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Training Course on AI literacy with young people

Supporting youth leaders and multipliers to address the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on young people's lives and access to human rights

28 March – 1 April 2022

European Youth Centre Budapest

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: 13 February 2022

Background

Artificial intelligence: a set of sciences, theories and techniques whose purpose is to reproduce by machine the cognitive abilities of a human being ¹

The Council of Europe and Artificial Intelligence

The Council of Europe has initiated a wider dialogue to address various concerns about the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Democracy and Human Rights. An important milestone was the high-level conference "*Governing the Game Changer – Impacts of artificial intelligence development on human rights, democracy and the rule of law*", organised in Helsinki in February 2019, under the Finnish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers.

In May 2019 the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights published the recommendation [Unboxing artificial intelligence: 10 steps to protect human rights](#)¹. It provides a number of steps which national authorities can take to maximise the potential of artificial intelligence systems and prevent or mitigate the negative impact they may. In September the same year, the Council of Europe set up the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), which is mandated by the Committee of Ministers to examine the application of artificial intelligence, based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Committee of Ministers has also adopted a [Recommendation on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems](#) in April 2020 which urges member states to review their legislative frameworks and policies as well as their own practices with respect to the procurement, design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems to ensure that they are in line with the guidelines of the recommendation.

Youth and Artificial Intelligence

A seminar "[Artificial Intelligence and its impact on Young People](#)" was organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in December 2019. It explored the issues, role and possible contributions of the youth sector in ensuring that AI is responsibly used in democratic societies and that young people have a say about matters that concern their present and future.

This seminar was followed by an online seminar "[AI: How Can Youth Take Part](#)" organised from in November 2020 with over 80 participants representing young people, youth workers, trainers, AI specialists and human rights experts. The seminar aimed to map relevant stakeholders and processes involved in AI governance relevant for youth and identify policy gaps that prevent young people from taking part in AI governance. Additionally, the seminar aimed to strengthen the role of the youth sector in developing approaches and resources for AI literacy.

By the end of the seminar, the participants had shared practices, perspectives and experiences around AI Governance and Youth Participation, thereby leading to a stronger network, and launched the [Declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#), which calls for meaningful youth participation in matters related to AI, equal access to AI literacy and education for all young people, strengthening the voice of the youth sector in the creation of AI regulation and

1. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/artificial-intelligence>

governance and enhanced collaboration to ensure a multi-stakeholder approach to AI in the years ahead.

AI literacy refers in this context to young people having access to information about Artificial Intelligence, and to the skills and competences needed to understand how algorithmic systems work and what their impact is on everyday life in society.

Young people's participation in internet governance is recognised in the Council of Europe [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) under the thematic priority of **revitalising pluralistic democracies**. Youth AI literacy and similar competences are necessary for holistic democratic participation and insight in a digitalised world.

In 2021 the Youth Department tasked an expert group on AI literacy to develop educational tools to be used in youth work. These educational tools should enable equipping young people with AI literacy skills and provide a framework for exploring and learning about the topic. Participants to the training course will be able to apply some of these tools.

About the training course

The training course will build on previous work done by the Council of Europe in the area of Artificial Intelligence, and especially on the outcomes of the seminars organised by the Youth Department in 2019 and 2020.

The course will take place in the European Youth Centre in Budapest (EYCB) and last for 5 days (excluding travel days). Participants are expected to attend in person, subject to the evolution of the covid-related protocols on travel and meetings. The methodology will be based on non-formal education approaches and make use of participants experience. The course programme will particularly make use of the set of educational resources on AI literacy and of the handbook on youth participation in Internet governance.

The course will welcome participants with various expertise on the topic. Participants who have not worked with the topic of Artificial Intelligence/internet governance but are looking to build a competence in the area can also apply.

The course also contributes to the Youth Department campaign *Democracy Here, Democracy Now* that will run from March until October 2022 where one focus is the impact of digitalisation on democracy. The dissemination of tools for AI literacy can support engagement of more young people.

Aims and objectives

The course aims at strengthening the capacity of the youth sector to contribute to integrate AI literacy and governance issues by developing the competences of multipliers and youth leaders to explore the impact of Artificial Intelligence on young people's lives and access to human rights, and to support young people in being participants in Internet governance and multipliers of AI literacy.

Objectives of the course

- To explore AI's impact on participation, engagement and decision-making opportunities of young people and the connection and interaction between existing human rights frameworks and AI practises
- To introduce principles and approaches of literacy and advocacy on matters of Artificial Intelligence and Internet Governance based on Council of Europe standards in the fields of human rights, democratic participation and non-formal education
- To prepare multipliers to undertake activities on AI literacy with young people
- To support the preparation of the youth campaign on revitalising democracy, in particular the digitalisation dimension.
- To assess the relevance and adequacy of current resources on AI literacy and Internet governance in view of their further development and dissemination.

Profile of participants

Participants of the training course are expected to be:

- Multipliers and facilitators of youth activities
- Youth workers and youth leaders
- Active in youth organisations, youth centres or institutions
- Interested in developing competences to working with AI literacy and Internet governance with young people and to act as multipliers after the course.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30
- Be committed to attend for the full duration of the course
- Be able to work in English.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training course will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form.

Enrolment fee

An enrolment fee of 60 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYCB during the residential seminar.

Working languages

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

COVID protocol

A special COVID protocol will be shared with participants upon selection. This includes rules and recommendations for a safe stay in the European Youth Centre Budapest. All participants are expected to follow this protocol during the training course.

Application, procedure and selection of participants

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

The Council of Europe will select up to 25 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established.

Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list.

The application form must be submitted on-line with the support letters before **13 February 2022**, 23:59 CET at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>.