EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26



LSE Consulting

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FOREWORD

ELISABET VIVES

Head | Education, Youth and Civic Engagement (EYCE) Hub

Dear colleagues, partners, and friends,

It is my pleasure to open this year's annual report of the EYCE Hub, the second in our short history. It is an opportunity to take stock of the work done in an ever more unstable world.

This past year, we had the chance to take part in projects that sit at the core of our mission, working with clients who address some of the most pressing problems facing the world. Some of the questions we have tried to answer this year include: Who gets to become a politician and how does this shape countries like Chile or England? Which democratic innovations should we promote, and how, in an age of raising authoritarianism and civic recession? What do young people around the world worry about and aspire to? Read on as we talk more about these projects in this report.

One of our core aims since our establishment has been to diversify the people that LSE Consulting engages with for consultancy research on education, youth and civic engagement. I am happy to report that this has been a year of diversification. We have continued to engage with past clients, like the British Council and the UK's Department for Education, and we have established new links with the Electoral Reform Society, the Local Government Association and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. We have also focused on securing

a place in relevant Framework Contracts covering the topics that matter to us.

At LSE, we have strengthened our partnership with key teams like the Centre for Economic Performance, with whom we won a multi-million-pound project to establish an Economics of Education Research Centre, under the leadership of UCL and in partnership with the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Our network has also grown to over 100 experts this year, thanks to the massive efforts the EYCE team has put in.

The year ahead will be marked by the transformational developments happening around, from AI to an increasingly fragmented world order. Children and young people are vulnerable to both, and their ability to thrive in these testing circumstances depends on the quality of the education they receive, the protection we give them in the digital world and their understanding of democratic life. The research we do at the EYCE Hub always aims to speak to these policy and societal challenges in a meaningful and actionable way.

Thank you for being part of this mission. I look forward to continuing to build, learn, and grow with you in the year ahead.

