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Restricted

**Third meeting of the drafting group
for the development of a
Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030
(Strasbourg, 4-5 June 2019)**

Meeting report

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Executive Summary

The **Council of Europe** is currently developing a **strategy** for its **youth sector for 2020 to 2030**.

The **background** of the current strategy (from “Agenda 2020” to a Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030), the main steps of the **strategy development process**, as well as the **agreed contents and structure** of the strategy were described in detail in the reports of the first two meetings of the drafting group (see documents CMJ(2018)27 final and CMJ(2019)2). They will therefore not be recalled in the current report.

It is in this context that the **drafting group** set up by the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) developed further the draft strategy at its **third meeting** (Strasbourg, 4-5 June 2019). Building on the draft contents of the strategy as developed so far (in particular its theory of change and its thematic priorities) and in light of the CMJ's comments (March 2019), the drafting group **finalised the background strategy document** (explanatory memorandum) and adopted a draft **Committee of Ministers' Resolution** on the youth sector strategy 2030 (political document). Throughout the meeting, the drafting group kept in mind the necessity to adapt the strategy to the situation of the youth sector in the overall political and budgetary context of the Council of Europe, while ensuring that the contents of the resulting strategy could be meaningfully evaluated.

This general approach having been **endorsed by the CDEJ and CCJ Bureaux**, a written consultation of all CMJ members was launched after the drafting group meeting. Subsequently, the draft strategy (draft Resolution and explanatory memorandum) will be **examined and possibly endorsed by the CMJ** at its 41st plenary meeting (October 2019), in line with the CMJ terms of reference. Pending agreement, the draft Resolution would be **sent to the Committee of Ministers** early in 2020 for examination and possible final adoption.

Introduction

On 4-5 June 2019, the CMJ drafting group set up to develop a strategy for the Council of Europe youth sector 2030 (hereinafter “strategy 2030”) held its **third meeting**.

As was the case in the first two meetings, members of the [European Steering Committee for Youth \(CDEJ\)](#), the [Advisory Council on Youth \(CCJ\)](#), the [European Youth Forum \(YFJ\)](#), as well as experts in youth policy development sat down with representatives of the [Youth Department](#) (see list of participants in **Appendix I**) in order to finalise the draft strategy 2030 for the youth sector.

1. Aim and objectives of the third meeting of the drafting group

In accordance with the roadmap for the development of a strategy 2030 and with the terms of reference of the drafting group, the **aim of the second meeting** was to:

- **review the previous steps** in the strategy development process (including previous CMJ decisions);
- adapt the strategy to the **situation of the youth sector** in the current context (necessity to deal with uncertainty and adapt it to different possible scenarios);
- **continue drafting the strategy**, notably based on the draft contents agreed by the Joint Council on Youth at its last plenary meeting (Budapest, March 2019).

Some of the specific **objectives** of this second meeting were to:

- finalise the background document, or **explanatory memorandum** (see document CMJ(2019)11), notably by reviewing its key elements and thematic priorities/expected outcomes;
- finalise the political document, or **draft Committee of Ministers' resolution** (see document CMJ(2019)12), which would summarise the strategic framework.

The programme of the second meeting is set out in **Appendix II**.

2. Reviewing the previous steps in the strategy development process and adapting to the situation of the youth sector in the current context

The drafting group reviewed the previous steps in the strategy development process, as well as the latest developments with regard to the situation of the youth sector in the current political and budgetary context, in order to take them into account in its work.

- **Strategy development process: parameters and previous decisions**

It was recalled that the strategy was formulated through an **inclusive consultative process** with representatives of all of its key stakeholders over a period of nearly three years. All the previous steps should therefore be fully taken into account in the work of the drafting group.

In particular, the **parameters and previous decisions** of the CMJ, as well as the main steps and **calendar of the strategy development process**, were presented to the drafting group. The corresponding presentation is set out in **Appendix III**.

