EYDR
YOUTH DIGITAL RIGHTS

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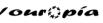
Open Call
Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme

Deadline: 20.12.2024, 23:59

Belgrade Centre for Human Rights · UZOR Udruženje za odgovorni i održivi razvoj · ESN Erasmus Student Network Albania · CCIS Center for Comparative and International Studies · youropia · AKR Agjencia Kombëtare e Rinisë · SHARE FOUNDATION

Background

The Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme is a capacity building and youth advocacy programme organized in the framework of the project "Youth Participation in Digital Democracy: From Digital Skills to Digital Rights of Youth with Fewer Opportunities in the Western Balkans" (EYDR), funded by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in the Field of Youth.

Implemented by a consortium of 7 organizations from Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Spain and led by The Center for Science and Innovation for Development (SCiDEV), EYDR aims to connect and empower young people in the digital world through developing their digital skills and raising awareness about their digital rights so they can fully participate in digital democracy.

Throughout 2024, the project partners have prepared reports on Mapping of Youth Participation in the Digital Democracy, both in Albania and Montenegro. These reports are the first of their kind and aim to shed light on the current levels of digital skills, trends of digital participation among youth and their understanding about digital rights in the two countries. The findings indicate that there is a mismatch of the self-assessment of the respondents and their actual level of knowledge in cyber security and fact checking skills, which hinder impactful youth participation in the digital realm.

The Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme aims to shift these narratives through providing youth in Albania and in Montenegro with the opportunity to join a hands-on capacity building program in which the participants will explore the realm of digital activism and elevate their digital, content creation and advocacy skills.

What does the Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme offer?

The Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme is a 9-month capacity building and youth advocacy programme that will equip 20 young people from Albania and Montenegro with practical skills to contribute to a more inclusive and safer online environment and to engage in digital/in person activism in a more meaningful way.

The programme is structured into four main components, which will offer the participants:

- **Comprehensive training covering both theoritical and practical aspects**

As part of the Digital Democracy Workshop series (blended events) the participants will be provided trainings by experts from the region in three dedicated workshops focused on digital citizenship & digital activism, cybersecurity and productive use of social media and AI.

- **Study visits to Serbia and Spain**

Ten youth in total from Albania and Montenegro will be selected to conduct a short mobility in Spain and Serbia to exchange good practices, network with stakeholders dedicated to digital rights and earn practical skills in cyber security and social media campaigns dedicated to human rights.

- **Mentoring and policy paper writing opportunity**

The participants will work in pairs supported throughout the length of the programme by experts to prepare policy papers which advocate for actionable changes that promote meaningful youth engagement in the digital realm and promote safe and inclusive digitalization of society. The topics of the policy papers will reflect current challenges and needs such as cyber security policy, internet freedom of expression, online activism, emerging digital threats, etc

- **First hand experience in designing impactful social media campaigns**

After completing their policy papers, the participants will get the chance to co-design social media campaigns in collaboration with the partner organizations. The awareness campaigns will include infographics, short videos, promos, copywriting and podcasts. The aim of the campaigns will be to further shed light on and amplify the proposals set out in the position papers which the participants will write with their mentors.

The table below displays a tentative timeline during which the activities of the Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme will take place.

Date	Activity	Modality
03.12.2024	Call for Applications Opens	Online
13.12.2024	Info Session in Podgorica	In person
16.12.2024	Online info session	Online
20.12.2024	Deadline for Applications	Online
27.12.2024	Selected Applicants Notified by Email	Online
09.01.2025	Youth Digital Democracy Accelerator Programme Kickoff event	Online
January-February 2025	Digital Democracy Workshop	Blended
February-September 2025	Policy Papers Development	Blended

02 – 06 March 2025 (TBC)	Study visit to Belgrade	In person
25 - 29 March 2025 (TBC)	Study visit to Oviedo	In person
April-September 2025	Awareness Campaign Development and Launch	Blended
September 2025	Final event	Blended

What kind of participants are we looking for?

We are looking for young people from Albania and Montenegro that are eager to join our efforts to explore the realm of digital democracy and are looking for an opportunity to elevate their skills or start their journey in the field of digital activism.

Specific criteria that the applicants should fill to be considered eligible for the Youth Democracy Accelerator Programme are:

- Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of application.
- Resident in Albania or Montenegro.
- Students and/or graduates from Law, Social Sciences, Journalism, IT and Multimedia are encouraged to apply.
- Ethnic minority members, LGBTI+, youth living in rural areas, unemployed and/or NEET youth (Not in Education, Employment or Training) are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Strong desire/motivation to explore the fields of digital rights, cybersecurity and e-democracy
- Applicants must be eager to actively participate in all programme activities, including Digital Democracy Workshop series, study visits, policy paper drafting and social media campaign design and implementation.
- Previous experience in digital tools, advocacy, or leadership roles is not mandatory, but could be considered a plus. Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn are essential.

Responsibilities of the selected participants

The selected participants must:

- Actively participate in at least 70% of the activities organized as part of the programme.
- Participate in the mobilities in Serbia and Spain
- Present key take aways from the mobility to the other participants and organize with the support of the organization 1 open event for the general public

- Interact and provide feedback to their mentors about the progress of the policy brief they will prepare
- Be eager to contribute to the social media campaign and promote the project achievements online and in media as suggested by the partners of the project.

Costs of the programme

The programe is free of charge for all the selected participants. The programme will cover all mobility expenses including travel, accommodation and food.

How to apply?

Interested applicants should submit their online application form by 20 December, 23:59. The link to the application can be accessed here. All applicants will be notified of their status of selection.

For additional information and questions about the application process and/or the programme please register for the info-session of December 16th 2024, 17:30 in Zoom. Registration link can be accessed here.

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