



## Invitation

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**To:** Member Organisations of IFLRY

**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2016

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### **“You(th) in the <3 of Decision-Making in Times of Political Transition” 30<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016, Skopje, Macedonia**

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the IFLRY local activity on “You(th) in the <3 of Decision-Making in Times of Political Transition”. This three-day seminar is to be held in Skopje, Macedonia, from the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2016. It will aim to inform participants, who will learn both from trainers and from the experiences of other participants, on the potential role of youth in influencing policymaking during periods of political transition, as defined by the context of Macedonia. We will convene participants from the Balkans who will share best practices and their own experiences, empowering young people to actively engage in decision-making processes within their own nations and communities. This seminar is held in cooperation with the Liberal Democratic Youth of Macedonia.

The main aims of the event are:

- to map out challenges and opportunities for increased youth participation in local decision-making processes, particularly relating to political transition to democracy and respect for human rights;
- to raise awareness of available international instruments to increase youth participation, in particular from the Council of Europe;
- to explore Co-Management and other relevant means to govern youth participation in decision-making;
- to examine challenges relating to youth input and participation in Macedonia, seeking to work out specific projects that focus on furthering youth participation in local governance and civil society;
- to analyse with participants how youth input can play a positive role in advancing solutions to issues stalling the democratic process;
- to create a set of policy solutions which assist youth in overcoming challenges in areas of political uncertainty and exclusion from civil society.

The procession of the seminar is logically constructed so as to ensure a smooth learning curve for participants. On the first day we will define essential concepts, explore the meaning of co-management, and consider such questions as whether youth can be constructive during political transitions, whether it can add value to address social challenges at large, and whether, in striving to be an impactful actor, youth can employ specific strategies, tactics or activities that constitute best practices. In contemplating these questions we will specifically consider the Macedonian context. On the second day we will discuss how best to address the challenges and opportunities identified the day before, reflecting upon instruments, including local best practices, co-management and international mechanisms. Finally, on the third day, we will focus on developing policy solutions and participant-led projects with measurable projected outputs, thereby seeking to achieve concrete outcomes to the seminar.

Below you will find further practical information. Please see [here](#) for the online form through which you can apply. We look forward to seeing you in Skopje!

Mane MANUKYAN | Executive Director



<b>Application procedure:</b>
<p>The deadline for applying is: <b>9<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b> (23:59 GMT).</p> <p>Applicants must register through our <a href="#">online form</a>.</p> <p>All required fields must be filled in. IFLRY will not accept blank nominations. If you have any preferences for roommates, please state it in the form. For any questions, please contact the Secretariat by e-mail: <a href="mailto:dali.tenhove@iflry.org">dali.tenhove@iflry.org</a>.</p>
<b>Date &amp; Venue:</b>
<p><b><u>Arrival:</u></b> Participants are expected to arrive on <b>Thursday 30 June before 12:00 (noon) local time.</b></p> <p><b><u>Departure:</u></b> Participants are expected to depart <b>Monday 3 July after 17:00 local time.</b></p> <p>Please note that full completion of the programme is <b>mandatory</b> to qualify for a refund. There can be <b>no late arrivals or early departures</b>. If you wish to visit Skopje, please consider staying extra days prior or after the seminar—on your own cost—as there will be little time for this during the programme.</p> <p>Participants will be accommodated in double or triple rooms. Should you wish to request a single room or additional nights in the hotel, you can add this to your nomination and we will strive to satisfy your request. You will however have to bear these additional costs yourself.</p>
<b>Funding:</b>
<p>The sponsor for this activity is the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.</p> <p>Included in the activity is accommodation (30 June – 3 July, 3 nights), food (lunch snacks on the 30<sup>th</sup>; breakfast and lunch each day; dinner: 30<sup>th</sup> June – 2 July) a travel subsidy, and costs associated with the activity during the course of the event.</p> <p>Costs which are not included are social evening events, non-receipted travels, and travel within free time. Cost attributed to arrivals or departures outside the activity time frame are at your own accord.</p> <p>A travel refund option will be made available. Transport to the event must be cost-effective in order to claim a refund. You will have to provide your refund claim form to your trainer along with all receipts.</p>
<b>Local Activity: “You(th) in the &lt;3 of Conflict Transformation @Caucasus”</b>
<p><b>LANGUAGE:</b> English is the working language of this local activity.</p> <p><b>FORMAT:</b> Non-Formal Education.</p> <p>Non-Formal Education is participant-centred, action-oriented and value-based. It is instruction that is not obligatory and structured and is learned outside the context of a formal school. The non-formal approach to education and interaction in IFLRY means that the entire experience of a study session is a learning experience – such as interactive lectures, workshops, working groups, simulations, cafes, and peer to peer learning.</p>