



DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 250

Strasbourg, 29 November 2024

Training course on quality essentials of international youth activities

for organisers and facilitators of study sessions in the European Youth Centre and of international activities and annual work plans supported by the European Youth Foundation

17-22 February 2025
European Youth Centre Strasbourg

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

2 January 2025

BACKGROUND

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe works to continuously strengthen the opportunities for young people, in particular youth leaders and multipliers active in youth civil society organisations, to organise international youth co-operation activities based on and promoting the Council of Europe values and standards. This is based on partnerships with youth organisations holding study sessions in the European Youth Centres and running activities with the financial support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF).

The Youth Department has established a set of [quality standards in non-formal education activities](#) that relate to the function of intercultural non-formal activities with young people in promoting the right to human rights education, democratic citizenship and youth participation, peace-building and intercultural dialogue. These reflect and support the function of the European Youth Centre as an educational establishment of the Council of Europe and a knowledge base on youth affairs, in particular youth policy and youth work, as well as emerging youth phenomena. Given the transitional nature of working of youth organisations, the Council of Europe youth sector regularly provides capacity-building for enhancing the quality standards and expectations for learning in intercultural settings.

In 2022-2024, training courses were organised for facilitators and organisers of study sessions and EYF-supported activities and for representatives of international youth organisations and networks on project management in international youth co-operation activities of the EYF. In 2025, this training course will build on the previous experiences and lessons learnt and reflect current developments in the Council of Europe youth sector. It aims to respond to the needs of international youth organisations and networks, who are key partners of the youth sector, to ensure that their volunteers, members and staff responsible for organising international youth activities are equipped with the needed skills. In the current context of polycrisis affecting youth and their confidence in the future of the human rights and democracy, including the war in Ukraine, the need for international youth co-operation is of key importance so that spaces of dialogue, solidarity and co-operation among young people are created in the best possible conditions. In the follow-up to the Council of Europe's 4th Summit and the Reykjavik Declaration, the Council of Europe youth sector reinforces the capacities of, and support for youth organisations in their work to promote the values and principles of peace, mutual understanding, human rights and democracy.

ABOUT THE TRAINING COURSE

The aim of the training course is to increase the capacities of international youth organisations and networks to carry out quality intercultural youth activities which apply principles of non-formal education and have a multiplying effect for their members, and to enable young people to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The training course will, therefore, increase the competences and confidence of volunteers and professionals from international youth organisations and networks in organising and running international youth activities.

The training course objectives are:

- To increase participants' organisational skills in relation to preparing, implementing and evaluating international youth activities;
- To increase participants' competences to apply non-formal education and intercultural learning approaches in their international youth activities;
- To develop participants' understanding and agency in connecting their organisation's work and activities to the Council of Europe priorities, tools and standards;
- To create a space for youth organisations and networks to make valuable contributions to the programme of the European Youth Centre and of the European Youth Foundation, through constructive dialogue.

Programme and methodology

The programme of the training course will be based on the principles and approaches of non-formal learning and intercultural learning, building from the experiences and practices of the participants. Its content and methodology are designed to make participants reflect and discuss about essentials of international youth activities carried out with the Youth Department. It will build on experiential learning, individual reflection, skills building workshops and exchange of practices among participants by using the participatory methods of learning, such as working groups and facilitated discussions.

Before attending the training course in February, a short e-learning phase is planned in early February, for which participants should be able to dedicate maximum 2-3 hours in total. The e-learning phase is mandatory for all participants.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

This training course is designed for participants who:

- Are organisers, coordinators and/or members of preparatory teams (such as course directors, facilitators, trainers, educators, activists, others) of international youth activities, including but not limited to study sessions in the EYC, and international activities and annual work plans supported by the EYF (regardless of their professional or employment status);
- Have some previous experience in organising international youth activities in either organisational (coordination) or educational (facilitating) role;
- Are in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the training to teams and organisers of international youth activities (study sessions, and international activities and annual work plans supported by the EYF) in 2025 and 2026;
- Are motivated to develop their competences to organise and run international youth activities in line with the quality standards in education and training activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention;
- Be aged between 18 and 30 (exceptions are possible);
- Be available to attend the full duration of the course;
- Be able to work in English;

- Be nominated by their sending organisation, for which they need to send a signed support letter on the organisational memorandum to eyc.supportletters@coe.int before the deadline indicated in this call.

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

The call is open to all interested applicants, but priority will be given to team members and organisers of study sessions and international activities and annual workplans supported by the EYF in the year 2025. Organisations wishing to nominate several applicants should state the internal priority between these applicants in their support letter provided to each applicant.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The training course will take place at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France (EYCS) on 17-22 February 2025 (working days). Participants are expected to travel to Strasbourg on 16 February and depart on 23 February to attend the full course.

Travel and visa expenses to/from Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only those who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Board and lodging at EYCS will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe. 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 all the necessary information in your application form.

Each participant is expected to pay an enrolment fee of 60 euros. This amount will be deducted from the travel reimbursement amount or paid at the EYCS during the training course.

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

The Council of Europe will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations and projects. A waiting list may be established.

Applicants will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list in January 2025.

For any questions, please write to eyc.programme@coe.int

The application form must be submitted online before **2 January 2025**, at 23:59 CET.