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28 March 2022, Budapest

Advocacy and action for inclusion of young refugees

A training course for young refugees and youth leaders to design and apply projects to promote the human rights and social inclusion of young refugees

13 – 18 June 2022
European Youth Centre Budapest

Call for participants

Application deadline: **25 April 2022**

Background

In 2019 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)4](#) to member states on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood. In this document, the Committee of Ministers recommends that the governments of member states guarantee that the availability of additional temporary support for young refugees after the age of 18, enabling them to access their rights. The Recommendation also acknowledges the important role played by youth work and non-formal education in supporting the inclusion of young refugees, and in developing competences in active citizenship and democratic participation.

As part of the same process, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe carried out the project [Youth.Together](#), to address the risks of social exclusion and violence that young refugees are exposed to, especially those in transition to adulthood. The centre-piece of the project was a long-term training course which resulted in a number of initiatives involving young refugees in transition to adulthood. The project highlighted the role of youth work, volunteer work, sports activities to support young refugees and migrants in the process of inclusion. In 2020, the conference "Taking young refugees and asylum-seekers seriously" highlighted the importance of looking at young refugees as young people, as resource and potential, able to create a change at local level and not as someone in need. It clearly showed the need to develop further "bottom-up" and participatory approaches for better engagement of young people.

The COVID 19 pandemic hit refugees unprecedentedly. Many struggled to meet basic needs and access rights. The pandemic aggravated already existing difficulties such as access to labour market, education, and health services; the COVID-19 restrictions further limited the ability of young refugees and newcomers to exercise their rights, leaving them at heightened risk of social exclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic not only drastically affected the situation of young refugees, presenting new threats to rights, health, and freedom of movement, but also limited and sometimes made impossible to maintain and continue the initiatives started before.

The military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has created an unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons in Europe. Together with the manifestations of solidarity and support received, this has also highlighted the importance of protecting the rights and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including young people.

[The Council of Europe Action Plan on Protecting Vulnerable Persons in the Context of Migration and Asylum in Europe \(2021-2025\)](#) aims at addressing the main challenges and opportunities identified after the previous action plan, focusing on children, was completed in 2019. This new action plan proposes targeted measures and activities to enhance the capacity of member states to identify and address vulnerabilities throughout asylum and migration procedures. The action plan is composed of four pillars: three of them based on the core mandate of the Council of Europe – human rights, democracy and the rule of law – and a fourth transversal pillar focusing on co-operation.

The Joint Council on Youth adopted the roadmap for the implementation of CM/Rec(2019)4 on Supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood, which asks the Youth Department to support capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with relevant stakeholders in the programme of the European Youth Centres. It also calls to support the dissemination of the recommendation in member States and to include the recommendation and its principles in youth policy development and advice. In this contexts advocacy for the rights of young refugees is identified as one of the priorities.

About the training course:

The course will strengthen the conceptual understanding of human rights and explore the role of CM/Rec (2019)4 in youth advocacy projects. Furthermore, the course will enhance competence of participants in design and implementation targeted advocacy strategies in their own organisational and institutional context.

Objectives:

- To learn about the [Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)4](#), its proposed measures and the examples outlined in the user-friendly guidelines to the Rec.
- To develop a shared understanding of advocacy and motivate participants to apply it in their own organisational context institutional environment.
- To develop competence to design and implement advocacy strategies or projects notably in the areas of the CM/Rec(2019)4.
- To empower the participants by equipping them with the existing tools, instruments and practices.
- To support the participants to develop an advocacy action to be implemented in collaboration with the sending organisation and/or the relevant stakeholders.
- Strengthening networking and the cooperation between the participants and with other existing networks.

Profile of participants

The training course will be open for young refugees or youth policy/work actors and youth leaders who possess direct working experience with young refugees and who want to develop competences in advocacy, campaigning, and have a strong commitment for follow-up activities.

- Young refugees
- Youth and community leaders
- Youth workers (paid or volunteers)
- Social workers and other professionals working with reception and hosting centres or other institutions dealing directly with young refugees
- Volunteers with refugee-founded NGOs
- Other associated professionals having access to the wider community of young refugees and motivated to be engaged in youth work.

Formal criteria

All participants must:

- Be aged between 18 and 35 years (exceptions are possible);
- Be able to work in English;
- Be motivated to advocate for the rights of young refugees using the [Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec\(2019\)4](#);

- Be fully available for the duration of the training course;
- Be supported by an organisation, institution or network active with, or advocating for, the rights of young refugees.
- To be committed to implementing advocacy actions

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of participants irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Application, procedure, and selection of participants

The Council of Europe will select up to 35 participants based on their motivations, learning needs, expectations and plans to act as multipliers while respecting gender equality and diversity of organisational and geographical backgrounds. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected and if they have been put on the waiting list by **30 April 2022**.

The application form must be submitted online by **13:00 PM (CET), Friday, 25 April 2022** at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for the training in Budapest are reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire seminar can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either at the end of the course in cash (in Euros) or by bank transfer after the seminar.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide the necessary information in your application form.

Language

English will be the working language of the training course, so all participants should be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

Further information

For any additional information about the course: eyc.programme@coe.int