

**Local
communities:
putting democratic
resilience
at the forefront**



**European Local
Democracy Week
2023-2024**



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

The Congress



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What is the 2023-2024 ELDW theme?

“Local communities: putting democratic resilience at the forefront”

More than ever before, our cities and regions are facing global challenges at a very fast pace. The Covid-19 pandemic, which left a strong imprint on our societies over the past few years and adversely affected people from almost every region and group, has abated but its impact is still being felt. Environmental degradation, climate change and migration flows, as well as polarisation of our societies are among other challenges that require urgent action.

These crises confronting local and regional communities have been aggravated by Russia’s war against Ukraine, which has triggered a domino effect of the humanitarian disaster, soaring energy prices and rising inflation. When crises hit, citizens rely first on their local governments for support and help. This is why building democratic resilience at the local level must be a priority.

DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE implies the importance of maintaining democratic institutions and practices to uphold commitment to democratic principles, and to ensure that local authorities remain transparent and accountable even in times of crises.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION is a must to maintain democratic and sustainable communities by involving all groups of society, in particular women and young people, in decision-making mechanisms and by ensuring nobody feels left behind.

PARTNERSHIPS must be built at grassroots level based on genuine cooperation between local and central authorities, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, to develop successful resilience policies and strategies.

DIGITALISATION should be a key pillar of local governance as a requirement of modern society and a way for citizens to have equal access to information, services, and as part of consultations in decision making, thus promoting transparency and trust in local democracy.

FAKE NEWS AND DISINFORMATION continue to be a challenge in modern societies. Ensuring that citizens have access to accurate information through reliable platforms plays a crucial role for building democratic resilient local communities.

More information

 democracy.week@coe.int

 www.coe.int/demoweek



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| 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 46 member states of
| the Council of Europe.

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