



LIVING TOGETHER  
IN CULTURALLY  
DIVERSE SOCIETIES:  
**respect, dialogue,  
interaction**



European  
Local  
**Democracy  
Week**

10 - 16  
October 2016

The Congress  
  
Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## What is the main theme of the 2016 edition?



The theme of the ELDW in 2016 is “Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction”.

### RESPECT

Living together in culturally diverse societies starts with the first step, which is **mutual respect**. Respect for each other's culture, religion and traditions, on the common basis which unites us all: universal human rights. Respect for each other's rights and differences.

### DIALOGUE

The second step is **dialogue**. People who live together in the same city should have the opportunity to exchange their experiences with a view to making the best possible use of our cultural diversity. Education for human rights and democratic citizenship plays a crucial role in this respect.

### INTERACTION

The third step is **interaction**. Local and regional authorities should find common paths and areas of action to involve diverse groups within their communities, in order to build together a more tolerant society. Examples of best practice should be identified and promoted throughout Europe.



#### Contact



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ENG

*The European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is an initiative of the Council of Europe and its Congress, launched in 2007. The Congress, a political assembly composed of elected officials from local and regional authorities from the 47 Council of Europe member states, is responsible for the coordination of this pan-European initiative.*