

May 2, 2018

YouthMetre final conference

“Digital tools to foster youth engagement at the local level”

On 24 April 2018, ALDA, in partnership with 5 other European organisations, hosted the final conference of the project YouthMetre. This event took place at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels, and gathered together representatives from more than 60 European institutions, local and regional authorities, civil society associations, experts and ordinary citizens to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices on how to use digital tools to foster youth engagement in policy-making.

The event opened with welcome speeches from Ms. Yoomi Renström, Member of the Committee of the Regions; Ms. Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA and Karl Donert, Project Coordinator of the YouthMetre project and President of EUROGEO (European Association of Geographers). The first panel invited a wide representation of institutional stakeholders from all EU institutions and local organisations to share their perspectives on youth active participation in democratic life: Mr. Casba Borboly, Member of the Committee of the Regions; Mr. Emilian Pavel, Member of the European Parliament; Mr. Alessandro Senesi, Deputy Head of Unit at DG EAC; Mr. Davide Capecchi, Research and Policy Officer at the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth; Ms. Stéphanie Nowakowski, Project Officer at the Bureau International Jeunesse and Mr. Wout Van Caimere, Coordinator of the Youth Intergroup of the European Parliament.

The second panel allowed practitioners to share their practices and experiences on the use of e-tools for youth participation: Mr. Alessio Lupi, Secretary General of ARS for Progress of People; Ms. Céline Guedes de Carvalho, Policy Officer at FEPS; Mr. Valentin Dupouey, Secretary General of JEF; Ms. Delphine Rochus, Belgian Young Ambassador on behalf of the Youth Council; Ms. Elisa Lironi, Digital Democracy Manager at ECAS; Mr. Evaldas Rupkus, Project Manager at IJAB; Mr. Matías Nso, CEO and co-founder of Kuorum.org and Mr. Daniel Van Lerberghe, Dissemination and Communication Partner at Cafébabel.

The YouthMetre project was able to show how it reached the objectives it had set for itself. The project consortium had launched the YouthMetre e-tool in February 2017 where data on youth policy was made openly and easily accessible and where examples of good practices were presented to inspire young people. The YouthMetre data dashboard was introduced to both young people and decision-makers alike to foster ground for dialogue through the use of data.

The event was also an occasion for institutional stakeholders to reflect on the current challenges that young people face before being able to actively participate in decision-making at the local level. They all stressed the importance of technology in empowering young people to participate but also to collect data in order to support their advocacy work. In the afternoon, practitioners shared their practices and successful experiences in using e-tools to foster youth participation at local, national and European levels. It allowed for all organisations present to consider possible future synergies between such a rich array of e-tools.

Funded by the European Commission's Erasmus+ Program, YouthMetre contributes to creating structured dialogue between EU's authorities and the union's young inhabitants. The initiative aims at supporting EU Member States, municipalities and regions in carrying out effective policy reforms in the field of Youth, in line with the indications provided by the EU Youth Strategy and according to the priorities perceived by its target population: young Europeans.

For more information about the YouthMetre, contact the Project Coordinator Karl Donert, President, European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) — kdonert@yahoo.com.