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Strasbourg, 6 May 2026

Building resilience in young people

Youth work and non-formal education for mental well-being of
young people affected by war

Training seminar

9-11 June 2026

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: **15 May 2026, 23:59 (CET)**

This call is launched within the Framework Programme for cooperation in the field of Youth Policy between the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine for 2026-2030

CONTEXT

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues to have a devastating impact on Ukraine's young people and the youth sector. Since 24 February 2022, around 2 million young Ukrainians have been forced to seek refuge abroad, while over 2 million more have become internally displaced persons. As of August 2025, damage has been recorded at 135 youth infrastructure facilities: 31 youth centres have been completely destroyed, 30 have been damaged, 74 remain under occupation, and approximately 10 have been restored.

Mental health problems are becoming increasingly acute, and the percentage of young people in Ukraine concerned about their mental health is growing. [Advancing youth mental health and well-being: A mapping of policy frameworks, tools and services across Europe](#), conducted by the [Youth Partnership](#) lists Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine among the crises that young people must navigate.

[Research on the Needs and State of Activity of Youth Workers and Prospects for the Development of Youth Work in Ukraine during the War and Post-War Period](#), conducted within the project, confirmed youth workers' interest in psychological support for young people in times of war, preservation of mental health, work with internally displaced persons, veterans and their families, and inclusive work with young people.

Youth policy in Ukraine is focused on addressing the long-term consequences of the war for young people and creating conditions for their resilience, development and active participation in society. A key priority is to ensure that young people have opportunities to remain in Ukraine, return to Ukraine, and build their future within the country, with particular attention given to young people affected by displacement, both internally displaced young people and those currently living abroad, through youth work, non-formal education and community-based initiatives aimed at maintaining their connection to Ukraine and facilitating return and reintegration.

At the same time, youth policy places a strong emphasis on mental health and psycho-emotional well-being and resilience, closely linked to promoting civic engagement, participation in decision-making, and a sense of belonging and social responsibility among young people. Special attention is also given to supporting internally displaced young people, young veterans, and their families, as well as fostering social cohesion at the community level, particularly in the context of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction.

[Framework Programme for Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policy between the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports](#) emphasises cross-cutting actions essential for promoting an inclusive and sustainable youth policy response during wartime and post-war recovery, including enhancing resilience among young people affected by war and displacement by providing access to mental health and psychosocial support programmes.

The implementation of the [State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience – 2030"](#) aims to increase the share of young people involved in activities developing resilience, creating a safe environment, and supporting psycho-emotional well-being by no less than 6 percent each year.

The trauma-informed youth work programme, developed within the Council of Europe project ["Youth for Democracy in Ukraine"](#) in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the All-Ukrainian Youth Centre, in the context of the state youth worker programme, provides displaced and traumatised young people with support to access their rights, rebuild their lives, and participate meaningfully in decision-making. The programme has also been made available to the wider youth work community at European gatherings, such as the European Youth Work Convention.

THE TRAINING SEMINAR

Against this backdrop the [Youth Department of the Council of Europe](#), in cooperation with the [Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine](#), is organising a training seminar Building resilience in young people: Youth work and non-formal education for mental well-being of young people affected by war which will take place from 9 to 11 June (working days) at the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#).

The seminar will equip up to 25 youth workers, representatives of youth centres, and specialists working with young people from Ukraine, with tools to strengthen their capacity to deepen understanding of and share practices about the role of youth work in addressing the emotional and mental health challenges affecting young people caused by the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Objectives

- To analyse the current challenges and needs of young people in Ukraine and those working with young people in providing emotional and mental well-being support and strengthening resilience.
- To share existing practices and expertise in youth work with young people affected by traumatic events.
- To enable participants to understand the Council of Europe's Youth Department approaches and standards in youth work and non-formal education, and their application in the participants' current context.
- To share and discuss the resources and expertise developed and available in the context of the Youth for Democracy in Ukraine project, notably on trauma-informed and trauma-sensitised approaches to youth work.
- To propose recommendations for youth work with young people facing emotional and mental health issues due to military conflict and related crimes.

