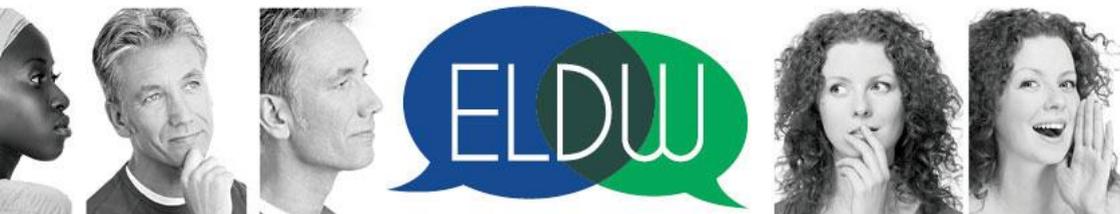


European
Local
Democracy
Week



ASSESSMENT OF 2018 EDITION

The Congress

Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Foreword by Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress



Dear ELDW Partners,

2018 has been a special and significant year for the European Local Democracy Week: a year of assessment, reflection and renewal.

After the 10th anniversary of the initiative in 2017, the Congress renewed its commitment to advancing the ELDW and further developing it for the benefit of local and regional authorities and the citizens across Europe. Thus, a Reflection Group examined all questions related to the ELDW and built on the experiences made by our partners in order to give the Week a fresh impetus. This reflection brought about a substantial reform, which was approved by the Congress at its November 2018 Session.

In the context of a crisis of trust in democratic institutions, the local level remains the bedrock of a democracy resilient to populist temptation. Therefore, I am convinced that the ELDW can contribute a lot to develop good relations between the citizens and their elected representatives. It truly contributes to democratic education and it represents a real tool for strengthening local democracy.

We are at the beginning of a new momentum for the initiative, and I am sure that its participants will soon reap the benefits of the recent changes.

Looking back to the 2018 edition of the ELDW, let me congratulate all 55 local and regional authorities, their associations and the civil society organisations from 18 countries which celebrated the European Local Democracy Week with us. I look forward to welcoming them and many other old and new partners during the 2019 edition, which will mark the new dynamics of the ELDW.

Andreas Kiefer

CONTENTS

THE ELDW	5
FIGURES 2018	7
MAIN THEME OF THE 2018 EDITION	9
EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE PARTICIPANTS	11
THE REFORM OF THE ELDW	19
WEBSITE AND NETWORK	24
Appendix 1: List of all partners of the 2018 edition	25
Appendix 2: Representation of Countries 2012-2018.....	27

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 within the framework of the ELDW are dedicated to bringing together citizens and local elected representatives across the 47 Council of Europe member countries.

The ELDW is intended to provide an international framework for cities and municipalities across Europe to promote awareness of the rights and responsibilities that are incumbent on 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, build twinning partnerships, and thus learn from each other's experience and use it to further develop their actions.

A *community* of 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 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 OVER MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF ELDW

A network of cities and associations committed to fostering participatory democracy at grassroots level has been built up, which has counted a total of around 1000 partners having organised more than 2000 citizen participation activities in different editions.

Synergies with other Congress activities have been developed, for instance, with the Congress co-operation programmes in Ukraine, Armenia, Albania and Georgia – presentations on the ELDW were held during the seminars for elected representatives, as a practical Congress tool for enhanced citizen participation.

Partnerships have been built between the ELDW and other relevant Council of Europe initiatives and international partners such as the Europe Prize of the Parliamentary Assembly; the Intercultural Cities Programme, the No Hate Speech Campaign, the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA).

As partner cities of the ELDW are prevalingly smaller communities and cities with remote location, the ELDW has contributed to the development of their international image and the showcase of their good practices on citizen participation towards the rest of Europe. The development of the Arab Local Democracy Week in cities in Tunisia and Morocco has provided them with a further connection to Europe guided by the principles of democracy and human rights.

The ELDW has served as a platform of exchange of good ideas between the members of the Council of Europe at the subnational level, thus building a bridge between the member states of the European Union and their neighbourhood.