Additionally, it was recalled that, [at its 40th meeting](#) held in Budapest (19-20 March 2019), the CMJ had **endorsed the strategy's general approach** (in particular the development of a theory of change) and its **preliminary contents**: the youth sector's vision, its purpose and role, its distinction, its range of services and its draft thematic priorities. The **four thematic priorities** of the strategy had been confirmed as: "revitalising pluralistic democracy"; "access to rights"; "living together in peaceful and inclusive societies"; and "youth work". The CMJ had also provided some feedback on each priority's impact and expected outcomes, which were to inform the CMJ drafting group's future work.

In the ensuing discussion, the drafting group felt that, in accordance with these parameters and decisions, the draft strategy developed so far was **general** enough (so that policy orientations do not become quickly outdated), but also provided an **operational framework** within which the next five biennial programmes can be implemented. The drafting group also agreed that the draft strategy was based on the Council of Europe's **core values** (democracy, human rights, rule of law) and **standards** in the youth field, while addressing **policy gaps** (challenges facing young people in Europe). It was therefore felt that the parameters set by the CMJ at the beginning of the strategy development process had been fully respected by the drafting group.

- **Adapting the strategy to the situation of the youth sector in the current context**

Furthermore, the drafting group also agreed that the youth sector's vision, mission, distinction and range of services, as well as the thematic priorities and expected *outcomes* endorsed by the CMJ at its 40th meeting indeed constituted the backbone of the background strategy document and of the draft Committee of Ministers' resolution, which were being examined by the drafting group at the current meeting.

However, in the light of the **latest developments in the Council of Europe** (notably the current uncertainties linked to the proposed contingency plan and its possible consequences on the youth sector), the CMJ drafting group felt that the development of precise *outputs* or indicators for the overall implementation of the strategy was not suitable at this stage.

The strategy had indeed been developed by the drafting group based on the assumption of a full-fledged youth sector, but its general approach and expected outcomes would obviously **need to be adapted according to any future developments of the youth sector** (in order to take into account any possible changes in its scope and budgetary resources).

A certain level of **flexibility** was therefore necessary. In the current context, it was thus felt more appropriate to develop a **general political document** clearly stating the **vision and mission** of the youth sector and raising its profile, that is to say a draft resolution to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Such a document should try and **summarise the strategic framework** under which the youth sector would be operating: key issues, challenges and priorities to be addressed, rationale and role of the Council of Europe intervention, added value and complementarity with the other international actors.

The drafting group agreed that this approach would enable the strategy to show the **added value and relevance** of the Council of Europe youth sector, as well as its direct link to the Organisation's values and standards (notably the Committee of Ministers' recommendations in the youth field). Such an approach would also, ultimately, demonstrate that the youth sector was at the core of the Council of Europe.

- **Evaluability of the strategy**

Despite the required flexibility and the necessity to develop a more political document, the drafting group always kept in mind the necessity to be able to **evaluate** the future strategy in the longer run.

In this context, the drafting group felt that the following elements would **ensure the evaluability** of the strategy:

- The theory of change was designed to encourage very clearly defined outcomes at every step of the change process. This approach promoted the development of reasonable long-term outcomes.
- The strategy would be put into action through the successive Programmes and Budgets of the Council of Europe (which would comprise detailed expected results and performance indicators) up to 2030.
- The CMJ would take stock of the implementation of the strategy periodically.
- Last but not least, in order to assess implementation, the Council of Europe youth sector would as usual list outputs from its work – such as feedback of individual participants, the number of training courses, study sessions, meetings and publications.

3. Key contents of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030

The drafting then reviewed, endorsed and finalised the key contents of the strategy.

- **Background document on the strategy/explanatory memorandum**

The drafting reviewed, finalised and adopted the **background document** on the strategy, which would serve as an **explanatory memorandum** to the resolution of the Committee of Ministers: see document **CMJ(2019)11**.

The drafting group agreed that this background document rigorously followed the structure and contents agreed by the CMJ at its 40th meeting (March 2019).