Programme and methodology

The programme of the activity will be based on the principles and approaches of non-formal learning, building from the experiences and practices of the participants. It will feature the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)4 on youth work](#), educational resources, the [quality criteria in non-formal education](#) and [quality label for youth centres](#) of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The seminar is designed for participant who are:

1. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres working with young people in Ukraine; **or**
2. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres from other Council of Europe [member states](#) working with young people from Ukraine, including from the [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres network](#); **or**
3. Specialists experienced in working with and for young people in conflict, war, or post-war contexts in member states of the Council of Europe, notably in trauma-informed youth work and the provision of psychological support.

All participants must also:

- be motivated to contribute with their expertise;
- be able to take part in the working language of the activity (English).
- be able and committed to attending the entire activity in person;
- be interested in the topic and capable of advocating for improving youth work and non-formal education with and for young people of Ukraine in their communities.

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, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

The working language is English.

All candidates must apply online at <https://forms.office.com/e/cX8k861NE5> until **23:59 (CET), 15 May 2026**. The dedicated form is opened.

The organisers will select up to 25 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. 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 **17 May 2026**.

ORGANISERS

The Council of Europe Youth Department is co-organising the activity with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine within the Framework Programme for Co-operation in the Field of Youth Policy.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Travel expenses

Travel expenses to and from Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The participants will be informed in due time regarding travel procedures. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. The Council of Europe is not able to purchase any section of travel in Ukrainian territory: this section will therefore have to be self-organised and the related expenses claimed when participants arrive in Strasbourg.

Security considerations. By applying to participate in this seminar, applicants from Ukraine acknowledge that they will be travelling within the territory of Ukraine and beyond. An additional travel insurance will be provided to all participants travelling from/to Ukraine for this specific activity by the Council of Europe, subject to the timely submission of the information requested by the Secretariat.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid by the Council of Europe at the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#) from **8 to 12 June 2026 (arrival and departure dates)**. The venue is accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please inform organisers and provide the necessary information in your application form.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions or are in need of further information, please do not hesitate to contact Maja Micic Lazovic (maja.micic-lazovic@coe.int), Project Manager of the Education, Training and Co-operation Division of the Council of Europe Youth Department.

The focal point at the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine is Anna Mazarska (anna.mazarska@ukr.net), Deputy Head of International Co-operation and Protocol Unit at of International Co-operation and European Integration Department

If you are interested in other training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers that the Youth Department organises click [this link](#) or the [Project](#) website.

BACKGROUND

[The Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine signed a five-year Framework Programme \(2026–30\) for youth policy cooperation](#). It focuses on cross-cutting priorities during war and in post-war recovery, including barrier-free environments, resilience amongst war-affected youth, belonging to Ukrainian and European communities, and reintegration of displaced persons, young military personnel, and veterans.

The Programme foresees four main priority areas:

- promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, encompassing youth participation and broader civic engagement, democratic governance and peace education;
- strengthening youth work policies and practices by ensuring the effective implementation of the national professional standard “Youth specialist (youth worker)”, including through structured systems of continuous training and support, and establishing youth work as a component of local governance and public services;
- enhancing the quality of youth work, opportunities, spaces and means for civic engagement and democratic participation by supporting youth centres and other youth spaces as safe, accessible and professionally supported environments that foster participation, learning and well-being;
- supporting the development and sustainability of diverse youth organisations and associations as key platforms for civic engagement and participation in democratic life.

A long-standing co-operation between the Council of Europe Youth Sector and the Ministry of Youth and Sports has helped Ukraine to develop a stronger and more inclusive youth policy for, by and with young people based on the values of human rights, democracy and rule of law. The outcomes of the co-operation with the Council of Europe Youth Sector laid the ground for Ukraine’s reform efforts, in particular resulted with the Law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» and the National Youth Strategy until 2030, in view of its EU integration process.

In the same Framework, the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe organised the first seminar on access to quality youth work and non-formal education during the war and post-war period, in June 2025 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest.

Under the project ["Youth for Democracy in Ukraine"](#), a part of the Action Plan for Ukraine, the Council of Europe strengthens and supports meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, particularly in the context of the reconstruction of Ukraine. The project has introduced trauma-informed youth work in Ukraine, enabling young people to master self-help and self-healing techniques, and learn to overcome burnout and compassion fatigue by taking part in educational activities.