Through keeping direct contacts with the city administrations, as well as NGOs and associations that are active at local level, the Congress is able to directly promote the relevant instruments and materials of the Congress and the Council of Europe (e.g. the European Charter of Self-Government, the educational game “Europe Matters – A Question of Values”) among the cities and foster the implementation of these tools.

FIGURES 2018 ¹

In 2018, the European Local Democracy Week officially took place between 15 and 21 October. As in previous years, participating municipalities and regions, their associations and civil society organisations also had the option of implementing their ELDW activities at a more convenient time around October, should the week coincide with other important events in their community.

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 2018 theme through their networks.

As a result of this joint effort, 55 partners from 18 countries (see Appendix 1) registered on the official website to take part in the 2018 Democracy Week. More than 220 activities were organised in the ELDW framework, covering either the main theme “Citizens participation, consultation and commitment: for a thriving local democracy” or other related issues of current interest.

Of the 55 registered partners, 27 were 12 Star Partner and 8 were associations. Out of the 18 partner countries represented, 11 have participated in all editions.

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

“12-Star” partners

27 partners representing seven countries chose the “12-Star” status, hence giving special prominence to their participation in the Local Democracy Week. The “12-Star” concept was launched in 2010, as a voluntary label for heavily involved cities and associations, which, on registering for the latest edition of ELDW, took on the following five commitments:

1. allocating a specific budget to ELDW activities;
2. running an ELDW promotion campaign using the ELDW visual identity;
3. carrying out a number of specific activities linked to the main theme of the year;
4. involving different groups of citizens in the initiatives forming part of ELDW;
5. organising an event with a European or pan-European dimension.

After assessment of compliance with the criteria, the 12-Star status was taken up by:

Ahmetbey (TR)	Kadikoy (TR)	Kamez (AL)
Amadora (PT)	Kahramankazan (TR)	Izmit (TR)
Bagcilar (TR)	Karsiyaka (TR)	Mioveni (RO)
Beşiktaş (TR)	Kharkiv (UA)	Kırklareli (TR)
Bischwiller (FR)	Kyiv (UA)	Rize (TR)
Büyükçekmece (TR)	Lüleburgaz (TR)	Sariyer (TR)
Edremit (TR)	Lviv (UA)	Strasbourg (FR)
Fastiv (UA)	Maltepe (TR)	Zeytinburnu (TR)
Huddinge (SE)	Medgidia (RO)	Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region (BE)

MAIN THEME OF THE 2018 EDITION

The diversity of our ELDW partners confirms that a growing number of local authorities and elected representatives see the benefits of getting citizens involved in decision-making processes: increased legitimacy, improved accountability and more efficient delivery of public services, among other things. In the past 10 years, local authorities have developed new ways and opportunities available for citizens to participate in public life. Furthermore, we are living in the world of internet and e-democracy, in which new technologies and emerging political actors are increasingly gaining space in complementarity to the traditional elements of representative democracy. Citizens are invited to express their opinion on public issues through more direct platforms, such as interactive websites, text messaging systems and social media. At the same time, these new opportunities come with new challenges for the work of local and regional authorities, such as issues related to data protection, accessibility, cybercrime, freedom of speech and social inclusion.

In the light of the 10th anniversary of the European Local Democracy Week, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe – responsible for the co-ordination of the ELDW – decided to reflect on the changing context of citizen participation and its link to the core mission of the initiative. **“Citizen participation, consultation and commitment: for a thriving local democracy”** was therefore chosen as the main theme of the ELDW for 2017 and 2018.

Citizen participation is the bedrock of democracy and good governance – core values of our society, represented and promoted by the Council of Europe and its Congress. Local and regional authorities are especially well placed to disseminate these values, on account of their proximity to citizens. Citizens and their elected representatives must be reminded of the importance of developing and engaging in inclusive participatory processes, in order to ensure effective and sustainable democracy.

