

January 18, 2017

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

## **YouthMetre: Training of European youth leaders in Brussels**

Brussels, Belgium

The YouthMetre project aims to empower young people to actively engage in youth-related decisions and to be able to advocate for their ideas. The opinions of young people are central to the future of Europe. The European Commission recognises their needs and ideas must be central to youth policy in the future.

A main component of the project is the development of interactive, non-formal training materials to support the use of the YouthMetre e-tool (<http://youthmetre.eu/youthmetre>) and the improvement of young people's skills and confidence to express themselves with policy makers. To pilot these materials, a training of Multipliers event will take place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th of February in premises of the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels.

YouthMetre provides a tool for forward looking youth participation. The Training of Multipliers in February addresses youth leaders - the representatives of 15 Study Groups from diverse EU Member States - who want to engage and foster youth engagement in policy making and establish meaningful dialogue with decision makers. The aim of the Training of Multipliers is to provide the participants with knowledge of EU Youth Strategy, EU Youth Indicators and awareness of the opportunities the YouthMetre provides. This is combined with skills in information processing, public communication and advocacy campaigning.

*„Thanks to the YouthMetre training we will be able to encourage youth participation in decision making process through the use of IT, especially the YouthMetre e-tool, and through non-formal methods of education. We want to reach young people across Europe and provide them with knowledge and practical tools and skills to make their voices heard,“* says Caterina Impastato from CESIE, coordinator of the training.

The young leaders will test the innovative methodology of the YouthMetre programme and give feedback to the organisers. This method ensures that the YouthMetre will be user-friendly, reflect the needs of youth and focus on the reasons why youth should engage or #Yengage.

The project consortium would like to take this press release as an opportunity to invite you to the launch conference *“YouthMetre – An innovative tool for e-participation of youth in policy making across Europe”* taking place on 14 February in premises of the European Committee of the Regions. 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 the 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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