



24 April 2023

Call for the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) 2024-25

Deadline for applications: 10 May 2023, 6 p.m. CET

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

Do you **represent a non-governmental youth organisation¹ or network** in one of the 50 States Parties to the [European Cultural Convention](#) (ECC)?

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](#)?

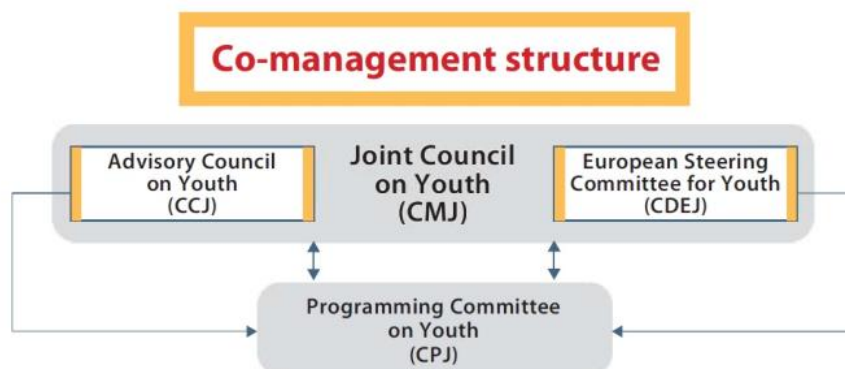
If yes, then this call may well interest you!

The Council of Europe youth sector is selecting **10** of the 30 members of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) for the period **2024-25**.

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 46-member-state Council of Europe, which determines and adopts its [terms of reference](#).

It is the non-governmental partner in the co-managed decision-making system which has been used in the Council of Europe youth sector for over 50 years. 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](#).



¹ According to Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe, NGOs are "voluntary self-governing bodies or organisations established to pursue the essentially non-profit-making objectives of their founders or members" and they "should not be subject to direction by public authorities".

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

The youth sector's priorities are defined according to the [Youth sector strategy 2030](#), which is a crucial framework for the Youth Department and guides the CMJ in its activities. It has four thematic priorities: revitalising pluralistic democracy, young people's access to rights, living together in peaceful and inclusive societies and youth work, which constitute the priorities for the upcoming programme and budget period (2024-27).

The Advisory Council:

- ✓ contributes to the integration of a youth perspective into the wider Council of Europe programme of activities by formulating and addressing opinions, proposals and recommendations to the CM and its steering committees, as well as to other of the Organisation's bodies;
- ✓ 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.

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:

- i. thirteen representatives of international non-governmental youth organisations (INGYOs) designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum (YFJ);
- ii. seven representatives of national youth councils (NYCs) designated by the Committee of Ministers on a proposal of the European Youth Forum (YFJ);
- iii. ten representatives of non-governmental youth organisations (NGYOs) or networks, from the 50 States Parties to the ECC, not members³ of the European Youth Forum, designated by the Committee of Ministers on the proposal of the Council of Europe Secretary General.

When designating the representatives described in categories i, ii and iii above, the European Youth Forum (categories i and ii) and the Secretary General (category iii) shall establish one reserve list per category, each containing up to a maximum of three representatives. These reserve lists will be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for approval along with the names of the 30 nominated candidates. The reserve lists remain valid for one term of office.

What commitments do candidates 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 youth sector's work and of youth participation through the co-management system, both inside and outside of the Council of Europe;
- to share information, opinions and proposals on the **needs of young people** and the challenges they face, to inform the youth sector's work, and disseminate Council of Europe youth-policy standards to youth civil society;
- to attend **two CCJ and two CMJ plenary meetings** per year (in all six days per year) in the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg;
- to **represent** the Advisory Council in activities, including working and drafting groups, as well as in meetings, conferences, etc (this can amount to several days per year);
- to take part in meetings to prepare events, initiatives, texts, etc;
- to participate in the obligatory induction course on 7 to 9 February 2024 (dates to be confirmed) in Strasbourg.

