

Local Democracy Academy 2024

Research and Practice for Empowering Local Democracy:
From Local Initiatives to Global Transformation



LUND, SWEDEN 26-29 AUGUST, 2024

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About the Academy

The ICLD Local Democracy Academy is an intensive academic program that brings together an international group of leading scholars for a week of mutual learning, critical thinking and joint exploration of new ideas to foster a more inclusive local democracy on a global scale.

The Academies should result in comparative and innovative research proposals, cutting edge papers, and a dynamic network of scholars interested in the role of cities and local governments in development. Following the conference, ICLD invites the participants of the Academy to submit proposals for funding of research networks.

In the ever-evolving landscape of global challenges, elected local governments can catalyse higher-scale transformative change. Join us at the 4th Local Democracy Academy, an action-research conference gathering change-makers dedicated to understanding and harnessing the power of democratic innovations. Participants will engage in thought-provoking discussions, share groundbreaking research, and collaboratively explore instances where local governments have acted as architects of global transformation.

Goals and Objectives:

Identify and analyse challenges experienced by democratic local governments to provide policy recommendations.

Examine how local governments can fight anti-democratic trends at the national global level.

Co-design research initiatives to explore and address complex local democratic challenges.

What to expect?

The Academy is built around real-world problems and challenges identified by local governments in the ICLD network. At the Academy, researchers will:

- ▶ Present their research around the key themes of the conference.
- ▶ Participate in Local Democracy Labs and use their expertise to discuss ways of addressing the challenges identified by local governments.
- ▶ Build capacity for impact-oriented research.
- ▶ Co-create ideas for research proposals and policy briefs.

Thematic sessions and faculty

The academy is organised around thematic sessions departing from paper presentation, where participants will receive and provide feedback on their research. Participants are expected to contribute, read, write, and actively engage during the entire week.

The academy is divided into the following sessions:

Child and Youth Inclusion

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments play in including children and youth in decision-making that affects their futures. ICLD is supporting local governments in southern and eastern Africa with projects on youth and children participation, education, and sustainability.



Session leaders:

Jua Cilliers, Head of the School of Built Environment, and Professor of Urban Planning at the University of Technology, Sydney

Quinton Mayne, Director of Research, Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA

Democratic Resilience – Civic Engagement

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments play in building democratic resilience in the face of crises, polarization, and autocratization. ICLD is supporting local governments in Ukraine, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Kosovo with projects around peacebuilding, preparedness, and the strengthening of democratic institutions.



Session leaders:

Amalinda Savirani, Professor Political Sciences, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia.

Anders Lidström, Professor at Department of Political Science, Umeå University

Gender Equality

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments play in promoting gender equality. ICLD will soon provide support to local governments in Colombia and Guatemala with projects that focus on maternal health, urban planning, and inclusion of indigenous women in local decision-making.



Session leaders:

Winnie Mitullah, Director and Associate Research Professor of Development Studies at the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), and the Director of Gender Affairs, University of Nairobi

Ana Maria Vargas

Director of studies, Department of Sociology of Law, Lund University, Sweden.

Democratic Resilience – Conflict

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments play in building democratic resilience in the face of crises, polarization, and autocratization. ICLD is supporting local governments in Ukraine, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and Kosovo with projects around peacebuilding, preparedness, and the strengthening of democratic institutions.



Session leaders:

Tomila Lankina, Professor International Relations at London School of Economics

Sten Hagberg, Professor, Cultural Anthropology and director of the Forum for African Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden

Human Rights Cities

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments play in safeguarding and advancing human rights within their communities. ICLD is supporting local governments in Botswana, Zambia, and South Africa with projects focusing on gender equality, disability rights, and youth inclusion.



Session leader:

Valeria Guarneros, Reader in Public Policy and Politics, and Deputy Director, Centre for Urban Research on Austerity at De Montfort University

Climate Action

This thematic group focuses on the role that local governments can and should play in climate change adaptation and mitigation. ICLD is supporting local governments in Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia with projects that focus on increasing citizen influence in waste management, water supply, public transport, and urban planning, and on reducing climate-related vulnerabilities.



