

January 18, 2017

*EMBARGO THURSDAY JANUARY 19th 09.00 A.M. BRUSSELS TIME*

## **YouthMetre: Launching an innovative tool for youth participation in European policy making**

Brussels, Belgium

On 14th February 2017, at the premises of the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels the consortium of six European organisations will introduce and launch an interactive open data tool to support youth participation in European policy making.

The launch seminar **“YouthMetre: an innovative tool for e-participation of youth in policy-making across Europe”** will showcase e-tools the YouthMetre project consortium have developed to promote youth participation at local, national and European level. It is also an occasion for discussion about forward looking youth participation and EU youth policies between public authorities, civil society and youth. Access to open EU data empowers young people to engage in youth-related decision-making by using it to effectively advocate for their ideas.

The launch event will bring together representatives of European institutions, local and regional authorities, civil society associations, experts and young European citizens to exchange knowledge, experience and good practices on how to involve youth in the decision-making process, at local, national and European levels.

In response to challenges posed by the European Commission’s Structured Dialogue initiative and recent statistics that show young Europeans often feel “marginalised” or “excluded” from economic and social life, the launch event will explore how YouthMetre can be used to foster dialogue between youngsters and policy makers. It is therefore intended to reach young people disregarding their social status or place of residence.

YouthMetre gives youngsters the opportunity to get informed, be inspired by other initiatives and to discuss their own ideas for community development. This approach enables the voices of youth to be heard and their ability to shape EU youth strategy and its implementation strengthened.

After the launch event, YouthMetre partners will organise two-days of training of youth leaders. This provides them with information about the EU Youth Strategy, EU Youth Indicators and the opportunities the YouthMetre provides. It addresses their likely needs in information processing, public communication and advocacy campaigning. This way the YouthMetre empowers European youth to effectively use the innovative e-tool and contributes to engaging youth ([#Yengage](#)) in shaping policies concerning addressing their needs, the future they want and therefore increase their active involvement in political decision-making. Ultimately YouthMetre helps youth answer the question 'Yengage' and make a difference.

The project consortium would like to take this press release as an opportunity to invite you to the launch conference. If you accept our invitation, please confirm your attendance by filling in this online form: <http://tinyurl.com/ym-launch>. If you also wish to meet and interview the young people taking part in the launch conference and training or discuss YouthMetre with members of the project consortium please send your request to e-mail of Mr Martin Maska ([m.maska@youthpress.org](mailto:m.maska@youthpress.org)).

Further information on the methodologies and approaches used can be obtained from the Communication officer of the project. You can also subscribe to the project newsletter to receive regular updates at [www.youthmetre.eu](http://www.youthmetre.eu).

**For more information and inquiries, please contact:**

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