Consultation of citizens on the issues that concern them is at the heart of citizen participation at all levels of governance. It is important to show citizens the different types of consultation that are available to them and the various ways to participate in decision-making, including the use of new communication technologies and new participatory methods to keep

pace with the constantly evolving democratic processes. This is especially relevant at the local and regional level where citizens can practice their right to participation, as enshrined in the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its additional protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, on a daily basis on issues that directly affect their lives. Citizens should be aware of the positive effects of raising their voice and engaging in a dialogue for contributing to the development of grassroots policies.

In this context, it is crucial to emphasise that **making democracy thrive** necessitates a two-sided commitment to participatory processes: local authorities and politicians need to offer citizens the right tools and ways for consultation and participation, whilst citizens need to take these opportunities and get actively involved in local affairs.

While focusing on promoting the added value of participatory democracy at the lowest levels of governance, the theme of the ELDW 2017-2018 also intended to raise awareness of the work and the role of the Council of Europe in promoting local democracy and good governance. In particular, it echoed the first of the 12 principles for good governance at local level developed by the Council of Europe, “Fair Conduct of Elections, Representation and Participation”, which requires that citizens are at the centre of public activity and they are involved in clearly defined ways in public life at local level.

Furthermore, the 2017-2018 motto was in line with the Congress priorities for 2017-2020 developed within its role of improving local and regional governance, in particular, the priorities of “enhancing the quality of local and regional democracy” and “building safe and inclusive societies that respect diversity”. Concrete Congress actions for implementing these priorities include the promotion of a toolkit for local authorities 'Towards a greater citizen participation in community decision', making a Handbook on transparency and citizen participation, and adopting revised European Code of Conduct on the political integrity of persons involved in local and regional governance, and a recommendation on transparency and open government, during its November 2018 Session.

There was a large variety of different activities organised during ELDW this year, focusing on the main theme, but also other aspects of democracy. The municipalities organised in particular activities to raise citizens' awareness of how local authorities operate and on how shared standards of good local governance elaborated at the European level contribute to improving their practice. Furthermore, activities were centred around offering accessible information to citizens on how they can effectively take part and make use of local consultation processes – including by using the latest communication tools and new forms of citizen participation as complementary to more “classical” ways of citizen participation.

PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN CITIZENS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES' REPRESENTATIVES

Many activities organised during the ELDW 2018 reflected on the biennial theme “*Citizens participation, consultation and commitment: for a thriving local democracy*”. This theme refers to the core mission of the initiative: boosting citizen participation at the grassroots level by organising public events where local elected representatives can meet and engage with citizens on issues of current interest thanks to a broader understanding of the functioning of public institutions and ways of participating in local decision-making.

Improving the local dialogue as a bridging factor

This opening session of the ELDW by the **Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region** (Belgium), dedicated to dialogue, brought together citizens, communal staff working in the field of citizen participation and elected officials, in order to discuss good practices and main recommendations for successful citizen participation at the municipal level.

² Based exclusively on the information submitted by the ELDW partners, either on the official website or by e-mail.

Various municipalities decided to improve the dialogue with their young citizens. In **Kırklareli** (Turkey), the students of the School of Science visited the Mayor. Children were informed about democracy and its importance for a healthier society and a better future.

In the municipality of **Zeytinburnu** (Turkey), the Youth Assembly held a City Council to discuss Youth Participation in Europe and to engage young citizens in the local politics.

Raising citizens' awareness on the operational work of their local authorities

Many participants organised activities aimed at raising citizens' awareness on the operational work of their local authorities, giving them the chance to understand how decisions are taken and how they can influence this process in a climate of mutual trust.

In **Buyukcekmece** (Turkey), elementary school students were trained within the activity 'Election, To Elect and Be Elected' at the Municipality's Student Study Center. The training was based on how to be an active citizen, how the municipality works, and basics of democracy.

The executive committee of **Fastiv** City Council (Ukraine) hosted the Youth Self-Government Day. Representatives of the Youth City Council took on the work of the mayor and deputy to become acquainted with the work of local self-government authorities.