Best wishes,
Elisabet Vives

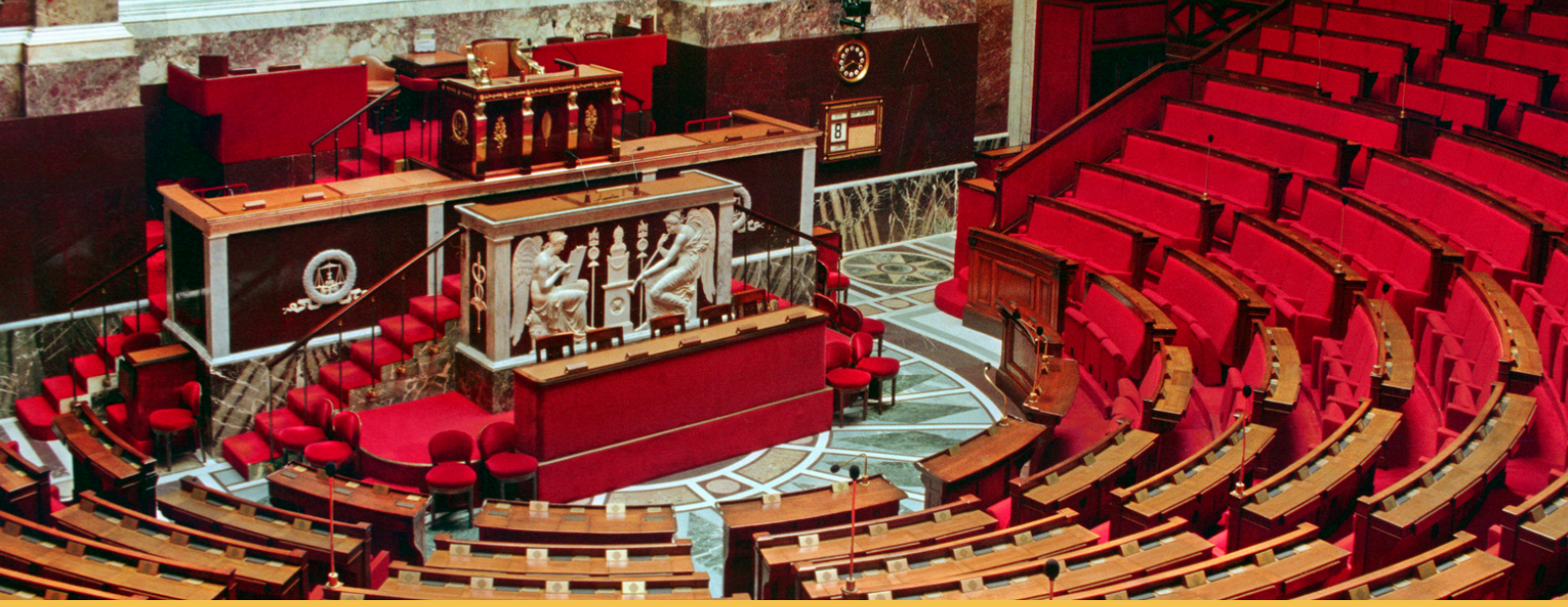
HUB SUPPORT



JAVIERA MENCHACA
Project Manager & Researcher | EYCE Hub



JOAN MANEL SERRA I CARMONA
Project Coordinator | EYCE Hub



HUB OVERVIEW

The EYCE Hub focuses on the interconnected challenges of Education, Youth, and Civic Engagement.

Our mission is to generate rigorous, actionable knowledge that helps societies invest in young people and strengthen democracy.

We work on issues that matter today: from quality, access and equity in education, to the pressures facing young people in a changing economy, to the ways media and social networks are reshaping civic participation.

Drawing on interdisciplinary expertise and consultancy experience, we bring together academics and practitioners to bridge the gap between research and real-world needs.

Our work includes programme evaluations, policy advice, and co-designed workshops that turn evidence into strategies clients and partners can use.

At the heart of our approach is collaboration: building networks across sectors and borders so that insights travel further and impact lasts longer.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

DUNFERMLINE NEW CITY ASSEMBLY EVALUATION

EYCE completed a three-phase, nine-month evaluation of Dunfermline's citizens' assembly for the **Electoral Reform Society**, also involving Fife Council and the Scottish Government. Authored by Elisabet Vives and Iñaki Goñi, the evaluation moved through an ecological phase (situating the Assembly within the local civic and institutional landscape), a formative phase, and a summative phase examining the quality of the deliberative process, its effects on participants and local policy, and the conditions for long-term sustainability. The project also considered the wider potential of “ultra-local” deliberative assemblies as a model for democratic innovation in Scotland and beyond.

BENEFITS, REMUNERATION AND TERMS & CONDITIONS OF COUNCILLORS STUDY

Authored by Elisabet Vives, Javiera Menchaca and Charlie Hicks, this study for the **Local Government Association (LGA)** looked into how current remuneration, terms and conditions, benefits and responsibilities affect sitting councillors and recruitment, against a backdrop of local government reorganisation, devolution and an anticipated overhaul of the standards regime. The evidence base combined a rapid evidence review, a survey of councillors, in-depth interviews, roundtables and a comparative UK/international review. The findings were presented to the LGA in February 2026, ahead of the report's publication in August 2026.

ETHNICITY AND FAMILY DYNAMICS LITERATURE REVIEW

The **Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** commissioned LSE academics Irene Bucelli and Eleni Karagiannaki to conduct an expert-led, non-systematic review of over 250 academic and grey-literature sources examining the relationship between ethnicity, racism and family dynamics, with the aim of better understanding poverty disparities among ethnic minority groups in the UK. The review focuses in particular on Bangladeshi, Black African and Pakistani households. It builds on earlier JRF findings showing that these groups are two to three times more likely than White households to experience persistent, very deep poverty.

THE COST OF POLITICS IN CHILE

Commissioned by the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy** this study examined how candidates in Chile's 2025 parliamentary elections financed and spent their campaigns, drawing on official electoral data and interviews with candidates, campaign staff and electoral officials. The study was supported by an EU-funded project, WYDE (Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative) Civic Engagement, led by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD). Authored by Javiera Arce-Riffo, Javiera Menchaca-Pardow and Trinidad Moreno-Silva, the study recommended greater funding transparency, better digital-spend reporting, fairer electoral credit access and stronger sanctions. Chile is the first Latin American country where this global comparative research project has been applied.