The Advisory Council elects a **Bureau** of five members which meets twice a year, between the statutory meetings. It is responsible for preparing the plenary meetings and ensuring continuity between those meetings. The Advisory Council also elects eight of its members to represent it on the [Programming Committee on Youth](#) (CPJ), which establishes the youth sector's programme of activities. The CPJ also meets twice a year, also between the statutory meetings. Participation in these bodies requires commitment to devote more time to the work.

³ According to its statutes, adopted on 15 March 2023, the YFJ "shall have three (3) membership categories: Full Members, Observer Members and Associate Members", none of these categories of membership may present an application to be amongst the 10 CCJ members selected by the Secretary General.

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

Candidates must:

1. be aged between 18 and 30 and resident in one of the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
2. be nominated by their organisation/network which must be situated in one of the 50 States Parties to the European Cultural Convention;
3. provide a letter of nomination from the head of the organisation, for example the president, describing the specific expertise and experience its representative would bring to the youth sector's priorities and orientations, as set out in Appendix I;
4. be motivated, available and committed to attending the statutory meetings and other activities, as well as to contribute in writing to consultations, reports and opinions;
5. be able to work in English.⁴

NB:

- ~ members of the Advisory Council represent their organisation/network;
- ~ candidates' organisations/networks must not be a full, observer or associate member, or be in the process of applying for membership of the European Youth Forum (YFJ);⁵
- ~ candidates must not be eligible to apply for a position⁶ in the YFJ on behalf of any organisation/network/youth council of which they are a member.

Which 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 identity, 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 diversity and balance with regards to age, gender, skin colour, language, political or religious beliefs, origins, 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 **10 May 2023, 6 p.m. CET**

⁴ 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.

⁵ According to its statutes, adopted on 15 March 2023, the YFJ "shall have three (3) membership categories: Full Members, Observer Members and Associate Members", none of these categories of membership may present an application to be amongst the 10 CCJ members selected by the Secretary General.

⁶ Board, commissions, working structures, other bodies, etc.

What is the selection procedure?

The Council of Europe Secretary General will examine and assess the applications received according to the criteria detailed in this call and take the final decision on the candidates to be proposed to the Committee of Ministers.

The Committee of Ministers is expected to examine the list of proposed members in November 2023. The nominated candidates, as well as those on the three shortlists of reserves, will be notified beforehand of the Secretary General's proposals, however the decision is only final once the Committee of Ministers has published its decision.

For further information, please contact:

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

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Draft priorities of the Council of Europe's youth sector for 2024-27

The Youth Department is in the Directorate of Democratic Participation, which is in the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity. 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

Immediate outcome

“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; follow-up to the Democracy Here | Democracy Now campaign and its Call for Action. Throughout this priority, the participation of young people with disabilities, improving the accessibility of the youth sector's instruments and communication channels, and inclusive youth work will be promoted.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *First thematic priority of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030;*⁷
- *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(2022)6 on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting their participation in democratic processes;*
- *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).*

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

Programme orientations:

- Advocating a sustainable enabling environment and an expanding civic space for youth civil society in which young people can exercise their right to assemble and to freely form, join and be active in associations, in line with the requirements of CM/Rec(2022)6 and the conclusions of its review process;
- Supporting/advising/building the capacity of other Council of Europe entities in youth participation and integrating a youth perspective in their working methods and deliverables, for instance through training, development of check-lists/benchmarks for youth-friendly policies;
- Supporting democratic youth civil society organisations, including from Belarus and the Russian Federation;
- Advancing young people's participation in political 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 and the CMJ guidelines on young people's participation currently under preparation; 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 and regional levels, 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 address the impact of the climate crisis and environmental degradation on young people and democracy;
- Supporting youth policy actors to understand and influence the impact of artificial intelligence on young people, and supporting youth participation in artificial intelligence and Internet governance processes;
- Supporting youth policy actors to understand and address the impact of socio-economic inequalities and injustice on youth political participation.