Adopting an innovative approach by using the media, **Kirklees** (United Kingdom) invited some of its officers and councilors to go face to face in a new series of videos. The videos were shared via Intranet for Kirklees Council staff, on the Chief Executive's blog, on the Kirklees Democracy YouTube channel, and via their email bulletins and social media. Their aim was to lead their staff to reflect on their common aims, and to increase confidence about involving councilors in their work. In addition, citizens were able to learn more about how councilors and officers are working together to strengthen the local democracy.

ENHANCING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN LOCAL CONSULTATION AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Interactive and new ways of citizen participation were applied by many municipalities. In **Grendelbruch** (France), the municipality collected suggestions from citizens for the development of municipality services. The objective of this practice was to provide citizens with an easily accessible platform to share their ideas and to express their thoughts with the local authorities.

Ramnicu Valcea (Romania) adopted an interactive approach and brought volunteers from the Europe Direct Centre and the representatives of the municipality together to debate the importance of the local administration in the lives of the citizens. The debate focused on the local budget.

The city of **Kirklees** (United Kingdom), whose Democracy Commission made 48 recommendations on strengthening the local democracy, organised a range of thematic activities with regards to the 2018 main theme. A fund, 'It's Up to You', was created for citizens from different municipalities to share their ideas for community projects. The winner projects are funded through this scheme to help the citizens for their project implementation.

GIVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH A VOICE TO FOSTER THEIR PARTICIPATION

The participants of the annual coordination meeting chose to put the 2018 edition's focus on children and youth participation. Therefore, to ensure broad citizen participation not only today, but also in the future, many municipalities decided to devote their activities to youth. Educating young citizens and citizens of tomorrow about democracy and decision-making processes is a bet on the future of local democracy.

In **Kyiv** (Ukraine), a forum devoted to the involvement of youth in local self-government was held in the premises of the City Council. The Deputy Mayor and Secretary of Kyiv City Council, Congress member Mr. Volodymyr Prokopiv chaired the event.

A Youth Local Council was convened in **El Turro** (Spain) to give young people a voice on local life. Participants debated issues in various areas such as the current situation of the town, social needs, sports, health, and infrastructure of the youth population.

To motivate young generation to get involved in local decision-making process and to call on young citizens to contribute to specific local initiatives, the **National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia** organized a Youth Forum for Local Governance.

In **Chesterfield** (United Kingdom), “The Democratic and Scrutiny Team” of the city engaged with as many local primary and secondary schools as possible and encouraged discussions on local, national and international issues and introduced all ages to democracy by running mock ballots, holding debates, having tours of council buildings and arranging questions panels, all with the support of local councillors.

The Municipality of **Farkadona** (Greece) brought 27 high school students to take their place as City’s Teen Councilors, in the virtual roles of Administration, Opposition and Civil Society. The Mayor, the Deputy Mayor for Education, Councilors, parents, teachers, and citizens joined the event where these youth councilors got the opportunity to debate on the theme ‘children and youth participation and commitment’. In addition, the municipality chose to combine the theme with digitalization and created ‘the E-Youth Municipal Platform’ where the reports regarding their discussions could be sent to the municipality’s web portal to find innovative solutions and to contribute to the emergence of the local community and the promotion of citizen participation at the local level.

The city of **Mioveni** (Romania) also adopted a similar approach and gathered high school students together for a Local Council meeting simulation. The students prepared draft decisions to be sent to a committee for analysis, giving the event a sense of reality and encouraged the young participants to take part in the local governance.

Medgidia (Turkey) continued its tradition to hold a World Café event to provide a friendly platform for young people to discuss and share their opinions on the local life through creative ways and set up common goals.

The Council of Democracy of **Huddinge** (Sweden) organised an event on the theme “*#ifIdecided*” to awaken the students' thoughts on what change they expect in the society, in the everyday life, at school and in the world. Primary school students were challenged to reflect on the theme and transform it to a work of art, and then display it on social media.

