

# PARTICIPATION FORUM 2024

Tallinn, Estonia | 27-28 November 2024



# SALTO

PARTICIPATION & INFORMATION

Note: All times in Estonian time (CET+1). Considering the participatory nature of the event and other circumstances, the programme might be adjusted.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

	Tuesday 26.11. <i>WELCOMING &amp; CONNECTING</i>	Wednesday 27.11. <i>SHARING &amp; BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE</i>	Thursday 28.11. <i>CRITICAL LOOK AHEAD</i>	Friday 29.11. <i>INSPIRATION "to go"</i>		
9:30-11:00	<p><b>Arrivals</b> <i>Settling in and exploring Tallinn</i></p> <p><b>NAs' Participation Network Meeting</b> <i>(only for National Agencies' Participation Contact Points)</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p><b>Essentials of democratic participation</b> <i>Finding a common ground and food for thought</i></p> <p><i>Tallinn University Astra, A002 (Maximum).</i></p>	<p><b>Participation and the programmes</b></p> <p><i>Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Where are we?</i></p> <p><i>Tallinn University Astra, A002 (Maximum).</i></p>			
11:00-11:30		<p><b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i></p>				
11:30-13:00		<p><b>Exploring democratic participation as a topic in our activities</b></p> <p><i>Parallel sessions A121, A346, S116, S232, S238, S412</i></p>	<p><b>Participation and the programmes</b> <i>Challenges and recommendations for the future</i></p> <p><i>Parallel sessions A121, A346, S116, S232, S238, S412</i></p>			
13:00-14:30		<p><b>Lunch</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i></p>				
14:30-16:00		<p><b>Participation in our own organisations: Involvement of target groups in our decision-making</b></p> <p><i>Panel discussion - A002 (Maximum)</i></p> <p><i>Parallel sessions A121, A346, S116, S232, S238, S412</i></p>	<p><b>Participation and the programmes</b> <i>Strategic look ahead</i></p> <p><i>Parallel sessions A121, A346, S116, S232, S238, S412</i></p>		<p><b>Optional study visits</b></p> <p><b>Optional cooperation meetings</b></p> <p><b>Departure day</b> <i>(if going on study visits, then departure after 14.00)</i></p>	
16:00-16:30		<p><b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i></p>				
16:30-17:45		<p><b>Cooperation fair</b> <i>Getting to know NGOs, SNACs and building bridges in an interactive way</i></p> <p><i>Tallinn University, Astra building foyer</i></p>	<p><b>Reflection</b> <i>Individual and collective look ahead</i></p> <p><b>Evaluation and closing</b></p> <p><i>Tallinn University Astra, A002 (Maximum).</i></p>			
17:45-19:00		<p><b>Free time</b></p>				
19:00		<p><b>Dinner</b>   <i>Restaurant Merineitsi Viru Hotel (2nd floor), Viru väljak 4</i></p>	<p><b>Dinner</b>   <i>Kochi Aidad Lootsi tn 10-2</i></p>			<p><b>Dinner</b>   <i>Noho Nordic Hotel Forum (ground floor), Viru väljak 3</i></p>
20:30		<p><b>Informal gathering</b> <i>Tallinn University, Astra building foyer, Narva mnt 29</i></p>	<p><b>Exploring the city (optional)</b></p>			<p><b>Participatory celebration</b> <i>Nordic Hotel Forum, Viru väljak 3</i></p>



