



16 April 2021

Call for the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) 2022-23

Deadline for applications: 3 May 2021, 6 p.m. CET

Are you aged between **18 and 30**?

Do you **represent a non-governmental youth organisation or network** in one of the 50 States Parties to the [European Cultural Convention](#) (ECC)?¹

Do you wish to **contribute** the voice of European youth to **policymaking** in the Council of Europe **youth sector**?

Do you want to work with **governmental representatives**, in a spirit of **mutual respect and understanding**, to find **consensus** on the youth sector's [priorities and objectives](#)?

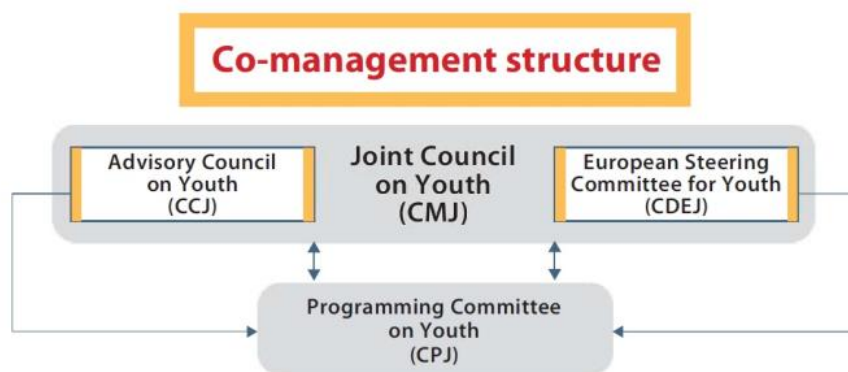
If yes, then this call may well interest you!

The Council of Europe youth sector is selecting **10** of the 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) for the period **2022-23**.

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

As its name suggests, the Advisory Council **advises**, and is **answerable to the Committee of Ministers (CM)**, the decision-making body of the Council of Europe, in accordance with its [terms of reference](#) adopted by the CM.

It is the non-governmental partner in the co-managed decision-making system used in the 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 and objectives](#).



The Advisory Council:

- ✓ contributes to the effective **mainstreaming** of youth policies;
- ✓ formulates **opinions and proposals** on the youth sector's priorities and expected results within the framework of the [Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030](#);
- ✓ promotes the Council of Europe's **youth policies** both within the Organisation and beyond.

¹ The 50 States Parties to the ECC are the [47 Council of Europe member states](#) and Belarus, the 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](#) should reflect as much as possible the reality of young people and youth work in Europe. They are:

- thirteen representatives of INGYOs designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- seven representatives of national youth councils designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum;
- ten representatives of NGYOs 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 Secretary General.

What commitments do CCJ members make on applying?

- to provide their **expertise** to inform the work of the Youth Department and different Council of Europe bodies;
- to raise **awareness** of the Advisory Council's work and of the co-management system;
- to raise awareness of and apply the Council of Europe's **values** and **standards** to your organisation's activities;
- to gather information, opinions and proposals on the needs of young people and the challenges they face, in order to inform the youth sector's work;
- to attend two CCJ and two CMJ meetings per year (in all six days per year) in the European Youth Centres in Budapest (March) and Strasbourg (October), or online (subject to the sanitary situation at the time of the meetings).

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.

The CCJ elects a **Bureau** which meets twice a year and eight members to represent it on the **Programming Committee on Youth** (CPJ), which establishes the youth sector's programme of activities.

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

Candidates must:

1. be aged between 18 and 30;
2. be nominated by their organisation/network which must be situated in one of the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
3. must provide a letter of nomination from the head of the organisation, for example the president;
4. be committed to participating actively in the work of the Advisory Council on Youth;
5. be 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 contribute in writing to consultations, reports and opinions;
6. be able to work in English;³
7. preferably have experience in at least one of the priority areas of the youth sector (see Appendix 1).⁴

NB:

- ~ members of the Advisory Council represent their organisation/network;
- ~ 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 considered:

- 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.

³ The Advisory Council works 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 your level of English in the application form.

⁴ The youth sector's priorities for 2022-25 are provisional until adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

What other organisations are eligible to apply?

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.

Applications from organisations and networks which have previously been but are not currently members of the Advisory Council are welcome.

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, 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.

What is the procedure for applying?

You must submit your application **using the online form only**, it must be accompanied by a **supporting letter from your organisation/network**.

The deadline for applications is 3 May 2021, 6 p.m. CET
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The names and organisations/networks of the candidates selected by the Secretary General will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for examination. The final decision is expected in November 2021 however the nominated candidates, as well as those on a shortlist of three reserves, will be notified beforehand of the Secretary General's decision to submit their names to the Committee of Ministers.

For further information, please contact:

Advisory Council on Youth secretariat
Youth Department
Directorate of Democratic Participation
Directorate General of Democracy
Council of Europe
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Tel: + 33 (0)3 88 41 32 24

Draft priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector for 2022-25⁵

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. 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.