 PROMOTING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES –
INTEGRATING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS OF THE
SOCIETY

Even though many municipalities developed their activities for wider involvement from different spheres of their communities, some of the ELDW events specifically targeted the integration of minorities as well as underrepresented groups and the empowerment of those groups of society which are less visible in local decision-making. The overall goal of those endeavours was to include everyone into their local community to ensure a larger acceptance of democratic processes and decisions. Within this regard, some municipalities held events including groups such as elderly people, women, refugees and migrants, and people with disabilities. The event objectives were not only to involve them, but also to enable them to keep up with the date with the current developments – and tools in the political processes.

Buyukcekmece Municipality (Turkey) organised an event to teach middle-aged and elderly citizens on how to use smart phones. The trainings aimed to enable citizens to use relevant applications for the access to their public services and encourage them to socialise. In another event, the municipality personnel were trained to provide better quality services to the citizens with disabilities such as training of sign language. In addition, the personnel were also able to get training on gender mainstreaming issues such as budget preparation and urban planning projects.

Cesena (Italy) organised a 4-day training course for migrants, their associations and networks. The aim was to promote migrants' active participation to the life of the local community they belong to. The training course was organised by the Service centre for voluntary associations of Rimini (Volontarimini), thanks to the resources of the European Union

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), via the Ministry of Labour and Social policies and the Ministry of Internal affairs.

The Municipality of **Södermøre** (Sweden) organised an event where participants were informed on the work with senior people. the elderly were also invited for dialogue on the same subject. As the municipality consist of a large number of elder people, including them has been an important target group for our municipality and local politicians. The event focused on topics such as socialisation or ways of working for people with dementia.

The municipality of **Vlaardingen** (Netherlands) organised a workshop for persons with mental disabilities. The participants were informed on how local governance works and why it matters for the society.

PROMOTING A EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE

An essential component of the European Local Democracy Week is to remind that Europe is a continent of diverse cultures and nations. Therefore, as in previous years, a lot of activities aimed at bringing European citizens together through international exchanges and activities that promote cross-cultural dialogue and experience sharing.

The city of **Chemnitz** (Germany) combined the idea of being European and how this can reflect on the local level through a simulation of the European Union. Through the event, Young European Federalists illustrated how the politics of the EU works, what are the challenges surrounding it, and how citizens can raise their voice and get more involved in these processes.

The Municipality of **Ramnicu Valcea** (Romania) organised creative workshops with children to celebrate the 170th year of the country's national anthem and included national and European symbols such as flags and anthems. The approach of the workshop was in a sense to combine Romanian identity with the European one through creative ways.

With the view of promoting friendly relations between nations and intensified cultural ties, **Lüleburgaz** (Turkey) organised a theatre event within the ELDW celebrations and the Bulgarian play 'Kingdom of Women' was staged, thus between states.

In **Kirklareli** (Turkey), several politicians came together to discuss current political affairs and future of the country as well as the issues regarding the European Union and political movements in Europe. In addition, the participants discussed how local authorities can be involved in ensuring democratic governance.

Bischoffville (France) organised a meeting for high school students with the European Parliament member Anne Sander, to discuss the current issues regarding Europe. The city also organised a quiz on local democracy and Europe, inspired by the game Europe of Values of the Council of Europe, for primary school students.

REINFORCING THE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

As an essential element of local democracy, the participatory democracy was emphasised in many of the activities. The effects of improved digitalisation and the perks of its right use to encourage citizen participation were also an enforcing element in the organised events in relation to the ELDW. Several cities highlighted the importance of participatory budgeting during their events regarding participatory democracy. Especially highlighted by several cities during their ELDW, participatory budgeting is an essential tool closely related to local democracy, as it gives the citizens a concrete opportunity to contribute directly to the development of their city.

The municipality of **El Turro** (Spain) dedicated a day to democratic participation on various topics such as the meaning of participatory democracy, participation channels on local level, and how to actively participate in the local decision-making processes. The citizens were accompanied by representatives of local government bodies, city council staff and representatives of local associations and collectives. The event also included the use of technology in the facilitation of communication, knowledge and skill improvement.

