



European Local
Democracy Action



THE CONGRESS



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www.coe.int/en/web/congress/elda

What is ELDA?

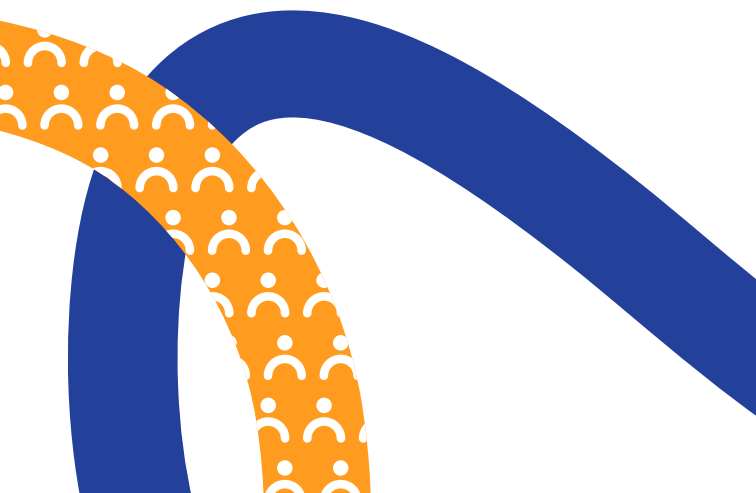
Since January 2026, the European Local Democracy Action (ELDA) takes over from the European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) which was launched in 2007.

The initiative is a Europe-wide platform for local and regional authorities that aim to strengthen participative democracy at the local level.

ELDA supports municipalities and regions in bringing citizens closer to local decision-making. It encourages dialogue, participation and cooperation in everyday local life. It provides a simple and flexible framework for local and regional authorities to report on all activities that allow people to express their views, share ideas and take part in shaping their community.

Under the overarching theme “Encouraging citizens participation in local democracy” and with respect for the values of the Council of Europe, ELDA promotes participatory democracy actions throughout the year.

The initiative is coordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, which works to strengthen democracy, human rights and good governance at the local and regional level across Europe.



How to participate?

Participating in ELDA is easy and adaptable to your local context.

1

Organise activities involving citizens

Plan activities that encourage citizens to take part in local public life, such as:

- › public debates or meetings,
- › open or participatory council sessions,
- › workshops, consultations or forums,
- › youth, school or community projects,
- › participatory budgeting

You can organise one or several actions, at any time during the year.

2

Register your municipality and actions

Register on the ELDA platform to join, report on your actions and make them visible at European level.

3

Share experiences & learn from others

Exchange ideas and good practices with other municipalities across Europe during the annual ELDA meeting organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

4

Apply for the ELDA Prize

Participating municipalities may receive a formal European recognition through a Partner Status Certificate upon application. As a new feature of ELDA, a Prize will also be granted every year to one outstanding, sustainable and innovative activity or project aimed at encouraging citizens' participation in local democracy and implemented by an ELDA partner.

Why should my municipality or region participate?

Local democracy is strongest when citizens feel listened to, involved and respected. ELDA helps municipalities achieve this in a practical and visible way. ELDA highlights actions and initiatives of all sizes.

By participating in ELDA, your community highlights its commitment to taking actions that:

- **strengthen trust between citizens and local authorities**
- **improve the quality of local decisions and policies**
- **engage people who do not usually participate**
- **promote transparency and the values of good democratic governance championed by the Council of Europe**
- **get visibility and recognition from peers at the European level**
- **connect with a Europe-wide network of municipalities**

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member States, including all the members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 612 elected officials representing more than 130 000 local and regional authorities.