

## NECE Lab: Working with Polarised Groups in Civic Education, Warsaw, 12–14 July 2026

### **Dialogue is not just talking: organizing, scaling and implementing civic dialogue**

The goal of this lab is to equip interested NECE member organizations and civic education specialists with the dialogue delivery know-how, developed and tested by the New Community Foundation (NCF). While many programmes explore facilitation techniques and dialogic theory, this Lab addresses an often overlooked dimension: the organisational infrastructure and practical knowledge required to design, recruit for, produce, and scale meaningful civic dialogue processes.

The Lab will focus on both online and in-person dialogue formats at local and national levels, highlighting their complementary potential to reach diverse audiences and bridge geographic and social divides.

Participants will explore practical questions emerging from real-world dialogue practice: Who should be invited and how? Why do some dialogues attract only ideologically homogeneous audiences? What framing and language support diversity rather than exclusion? How can dialogue outcomes be documented and translated into broader social impact?

**Outcome:** Participants will leave with practical know-how and ready-to-use tools for organising, producing, and scaling civic dialogue in their own professional contexts. They will gain a shared methodological framework and strategies for recruitment, technical delivery, impact evaluation, and turning dialogue into sustainable civic engagement initiatives.



## DAY 1 – Polarisation and Civic Dialogue: Understanding the Landscape

Time	Programme
14:00–14:30	Opening of the event and introduction to objectives, agenda, and working principles
14:30–16:00	Are We Really So Divided? – lecture on polarisation followed by discussion
16:00–16:30	Break
16:30–17:30	Group integration and introduction to dialogue practice
17:30–17:45	Break
17:45–18:45	Participants' practice exchange – turbo presentations
19:00	Dinner

## DAY 2 – Organising a Civic Dialogue from A to Z

Time	Programme
09:00–10:00	Workshop on spotting dialogue topics
10:00–10:15	Break
10:15–13:15	Civic dialogue – live experience
13:15–14:15	Lunch break
14:15–16:15	Recruitment and communication strategies – expert input from NCF and group discussion
16:15–16:30	Break
16:30–17:30	Dialogue production and delivery – expert input from NCF and group discussion
17:30–17:45	Break
17:45–18:45	Social impact and evaluation – expert input from NCF and group discussion
19:00	Dinner



## DAY 3 – Designing My Own Dialogue Initiative

Time	Programme
09:00–10:00	Introduction to facilitation tools
10:00–10:15	Break
10:15–11:15	Designing a dialogue initiative – group work with mentors
11:15–11:30	Break
11:30–12:30	Presentation and feedback session
12:30–12:45	Break
12:45–13:30	Reflection and closing: What Comes After the Dialogue?
13:30	Lunch

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