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# PARALLEL SESSIONS

Wednesday, 27 November, 11.30-13.00

## Descriptions of parallel sessions

Session A	<b>Working across sectors and learning from each other</b> <i>Veronica Stefan &amp; Aleksandra Mangus, New Power in Youth Strategic Partnership</i>	A121	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Veronica Stefan</i>
Session B	<b>Creating environment for participation</b> <i>Laszlo Foldi, Democracy Reloading Strategic Partnership; Judit Balogh, Europe Goes Local Strategic Partnership</i>	A346	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Olga Glumac</i>
Session C	<b>How do we discuss the "common values"?</b> <i>Pietro Michelacci &amp; Matteo Minà, INDIRE - LTA PEACE; Mahira Karim, European Wergeland Centre</i>	S116	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Sara Southam</i>
Session D	<b>The right to participation for all</b> <i>Linda Janmaat, Dutch National Agency Erasmus+; Veronica Arduino, the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL)</i>	S232	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Joana Freitas</i>
Session E	<b>Research on participation: what's the point?</b> <i>Annabel Vuillier-Cools, Agence Erasmus+ France / Education Formation Anaëlle Rollin &amp; Emmanuelle Daill, Agence Erasmus+ Formation Jeunesse et Sport Carmen Teubl-Kiviniemi, RAY Network</i>	S238	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Elitsa Hadzhieva</i>
Session F	<b>Democratic education and the right to participate: from learning to living democracy in school</b> <i>Martina Paone, European Democratic Education Community</i>	S412	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Martina Paone</i>

Wednesday, 27 November, 14.30-16.00

## Descriptions of parallel sessions

Session A	<b>Participatory culture as an institutional value</b> <i>Reet Kost, Deputy Director of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Estonian Agency</i>	A121	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Olga Glumac</i>
Session B	<b>Who is involved in our decision-making and who is missing?</b> <i>Henrique Goncalves, Project officer at SALTO Inclusion and Diversity</i>	A346	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Henrique Goncalves</i>
Session C	<b>How do we involve young people in our decision-making? Challenges and opportunities</b> <i>Artūrs Pokšāns and Gianluca Rossino, researchers on youth involvement in National Agencies</i>	S116	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Artūrs and Gianluca</i>
Session D	<b>How do we involve programme ambassadors in decision-making?</b> <i>Kristin Wilkens, Senior expert, Coordinator of the European EuroApprentices Network &amp; Marie Heimborg, International Network Coordinator EuroPeers</i>	S232	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Sara Southam</i>
Session E	<b>Learning with and from youth-led organisations</b> <i>Sina Riz a Porta - Board Member in European Youth Forum Albert Janssens, Board Member in Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU)</i>	S238	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Elitsa Hadzhieva</i>
Session F	<b>Working together with adult learners and educators</b> <i>Christin Cieslak, Head of Programmes and Stakeholder Engagement at the European Association for Adult Education (EAEA)</i>	S412	<b>Facilitator:</b> <i>Christin Cieslak</i>

Thursday, 28 November

## PARTICIPATION AND THE PROGRAMMES

Sectoral sessions on the challenges and potential improvements

## Descriptions of parallel sessions

<b>Youth Participation Strategy &amp; Youth</b>	A121	<b>Adult education</b>	S116	<b>Higher education</b>	S238
<b>School education</b>	A346	<b>Vocational education</b>	S232	<b>European Solidarity Corps</b>	S412

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## Wednesday 27 November SHARING & BUILDING ON EXPERIENCE

9:30-10:00	<b>Welcome speeches, practical information and introduction of the programme</b>
10:00-11:00	<b>Democratic participation: building a common ground</b> <i>Keynote speech by Cristina Bacalso and reflection</i>
11:00-11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
11:30-13:00	<b>Exploring democratic participation in our activities</b> <i>Parallel sessions for sharing practice stories on activities on participation, such as activities with and for decision-makers on creating spaces for participation, cross-sectoral practices in participation, democratic school education, and more</i>
13:00-14:30	<b>Lunch</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
14:30-16:00	<b>Participation in our work : "Walking the talk" and making decisions together</b> <b>Panel discussion on the importance of involving our target group</b> <i>Spyros Papadatos, Sara Porta, Annabel Vuillier-Cools</i> <b>Parallel sessions</b> including practice stories, workshops and discussions on inclusive decision-making processes, participation as an institutional commitment, involvement of youth in NA decision-making, engagement of programme ambassadors, and more.
16:00-16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
16:30-17:45	<b>Cooperation fair</b> <i>Getting to know initiatives from civil society organisations, EU institutions, plus SNACs/LTAs, and their tools, activities and techniques on democratic participation in an interactive way</i>
17:45-19:00	<b>Free time</b>
19:00	<b>Dinner</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
21:00	<b>Exploring the city</b> (optional)



