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# Newsletter

WORLD FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

## Spotlight

The **World Forum for Democracy 2016** will take place on **7-9 November 2016** in Strasbourg, France. The Forum will focus on **how education can help bridge the social divide and become a real asset for our diverse democracies**.

The Forum will analyse the impact of education systems on democracy and identify innovative initiatives and practices which can make education (both formal and non-formal) more democracy-centred, and critically assess their potential to trigger systemic change. It will focus on the issue of how education can become better at nurturing citizens as active members of society who engage in public space – and how grassroots innovation can be enhanced to promote change in education practice on a greater scale. The Forum will discuss not only what Education can do for Democracy but also what Democracy can do for Education.

The **call for lab submissions** will be published in **March 2016**.

## Follow-up of the World Forum for Democracy 2015

### WFD 2015 : [Conclusions](#)

#### Hackathon Results

The Forum's Democracy Innovation Hackathon aimed at developing a participatory democracy incubator with the purpose to implement democracy innovations at the local level in order to accelerate their growth and success. The hackathon gathered Forum alumni and local political decision-makers to develop the framework of the incubator, while brainstorming on concrete solutions for increasing the impact and reach of democracy innovations, in order to improve citizen participation at the local level. As a result of the incubator, the first democracy innovations are now being implemented in the participating cities. The city of Gent, for example, will use a citizens jury to decide about a new law on traffic circulation in the city.

- ✓ [Report of the hackathon and its results](#)
- ✓ [About the participatory democracy incubator](#)

#### Library

[Videos and podcasts](#) of the World Forum for Democracy 2015, interviews with speakers, as well as photos of the Forum are available in the library.

#### Media

The media partner [OpenDemocracy](#) continues to report about the Forum and has published over 60 pieces to the World Forum for Democracy space on openDemocracy, supported by social media coverage on Facebook and Twitter.



Dr Angelika Kordfelder and Clemens Lammerskitten, members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, have published a report about the Forum in "[Europa kommunal](#)", stating that the Forum "successfully managed to sensitize participants for current and future challenges and that it has inspired participants to act as multipliers for freedom and to share their insights gained at the Forum in their home countries.". The full report will be available soon (only in German).

The [official video of the World Forum for Democracy 2015](#) is now available on the front page of the WFD website.

Margaux Lucas & Martin Nowacki, Forum participants, representing the youth organisation Stras'Diplomacy, made a [video about their experiences at the World Forum for Democracy 2015](#).

## Children's Forum



On 3 March 2016, the Council of Europe hosted in its hemicycle the Children's Forum, an event part of the World Forum for Democracy. 1200 students from 45 primary schools of Alsace region, France, who took part in a civic education project run by the Alsatian Themis Association, came to present their proposals for enhancing democracy and human rights. Recognising the importance of educating children for democracy from the early ages, the Council of Europe offered to them a space to express themselves, to participate, to learn voting as the parliamentarians do, to cast their vote, to learn and ask questions about their rights, to innovate, in a context which allowed their voice heard at European level. The proposals were focused on one of the following three main themes: living together and participation, citizens of Internet, and all different, all equal. The students were assisted in this work by their teachers and Ten proposals were shortlisted by a jury and further presented and put on open vote during the Children Forum. The winner was the school Célestin Freinet with a project entitled "La fête de la différence"- "The celebration of diversity", which receive the trophy of the Children's Forum in an atmosphere of full enthusiasm.

## Calendar

In order to disseminate the results of the World Forum for Democracy 2015 and raise awareness for the upcoming World Forum for Democracy, the Forum secretariat is participating in a number of events and conferences:

**3-4 December 2015:** Lisbon Forum "How to combat radicalisation and terrorism: prevention tools and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space", Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, Portugal – Presentation of WFD 2015 results.

**9 December 2015:** Satellite event "Freedom vs. Authority: from fear to will for freedom. Are human rights the new challenges for development in XXI century?" ELSA SMCV, Second University of Naples, Santa Maria Capua Vetere, Italy – Presentation of WFD 2015 results.

**11-12 February 2016:** Annual meeting of the Council of Europe network of Education for democratic citizenship/Human Rights education coordinators of the Council of Europe member states, Council of Europe, Strasbourg – Presentation of the WFD 2016 topic.

**15-17 March 2016:** Meeting of the Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Practice (CDPPE) of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg - Presentation of the WFD 2016 topic.



More information and news about the World Forum for Democracy can be found at:

- ✓ [www.world-forum-democracy.org](http://www.world-forum-democracy.org)
- ✓ [www.facebook.com/wfdemocracy](https://www.facebook.com/wfdemocracy)
- ✓ [www.twitter.com/wfdemocracy](https://www.twitter.com/wfdemocracy) (#CoE\_WFD)

## Meeting of the Scientific Council

On 22 January, the World Forum for Democracy Scientific Council convened in a preparatory meeting for the Forum's 2016 edition. On this occasion, the Scientific Council discussed the evaluation report of 2015 Forum and made positive comments with regards to the excellent administrative and conceptual organisation, the possibilities of networking offered by the event, and the valuable inputs of remarkable speakers. The high participation was extremely appreciated. Furthermore, the Scientific Council discussed the draft concept for the 2016 Forum, analysed the theme and sub-themes, and evaluated possible speakers for the chosen topic of education and its different aspects related to democracy.