PROJECTS WON

EU–COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

EYCE was selected as a Provider under the Council of Europe's framework contract for research, analysis, writing, editing and expert support services for the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership — the long-running cooperation programme between the **European Commission and Council of Europe** in the youth field, in place since 1998. EYCE will deliver analytical papers, policy briefs, studies and Youth Knowledge Books on an as-needed basis. The framework runs through the end of 2028 and is worth EUR 200,000.



ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION RESEARCH CENTRE (EERC)

A consortium led by UCL, with LSE's Centre for Economic Performance and the Institute for Fiscal Studies, was awarded a **Department for Education** contract to establish the EERC, developing evidence and analytical tools on the long-term social and economic effects of education policy from the early years through to the labour market. LSE Consulting supported the tender application, and Elisabet Vives (Lead of EYCE) was named Project Manager for LSE's strand of the work. LSE's budget for this project is over £800,000.

> *"This is an important opportunity to contribute to a field closely aligned with the work of the EYCE Hub. We are committed to providing strong project management support to help ensure the success of this collaboration."*
>
> - Elisabet Vives

BRITISH COUNCIL GLOBAL EVALUATION FRAMEWORK 2026 (LOT 2)

EYCE was selected as a Provider on the **British Council**'s primary global route for procuring monitoring and evaluation consultancy. Lot 2 covers support-focused evidence and evaluation consultancy — process, summative and impact evaluations, evidence reviews, theory of change support, econometric analysis and value-for-money reports — on assignments ranging from 15 days to 2–3 years. The framework runs through to 2029 (with a possible extension) and has a global ceiling of £16,000,000 GBP across all providers.

BRITISH COUNCIL DISABILITY INCLUSION FRAMEWORK

EYCE was awarded a place on a new **British Council** framework for consultancy on disability inclusion, covering business development, programme design and delivery, research, capacity building and monitoring & evaluation in support of disability inclusion across the British Council's international arts, education and English-language work. The framework runs for an initial eight years. The framework runs for an initial eight years, with a yet to be disclosed total contract value. Two LSE academics, Grace Lordan and Sally Simmons, have been appointed Associate Advisers.



KEY EVENTS

NEXT GENERATION KAZAKHSTAN REPORT LAUNCH, LSE

February 2026

EYCE co-organised the launch of the Next Generation Kazakhstan report with the **British Council**. Opening remarks were given by Jeremy Lang (British Council) and Ruslan Karabulov (Embassy of Kazakhstan in the UK); Elisabet Vives presented the key findings; and a panel discussion, facilitated by Dr Maryam Rab (British Council), brought together Robert Taylor (British Council Kazakhstan Country Director), Laura-Jane Silverman MBE (LSE Generate) and Yedige Yerkassynov (UCL Kazakh Society). The event convened academia, policy, civil society and international organisations.









PRESENTATION OF THE BENEFITS, REMUNERATION AND TERMS & CONDITIONS OF COUNCILLORS STUDY

February 2026

EYCE presented its findings on councillor remuneration and terms and conditions to the **Local Government Association**, ahead of the report's public release in August 2026.

THIRD CATALAN CONGRESS OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

June 2026

Elisabet Vives was invited to talk on the advancement of public governance at the inaugural edition of the Congress in nearly two decades, convened by the **Associació Catalana de Gestió Pública (ACGP)** amid appeals, including from the newly established CETRA commission, for the modernisation of Catalan public administration.