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## Thursday 28 November CRITICAL LOOK AHEAD

9:30-9:45	<b>Hello and welcome, short hellos among the participants</b>
9.45-10.15	<b>Where are we?</b> <i>Report on the implementation of the participation priority - Ondrej Barta</i>
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Youth Participation Strategy and monitoring results</b> <i>Youth Participation Strategy Steering Group</i>
11:00-11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
11:30-13:00	<b>“Participation in democratic life” priority and the Programmes</b> <i>Sectorial working groups (Youth, VET, SE, HE and AE; plus European Solidarity Corps) to look at the current current challenges, opportunities and potential recommendations for current and future Programmes</i>
13:00-14:30	<b>Lunch</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
14:30-16:00	<b>“Participation in democratic life” priority and the Programmes</b> <i>Sessions in sectorial working groups on potential ways forward, and actionable and strategic further developments in National Agencies, organisations and in the Programmes</i>
16:00-16:30	<b>Coffee break</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
16:30-17:45	<b>Reflection, evaluation and next steps</b> <i>What's next for us individually and collectively?</i>
17:45-19:00	<b>Free time</b>
19:00	<b>Dinner</b>   <i>Reflecting and connecting</i>
20:30 - 22:00	<b>Participatory celebration</b> <i>Let's celebrate our daily efforts in improving opportunities for democratic participation with a glimpse of Estonian older and newer participatory traditions. To spark some creativity, movement and joy!</i>



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Please join the study visit you had applied to in the form. Let us know if there are any issues with that.

## Friday 29 November INSPIRATION FOR THE FUTURE

9:30-12.00	<p><b>How early can you participate in decision-making?</b> Experience of Suvemäe democratic school</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 9.30</p>
9.30-12.00	<p><b>“We have influence”</b> Pelgulinna gymnasium and living democracy in school</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 9.30</p>
10.00-13.00	<p><b>Who creates the city?</b> City government simulation as a youth participation project (time TBC)</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 10.00</p>
10.00-13.00	<p><b>Experiencing Europe through a role play</b> At multimedia centre EUROPA EXPERIENCE</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 10.00</p>
10.30-13.00	<p><b>Who gets to make decisions about budgets?</b> Participatory budgeting in schools as a youth participation project</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 10.30</p>
10.30-12.30	<p><b>Democracy, freedom of expression and critical thinking</b> Visit and a discussion at the Banned Books museum</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 10.30</p>
11.00-13.00	<p><b>Adult education, folk high schools and citizenship ABC</b> Visit to the Tallinn Folk high school</p> <p>Meeting point: Viru gate (Viru tänav, Müürivahe 31), 10.00</p>

### OPTIONAL COOPERATION MEETINGS

Considering one of the goals of the Forum is to build synergies among participants, should you wish to have additional time to meet with other participants, you can arrange a meeting among yourselves. SALTO PI can provide spaces for meetings between 9 and 16h. Please indicate your needs for meeting rooms via email to [participation@salto-youth.net](mailto:participation@salto-youth.net)



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## OPTIONAL STUDY VISITS

### “We have influence”

Pelgulinna gymnasium and living democracy in school (9.30-12.00)

**PERG** is a new state gymnasium that was opened in 2023. Besides qualitative gymnasium education, they also focus on democracy and on „wicked problems“. They say: "Our core values are „We have influence“ and „Together and flexibly“ and we truly believe in living and breathing democracy in our school."

**This will be a chance to explore the school itself, discuss curriculum and democratic principles in their teaching, learning and working culture, as well as meet and discuss with some of their students.** The school has just started their journey in the world of Erasmus+ programme, so this visit will be a chance to discuss how their existing and new activities can potentially be supported by this.



photo provided by the Pelgulinna Riigigümnasium

### Who creates the city?

City government simulation as a youth participation project (9.30-12.00)

Tallinn city youth council implemented a project - city government simulation, where young people were working on their proposals for improvements of the city. One of their proposals (after many meetings) was accepted by the city government and will be implemented. What makes the project even more special is the fact that they did a fascinating impact analysis alongside the project, bringing out how the project increased the awareness of young people in Tallinn about the existence of a youth council and increased the number of people who applied for the next period in the council. The project also had a long-term impact on the young people themselves, and has turned into other initiatives.

