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**DRAFT 1 Recommendation CM/Rec (2025)... of the Committee of Ministers to member  
States on the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and  
regional life**

**Item 7. 1.1. of the agenda**

**DRAFT 1 Recommendation CM/Rec (2025)... of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the European Charter on the participation of young people in local and regional life**

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on .....  
at the .....meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe (ETS No. 1),

1. Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its member States for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress;
2. Considering that member States of the Council of Europe have committed themselves to ensuring the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5, “the Convention) to everyone within their jurisdiction, and recalling their obligation to refrain from human rights violations;
3. Having regard to the European Social Charter (adopted in 1961, ETS No. 35, and subsequently amended and supplemented by its additional protocols ETS Nos. 128 (1988), 142 (1991) and 158 (1995) and revised in 1996, ETS No. 163), as applied and interpreted by the European Committee of Social Rights;
4. Having regard to the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (ETS No. 122);
5. Building on the provisions of the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority (ETS No. 207);
6. Considering that participation is a core element of democracy and is one of the democratic principles that are shared by all member States of the Council of Europe;
7. Considering that it is at local level that this right can be exercised most directly;
8. Recalling the applicability of existing principles set out in relevant recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member States, in particular:
  - Recommendation CM/Rec (2025) ... of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the social, economic, and political participation of rural youth
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people and climate action;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Roma youth participation;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the deliberative democracy;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of citizens in local public life
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work;
  - Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people's access to rights;

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the evaluation, auditing and monitoring of participation and participation policies at local and regional level
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2006)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;

9. Recalling Resolution CM/Res(2020)2 on the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030, in particular the priority of ‘revitalising pluralistic democracy’ with special emphasis on “broadening youth participation, so that young people participate meaningfully in decision-making, on the basis of a broad social and political consensus in support of inclusion, participatory governance and accountability”;

10. Recalling the Reykjavík Declaration “United around our values” from the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (16-17 May 2023), which underscores the imperative of integrating a youth perspective in the Organisations intergovernmental and other deliberations as youth participation in decision-making processes improves the effectiveness of public policies and strengthens democratic institutions through open dialogue;

11. Recalling also the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy (Appendix III of the Declaration) which underline the importance of supporting young people’s participation in democratic life and decision-making processes as an investment in a democratic future;

12. Having regard to the [Resolution adopted by the Council of Europe Conference responsible for youth on the Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective]

13. Considering that the participation of young people is a determining factor for a sustainable democratic future of Europe;

14. Considering young people in all their diversity and that, consequently, youth participation and youth policies at all levels should be evidence-based, tailored-made and intersectional with a view to addressing young people’s diverse needs;

15. Considering the importance of permanent structures for youth participation, as well youth civil society in learning, practicing, defending and innovating democracy;

16. Highlighting the importance of equal access to fundamental rights, equal opportunities for all young people and, where needed, support systems for the participation of young people, including youth centres, support to youth work and youth civil society;

17. Bearing in mind the consultative process and its conclusions set up by the Congress and the Joint Council on Youth on the proposed text of the Appendix, as a good practice of participatory process of young people and youth civil society, as well as local and regional authorities;

18. Considering the conclusions of the European Youth Conference, Young people in local and regional life: democracy in action! (Braga, 5-7 February 2025), as a good example of cooperation between Youth Department of the Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Portuguese national authorities, Municipality of Braga and youth civil society;

19. Taking note of the Congress Recommendation... (2025)

20. Having regard to the need to Recommendation Rec(2004)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of young people in local and regional life, and considering that the changes that have taken place since its adoption justify that it be replaced by the present recommendation;

**Recommends that the governments of the member States:**

- a) promote and apply the principles and the measures proposed in the Appendix to this Recommendation, which aim to promote and strengthen the participation of young people in decision-making processes and in political life at the local and regional levels, and to ensure an enabling environment for their active and meaningful engagement;
- b) invite local and regional authorities to implement the measures in this Recommendation and its Appendix that fall within their sphere of competence;
- c) give due consideration, when implementing these measures, to the specific needs and situations of all young people in all their diversity;
- d) translate and disseminate widely this recommendation and its appendix (including in accessible and youth-friendly formats), especially among national, regional and local authorities and key stakeholders addressing or concerned by youth issues;
- e) review, within the Committee of Ministers, the implementation of this Recommendation by member States five years after its adoption and every five years thereafter.