All the general suggestions by the CMJ were accepted by the drafting group and included in the document. The specific comments by the CMJ were also accepted by the drafting group, and addressed as follows:

- ✓ “*need to mainstream the question of minorities in the strategy document as a whole, and to find some space to include minorities and vulnerable groups in the outputs or indicators related to this expected outcome*”: this has been addressed in the “context of young people” section and under the general description of the third thematic priority;
- ✓ “*need to clarify the role of national, regional and local authorities in advancing youth policy and youth work; need to mention policy makers*”: this has been addressed in the “youth policy context” section;
- ✓ “*the term “digital privacy” seems too specific*”: the drafting group therefore decided to replace the wording “digital privacy” by “digital space” in expected outcome 3.

For ease of communication, the drafting group also decided that the graphic recording of the “eco-system theory of change” would not use a climatic metaphor (i.e. sun, clouds, rain, rainbow, soil, etc.), but would focus on the elements of the theory of change itself (i.e. vision, missions, principles, resources, services, inputs, thematic priorities, etc.).

Political document (draft resolution of the Committee of Ministers)

The drafting group reviewed, finalised and adopted the draft **resolution of the Committee of Ministers**: see document **CMJ(2019)12**.

This **shorter and more political document** would - if adopted by the Committee of Ministers - form the **legal and political basis** for the implementation of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030.

The drafting group agreed that the contents of the draft resolution were based on the texts agreed by the CMJ.

Moreover, the drafting group also felt that this draft resolution:

- focused on the **strategic framework** (key issues and challenges, priorities, added value of the youth sector, complementarity with the other international actors);
- underlined the link to the Council of Europe’s **core values**, and the latest Committee of Ministers’ **standards in the youth field**;
- was largely based on the **previous Committee of Ministers’ resolution** adopted in 2008 (“Agenda 2020”) but was completely updated;

- took into account the **latest developments in the Organisation** (including the Declaration adopted by the Committee of Ministers at its 129th Session in Helsinki in May 2019, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe).

The drafting group therefore endorsed the **structure** of the draft resolution, which was as follows:

- the **introduction**:
 - o listing all important background legal instruments (e.g. Agenda 2020 + Helsinki Declaration + recent CM Recommendations in the youth field + EU youth strategy + UN SDGs);
 - o recalling the fact that the sustainability of any democratic society relies on the creativity, dynamism, social commitment and competences of its young people and, in this light, the necessity for the Organisation to continue shaping generations of democracy and human rights-spirited young Europeans;
 - o reaffirming the unique role of the Council of Europe's youth sector and its instruments in associating young people with the Organisation's core values;
 - o mentioning the need to respond to new situations and challenges (e.g. climate change, artificial intelligence);
 - o stressing the importance of setting up a new strategic framework 2020-2030 for the Council of Europe youth sector.
- the **main body of the text**, recalling the **aim** of the Council of Europe youth sector (based on the "vision" agreed by the drafting group and endorsed by the CMJ), the main **thematic priorities** (here again, based on the priorities endorsed by the CMJ), the **methodologies** (unique approach and distinction), the range of **services** proposed by the youth sector and its **instruments**.

Last but not least, the drafting group also examined and commented on a possible example of a **leaflet** trying to summarise the main aspects of the strategy and the resolution. Such a document did not need to be approved by the CMJ, but the drafting group agreed that it might be used to **communicate with the wider public**, if/once the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030 is adopted.

4. **Conclusion of the third meeting and next steps**

To conclude, at its third meeting, the drafting group **finalised the background strategy document** (explanatory memorandum) and adopted a draft **Committee of Ministers' Resolution** on the youth sector strategy 2030 (political document). Throughout the meeting, the drafting group kept in mind the necessity to **adapt the strategy to the evolving situation of the youth sector** in the overall political and budgetary context of the Council of Europe, while ensuring that the contents of the resulting strategy could be meaningfully **evaluated**.