**This will be a chance to discuss with the young people** - their experience, challenges, benefits and ideas for the programmes.

### How early can you participate in decision-making?

Experience of Suvemäe democratic school (9.30-12.00)

The Suvemäe democratic school section is a part of the Tallinn Art Gymnasium, offering basic education from grades 1 to 9.

**What sets democratic education apart for them is the active involvement of students in decision-making affecting school life.** Students are encouraged to share their opinions, and weekly school-wide meetings are held where all students are invited to participate.

For more significant decisions, a vote is held, with students and adults having an equal say. Students are actively involved in planning, including the development of assessment criteria. Fridays are dedicated to non-formal education, with various clubs allowing students to explore and develop their personal interests. Alongside academic studies, Suvemäe focuses on cultivating executive functions and learning skills, with the aim of fostering self-directed learners. At the start of each academic year, students select a coach from among the adults to support them on their educational journey. Suvemäe is constantly evolving, adapting to the needs and dynamics of the community.

Suvemäe democratic school is an Erasmus+ accredited organisation, so it will also be a chance to discuss the opportunities, challenges and connections of their activities and the programmes



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## OPTIONAL STUDY VISITS

### Who gets to make decisions about budgets?

#### Participatory budgeting in schools as a youth participation project (10.30-13.00)

Participatory budgeting is a tool of participatory democracy which gives students the chance to decide how part of the school's budget will be spent. Initial pilot and impact assessment showed that the number of students actively involved in school life grew and pupils who felt students to be included in making decisions. Since then, they have reached 25 schools and around 3500 students through brainstorming activities, workshops, voting and other events.

They also offer schools a digital platform to use for voting, so that young people have the necessary digital skills to e-vote and partake in civic life. Their work is now expanding and seek to integrate existing participatory budgeting practices in other local municipalities and schools, creating a sustainable participatory democratic ecosystem that empowers youth and promotes active citizenship. It is supported by Erasmus+ Youth participation activities among other funding sources. A booklet is available [here](#).

### Democracy, freedom of expression and critical thinking

#### Visit and a discussion at the Banned Books museum (10.30-12.30)

[The Banned Books Museum](#) collects and preserves banned, burned, and censored books from around the world. The museum representatives say: "Our museum is as politically neutral as possible, and we do not condone or condemn the content of the books in our collection or judge the authors themselves. Instead we give our visitors the skills to evaluate for themselves by supporting critical thinking, and encouraging them to interact with books that may offend them. (..) **Education is a slow process, but it remains the most effective way to build a resilient society who can talk about difficult cases with respect, prepared to re-consider their own opinions and explain themselves clearly.**"

Opened in December 2020, they currently have more than 350 books in the collection representing over 100 different countries. Their dream is a "higher standard of public discourse around censorship". They are a social enterprise, not funded by projects from Erasmus+ or other programmes, providing a platform to discuss this topic as well.

### Adult education, folk high schools and citizenship ABC

#### Visit to and meeting with the Tallinn Folk high school association (10.00-12.00)

Are you familiar with the Nordic concept of folk high schools initiated by Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig? In the meeting with the Association of Estonian Folk High schools you will have a chance to get to know the main idea of it and how it has developed in Estonia, including insights to overall adult learning trends in our country. They will introduce the work of folk high schools and the advocacy work of the umbrella organization. Civic education plays an important role for them, so this will be a chance to discuss their project "Citizenship ABC", where study circles was used as a method. Study circles are an important part of the Nordic liberal education tradition as well.

"We welcome you to a joint discussion about civic education – its strengths and challenges related to it," say the representatives.

### Experiencing Europe through a role play (10.00-13.00)

In the multimedia centre **EUROPA EXPERIENCE**, you can learn more about the EU, European politics and how you can make a difference. This will be a tour through different multimedia stations, "meeting" your representatives in the European institutions, and finding out how you can influence their decisions. You can also watch a movie about EU history and parliamentary democracy in our 360° cinema and play an engaging Role Play Game on how decisions are made in the EU.



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