



WHY HAVE "HUMAN RIGHTS AT LOCAL LEVEL" AS THE LEADING THEME OF ELDW 2011 EDITION?

Human rights are an essential part of local democracy: many rights and freedoms are not just the duty of central governments, but are also implemented at local level.

Through ELDW 2011, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities wishes to highlight human rights as a key element of local and regional democracy and to nurture a culture of respect for human rights throughout the cities and regions of Europe.

**→ FROM 10 TO 16 OCTOBER 2011
CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE 47 MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
ARE INVITED TO JOIN
EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK !**



IN YOUR COMMUNITY EUROPEAN WEEK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY 2011 WILL CONTRIBUTE TO:

- disseminating a culture of human rights;
- promoting social rights and access to public services;
- promoting engagement in public life, especially for less represented groups;
- raising awareness of the role of human rights mediation offices in Council of Europe member states.



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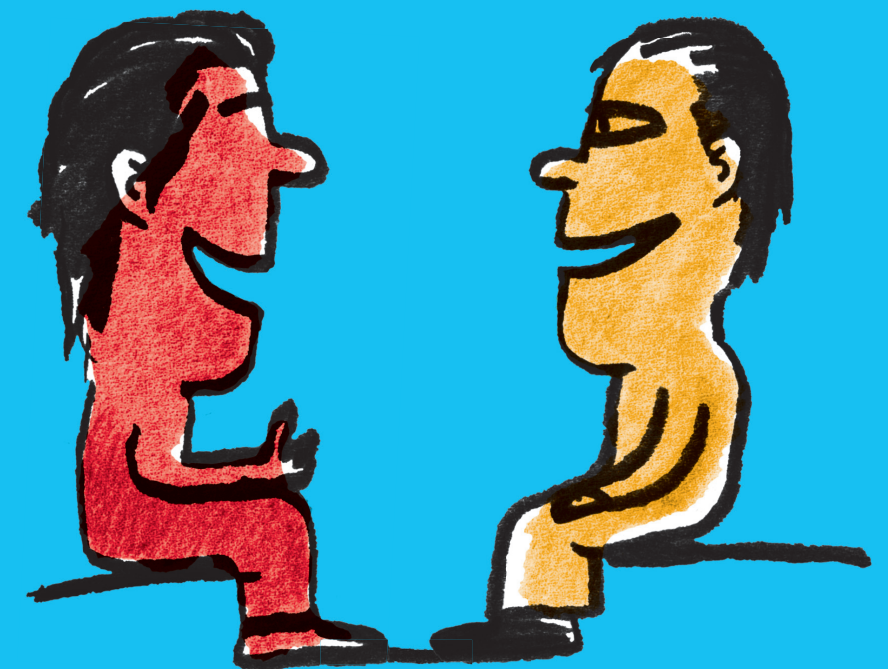
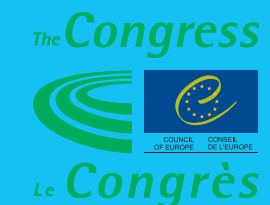
INFORMATION

www.coe.int/demoweb • democracy.week@coe.int

European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is an initiative of the Council of Europe and its Congress, launched in October 2007. The week of the 15th of October has been chosen for holding this event as a tribute to the European Charter of Local Self-Government, opened for signature on that date in 1985. The Congress, as a political assembly composed of elected officials from local and regional authorities of the 47 Council of Europe member states, is the body in charge of the coordination of this pan-European initiative.

EUROPEAN LOCAL
DEMOCRACY WEEK 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS AT LOCAL LEVEL



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→ WHY THE CONGRESS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE SUPPORTS EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK?

Citizen involvement in local affairs and the accountability of local elected officials are essential for the vitality of local democracy in all European countries.

For these reasons the Congress launched European Local Democracy Week (ELDW), an annual event with the aim:

- to raise European citizens' awareness of local democracy in order to increase their involvement in local politics;
- to encourage local elected representatives to enhance the dialogue with their citizens to invigorate local public life;
- to raise European citizens awareness about the role of the Council of Europe and of the Congress in particular, in boosting local democracy and respect of human rights across Europe.

→ HOW CAN YOU JOIN EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK?

The Congress welcomes local and regional authorities in the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe, as well as their national associations, to take initiatives and organise events during European Local Democracy Week, from 10 to 16 October 2011.

Local authorities may organise events on issues of particular interest to them ; however, the Congress recommends that at least one of the activities should focus the leading theme of ELDW 2011 "Human rights at local level".

On the Congress website local authorities can find useful information, as well as a tool-kit to guide them in their preparations for ELDW. This includes:

- a registration form which can be filled in and returned electronically ;
- a description of various fields of interest and suggested thematic ideas ;
- the list of national ELDW correspondents who will facilitate the participation of local authorities in the Week ;
- Information materials for the ELDW (logo, posters and leaflets), which can be easily downloaded and printed ;
- the main reference texts and Congress' papers concerning the safeguarding of human rights at local and regional level.

All the information about ELDW on: www.coe.int/demoweek

→ THE "12 STAR CITY": A SPECIAL LABEL FOR A COMMITTED COMMUNITY

Local authorities participating in ELDW become "Partners of the Week". Those who wish to give special prominence to their participation may get the opportunity to take part as a "12 Star City". To take part in the ELDW as a "12 Star City", local authorities have to fulfil five conditions:

1. Devote a specific budget to the ELDW activities.
2. Launch a promotion campaign using the graphic visuals provided by the Council of Europe Congress .
3. Organise a number of specific activities linked to the leading theme of "human rights at local level".
4. Involve different groups of citizens in the initiatives, in particular young people, through municipal youth councils, schools and colleges.
5. Organise an event with a European or pan-European dimension, to highlight the role of local authorities in building a democratic Europe.

More information about the
"12 Star Cities" can be found at
→ www.coe.int/demoweek/12stars