Along the same line, in **Kyiv** (Ukraine) the International Day of Democracy was celebrated in relevance to the European Local Democracy Week. Representatives of the City Council informed guests and participants about tools of direct democracy that are currently available to citizens such as participatory budgeting, electronic petitions, local initiatives, and creation of bodies of self-organization within the community.

Strasbourg (France), organised a discussion on the two flagship projects of the city's "Pact for Democracy": the digital citizen participation platform "participer.strasbourg.eu" as a new interactive web site to inform, participate and promote dialogue between citizens and the authorities; and a project on participatory budget, which allows residents to allocate part of the city's investment budget to projects proposed and voted on their own.

Maltepe (Turkey) also adopted an innovative approach to encourage active citizen participation. An online ballot, available in the website and social media accounts of the municipality, invited the citizens to decide the name of a public park before the opening ceremony.

The city of **Kharkiv** (Ukraine) developed a number of e-platforms for local self-government where citizens could be informed on the operations of the local authorities, access to public data and public services. A platform was also created to enable citizens to engage with the local officials and their mayor to share their ideas and suggestions. Through 'Kharkiv Citizen Portal', the citizens were able to vote on different spending areas such as youth, health or culture.

Other cities implemented a citizen budget mechanism. In **Lviv** (Ukraine), for instance, the citizens had the chance to attend a discussion on public budgeting. The discussion was named "Public Budget of Lviv: How to Get 3 Million for Your Idea". During the discussions, students were encouraged to come up with ideas that could influence the city life, with the help of developed tools of public participation focusing on the Lviv Public Budget and public hearings. Through this event, students were acquainted with the structure of Lviv City Council and the subsidiary bodies.³

³ The full list of events can be found on the official ELDW website, which not only advertises the events organised across Europe, but can also be used as a knowledge base" to inspire and encourage future ideas and activities.

THE REFORM OF THE ELDW

This initiative has recently gathered new momentum, with new modalities approved by the Congress in November 2018, more than 10 years after its inception.

CONTEXT OF THE REFORM

Celebrating the 10th anniversary during the Congress Session

The European Local Democracy Week celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2017. On this occasion, a debate on the future of ELDW was organised during 33rd Session of the Congress, with presentations by Marc COOLS (Belgium) and statements by José Manuel RIBEIRO, Mayor of Valongo (Portugal) and Mikhailo NETIAZHUK, Mayor of Fastiv (Ukraine). All three speakers pointed out the importance of the initiative both for the local authorities and for the citizens, highlighting the high motivation of the participants.

In its Resolution 423 (2017) on “10 years of the European Local Democracy Week”, adopted at the October Session, the Congress decided to establish a Reflection Group tasked with taking the European Local Democracy Week initiative forward to a new dimension, by building on the best practices of the past decade, which would examine all questions related to the evolution of the Week.

Through the resolution, the Congress has reiterated its commitment to promoting the ELDW initiative and to broadening it to include the Council of Europe neighbouring regions.

The Reflection Group

On 2 February 2018, the Bureau agreed to set up a Reflection Group tasked with giving a new dimension to the Week. The Bureau decided that the Group would consist of 2 members from each of the three committees (a representative and an alternate) to be appointed by the committees, and 2 former youth delegates (a representative and an alternate). The Bureau appointed Gaye DOGANOGLU, Spokesperson on the European Local Democracy Week, to chair this Group.

Composition of the Reflection Group:

- Gaye DOGANOGLU, Turkey (EPP/CCE), Vice-President, Thematic Spokesperson on the ELDW, nominated President of the RG
- *Alternate Thematic Spokesperson on the ELDW: Barbara TOCE, Italy (SOC), nominated alternate President of the RG*

- Majlinda BUFI, Albania (SOC), Monitoring Committee
- *Alternate: Gyorgy ILLES, Hungary (ILDG)*

- Andreas GALSTER, Germany (EPP/CCE), Governance Committee
- *Alternate: Andrew DAWSON, UK (CRE)*

- John WARMISHAM, UK (SOC), Current Affairs Committee
- *Alternate: Thomas ANDERSSON, Sweden (ILDG)*

- Rita JONUSAITE, Lithuania, former Youth delegate and Policy Officer on youth participation of the European Youth Forum
- *Alternate: Matic MATJASIC, Slovenia*

The Group held three meetings in Strasbourg, on 27 March, 19 June and 10 September 2018.