Priority 2: Young people's access to rights

Immediate outcome

"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 for 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, following on from the reviews of implementation of these texts. Special attention will be paid to the continuation of the Human Rights Education Youth Programme – both on- and offline, the follow-up to the review of the implementation of the EDC/HRE Charter and to the Turin Forum, 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;*⁸
- *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 215 (2013) on young people's access to fundamental rights;*

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

- *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;*
- *Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child 2022-27;*
- *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 follow-up of its first five-year review;
- Implementing support measures to member States, local authorities and youth organisations to promote the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights (ENTER! Recommendation);
- Continuing the Human Rights Education Youth Programme, and follow-up to the review of the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education and the Turin Forum;
- 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

Immediate outcome

“Youth workers and young people have gained knowledge and skills to work on peacebuilding 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, respect for diversity and human rights, inclusiveness and equality. A specific focus is also needed on developing intercultural competences and detecting, preventing and combating all forms of discrimination taking an intersectional approach, and enhancing the participation of vulnerable youth populations.

The lives of too many young people are still shaped by armed conflicts and their consequences, many thousands of young people in Europe live in war zones, have fled war or live in areas of frozen conflict and are deprived of their fundamental human rights. 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 values in peacebuilding activities. Youth organisations and youth workers also play a role in 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;⁹*
- *Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood;*
- *Committee of Ministers' recommendation CM/Rec(2023).. on Roma youth participation;*
- *Parliamentary Assembly resolution 2378 (2021) on strengthening the role of young people in the prevention and resolution of conflicts;*

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

- *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:

Combating all forms of discrimination, racism and exclusion, including structural forms and integrating an intersectional approach, 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 and intersectionality (including gender equality, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability).

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;
- convening institutions, representative bodies, community groups and the wider society for dialogue;
- volunteering and solidarity actions at local, national, regional and international levels;
- advocating the social, economic and political participation of young people from rural areas.

Support young refugees and all young people in war zones, so as to reduce the devastating effects of the war on their mental health and personal development.

Priority 4: Youth work

Immediate outcome

“Youth organisations and member States have increased their capacity to strengthen, recognise and advance youth work policies and practices, in line with applicable European standards and policies.

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, as well as to the follow-up to the review of CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work.

The quality and innovation of non-formal education and training activities for young multipliers, notably through the European Youth Centres, need to be permanently developed and reviewed, in particular their role as inspirational support to youth organisations.

Key guiding reference documents:

- *Fourth thematic priority of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030;¹⁰*
- *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](#);*

¹⁰ See **Appendix II** for the expected outcomes related to each thematic priority.

- *Quality standards in education and training activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe;*
- *Congress resolution 463(2021) on youth work: the role of local and regional authorities.*

Programme orientations:

- pursuing the dissemination and implementation of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work and follow-up to its review;
- contributing to the wider European Youth Work Agenda in co-operation with the European Commission;
- developing support measures to youth work in war zones and areas of conflict, with a view to strengthening youth workers' capacity to help young people living in such zones;
- supporting access to¹¹ the 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, in particular through the programmes of the European Youth Centres.

Priority 5: Developing and improving youth policy based on Council of Europe standards

Immediate outcome

The fifth priority focuses on supporting the member States to improve and develop their youth policy in line with Council of Europe standards. The terminology suggested is slightly different to that used for the biennium 2022-23, which is *intergovernmental co-operation on youth policy*. The new formulation focuses more on the desired outcome, while it is understood that intergovernmental co-operation will continue to be an important means to achieve this.

As mentioned earlier, this priority falls within the remit of the CDEJ and is funded through the Ordinary Budget, and it is given here for information only.

“Member States have increased their capacity to develop youth policies promoting Council of Europe standards.”

Programme orientations:

- assisting member States to integrate Council of Europe [standards](#) into national youth policies, action plans and strategies through a diversified package of assistance measures, and encouraging them to do so in close co-operation with national youth organisations and networks;
- 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 various groups of young people and youth NGOs;
- ensuring the dissemination and implementation of Council of Europe standards, with a special focus on the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030 (Resolution CM/Res(2020)2) and on Committee of Ministers' recommendations (CM/Rec(2019)4 on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood, 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);
- carrying out the mid-term review of the Council of Europe Youth sector strategy 2030 and follow-up to its conclusions;
- developing the network of centres holding the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres and assisting interested member States to develop national quality standards for youth centres;
- encouraging the enlargement of the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres programme, taking into account its geographical balance.

¹¹ 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.