



DDP-YD/ETD (2021) 110

3 August 2021, Strasbourg

Consultative Meeting

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO RIGHTS

First review of the recommendation
CM/Rec(2016)7

Call for Participants

16-17 September 2021
Hybrid event:
European Youth Centre Strasbourg // Online

Young People's Access to Rights

The Council of Europe youth sector aims at enabling young people across Europe to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, notably by strengthening young people's access to rights, deepening knowledge about youth and broadening youth participation.

The Committee of Ministers adopted in 2016 the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) on Young People's Access to Rights to improve young people's access to rights by taking steps to promote awareness of the rights that young people should be able to enjoy and what they can do if their rights are violated, and by removing legal, political and social barriers. The Recommendation recognises the unhindered and full access of young people to rights as an essential element of a culture of human rights, democracy and rule of law. It stresses that young people are entitled to fully enjoy human and all other rights under national and international law, *except where justified legal exceptions are made for the protection of minors*.

The Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) in March 2017, adopted a roadmap for the implementation of the recommendation. The roadmap foresees that **member states** will:

- a) translate, publish and disseminate the text of the Recommendation;
- b) prepare strategies, plans or measures to disseminate and apply measures of the Recommendation;
- c) support research and evidence-finding about youth groups facing discriminatory practices and obstacles to the right to assemble, join and be active in associations and trade unions;
- d) share practices and exchange experiences among partners and stakeholders

The roadmap also expects **youth organisations** to:

- a) advocate for rights-based approaches in youth policy;
- b) support the dissemination of the Recommendation among young people;
- c) apply rights-based approaches to issues and challenges affecting young people;
- d) implement capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with young people about citizenship and human rights education;
- e) share practices and exchange experiences among partners and stakeholders;
- f) monitor and advocate for an active implementation, possibly through the format of shadow reports.

In the Recommendation, the Committee of Ministers also "**agrees to examine the follow-up given by member States to this Recommendation five years after its adoption**". This means that the Recommendation will be reviewed in 2021.

THE 2021 REVIEW

The review process aims to identify how the Recommendation has impacted on youth policy-making and on young people's access to rights in member states (including in and through the activities of youth organisations and other stakeholders). This process will combine various sources of information and will be based on dialogue aiming to exchange experiences and

examples of good practices. The process should also have a transparent and consistent youth participation dimension. The guidelines for the implementation of the Recommendation, outline the key approaches for conducting the review process:

The guidelines propose that the Council of Europe gathers information and feedback both from the public authorities and from youth organisations, and produces a synthesised report based on the research and surveys available. This synthesised report should be used as a basis to identify potential implementation gaps. According to the guidelines the first review should focus on:

1. **Addressing discriminatory practices faced by young people** on the grounds explicitly outlined in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights or any other form identified in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (article I.1. of the Recommendation);
2. **Removing legal, administrative and practical obstacles to the right of young people to assemble peacefully and to freely form, join and be active in associations and trade unions** (article I.2. of the Recommendation).

The Consultative meeting

The aim of the consultative meeting is to exchange experiences and information on how the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 has been observed by member states. More specifically the participants of the meeting will:

1. Exchange their views and experiences based on the preliminary outcomes of review 2021 of the Recommendation on young people's access to rights
2. Promote the review process and the Recommendation on young people's access to rights internally and externally to youth sector stakeholders
3. Share good and challenging practices to co-design ideas for the follow-up of the implementation of the Recommendation in the next five-year period

The meeting will be a hybrid event, combining an online and offline dimension. During the activity, the Council of Europe will invite a group of 20-25 participants, experts and consultants in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg, and at the same time, provide online learning and exchange spaces with some 20 additional participants, who due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions will not be allowed to travel to Strasbourg.

NB! The meeting is prepared with the assumption that travel and sanitary regulations will allow for it to be held in the indicated format, both as a residential event and online. In case of further travel limitations and deterioration of the health and sanitary situation, the activity will be held entirely online and the participants will be informed about it in due time.

The programme of the seminar will be prepared by an expert group, including members of the Joint Council on Youth, European Youth Forum, Council of Europe Secretariat and consultants. The seminar will be held as a hybrid event, combining residential activities with online input.

Profile of Participants

The consultative meeting will bring together a group of experts with the following profiles:

1. Representatives of youth civil society organisations which can be:
 - Youth organisations working on young people's access to rights on local, national and international level
 - Youth Councils and parliaments
 - International youth organisations and movements
 - Youth leaders engaged in the promotion of Human Rights through their youth organisations
2. Representatives of national authorities in charge of youth and other relevant public authorities
3. Members of the Advisory Council on Youth and the European Steering Committee on Youth
4. Representatives of the European Youth Forum and its member organisations
5. Researchers in the youth field, members of the Pool of European Youth Researchers
6. Academia focused on youth issues, equality bodies and their networks and other relevant stakeholders.

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

PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The meeting will start on 16 September 2021 at 9 am at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg and online. The meeting will finish on the 17 September by 2pm. Selected participants are requested to attend and actively participate for the entire duration of the activity.

A week before the evening, some online preparatory activities will be set up and will be run in parallel or blended format with the consultative meeting.

Each interested applicant can choose if they are interested in the offline (residential activity) or the online programme. When applying you can also select to attend both. When applying please note that the European Youth Centres cannot accept participants who travel from countries that require quarantine. Please check the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France for the most updated information from which countries you are allowed to enter France.

Accommodation and meals for the event will be provided at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg and paid for by the Council of Europe. Travel costs and visa fees for the training will be fully reimbursed according to Council of Europe rules.

Application procedure

All interested candidates must apply online on the following link:
<https://youthapplications.coe.int/>

Deadline for application: **23 August 2021**

For further information please contact eyc.programme@coe.int