

Call for Applications to become ECoD 2026



European Capital of Democracy

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What does being European Capital of Democracy mean?

- Every year a **different city**
- Applications are evaluated by an **Experts' Jury**
- The winning city is selected by a **Citizens' Jury**
- Title-holding City will host a **Democracy Year** in close cooperation with civil society
- ECoD NPO bring **key events** to the Capital of Democracy
- Member Cities showcase existing and **develop new democracy projects**
- **Civil society plays a crucial role**

Which Cities are we looking for?

- **Council of Europe** member states + Kosovo
- Population of **over 100,000 inhabitants**
- **Valuing democracy**
- **3 existing democracy projects & 3 project ideas**
- **Capacity to host the one year long Democracy Year**

Cities with Municipal elections between ECoD announcement & launch of Democracy Year (March '25 - January '26) undergo a risk assessment by the Experts' Jury and ECoD NPO.

ECoD Process



1. APPLICATION - CALL SUBMISSION (Sep-Oct)



2. ADMISSION TO THE NETWORK (Oct-Nov)



3. EXPERTS' JURY - EVALUATION (Nov-Dec)



4. CITIZENS' JURY - SELECTION (Jan-Feb)

ECoD City Network

21 Member Cities
from 13 European
Countries

Barcelona is the first
ever European Capital of
Democracy

In November 2024,
Vienna takes over!



The Democracy Year

The Winning City Develops & Finances:

- Showcase of existing democracy projects
- New project ideas (pitches)
- Local events & co-finances joint formats (see below)

ECoD NPO and its Partners Contribute:

- Existing formats, like the Innovation in Politics Awards & ACT NOW Mayors' Conference
- New events, like the Art of Democracy & Truth, Lies & Democracy
- Europe-wide media attention & audience

Contact Us...

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[Register your interest here!](#)