



Enhancing international youth co-operation in times of war
Seminar on project management and international youth co-operation (Magdeburg, Germany) and stakeholder meeting (Berlin, Germany)
Seminar: 30 November 2026 – 2 December 2026
Stakeholder meeting: 3 December 2026

Concept note
Draft programme
Call for participants

BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine co-operated within a Framework Programme for Co-operation in the field of Youth Policy. The Framework Programme has supported youth policy reforms in Ukraine and the implementation of relevant strategy programmes, notably the National Youth Strategy 2030, the State Target Social Programme “Youth of Ukraine: Generation of Resilience – 2030” and new legislation in the field of youth policy and youth work in Ukraine. The priorities and modes of intervention reflect the orientations of the Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030.

The Programme is prioritising action in the following four areas:

- promoting education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, encompassing youth participation and broader civic engagement, democratic governance and peace education;
- strengthening youth work policies and practices by ensuring the effective implementation of the national professional standard “Youth specialist (youth worker)”, including through structured systems of continuous training and support, and establishing youth work as a component of local governance and public services;
- enhancing the quality of youth work, opportunities, spaces and means for civic engagement and democratic participation by supporting youth centres and other youth spaces as safe, accessible and professionally supported environments that foster participation, learning and well-being;
- supporting the development and sustainability of diverse youth organisations and associations as key platforms for civic engagement and participation in democratic life.

The Framework Programme correlates strongly with the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2023-2026, and its project Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase IV.

[The project “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: Phase IV”](#) is implemented under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2023–2026. It builds on the results and experience of the Council of Europe’s “Youth for Democracy in Ukraine” project, implemented from 2020 to 2024.

The project aims to ensure that young people in Ukraine benefit from participatory youth policies and quality youth work. This strengthens their resilience and well-being, enables them to exercise their human rights during the war and in the post-war period, and supports them in playing an important role in Ukraine’s reconstruction. Among other results, the project is developing training programmes on trauma-informed youth work, accessibility in the youth sector, participatory youth policy. It is also strengthening co-operation between youth centres in Ukraine and youth centres in other Council of Europe member states that hold the Council of Europe Quality Label. Find out more on the project website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/youth-for-democracy-in-ukraine>

Another key background aspect concerns the European Youth Foundation’s (EYF) current and future calls to support international youth co-operation in support of Ukraine. The Foundation has had a special call 2022-2025, and an ad hoc call in 2026, to enhance support. At its meeting in October 2026, the Joint Council on Youth has decided to include an ad hoc call for international youth co-operation in support of Ukraine among the calls of the Foundation in 2027.

The Youth Department is proposing this seminar as a contribution to enhance youth organisations' networking and co-operation, their project management skills and political awareness about the situation in Ukraine. The stakeholder meeting will also contribute to strengthen international support for the situation of young people in Ukraine.

The activity is organised in co-operation with EJBМ - European Youth Education Centre Magdeburg, one of the youth centres that have received the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres. The seminar in Magdeburg will take place in the youth centre, where participants will also be accommodated.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CO-OPERATION

The Youth Department aims to enhance international youth co-operation among youth organisations in and outside of Ukraine, through two main actions

1. **A capacity building event in Magdeburg on project management and international youth co-operation**, involving up to 15 representatives of youth organisations from Ukraine and up to 15 youth organisations from other member states, particularly interested in international youth co-operation with Ukraine. The duration of the event is of 3 days.
2. **A stakeholder meeting in Berlin**, for the 15 participants from Ukraine and any other of the participants in the capacity building event, to meet key stakeholders in international youth co-operation and reinforce ties to European youth policies.

The main expected results from these 2 actions are:

- Strengthen the skills of representatives of youth organisations to organise projects in the area of the priorities of the youth sector
- Strengthen the partnerships between youth organisations from Ukraine and from other member states
- Promote the values, principles, tools and resources of the youth sector of the Council of Europe among youth organisations
- Increase the outreach of the EYF 2027 call in support of international co-operation for young people from Ukraine.

PARTICIPANT PROFILES

The activities will involve:

- 15 national or international youth organisations from other member states than Ukraine, ready to engage in international youth co-operation in support of Ukraine
- 15 youth organisations from Ukraine particularly interested to expand their work with organisations from other member states.

The selection of participants will be organised on the basis of a call.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Capacity building activity in Magdeburg, Germany

29 November 2026, arrival in Magdeburg

30 November 2026

Opening the training course

Getting to know each other

Getting to know more about the needs of young people, including young people from Ukraine

1 December 2026

Project management cycle

Project management skills building

Learning more about the Council of Europe and its work with Ukraine and the EYF special call Ukraine

2 December 2026

Workshops on the main topics of the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe

Planning future projects and initiatives

Closing of the seminar

3 December 2026

Morning: travelling to Berlin

Stakeholder meeting in Berlin, Germany

3 December morning and afternoon

Meetings with stakeholders in the field of youth and co-operation with Ukraine

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The call for participants for these 2 activities is now open.

Participants are expected to be volunteers, members of board, staff of national youth organisations from Ukraine and other member states of the Council of Europe and from international youth organisations and networks. They should be mandated by their organisation to develop new partnerships in support of young people from Ukraine, and in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the activities to their organisations. All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country signatory of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30 (justified exceptions are possible)
- Be committed to attend the training course for the full duration
- Be able to work in English.

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

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Magdeburg / Berlin will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe. Accommodation in Magdeburg will be in double rooms.

Application procedure and selection of participants

Interested candidates must apply online at link by 2 November 2026, 23h59 CET. Candidates from Ukraine must apply by the link <https://forms.gle/pexLcAyg2DWQvoQQ8>. Applicants will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list.