.

The municipality of **Çiğli** (Turkey) organised a workshop on disability policies with the aim of developing an effective strategy, the main thrusts of which were drawn up with citizens.

As a follow-up to the event entitled “*Assises sur le rôle de l'étranger-e dans la cité*”, a meeting organised by the **Strasbourg** Eurométropole (France) during ELDW 2018 to discuss the role of foreign nationals in the city, a “white paper” was submitted to the mayor with recommendations for responding to the question “How can trust be built between ‘citizens’ from here and from elsewhere?”. The aim of this document, which was drawn up by several citizens, is to improve the implementation of the principles of altruism, equality and interculturality in order to strengthen the relationship of trust between citizens from Strasbourg and from elsewhere. A plan was presented to establish an intercultural community centre (“Maison Citoyenne Interculturelle”).

PROMOTING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND CROSSCULTURAL DIALOGUE

A key element of European Local Democracy Week is to remind people that Europe is a continent made up of diverse cultures and nations. Accordingly, as in previous years, numerous activities were aimed at bringing European citizens together by means of international exchanges and events to promote intercultural dialogue and the sharing of experiences.

The town of **Valongo** (Portugal) organised sessions of the “Europe Game”, a giant board game, in order to acquaint young people with the history and culture of the European Union.

The city of **Râmnicu Vâlcea** (Romania) organised a mock meeting of the European Council, in which volunteers were to represent a country, prepare a speech and discuss a subject of their choice. The event was a reference to Romania’s presidency of the European Council in the first six months of 2019.

In order to promote friendly relations between nations and forge closer cultural ties, **Lüleburgaz** (Turkey) hosted, as every year, a Bulgarian and a Greek delegation to foster cohesion between peoples and to remember the forced migrations experienced by the city. There were presentations by artists and folk dances and shows were performed.

Several municipalities also decided to hold international events with the aim of sharing the good practices implemented by local authorities and learning about how they operate. In **Valongo** (Portugal), the town held an international conference on transparency and active citizenship with Congress participation. The city of **Râmnicu Vâlcea** (Romania) hosted a delegation of Turkish and Latvian teachers to discuss differences and similarities between local governments. The city of **Izmit** (Turkey) held a conference on democracy in which foreign nationals invited to participate took turns in describing democracy in their countries of origin.

Lastly, **Kharkiv** (Ukraine) organised an international forum entitled “Local democracy: building trust – the youth dimension”. The event resulted in the creation of the “Ukrainian Youth Brand”, a platform for uniting young Ukrainians wherever they may live – scattered across the world as they are – with a view to maintaining their ties with their homeland, encouraging co-operation among young people and developing and promoting a positive image of Ukraine and young Ukrainians abroad.

WEBSITE AND NETWORK

As in previous years, the website (<http://www.congress-eldw.eu/en/>) will continue to provide key information on the Week as well as tools for implementation of activities (logos, thematic ideas, reference texts). At the same time, in connection with the reform of the ELDW, the website has undergone a complete overhaul. However, although it has been modernised and graphically improved, it has retained its existing structure:

✚ The main homepage describes the initiative and recent developments, through regular newsletters and Congress news items relating to the ELDW. It also contains all necessary information for registration and the procedures for participation.

✚ The platform describing the initiatives of the ELDW participants remains, with both public and restricted access.

The public section provides details of all activities held in connection with the current ELDW, as well as those organised during previous years (since 2010), which can serve to illustrate good practices and generate new ideas. Visibility is further enhanced by an interactive map developed in 2016, which gives an overview of the ELDW partners.

The restricted access section has been created to enable local and regional authorities and their associations to register. Our partners can directly upload and update information about their events and activities which – after being translated and checked by the ELDW team – can be consulted under their personal profiles and used for publicity and networking purposes.

✚ A third platform, the discussion forum, has been added. This idea was developed in response to requests from participants who wished to be able to communicate with one another. The purpose of this tool is accordingly to create a genuine interactive online exchange space to develop these synergies. Every registered participant can then start a discussion and share activities or ideas, as well as request advice or even invite other participants to attend events. The ELDW participants are encouraged to actively share information, advice and good practices.