This general approach was **endorsed by the CDEJ and CCJ Bureaux** at their joint meeting (Strasbourg, 6-7 June 2019). Subsequently, a written consultation of all CMJ members was launched. The chairs and vice-chairs of the youth statutory bodies will meet in September in order to take stock of the results of the consultation. The draft strategy (draft Resolution and explanatory memorandum) will then be **examined and possibly endorsed by the CMJ** at its 41st plenary meeting (October 2019), in line with the CMJ terms of reference.

Pending agreement, the draft Resolution would be **sent to the Committee of Ministers** early in 2020 for examination and possible final adoption, which would enable it to be launched in 2020.

Appendix I: List of participants

- **European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ):**

Katrin OLT, Estonia CDEJ member
Miriam TEUMA, Malta Chair of the CDEJ (chair of the drafting group)

- **Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)**

Georgios CHATZIGEORGIOU Vice-chair of the CCJ
Natascha SKJALDGAARD CCJ member

- **European Youth Forum**

Alfonso ALIBERTI Policy and Advocacy Team Leader

- **Expert in youth policy and strategy development**

Howard WILLIAMSON Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of South Wales

- **Secretariat**

Antje ROTHEMUND Head of the Youth Department
Florian CESCO Head of the Youth Policy Division
Joanne HUNTING Secretary to the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)

- **Resource person**

Giovanna MONTAGNA Administrative Assistant, Youth Policy Division



Participants in the 3rd drafting group meeting.

Appendix II: Programme / draft agenda of the second meeting (Strasbourg, 4-5 June 2019)

Monday 3 June		Tuesday 4 June 2019		Wednesday 5 June 2019	
8:00 – 9:00		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9:00 - 11:00		<p>Introduction to the meeting's programme</p> <p>Reviewing the previous steps in the strategy development process (including previous CMJ decisions)</p> <p>Situation of the youth sector in the current context ⇒ dealing with uncertainty / how could the strategy be adapted to different possible scenarios?</p>	<p>Documents still to be developed</p> <p>Strategic framework (short version): summary of key issues, challenges and priorities to be addressed, rationale and role of the CoE intervention, added value and complementarity with the other international actors.</p> <p>Political document: draft CM Resolution</p>	<p>Documents still to be developed</p> <p>Strategic framework (short version): summary of key issues, challenges and priorities to be addressed, rationale and role of the CoE intervention, added value and complementarity with the other international actors.</p> <p>Political document: draft CM Resolution</p>	
11:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
11:30 - 13:00	Arrival of Participants	<p>Reviewing/finalising the background document (CMJ(2019)11):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key elements • Thematic priorities / expected outcomes (to be adapted as necessary in the next stages) 	<p>Documents still to be developed [continued]</p>	<p>Documents still to be developed [continued]</p>	
13:00		Lunch break (restaurant "chez Georges")	Lunch break (at the EYCS)	Lunch break (at the EYCS)	
14:30 - 16:00		<p>Reviewing/finalising the background document for the Council of Europe youth sector [continued]</p>	<p>Summary of the meeting's outcomes</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remaining tasks for the group (if any) • reporting (Bureaux and CMJ plenary) 	<p>Summary of the meeting's outcomes</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remaining tasks for the group (if any) • reporting (Bureaux and CMJ plenary) 	
16:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	16.00: end of meeting	
16:30 - 18:30		<p>Reviewing/finalising the background document for the Council of Europe youth sector [continued]</p>	<p>Dinner to be arranged by participants</p>	<p>Departure of participants</p>	
Evening	Dinner to be arranged by participants				

Appendix III: Reviewing the previous steps in the **strategy development process**



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Council of Europe

youth sector strategy 2030

Reviewing the previous steps
in the strategy development process

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

CoE youth sector strategy 2030

Parameters and previous decisions by the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ)