Priority 1: Revitalising pluralistic democracy

Expected result 1

“Youth organisations and member States have increased their capacity to develop youth policy and youth work for the democratic participation 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 participation in political processes. Throughout this priority, the participation of young people with disabilities and inclusive youth work will be promoted.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *First thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*⁶
- *Committee of Ministers' declaration, adopted at its 129th Session (Helsinki, May 2019): reference to a “meaningful and transparent dialogue with civil society at all levels”;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)11 on the need to strengthen the protection and the promotion of civil society space in Europe;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec(2006)14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2006)1 on the role of national youth councils in youth policy development;*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2004)13 on the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2192 (2017) on youth against corruption;*
- *Congress Resolution 386 (2015) Bringing down barriers to youth participation: adopting a lingua franca for local and regional authorities and young people;*
- *Congress Resolution 387 (2015) Voting at 16 – Consequences on youth participation at local and regional level;*
- *Congress Resolution 346 (2012) Youth and democracy: the changing face of youth political engagement;*
- *Conference of INGO's roadmap for youth participation (2018-21).*

Programme orientations for expected result 1:

- *Advocating a sustainable enabling environment in which young people can exercise their right to assemble and to freely form, join and be active in associations;*
- *Advancing young people's participation in political processes;*

⁵ From 2022, it is proposed to move to a four-year programming period from the current two-year, to be decided in November by the CM.

⁶ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

- Advocating the importance of an expanding space for youth civil society organisations in order that they may develop and flourish;
- Supporting youth participation in artificial intelligence and Internet governance processes;
- Supporting member States and youth organisations to implement the principles of the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life; further disseminating the “Have your say” manual to public authorities and the non-governmental sector;
- Supporting the capacity of youth organisations to participate and facilitate participation of young people in decision-making processes at local level, with renewed focus on youth organisations which work with young people in rural areas, from minorities, or vulnerable groups;
- Supporting youth policy actors to understand and influence the impact of artificial intelligence on young people;
- Supporting youth policy actors to understand and address the impact of emerging trends such as the climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy.

Priority 2: Young people’s access to rights

Expected result 2

“Young people and youth organisations have increased their capacity to access their rights and advocate for human rights and citizenship education.”

Young people’s access to rights depends on their capacity to exercise them, which presupposes knowledge of them and being able to advocate them. 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 (at local, regional, national and European levels) of 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. Special attention will be paid to the continuation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme - both on- and offline, the review of the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter, as well as any evaluation of and latest developments by the Council of Europe in the Internet and media literacy fields.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Second thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;⁷*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)10 on developing and promoting digital citizenship education;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2015 (2013) on young people’s access to fundamental rights;*
- *Congress Resolution 319 (2010) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;*
- *Congress Resolution 442 (2019) on social rights of young people: the role of local and regional authorities;*
- *Congress Resolution 414 (2017) Forever young? The role of youth policies and youth work at local and regional levels in supporting young people’s transition to autonomy and working life;*
- *Draft Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-27;*
- *Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture.*

Programme orientations for expected result 2:

- Implementing the roadmap on the dissemination of Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights and 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

⁷ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);

- Continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, and reviewing the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;
- Supporting and developing information, data and media literacy with children and young people;
- Increasing the understanding and addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and the exercise of social rights, including physical and mental health;
- Mainstreaming rights-based approaches in youth policies, programmes and projects.

Priority 3: Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies

Expected result 3

“Youth workers and young people have gained knowledge and skills to work on peace-building and intercultural dialogue to prevent and combat discrimination, exclusion and violent extremism.”

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. A specific focus is also needed on developing intercultural competences and detecting, preventing and combating all forms of discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, taking an intersectional approach, especially through youth mobility.

The lives of too many young people are still shaped by armed conflicts and their consequences. Youth organisations and youth workers play an important role in supporting young people in these situations and in promoting the application of the Council of Europe’s standards and experiences across the member States. Youth organisations and youth workers also play a 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 Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and of the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Third thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*⁸
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly draft resolution on strengthening the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;*
- *Congress Resolution 366 (2014) on empowering Roma youth through participation: effective policy design at local and regional levels;*
- *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;*
- *Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Travellers Inclusion (2020-25).*

Programme orientations for expected result 3:

Combating all forms of discrimination, racism and exclusion, including structural forms, with a specific focus on:

- Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism;
- social inclusion of young refugees and their transition from childhood to adulthood;
- multiple discrimination on the grounds of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights and intersectionality (including gender equality, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability).

⁸ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

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

- intercultural dialogue;
- peacebuilding and conflict transformation;
- co-operation with neighbouring and other world regions, especially through youth mobility programmes and opportunities for intercultural learning;
- convening institutions, representative bodies, community groups and the wider society for dialogue;
- volunteering and solidarity actions at local, national and regional and international levels.

Mainstreaming inclusiveness, equality and intersectionality.

Enhancing the inclusion and participation of young people in the rural communities.

Priority 4: Youth work

Expected result 4

“Youth organisations and member States have increased their capacity to strengthen, recognise and advance youth work policies and practices, notably through a European youth work agenda.”

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 and to the quality of youth work provisions.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Fourth thematic priority of the Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030;*⁹
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work;*
- *Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation Rec(2003)8 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: [criteria and procedure; role, value and impact of youth centres](#);*
- *Quality standards in education and training activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.*

Programme orientations for expected result 4:

- pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and promoting a European youth work agenda;
- supporting the access to¹⁰ quality development and recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning and their dissemination to member States (e.g. through the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres and the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio);
- pursuing quality development and innovation (including digitalisation) in the capacity-building activities of the Youth Department.

⁹ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

¹⁰ New for 2022-23.

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.