

Ostrobothnia Civil Society Academy

1 October 2025

City of Vaasa Administrative Building, (Vaasanpuistikko 10) or remotely (Teams)

You can join remotely via Teams from 10 to 12. However, remote participation will not be available for the afternoon panel. In addition, one or two small groups will be organised on Teams if enough people register. The event will be held in three languages (Finnish, Swedish and English).

PROGRAMME

- 9.30 Morning coffee and networking
- 10.00 **Opening remarks** by Frans Villanen, Chair of Vaasa City Council
Greetings from Open Government
- 10.20 **Keynote speaker: Youth participation**, Pietro Gagliardi, Policy Analyst, OECD
The story of a young immigrant, Sa Myer Oo, expert by experience from EHJÄ ry's Kuule minua project
Youth Council address, Santiago Laitinen, Chair of the Vaasa Youth Council
- 11.20 **Municipalities and NGOs as key actors in promoting good intergroup relations**, Nexhat Beqiri, Senior Planning Officer, Uusimaa ELY Centre
"Ti arbeit i laag" – Cooperation between the municipality and associations, Heidi Nyman, Director of Welfare, Municipality of Vörå
Announcement of the 2025 NGO-friendly municipality, Ostrobothnia Associations and the Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
- 12.00–13.00 Lunch break (self-funded)
- 13.00 **Panel discussion: The future of NGOs**
- 13.30 **Small group discussions**
- 14.30 Afternoon coffee and informal discussion
The event ends at 15.00

The event will adhere to the principles of safer spaces.

The event will adhere to the principles of safer spaces, they guide us to treat each other well, promote equality, take responsibility for a positive atmosphere, and learn from each other's experiences. Our goal is to create an environment where every participant feels safe and respected. Read more: [the safer space principles of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health](#).