



Information Documents

SG/Inf(2017)39

22 November 2017¹

Implementation of Committee of Ministers' Resolution (2016)3 on participatory status for international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe

Communication to the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

¹ This document has been classified 'restricted' at the date of issue; it will be declassified in accordance with Resolution Res(2001)6 on access to Council of Europe documents.

1. In accordance with the rules as set out in [Committee of Ministers' Resolution \(2016\)3](#) (paragraph 8 the Appendix), on participatory status for international non-governmental organisations with the Council of Europe, the Secretary General has the honour to communicate to the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, for their tacit approval, the INGOs to which he has decided to grant or refuse participatory status.

2. Further information on these INGOs and the reasons for the Secretary General's decision are contained in the appendices to this document:

Appendix 1: Granting of status: INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2017 and which meet all the conditions set out in paragraph 2 of the Appendix to Resolution (2016)3;

Appendix 2: Refusal of status: INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2017 and which do not meet all the conditions set out in paragraph 2 of the Appendix to Resolution (2016)3.

3. In conformity with paragraph 6 of the Appendix to Resolution (2016)3, the Secretariat, on behalf of the Secretary General, communicated the names of the INGOs concerned to the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs. The opinion of the Standing Committee was received within the required 30 calendar days and has been taken into account.

5. In the absence of any objection raised by the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly or the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities founded on the conditions set out in paragraph 9 of the Appendix to Resolution (2016)3, the decision of the Secretary General will enter into force 60 calendar days from the date of this document.

Appendix 1

INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2017 and to which the Secretary General intends to grant participatory status

Reminder of the conditions to be met

The conditions set out in Resolution (2016)3 on granting participatory status to INGOs are the following.

“2. Participatory status may be granted by the Council of Europe to INGOs if they fulfil all the conditions set out below:

- a. which respect and defend the values and principles of the Council of Europe;*
- b. which are able, through their work, to support the achievement of that closer unity mentioned in Article 1 of the Council of Europe’s Statute;*
- c. which are created on the basis of a constitutive act adopted according to democratic principles;*
- d. which have a democratic structure and governance;*
- e. which are particularly representative in the field(s) of their competence, fields of action shared by the Council of Europe;*
- f. which are represented at European level, that is to say which have members in at least five member States of the Council of Europe;*
- g. which were created and have implemented activities at least two years before the moment of applying for participatory status;*
- h. which already have working relations with the Council of Europe;*
- i. which are capable of contributing to and participating actively in Council of Europe deliberations and activities;*
- j. which are able to make known the work of the Council of Europe to society”.*

The following 10 INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2017 meet the conditions set out above and are eligible for participatory status. Further information on each INGO is attached.

- AIESEC International
- Atheist Alliance International
- Datüb: the World Union of Ahiska Turks
- Eurodesk Brussels Link
- European Young Bar Association
- European Youth Card Association
- European Youth Information and Counselling Agency
- Hope for Children
- IFEX (Network of Free Expression Organisations)
- International Detention Coalition

AIESEC International Foundation

Founded: 1948

Type of NGO: Foundation

Headquarters:

126 Teilingerstraat

Rotterdam, AW 3032

Netherlands

E-mail: info@ai.aiesec.org

Internet site: www.aiesec.org

Aims: to build a world where people can work towards their own understanding of peace, while respecting and understanding the views of others; to engage and develop young people in the world by equipping them with leadership characteristics: being self-aware, world citizens, solution oriented and being able to empower others

Activities: cross-cultural exchanges providing an opportunity for young people to work or volunteer abroad, capacity and team building, YouthSpeakForum - a multigenerational space to address topical issues

Geographical Representation in Europe: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, public funding, private donations

Reasons why AIESEC International should be considered for participatory status

AIESEC is run by youth for youth. National branches are supporting the No Hate Speech Movement and have participated in trainings run by the European Youth Centre and are registered with the European Youth Foundation.

AIESEC can usefully contribute to the work of the Conference of INGOs with its expertise in capacity-building, leadership skills and project development and management. It can reinforce the youth dimension of the Conference. It can promote the work of the Council of Europe via its large network of members and through social media and conferences.

Atheist Alliance International (AAI)

Founded: 1991

Type of NGO: Federation

Headquarters:

1821 Jefferson Place NW

Washington DC 20036

USA

E-mail: info@atheistalliance.org

Internet site: www.atheistalliance.org

Aims: to strengthen global atheism by promoting the growth and interaction of atheist organisations around the world, to educate its members and the public about atheism, secularism and related issues and to combat discrimination against atheists and free-thinkers

Activities: educational programmes, hosting atheist conventions, issuing of media releases, policy statements, newsletters, awareness raising activities

Geographical Representation in Europe: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, private donations

Reasons why Atheist Alliance international should be considered for participatory status

Atheist Alliance International has already established relations with the Council of Europe in particular the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Commissioner for Human Rights. It has made written submissions to the Council of Europe with regard to certain judgements of the European Court of Human Rights.

