

Strasbourg, 31 March 2026

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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE FOR SAFER AND HEALTHIER SPORT

**PREPARATION OF THE 19TH COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT**

Tuesday 26 May (full day) and Wednesday 27 May (9.30am-12.30pm) 2026

Council of Europe's European Youth Centre (EYCS)

(30 Rue Pierre de Coubertin, 67000 Strasbourg)

Working languages: English and French

(with simultaneous interpretation)

Call for applications

Introduction

On 27 May 2026, the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) is organising the joint meeting of its Governing Board and Consultative Committee. One of the objectives of this meeting will be to prepare the contents of the 19th Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport, whose main topic will be "Safer and healthier sport for all children".

EPAS aims to incorporate a youth perspective into this meeting, and concrete steps have been taken to provide opportunities for young people to share their experiences and expertise when preparing for the Ministerial Conference. To this end, a youth event is being organised for 26 May 2026 at the Council of Europe's EYCS (hereafter referred to as the 'Initiative'). Youth participants will also be invited to participate in discussions at the joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee on the morning of 27 May.

With the Reykjavik Declaration, adopted at the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government (16-17 May 2023), the Council of Europe underscores the importance of integrating a youth perspective across the Council of Europe's activities. This declaration is a milestone, guiding us toward a future where young people's voices are not only heard but are instrumental in shaping our policies and practices. The Council of Europe has shown a steadfast commitment to developing international standards that promote working with and for young people by adding the integration of a youth perspective in the Organisation's intergovernmental and other deliberations, as well as strengthening further youth participation in decision-making in democratic life. An important milestone in this process has been the Resolution on the Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective adopted at the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth.

Understanding the well-established relevance and contribution of meaningful youth participation in policymaking, this initiative seeks to contribute to integrating a youth perspective and to raise awareness of policymakers on the importance of cooperating with young people in all matters that concern them.

This initiative builds on previous achievements, namely:

- [The European Sports Charter](#);
- [The Council of Europe Youth Strategy](#);
- [The Council of Europe co-management system](#);
- [The Reykjavik Declaration](#);
- [Final Declaration of the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth](#);
- [The Resolution on the Council of Europe Reference Framework on a Youth Perspective](#)
- [The Guidelines on young people's participation - YOUTH PARTICIPATION 2.0](#);
- [The Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life](#).

About the Initiative

The initiative seeks to integrate a youth perspective in safe and healthy sport policymaking. More specifically, the initiative aims to:

- Incorporate the youth perspective in the work of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee towards the preparation of the 19th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Sport, which will take place in Monaco on 3-4 November 2026.
- Introduce and expand the participants' knowledge on sport policies in the context of the Council of Europe, of the topics of the Conference, as well as of key initiatives in the field; and
- Provide a capacity-building opportunity for young people to learn about how to better engage with and participate in sport policymaking, on advocating for youth and sport policies, on the

existing instruments and tools developed by the Council of Europe, and on how to use them in their contexts.

The implementation of this Initiative intends to produce concrete and tangible outcomes, namely:

- Provide a space for young people and policymakers to directly engage with each other in a meaningful and free manner, under the umbrella of the topics of the Governing Board and Consultative Committee joint meeting and the Ministerial Conference.
- Provide an opportunity for discussion, reflection, and collaboration towards supporting the participants in presenting their views and ideas. This will be done through a process of collection of feedback, inputs, views and suggestions after the event, which will be compiled, processed and shall be shared with the EPAS members after the conference.
- Organisation of an interactive session between the youth representatives and other Conference participants.

Participant Profile

- Participation is sought from up to 70 participants, aged 18 to 30.
- Applicants shall submit their applications on behalf of their organisation or association.
- Applicants shall submit a CV detailing their education, professional and/or volunteering experience, as well as a one-page cover letter. Applications shall be submitted in English or French.
- The EPAS Secretariat aims to achieve gender and geographical balance. When selecting candidates, preference will be given to the under-represented gender or nationality. The EPAS Secretariat has invited the members of its Governing Board and Consultative Committee to designate a participant. Preference will be given to nationals of member states that have not yet designated a participant.
- Participants must have sufficient English or French language skills to follow and contribute to the discussions.
- Participants shall, preferably, have prior experience and engagement in sport, especially as children, or a general understanding of the sport sector.
- Participants shall be a citizen of one of the member states of the Council of Europe or EPAS.

National participants will also be selected towards achieving a greatest impact on the national level.

Participation Condition

- Participation will be on-site.
- The Youth event will take place on 26 May (full day, exact times to be confirmed) with the youth participants only. The joint meeting of the EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee will take place on 27 May (9.30am – 12.30pm).
- Working languages will be English and French. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses will be covered by EPAS.

Expressions of Interest

Applications shall be sent by email to sport.epas@coe.int, no later than the 15 April 2026 at 6pm CEST, with the following reference in subject: Application to EPAS Youth event.

Any questions about this procedure shall be sent to sport.epas@coe.int at least 5 working days before the deadline for submission of the application.