After examining all points at issue related to the evolution of the Week, the Reflection Group submitted its proposals to the National Coordinators to seek their input and to collect their suggestions and comments.

At its meeting on 10 September 2018, the Group took into account the National Coordinators' suggestions and approved the preliminary draft Resolution to be submitted to the Bureau, on 5 October 2018.

The Congress debated and adopted the [Resolution 430 \(2018\)](#) on 6 November 2018.

NEW MODALITIES OF ORGANISATION OF THE ELDW

1. Date, duration and timeline

- a. In order to allow for more flexibility and for a greater number of events to be organised, the municipalities are encouraged to organise events and activities in accordance with the theme of the ELDW during the whole year, culminating in a flagship event in the week of 15 October.
- b. The week of 15 October is maintained as the official ELDW date, as it is the anniversary date of the opening for signature of the European Charter for Local Self-Government. This week also corresponds to the launch of the ELDW, on 16 October 2007.
- c. The annual co-ordination meeting will continue to be held at the beginning of the year. It shall bring together the national co-ordinators and ELDW participants wishing to attend. It shall present the evaluation of the previous edition as well as some of its outstanding initiatives and establish the theme for the next two editions to come. This biennial theme can be adapted from one year to another, depending on the chosen focus.

2. Modalities for identifying, rewarding and enhancing visibility of the most remarkable initiatives

- a. To highlight the commitment to raising the citizens' awareness of local democracy and encouraging them to make use of all the opportunities provided through participatory democratic processes, the most active participating local authorities taking part in the ELDW can request the title of "Partner of the European Local Democracy Week [Year]".
- b. This title is granted *a posteriori*, upon the actual participation and report of activities, in order to guarantee that the participants respected the criteria regarding the nature, scale, and possible impact of events/activities, listed as follows:

1. Allocate a specific budget for citizens' participation
 2. Run an ELDW promotion campaign (posters, promotion of activities at school...) using the ELDW visual identity decided upon and provided by the Congress
 3. Carry out a number of specific activities linked to the leading theme of the year
 4. Organise an event with a European or pan-European dimension to illustrate the role of local authorities in the construction of a democratic Europe. A Congress representative may be invited to this main event
 5. Inclusiveness: extend the social scope of the initiative by reaching out to different groups of citizens, especially the groups that can feel excluded (children, elderly, women, Roma and Travellers, people with a disability, minorities...)
 6. Promote the engagement of young people and youth organisations, including by involving or creating youth councils
 7. Implement sustainable initiatives thereby creating an environment in which citizens and local authorities share the same long-term goals, namely to reinforce citizens' awareness and participation in decision making
 8. Implement innovative activities and projects
- c. On the basis of the activity reports provided by the participants requesting the title of "Partner of the European Local Democracy Week [Year]", the Bureau, at its first meeting of the year, will approve the granting of the title.
- d. On the occasion of the annual co-ordination meeting, the Thematic Spokesperson on the ELDW, on behalf of the Congress President, will present the "Partner of the European Local Democracy Week [Year]" certificates to the most active participants of the previous edition.

3. Developing the outreach of the ELDW

- a. The municipalities are invited to nominate a personality with local influence as “Voice of the ELDW”, whose role would be to promote the initiative as its goodwill ambassador, to allow for a wider outreach. This person should be active in the community, especially with young people and committed to expanding the ELDW outreach and inclusiveness. This representative would be responsible for encouraging active citizenship and promoting citizen participation and dialogue with local authorities, as well as the key principles of local democracy (including ethics, transparency, good governance, etc.).
- b. The Congress youth delegates are strongly encouraged to participate in the ELDW activities of their municipality or even to lead an ELDW event. The project to be undertaken by the Youth Delegates between the two sessions of the Congress could touch upon this topic.