EYCE HIGHLIGHTS

6 Reports published in this academic year

100+ Members in our network

110+ Members reached via our newsletter

3 New multi-year frameworks secured, unlocking over **£16 million** in combined potential commissioning value



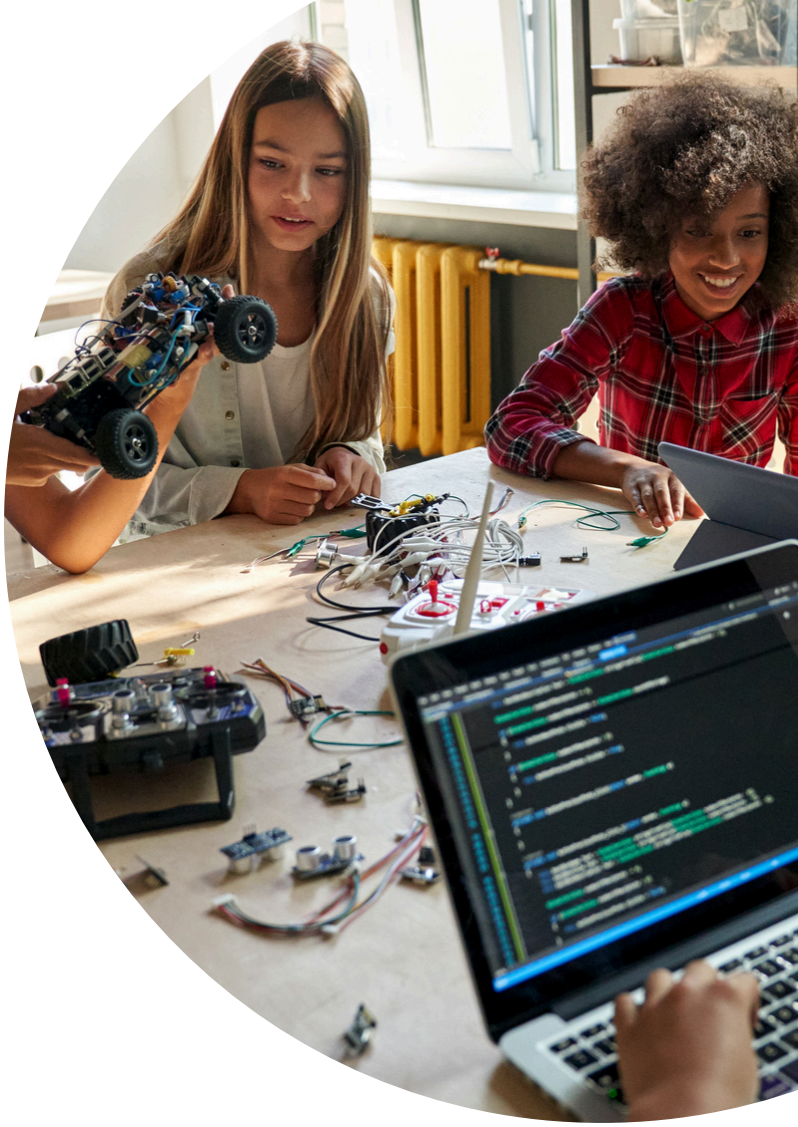


"The EYCE Hub was an excellent platform for our independent assessment of Dunfermline's (the UK's newest city) Citizen Assembly. Above all, I wish to highlight the professional quality and expertise of Elisabet Vives from EYCE, with whom I had the privilege of working on this project. It is rare to find people so highly qualified, with the work ethic and standards I found at EYCE, that I feel compelled to recommend them to others. "

IÑAKI GOÑI

EYCE Expert | Assistant Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile

LOOKING AHEAD



At the EYCE Hub, we believe change is driven from the ground up. By working closely with communities, non-profits, and civil society groups, we aim to build collective intelligence that supports more inclusive and democratic societies where no one is left behind.

The year ahead brings a sharper focus on education, building on our ongoing work with Professor Sandra McNally's team at LSE's Centre for Economic Performance. We are looking forward to deepening our collaboration with partners across the education analysis and evaluation sector — including UCL, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and many others — and to putting our frameworks to work alongside them. We are also excited to expand our work on inclusion with Professor Grace Lordan.

Beyond this, we will continue seeking opportunities to support civil society organisations strengthening civic engagement in the UK, the EU, and around the world, and we are paying close attention to youth policy, where we hope to add a considered, evidence-based voice to the debate.

As always, we invite you to connect with us, share ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

For inquiries or collaboration opportunities, get in touch.

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