



European Local Democracy Week



**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe**



What is the European Local Democracy Week?

The “European Local Democracy Week” (ELDW) is a pan-European initiative that aims to boost dialogue between local authorities and citizens, to strengthen local democracy and to promote citizen participation.

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...);
- ▶ **Introducing** participatory mechanisms into our democratic systems.

Participants may choose to schedule their European Local Democracy Week and organise events at their convenience **during the whole year**. A **flagship event** can take place around the **15th of October** as a tribute to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which was opened for signature on that date in 1985.

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.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is responsible for coordinating the ELDW.



How to take part in the European Local Democracy Week?

3 STEPS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELDW

- 1 Fill in the online registration form www.coe.int/demoweek-registration and create your own ELDW account.
- 2 Plan and organise events related to the main theme of the year and to topical issues in your community, using the visual identity of the ELDW.
- 3 Make your activities visible through the ELDW website by uploading detailed description to your account.

Information on registration is available on the ELDW website:

www.coe.int/demoweek

The ELDW website contains:

- ▶ General information, thematic ideas, reference texts and events from previous years as well as a toolkit;
- ▶ Logos, posters and leaflets, downloadable in several languages;
- ▶ A list of national co-ordinators, partner associations and contacts details for the Congress ELDW team;
- ▶ An online platform aiming to develop an independent network for direct interaction and experience-sharing between participants.

What is the added value of the ELDW for your community?



- ▶ **Promoting** a participatory culture by engaging citizens in community life and in local politics;
- ▶ **Boosting** the quality and intensity of citizens' participation in local affairs, their understanding of local self-government and their knowledge of European organisations;
- ▶ **Enhancing** dialogue between citizens and their elected representatives and among different community groups.
- ▶ **Increasing** citizens' trust in elected representatives and institutions through their participation in a more open and transparent decision-making process;
- ▶ **Strengthening** the sense of a common mission and mutual responsibility between citizens and elected representatives for their communities;
- ▶ **Giving** a European dimension to the activities of your community.

More information

 democracy.week@coe.int

 www.coe.int/demoweek



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member States, including all the 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 150 000 local and regional authorities.

The Congress

Le Congrès

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