4. Creating an independent network of exchange of good practices

- a. The ELDW participants are encouraged to actively promote exchanges of information and good practice between them, especially by using social media and the upcoming online platform of the ELDW website, with a view to developing an independent network for direct interaction and experience-sharing, and possibly establishing a Partnership of Cities for Citizen Participation.
- b. The Congress members and youth delegates should promote the ELDW and share information about their activities in the framework of the initiative, including on the social media.

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).

Within the framework of the reform of the European Local Democracy Week, the ELDW website is being redesigned. Although graphically upgraded and refined, the site will keep its current global structure:

✚ The main homepage presents the initiative and its recent developments, through regular newsletters and Congress news items relating to ELDW. It also contains all information related to the registration and modalities of participation.

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

The public page serves to consult all activities organised within the framework of the current ELDW edition as well as from previous editions back to 2010, which can serve to illustrate good practices and generate new creative ideas. This visibility is further enhanced by an interactive map developed in 2016, which allows a visual overview of the ELDW partners.

The restricted access page is set up for local and regional authorities and their associations to register their community. 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 seen 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 the participants' requests, who wished to be able to communicate with each other. The purpose of this tool is then to create a real interactive online exchange area to further develop these synergies. Every registered participant will then be able to launch a discussion, whether to share its activities or ideas, but also to ask for advices or even invite other participants to attend its events. The ELDW participants are encouraged to actively share information, advice and good practices.

Appendix 1: List of all partners of the 2018 edition

Total: 55 partners including 8 associations, 27 “12-Star” partners

Albania	Kamez 
Armenia	Vanadzor
Belgium	Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region 
France	Bischwiller 
	Grendelbruch
	Strasbourg 
Georgia	National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
Germany	Chemnitz
	Civocracy
Greece	Farkadona
	Network of Youth Engagement in Katerini
Hungary	Cselekvő Lepsény
	Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ)
Italy	Region Emilia-Romagna
	Rimini
	Association Darsana Teranga
Netherlands	Gemeente Vlaardingen
Portugal	Amadora 
	Funchal
	Gondomar
	Lagoa
	Valongo
	Lisbon Youth Center
Romania	Medgidia 
	Mioveni 
	Ramnicu Valcea
	Act Integration
Spain	El Turro

Sweden	Huddinge 
	Södermøre
Turkey	Ahmetbey 
	Bağcılar 
	Besiktas/Istanbul 
	Büyükçekmece 
	Edremit 
	Izmit 
	Kadikoy 
	Kahramankazan 
	Karsiyaka 
	Kirklareli 
	Lüleburgaz 
	Maltepe 
	Marmara Municipalities Union
	Sariyer 
	Rize 
Zeytinburnu 	
Ukraine	Fastiv 
	Kharkiv 
	Kyiv 
	Lviv 
United Kingdom	Aylesbury
	Chesterfield Borough
	Kirklees
	Malvern Hills
	Merton

Appendix 2: REPRESENTATION OF COUNTRIES 2012-2018

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

* Countries which were represented in all editions of the ELDW

		Turkey	Slovakia	Sweden	Serbia	Serbia
		Ukraine	Spain	Tunisia	Spain	Slovakia
		United Kingdom	Sweden	Turkey	Sweden	Spain
			Switzerland	United Kingdom	Switzerland	Sweden
			"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"		"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Switzerland
			Tunisia		Tunisia	Tunisia
			Turkey		Turkey	Turkey
			Ukraine		Ukraine	Ukraine
			United Kingdom		United Kingdom	United Kingdom

* Countries which were represented in all editions of the ELDW

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 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. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 200 000 local and regional authorities.

 Contact:

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel: +33 (0) 33 88 41 32 23

E-mail: democracy.week@coe.int

www.coe.int/demoweek



Cover: Council of Europe – SPDP

Text: Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Printed by Council of Europe

Edition: February 2019