AAI can contribute to a balanced debate on many important Council of Europe topics.

AAI can promote the work of the Council of Europe to its community of national atheist and secular groups.

Datüb: the World Union of Ahiska Turks

Founded: 2010

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:

Senlikköy Mah. Germeyan Sok. N° 5 / Demirkol Apt D:5

Florya – Bakirköy

Istanbul 34153

Turkey

E-mail: datub.ahiska@gmail.com

Internet site: www.datub.eu

Aims: to protect and defend the rights of Ahiska Turks (Meskhetians) in the countries in which they are living and to advocate for their repatriation to Georgia

Activities: provides a platform to coordinate the actions of different associations of Ahiska Turks in different parts of the member States and neighbouring countries, projects to improve the level of education of Ahiska Turks and to improve their social, cultural and economic standing and conditions, organises conferences, seminars, awareness-raising campaigns, and lobbying for their rights at European level

Geographical Representation in Europe: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine

Funding: membership fees, public funding, private donations

Reasons why Datüb: the World Union of Ahiska Turks should be considered for participatory status

Datüb: the World Union of Ahiska Turks represents and advocates for the rights of Ahiska Turks including their repatriation. This issue continues to be of relevance to the Council of Europe with regard to the monitoring of Georgia's commitments and obligations since its admission to the Council of Europe in 1999. In this respect Datüb has contacts with high level representatives of the Council of Europe.

Datüb can contribute to the work of the Council of Europe in the field of inter-cultural dialogue and the rights of national minorities and displaced or deported communities to ensure that they benefit from all recognised rights and obligations in international treaties and conventions thus enabling them to be fully integrated into society.

It can promote Council of Europe principles, values and activities through its members.

Eurodesk Brussels Link

Founded: 1998

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:

Scotland House,

Rond point Schuman 6

Brussels 1040

Belgium

E-mail: info@eurodesk.eu

Internet site: www.eurodesk.eu

Aims: to facilitate access to information with respect to the mobility of young people in the areas of education, professional training, culture and youth

Activities: acts as a support organisation to Erasmus+, provides information on European policies, mobility information and opportunities, offers training and support and access to youth information

Geographical Representation in Europe: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, United Kingdom

Funding: Membership fees, annual grant through the Erasmus+ programme

Reasons why Eurodesk Brussels Link should be considered for participatory status

Eurodesk is the umbrella organisation of national and local networks of information points on opportunities for activities on mobility in Europe. Eurodesk has established co-operation with the Council of Europe and participates in the meetings of the Youth Partnership (Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth). It regularly holds Eurodesk training sessions the Budapest Youth Centre.

Eurodesk can promote the work of the Council of Europe to its network of young people using social media, website, publications and events.

European Young Bar Association (EYBA)

Founded: 1993

Type of NGO: Association

Headquarters:

Prins Henriklaan, 16

Amsterdam 1075

Netherlands

E-mail: info@eyba.org

Internet site: www.eyba.org

Aims: to promote the education, interests and welfare of young lawyers in Europe, to establish professional relationships between lawyers in Europe and influence policies affecting young lawyers

Activities: three annual conferences which provide learning and networking opportunities for members, newsletters

Geographical Representation in Europe: Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, private donations

Reasons why the European Young Bar Association should be considered for participatory status

The European Young Bar Association has established co-operation with the Council of Europe and was a partner in an activity implemented in the Republic of Moldova on admission into the law profession and the sharing of best practices from European Bar Associations.

EYBA's members are young lawyers across Europe coming from a variety of backgrounds, areas of expertise and types of legal practice and this diverse expertise can be a useful contribution to the work of the Council of Europe. It can promote the work of the Organisation to its network of law students and young lawyers, at conferences and through its website and social media.

European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

Founded: 1987

Type of NGO: Umbrella organisation

Headquarters:

Rue d'Alost 7 - 11

B – 1000 Brussels

E-mail: mail@eyca.org

Internet site: www.eyca.org

Aims: to promote youth mobility and active citizenship through the development of the youth card which provides young people access to discounts and benefits in the field of mobility, accommodation, culture, services and products

Activities: youth policy development, youth work and programme development, provides a platform for its members, implements and supports exchange visits for its members

Geographical Representation in Europe: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, public funding, EU grants

Reasons why the European Youth Card Association should be considered for participatory status

The European Youth Card Association has a long standing co-operation with the Council of Europe. It has been implementing the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card since 1991, working to advance youth mobility and intercultural understanding.

The participation of EYCA in the Conference of INGOs will boost the current dynamic of the Conference to strengthen its youth dimension and increase its co-operation with the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

EYCA can promote Council of Europe values and activities through its member organisations and provide EYCA expertise in youth related areas.

