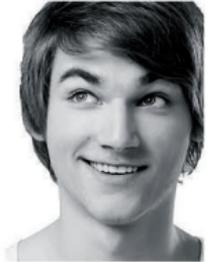




Protecting  
the environment:  
local communities  
take action



European Local  
Democracy Week  
2021-2022



SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



Congress of Local  
and Regional Authorities  
of the Council of Europe



# What is the 2021-2022 ELDW theme?

## “Protecting the environment: local communities take action”

Our societies have faced an unexpected global challenge and have been struggling to overcome the outbreak of Covid-19. Besides the pandemic, climate change continues as one of the most urgent threats to modern societies as highlighted by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 (building resilient communities) and 13 (climate action) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Responding to climate change calls for immediate joint actions with citizens aimed at building resilient communities in Europe and beyond and strengthening the protection of both the environment and population. Thus, the Congress committed itself, in its Priorities 2021-2026, to further develop activities designed to provide local responses to environmental and climate challenges.

**RAISING AWARENESS** should be the main component of the ELDW activities in 2021-2022.

**BUILDING RESILIENCE** requires providing accessibility to knowledge and resources to citizens who may otherwise be excluded or marginalised at the local and regional levels, particularly youth, seniors and underrepresented groups.

**PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY** implies that citizens should be informed of all stages of the decision-making process, according to the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on citizen participation. Critical and sensitive information should be easily accessible using **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES** and contents, which will contribute to create trustworthy networks.

**INVOLVING CITIZENS** means that everyone is participating in the decision process by organising collective actions. User-friendly applications and tools are essential to enable all groups of the population to influence the development of policies.

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITIES** cannot be achieved by one level of governance alone. Therefore, ELDW participants are encouraged to form networks with stakeholders and seek alternative routes for collaboration with national governments to achieve the common goal.

### More information



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www.coe.int/demoweek



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[www.coe.int/congress](http://www.coe.int/congress)

| 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.

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE