



22 March 2019

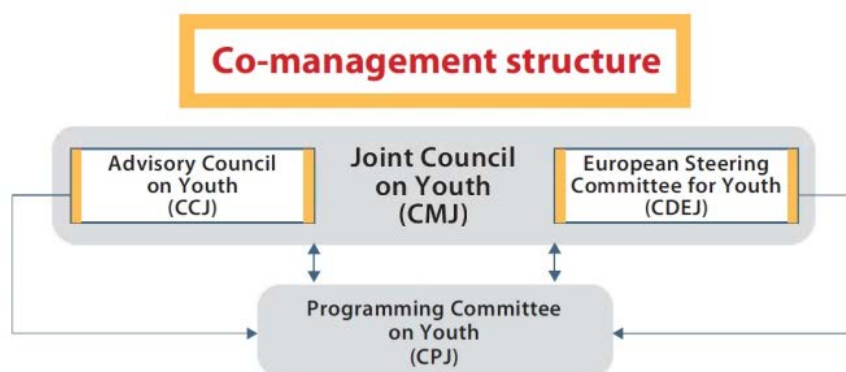
**Call for representatives of youth organisations and networks
from the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention
for the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) 2020-21**

Deadline for applications: 28 April 2019, 23.59

This call is to select 10 of the 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) for the period 2020-21. Young people, aged between 18 and 30, who represent non-governmental youth organisations or networks in the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention (ECC),¹ and who wish to make the voice of European youth heard within the Council of Europe are invited to submit an application for a seat. The Council of Europe Secretary General will select the 10 candidates who best meet the criteria described in this call and submit their names to the Committee of Ministers for decision. The final decision is expected in November 2019 however the successful candidates, as well as a shortlist of three reserves, will be notified beforehand.

What is the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)?²

The Advisory Council is the non-governmental partner in the co-managed decision-making system used in the Council of Europe youth sector. The European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) is the governmental partner. Together, these two committees make up the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) (see diagram below) which establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budgets. The CMJ works on the basis of **consensus**: governmental and non-governmental representatives work together to present shared proposals and solutions in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.



Set up by the Committee of Ministers (CM), the decision-making body of the Council of Europe, the CCJ is directly answerable to the Committee of Ministers, its role being to advise the CM on all questions relating to youth, for example on legal texts which have a specific impact on young people. It contributes to the effective mainstreaming of youth policies into the Council of Europe's work and formulates opinions and proposals on the youth sector's priorities, expected results and budgetary allocations. The CCJ promotes the Council of Europe's youth policies both within the Organisation and beyond. The CCJ's terms of reference are adopted every two years by the Committee of Ministers.

¹ The 50 States Parties to the ECC are the [47 Council of Europe member states](#) and Belarus, Holy See and Kazakhstan.

² Follow the links provided to find out more information about the terms and structures.

Who sits on the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)?

The 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth should reflect as much as possible the reality of young people and youth work in Europe. They are:

- thirteen representatives of international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- seven representatives of national youth councils properly constituted in the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention, and other states which participate in the activities of the programme of the Youth Department, designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- ten representatives of non-governmental youth organisations or networks, from the 50 States Parties to the ECC, not members of the European Youth Forum, designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Council of Europe's Secretary General.

What does being a CCJ member entail?

As well as taking part in two CCJ meetings and two CMJ meetings per year, which are held back-to-back over a period of three days – usually in March in the European Youth Centre in Budapest and in October in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg – the CCJ members commit to:

- providing their expertise to inform the work of the Youth Department and different Council of Europe bodies, including intergovernmental steering committees (see below);
- taking part in activities (trainings, seminars, conferences, etc.) to raise awareness of the Advisory Council's work and of the co-management system, as well as to input their expertise on specific subjects;
- applying the Council of Europe's work and standards to their organisation's or network's activities;
- giving visibility and multiplying to their organisations, networks, peers, social media, etc. information on the Council of Europe's work and standards;
- gathering opinions, information and proposals from their organisations/networks and their target groups, including on the needs of young people and the challenges they face, to inform the youth sector's work.

In addition, the Advisory Council is invited to send representatives to specific bodies, for example the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee with ERYICA, the Management Board of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth, the Executive Committee of the North-South Centre.

The CCJ elects a Bureau, made up of a chairperson, a vice-chairperson and three other members, who meet twice a year between the plenary sessions. It also designates eight of its members to represent it on the Programming Committee on Youth (CPJ), the co-managed body in charge of establishing the programme of activities of the youth sector.

The CCJ members remain in permanent contact in between the statutory meetings which develops a spirit of co-operation and a collective approach to the issues at stake.

What are the criteria for the selection of these 10 members of the Advisory Council?

The members of the Advisory Council represent their organisation/network. They must, therefore, be nominated by it and provide a letter from the head of the organisation, for example the president, attesting to this fact.

Candidates must be:

1. aged between 18 and 30;
2. nominated by their organisation/network which must be situated in one of the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
3. committed to participating actively in the work of the Advisory Council on Youth;

4. motivated, available and committed to attending the statutory meetings and to representing the Advisory Council in activities relevant to its work, as well as to contributing in writing to consultations and opinions;
5. able to work in English;³
6. preferably have experience in at least one of the priority areas of the youth sector (see Appendix 1).⁴

NB Candidates' organisations/networks must not be a member of, have candidate or observer status with, or be in the process of applying for membership of the European Youth Forum (YFJ).

In addition, the following elements will be taken into account:

- experience of youth work and/or youth policy, especially in an intercultural setting;
- commitment to contributing to the Youth for Democracy programme by bringing specific expertise and experience to the programme's priorities and orientations that correspond to the needs of young people in Europe and to the Council of Europe's core values.

Organisations which have not previously co-operated with the Youth Department, in particular those which operate in other fields of the Council of Europe (e.g. human rights, democracy – pluralist and participative, social inclusion, migration, disability, media and information society, etc.) and which have a youth structure are strongly encouraged to submit applications, enclosing with their candidature a brief description of their structure as well as their past, present and planned activities.

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

In the assessment of the application, in order to ensure as varied a representation as possible, the Council of Europe will give preference to applications from NGOs and networks which are not currently members of the Advisory Council. The selection will aim to ensure balances with regards to age, gender, work field and a geographical spread across the States Parties to the ECC among the 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth. Applications from organisations and networks which have previously been, but are not currently members of the Advisory Council are welcome.

What is the procedure for applying?

You must submit your application using the online form only (<https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>), it must be accompanied by a supporting letter from your organisation/network. The deadline for applications is **28 April 2019 (23.59 hrs)**.

The names and organisations/networks of the candidates selected by the Secretary General will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers. The final decision is expected in November 2019 however the candidates selected by the Secretary General, as well as a shortlist of three reserves will be notified to the successful candidates beforehand.

For further information, please contact:

Advisory Council on Youth secretariat
Youth Department
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex,
Email: advisorycouncil@coe.int
Tel: + 33 (0)3 88 41 32 24

³ All of the Advisory Council's work is carried out in English, there is no interpretation into French, the other working language of the Council of Europe. Working documents are available in English only. Please see Appendix 2 for the scale to use when indicating the level of English in the application form.

⁴ The youth sector's priorities for 2020-21 are provisional until adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

Draft priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector for 2020-21

The Youth Department is in the Directorate of Democratic Participation, which is in the Directorate General of Democracy. The Department elaborates guidelines, programmes and legal instruments for the development of coherent and effective youth policies at local/regional, national and European levels. It organises, funds and provides educational support for its international youth activities. These activities promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and cultural pluralism and generally aim to meet the priorities of the youth sector. The youth sector seeks to bring together and disseminate expertise and knowledge about the life situations, aspirations and the ways young Europeans express themselves. For more information on the Council of Europe's youth sector and co-management system see: www.coe.int/youth.

The proposed priorities for the biennium 2020-21 are as follows:

Priority 1: "Access to rights"

Expected result 1

"Young people and youth organisations have been supported in accessing their rights and in advocating education for human rights and democracy."

Young people's access to rights requires the removal of legal, political and social barriers. Young people and youth organisations furthermore need support in order to promote human rights and democracy, particularly in light of the trend towards a shrinking space for civil society. Any obstacles to their work have to be removed. This requires the co-operation of member states and youth organisations at local, regional, national and European levels.

The promotion of access to rights for all young people will be pursued with member states and youth organisations through measures to support the implementation the Committee of Ministers' recommendations CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER!). Special attention will be paid to the continuation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme on- and offline, the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter as well as latest developments within the Council of Europe in the field of information and media literacy.

Key guiding reference documents for this expected result:

- CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights;
- CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);
- CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;
- CM/Rec(2010)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on youth information;
- Guidelines for civil participation in political decision making (adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 September 2017 at the 1295th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies);
- Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2016-21;
- Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.

Programme orientations:

- Implementing the roadmap on the dissemination of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights and preparing its first five-year review.
- Implementing support measures to member states, local authorities and youth organisations to follow-up the conclusions of the review of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation).
- Continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, including information and media literacy with children and young people, as a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education.
- Continuing to identify and remedy the effects of shrinking civic space on young people and youth organisations.

Priority 2: Youth participation and youth work

Expected result 2

“Youth organisations and member states have been supported in the development of youth policy and youth work for the democratic participation and autonomy of young people.”

The sustainability of the Council of Europe’s core values relies also on the creativity, competences, social commitment, and contribution of young people as well as on their confidence in the future. Youth policies and youth work practice must support young people to realise their full potential as autonomous members of society, enabling them to develop life plans and exercise their democratic citizenship. Special attention will be paid to young people’s meaningful participation in political processes.

Youth work as a social practice makes an important contribution to active citizenship and youth participation by providing opportunities to acquire the values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding required for effective civic engagement and social action in democratic culture. In this respect, special attention will be paid to the dissemination, of Council of Europe standards in relation to the training of youth workers, their promotion through partners at national and European level, institutional bodies of the Council of Europe (e.g. Congress of Local and Regional Authorities) and other sectors concerned, and to the quality of youth work provisions.

Throughout this priority, the participation of young people with disabilities and inclusive youth work will be promoted.

Key guiding reference documents:

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work;
- Recommendation Rec(2006)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2006)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development;
- Recommendation Rec(2004)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the participation of young people in local and regional life;
- Recommendation Rec(2003)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people;
- Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio;
- Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres;
- Roadmap for youth participation (2018-21) adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 29 June 2018;
- Council of Europe’s self-assessment tool for the development of youth policy.

Programme orientations:

Youth participation

- Supporting young people to access their rights to assemble and freely form, join and be active in associations; enhancing young people’s meaningful participation in political processes.
- Supporting youth participation in Internet governance processes.
- Promoting the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life and supporting member states and youth organisations to implement its principles.
- Further disseminating the “Have your say” manual to public authorities and the non-governmental sector.

Youth work

- Pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, developing and promoting a European youth work agenda;
- Supporting the quality development, sustainability and recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning, notably through the use of Council of Europe instruments in the member states (e.g. through the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres and the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio).

Priority 3: Inclusive and peaceful societies

Expected result 3

“Youth workers and youth organisations have been supported in their work on peace- building and social cohesion to prevent and combat discrimination and exclusion.”

Preventing and counteracting discrimination, to allow the democratic participation of all young people, remain central to the Council of Europe’s youth policy and a permanent concern of its partners. These are necessary steps to strengthen social cohesion and respect for diversity. The lives of too many young people are still shaped by conflicts and the absence of peace. Peaceful and inclusive societies also depend on the recognition of intersectionality and combating all forms of discrimination and social exclusion. Persistent forms of structural discrimination combined with prejudice impact negatively on the prospect of social inclusion and well-being of marginalised groups of young people, including young people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, young Roma, refugees and migrants, women and girls, LGBTQI youth, etc. Youth organisations and youth workers play an important role in supporting intercultural dialogue with neighbouring regions and involving young people in confidence-building and conflict-transformation activities in the spirit of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security and of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

Key guiding reference documents:

- Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue;
- Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-23;
- Council of Europe Disability Strategy 2017-23;
- Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;
- Draft Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)... to member states on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood (not adopted yet);
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Council of Europe standards on combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security.

Programme orientations:

Promoting social inclusion, fostering active participation, gender equality and combating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights - taking an intersectional approach - with a specific focus on:

- Roma youth and other minority groups;
- Young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- Young people with disabilities;
- LGBTQI young people;
- Young women and girls.

Enabling young people to promote peaceful societies by providing them with opportunities to play an active role in:

- Intercultural dialogue/learning;
- Peace building and conflict transformation;
- Challenging the rise of nationalism and populism;
- Co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions.

Priority 4: assistance to member states

Expected result 4

The fourth expected result focuses on supporting the member states in the development of their youth policy. This expected result is included in the programme of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and does not fall within the remit of the CMJ.

“Member states have been supported to develop youth policies promoting Council of Europe standards.”

Programme orientations for expected result 4:

- assisting member states to integrate Council of Europe standards into national youth policies, action plans and strategies through a diversified package of assistance measures;
- supporting the capacity building of relevant public authorities to implement national youth policies in accordance with the Council of Europe’s standards and approaches, and fostering their co-operation with youth NGOs;
- ensuring the dissemination and implementation of Council of Europe standards (with a special focus on Committee of Ministers’ recommendations CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights and CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights);
- assisting interested member states to develop national quality standards for youth centres, based on the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres;
- promoting and encouraging geographical balance in member states taking part in the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres programme.

Global Scale for proficiency in English

Proficient	C2	Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
User	C1	Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.
Independent	B2	Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
User	B1	Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.
Basic	A2	Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.
User	A1	Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.