European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA)

Founded: 1986

Type of NGO: Umbrella organisation

Headquarters:

87, route de Thionville

2611 Luxembourg

E-mail: secretariat@eryica.org

Internet site: www.eryica.org

Aims: to sustain and promote a network of youth information and counselling structures and professionals in order to meet the information needs of young people and to apply the principles of the European Youth Information Charter

Activities: “open dialogue days” bringing together different stakeholders in the field of youth, publications, guides of good practice, manuals (such as the role of youth information in the prevention of youth radicalisation and violent extremism), training courses, project-based activities

Geographical Representation in Europe: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” Turkey, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, public funding, project funding

Reasons why the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) should be considered for participatory status

Youth information and counselling services provide guidance to young people to take informed decisions about their lives, the main goal being to promote active citizenship and participation of young people in society. The values promoted by ERYICA are in line with those of the Council of Europe.

ERYICA is a long-standing partner of the Council of Europe youth sector and contributes to the activities in the field of policy and professional development. It is an observer on the European Steering Committee for Youth, a partner of the No Hate Speech Movement. It can disseminate the work of the youth sector among its large network of youth information professionals.

Hope for Children: UNCRC Policy Centre (HFC)

Founded: 2008

Type of NGO: Non-profit institution

Headquarters:

75 Limassol Avenue

Nicosia 2121

Cyprus

E-mail: varughese.j@uncrcpc.org

Internet site: www.uncrcpc.org

Aims: to promote and protect children's rights, to improve the quality of life of socially disadvantaged children

Activities: non-formal human rights education seminars, awareness-raising, programmes such as the "beat-bullying programme", missing children hotline, social and psychological support to children, young people and their families, operates private children's shelters

Geographical Representation in Europe: Cyprus, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, United Kingdom

Funding: public funding, private donations, grants

Reasons why Hope for Children should be considered for participatory status

Hope for Children has already established co-operation with the Council of Europe and is a partner for the implementation of the ONE in FIVE campaign to stop sexual violence against children. It has observer status with the Lanzarote Committee.

Hope for Children uses Council of Europe manuals, such as Compass and Compasito, in its non-formal education activities. It promotes the values and activities of the Council of Europe with regard to children's rights in its network, in schools, to parents, in workshops and through social media campaigns.

IFEX (Network of Free Expression Organisations)

Founded: 1992

Type of NGO: Network

Headquarters:

555 Richmond Street West

Toronto M5V 3B1

Canada

E-mail: ifex@ifex.org

Internet site: www.ifex.org

Aims: to promote the right to freedom of expression and information worldwide, to build a greater understanding of freedom of expression and information and to engage people in actions that promote these fundamental rights

Activities: capacity building among its members in areas such as risk management, digital security, communication strategies, strategic and financial planning; actions to draw the world's attention to stories and events that affect free expression: social media platforms, website, online publications, debating spaces,

Geographical Representation in Europe: Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, France, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Funding: membership fees, public funding, foundations

Reasons why IFEX should be considered for participatory status

Many IFEX members co-operate on a regular basis with the Council of Europe, in particular the Information Society Department, and are partners of the platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists. IFEX has observer status with the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society.

IFEX can provide expertise, advice and recommendations to the Council of Europe on issues of freedom of expression and access to information. IFEX's capacity building work contributes to strengthening civil society organisations working on freedom of expression and information. It can support and promote the work of the Council of Europe through its members, newsletters, website and social media.

International Detention Coalition (IDC)

Founded: 2009

Type of NGO: Umbrella organisation

Headquarters:

Level 1, 112 Langridge Street

Melbourne, Victoria

3066 Australia

E-mail: info@idcoalition.org

Internet site: www.idcoalition.org

Aims: to ensure that the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants impacted by immigration detention are respected and protected. The IDC aims to bring about changes in law, policy and practice that prevent, mitigate and respond to the harms associated with immigration detention and that promote alternatives to detention

Activities: networking and capacity building, advocacy, awareness raising and campaigns, research and reporting

Geographical Representation in Europe: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Funding: public funding, private donations, grants

Reasons why the International Detention Coalition should be considered for participatory status

The International Detention Coalition has already established co-operation with the Council of Europe with regard to immigration detention matters, in particular by providing technical support to the Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees. It has been working with the Parliamentary Assembly to develop and promote the Campaign to End Child Immigration Detention.

The IDC promotes the work of the Council of Europe to its members through its website and informs them of opportunities to engage with the Council of Europe's work on migration and human rights.

Appendix 2

INGOs which applied for participatory status in 2017 which do not meet the required conditions and to which the Secretary General intends to refuse participatory status

Name of INGO	Reason for refusal
ACCESS - Advocacy Centre on Council of Europe Standards	Governance and management structures are too closely linked to the Council of Europe
APSHSTDC	Portuguese NGO, not represented at European level
European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools	No working relations with the Council of Europe (previously held participatory status and lost it through lack of co-operation)
European Deaf Blind Network	No working relations with the Council of Europe
Eveil Association	Represented in under 5 countries and no working relations with the Council of Europe
International Society of Criminology	No working relations with the Council of Europe
International Trade Union Confederation	No working relations with the Council of Europe
Network of Universities from Capitals of Europe	No working relations with the Council of Europe
Stop Sexual Violence	Represented in under 5 countries and no working relations with the Council of Europe