



DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 84

Budapest, 27 March 2024

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Asia-Europe
Training Seminar on Youth, Digitalisation and
Intercultural Dialogue
7-11 October 2024
European Youth Centre Budapest

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING:

19 May 2024

BACKGROUND

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe has long-standing tradition of bringing together young people from Europe and other regions of the world for exchange and learning on issues of common concern. As an example, for many years, the Euro-Arab cooperation served as exchange and understanding between youth from Europe and the Arab world.

Building on this tradition, the training seminar on youth, digitalisation and intercultural dialogue will bring together young people who live in both Europe and Asia.

The questions, concerns, and excitement for digital developments – and their impacts on young peoples' lives and society at large– are shared across the regions. The Council of Europe Youth Department particular emphasis was placed on youth participation in digital governance processes, as well as on the developments connected to Artificial Intelligence.

In the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, this has been approached through a focus on youth participation in internet governance, to highlight the important of young people's voice on decisions regarding the internet. Parallel, to this, the Youth Department has emphasised the importance of Artificial Intelligence Literacy, for young people to be informed citizens, rather than passive users of AI technology. This work was present in seminars on internet governance and artificial intelligence in [2017](#), [2019](#) and [2020](#). The latest seminar, held online due to COVID-restrictions resulted in the [Declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#). In 2023 a consultative meeting was organised to reflect on developments in the field, where participants expressed the need for youth to be involved in processes around internet governance.

The question of digitalisation was furthermore picked up in the campaign [Democracy Here | Democracy Now](#), including the flagship activity of the campaign in 2022, the [Youth Action Week](#). The activity resulted in a [Call for Action](#) that gave special attention to the area of digitalisation. It called, among other things, for stakeholders to secure "Accessibility and free access to Internet and technology" and for clear ways to involve young people in decision-making about the internet.

These priorities are also reflected in the [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#), in which Internet Governance and AI are understood in relation to their impact on democracy. The strategy furthermore emphasises the importance of youth participation in governance processes and calls for ways to strengthen it.

To respond to the fast developments in technology, including AI, and concerns around human rights violations and lack of transparency, the Council of Europe is actively working on establishing a legally binding framework convention on Artificial Intelligence, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

ABOUT THE TRAINING SEMINAR

The training seminar is organised in partnership with the [Asia Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#), an intergovernmental non-profit organisation focusing on cooperation between people from the two regions. Specifically, it is run as part of the [ASEF Young Leaders Summit \(ASEFYLS\)](#), a Youth platform that connects young people from Asia and Europe.

The training is part of a broader training process run by ASEFYLS and partners (ASEFYLS Capacity Buildings), in which participants go through three distinct phases:

1. **Knowledge Building Phase:** 2 - 30 July 2024 | Online

An in-depth exploration into Leadership and Society 5.0 with trainings and thematic experts.

The knowledge building phase will be organised through webinars, and joined by other participants of the ASEF Young Leaders Summit platform.

2. **Residential seminar** 6 – 12 October 2024 (*including travel days*)/ Budapest, Hungary

3. **Action Phase:** August - December 2024 | In Local Communities

Turning theory into action, participants will organise events in their local communities to share their learnings with larger audiences.

Participants of the training seminar on youth, digitalisation and intercultural dialogue are expected to take part in all the phases. See more information about the full ASEFYLS cycle, including the opportunity to engage in a residential seminar in August in China, [here](#).

The training seminar will explore discussions and trends surrounding digitalisation and technological development, and the impact on society at large, including human rights. Specifically, it will explore the concept of "leadership in Society 5.0".

The ***Society 5.0*** is a concept developed in Japan in 2016. It describes a human-centred society that balances economic advancement with the resolution of social problems by a system that highly integrates cyberspace and physical space. The training will explore what kind of leadership is needed for Society 5.0 and how young people can prepare for an ethical, sustainable and digital future.

WHAT ARE THE #ASEFYLS CAPACITY BUILDINGS?

The ASEFYLS Capacity Buildings 2024 will take place from **July to December 2024**, focusing on the theme of 'Leadership & Society 5.0'. It is a hybrid project with collaborative programme elements. **Participants will attend the in-person training either in China or in Hungary.** [See draft programmes here.](#)

Aim











To support youth from Europe and Asia regions to explore, in an intercultural context, the most pressing issues related to technological developments, reflect on their implications on society and their own role within it.

Objectives

- To explore the main concepts related to Society 5.0, including technological developments like artificial intelligence.
- To create an understanding of the societal and ethical implications of emerging technologies, and explore existing frameworks for protection of human rights.
- To understand the competences needed for meaningful participation in a technologically advanced society, including leadership and intercultural competences.

- To motivate participants to plan local follow-up actions bringing the topics of the training closer to the communities they are engaged with.

PROGRAMME

	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SUN 6 OCT	 Arrival of Participants		 Welcome Evening
MON 7 OCT	 Opening	 Intercultural Learning Workshops	
TUE 8 OCT	 Citizenship & Technology in Society 5.0		 Cultural Evening
WED 9 OCT	Participation & Leadership Workshop	 Study Visit	Local Cultural Activity
THU 10 OCT	 Parallel Skill-Building Workshops		Local Cultural Activity
FRI 11 OCT	Planning & Follow-up Actions	 Closing & Farewell Evening	
SAT 12 OCT	 Departure of Participants		

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The Council of Europe will select up to 20 participants for the training seminar:¹

Profile of participants

Participants of the training are expected to be:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30
- Be committed to attend for the full duration of the seminar and all phases.
- Be able to work in English.
- Active in youth work or in a youth organisation, and in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the training through the follow-up phase.
- Be interested and motivated to explore questions related to technology and human rights

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the training seminar in Budapest will be reimbursed. Only the participants who attend the entire seminar can be reimbursed. Participants will pay the costs upfront and will be reimbursed up to 3-months after the seminar.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any access needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the training seminar. Participants are required to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

How to apply

Everyone interested in taking part in the seminar must apply by filling in the online form at <https://youthapplications.coe.int> before **19 May 2024**.

Please use [this form](#) instead, if you are:

- Interested/only available for the ASEFYLS Asia-Europe Young Leaders Campus in Beijing & Hangzhou, China 10 – 18 August 2024*
- Residing in Asia, interested in the Budapest training seminar October 7-11 2024*

ASEF will manage these applications.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For any questions, please write to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe at eyc.programme@coe.int .

¹ The Council of Europe will only manage the selection of participants residing in Europe, for the training seminar organised in Budapest, Hungary, together with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). Participants residing in Asia should apply using [this form](#).