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe





After 2020: need for a new youth sector strategy

- ✓ Request from the **youth statutory bodies** (member States and youth organisations) in 2017
- ✓ Strategy development: part of the **CMJ mandate** (2018-2019 terms of reference)
- ✓ **Aims** of the new strategy:
 - **mission statement** for the CoE youth sector
 - to provide **policy guidance** for the period 2020-30
 - to underline added-value and **comparative advantage** (in relation to the EU youth strategy 2019-2027 and the UN Agenda 2030)



Parameters for the new strategy (as agreed by the Joint Council on Youth in October 2018)

- ✓ **general** enough (so that policy orientations do not become quickly outdated)
- ✓ but also: **operational framework** within which the next five biennial programmes can be implemented
- ✓ based on the Council of Europe's **core values** (democracy, human rights, rule of law) and **standards**
- ✓ addressing **policy gaps** (challenges facing young people in Europe)



- ✓ **Other requests** from the Joint Council on Youth:
 - seek **continuity** with Agenda 2020 (build on previous achievements and learn from shortcomings)
 - but also be **innovative**
 - need for **more systematic** monitoring and **evaluation**

- ✓ **Challenges**
 - **general** policy document vs. **operational** aspects
 - evaluability
 - what to **maintain**, what to **develop**, where to **innovate**?



CoE youth sector strategy 2030

Development process and calendar



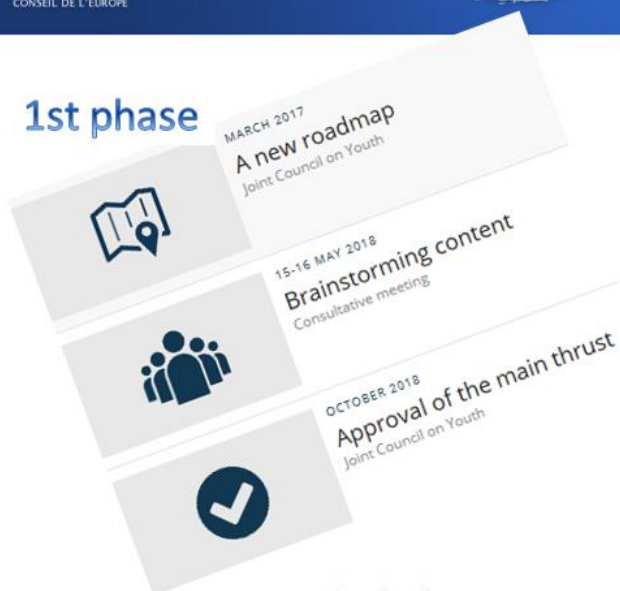


Strategy development process: multiple stakeholders

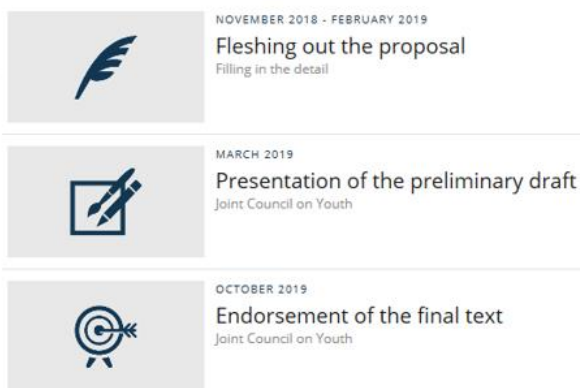
- ✓ Youth **statutory bodies** (CDEJ, CCJ, CMJ)
- ✓ Key **stakeholder groups** (consultative meeting – May 2018)
Beneficiaries of the Youth Department's programmes, beneficiaries of the European Youth Foundation, Trainers Pool, Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR), European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYR), Quality Label for Youth Centres, European Youth Forum, EYCA, ERYICA, Conference of INGOs...
- ✓ **Drafting group** (CDEJ, CCJ, YFJ and DIO)
- ✓ Negotiation and adoption by the **CMJ**
- ✓ Final endorsement by the **Committee of Ministers**
- ✓ Possible high level or ad hoc event for the **launch** (tbc)



1st phase



2nd phase



3rd phase