Session leader:

Jesse Ribot, Professor at the School of International Service American University, Washington, DC

Logistics and Information

Conference venue:

Lund University
Main room: Eden
Allhelgona kyrkogata 14, 223 62 Lund

Accommodation:

Elite Hotel Ideon
Scheelevägen 27, 223 63 Lund
info.ideon@elite.se
+46 (0)46 – 287 11 00

Wi-Fi:

Wi-Fi is provided at the hotel & at the university.

Useful information:

Visit Lund: <https://visitlund.se/en>
Hotel website: <https://www.elite.se>

Sweden is an almost cash-less society.

Most payments are done by card or mobile wallets, and some shops and cafés do not accept cash at all.

During the conference, you are provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Emergency number: 112

Police: +46 77 114 14 00

Please use the **What'sApp** group for things that regards all participants. Feel free to share LDA photos and relevant information, but please be mindful about the many notifications we all receive.

If you need any help or assistance, you can always contact ICLD staff!

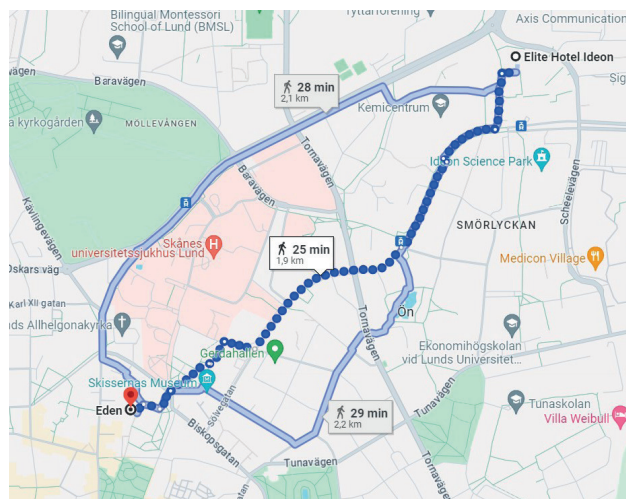
Getting from the hotel to the university:

We will walk jointly to the conference venue in the morning. It takes approximately 25 minutes - wear comfortable shoes and a jacket if needed!

There are also options by public transport. Public transport is reliable and frequent. Travel planner and tickets are found in the app Skånetrafiken.

Getting around Lund:

Lund is a beautiful and walkable city. Use the opportunity to stroll around and visit the cathedral, the university buildings and the botanical garden.



UCLG



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Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)

Lund University

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Program 2024



| Date | Time | Session |
|------------------|----------------------|---|
| 25 August | All day | Arrival in Lund |
| 26 August | 09.00 – 10.00 | Welcome to the Academy |
| | 10.00 – 12.00 | Interactive session/World Café |
| | 13.00 – 16.00 | Thematic Session: Paper Presentations |
| | 16.30 – 18.00 | Panel: Hope and Local Democracy in Times of Crises: Local Governments as Architects of Global Transformation (Open Event) |
| 27 August | 09.00 – 10.30 | Collaborative Research |
| | 11.00 – 12.30 | Local Democracy Labs |
| | 13.30 – 15.00 | Roundtable Discussions |
| | 15.30 – 17.30 | Local Solutions, Global Impact |
| | 19.00 | Dinner at Kulturen |
| 28 August | 09.00 – 09.45 | Plenary and Presentation: 'Understanding the third wave of autocratization' |
| | 09.45 – 11.30 | The Case for Democracy: Roleplaying Exercise |
| | 13.30 – 16.00 | Thematic Groups: Research Co-creation |
| | 16.30 – 18.00 | Roundtable: The Role of Local Authorities in Challenging Times (Open Event) |
| 29 August | 08.30 – 10.30 | Pitch Session: Research in Practice for Global Transformation |
| | 10.30 – 11.30 | Wrap-up and Farewell |

45 RESEARCHERS

21 COUNTRIES



LOCAL DEMOCRACY ACADEMY 2024
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LOCAL DEMOCRACY (ICLD), UCLG AND LUND UNIVERSITY.
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[ICLD.SE/LDA](https://icld.se/lda)