Appendix 1: LIST OF PARTNERS OF ELDW 2019

Total: 86 participants including 6 associations and 19 “Partners of the ELDW” ()

Albania	Kamez
Armenia	Union of Communities of Armenia
Belgium	Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region
France	Association Un Bout de Chemin
	Strasbourg
Georgia	National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
Germany	Chemnitz
Greece	Farkadona
Italy	Association Future is now
Moldova	Vulcanesti
Portugal	Amadora
	Valongo Municipality 
	Camara Municipal de Cascais
	Freguesia de Três Povos
	Município do Fundão
Romania	Medgidia
	Ramnicu Valcea 
	City of Iasi
Russia	Municipality of Kingisepp of the Leningrad region
	Chuvashsko-Kishchakovskoe rural Municipality
	Kaybitsky SP
	Alshikhovsky rural village
	Bik-Uteevsky rural village
	Burgan rural settlement
	Cherki-Kildurasky village

	Cherky-Grishinskoye rural settlement
	Isakovsky rural settlement
	Kiyat rural settlement
	Novochechkabsky village
	Novotinchalinsk rural settlement
	Nurlat rural settlement
	Starotinchalinskoye rural
	Alsheyevskiy rural establishment
	City of Buinsk
	Forty-Saidak rural
	Koshka-Shemyakinsky rural
	Koshka-Tenyakovsky rural
	Mokrosavaleevsky rural
	Nizhnenaratbashy Rural
	Timbaevsky rural village
	Verkhnelashchinsky Rural
	Yashevskoye Rural Settlement
	Finlyandsky municipal district of saint-petersburg
	Kasimov City Council
	Association Starostudenets
	Youth department of Dmitrov Governement (Moscow region)
Serbia	City of Krusevac
	City of Nis
Spain	Ayuntamiento de Marbella
Sweden	Huddinge
	Södermöre
Tunisia	Association Casamance écologie et paix
Turkey	Ahmetbey 
	Avcılar 
	Bağcılar
	Beşiktaş/İstanbul 

	Büyükçekmece 
	Çiğli 
	Çiftlikköy
	Çorlu 
	Edremit 
	Gevaş Belediyesi
	Hakkari
	İzmit
	Kadıköy 
	Kahramanmaraş
	Karşiyaka
	Keçiören
	Kırklareli
	Lüleburgaz 
	Maltepe
	Mardin Büyükşehir Belediyesi
	Rize
	Tekirdağ 
	Zeytinburnu 
	Union of municipalities of Eastern-Western Thrace
	Union of municipalities of Turkey 
	Union of Central Anatolian municipalities 
Ukraine	Fastiv 
	Kharkiv 
	Kyiv 
	Zhytomyr
	Lviv 
United Kingdom	Kirklees
	Swansea Rural community voice project
	Vale of Glamorgan council

Appendix 2: REPRESENTATION OF COUNTRIES 2012-2019

2019 18 countries	Albania, Armenia, Belgium*, France*, Georgia, Germany*, Greece*, Italy*, Moldova, Portugal*, Romania*, Russia*, Serbia, Spain*, Sweden*, Tunisia, Turkey*, Ukraine, United Kingdom*
2018 18 countries	Albania, Armenia, Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
2017 20 countries	Albania, Austria, Belgium, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
2016 23 countries	Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
2015 29 countries	Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
2014 24 countries	Armenia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom
2013 29 countries	Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
2012 29 countries	Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

* Countries which were represented in all editions of the ELDW

The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is a pan-European initiative aimed at boosting local democracy and citizen participation. It is co-ordinated by The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, which is a political assembly composed of local and regional elected representatives from the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

Local and regional authorities from the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe are invited to organise public events, with the aim of: increasing citizens' participation in decision-making at local level, developing the dialogue between citizens and their elected representatives (Mayors, members of the municipal councils, etc.) and introducing participatory mechanisms into our democratic system.



More information

 democracy.week@coe.int

 www.coe.int/demoweeek

EN



The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states including members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an organ of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. It is composed of 648 elected representatives representing more than 150,000 local and regional authorities.