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Budapest, 2 November 2023

**Training Course on Essentials of Non-Formal Education**  
for organisers and facilitators of study sessions at the European  
Youth Centres and of international projects supported by the  
European Youth Foundation

29 January - 3 February 2024

European Youth Centre Budapest

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

**10 December 2023**

## BACKGROUND

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe provides educational support and expertise for quality international youth activities aimed 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. This is based on partnerships with youth organisations holding study sessions in the European Youth Centres and running activities with financial support of the European Youth Foundation (EYF). Educational resources have been developed for this purpose such as [Compass](#), [Gender Matters](#) and the [Manual for Facilitators](#).

The Youth Department works to continuously strengthen the opportunities for young people, in particular youth leaders and multipliers active in youth civil society organisations, to organise and take part in quality non-formal education activities based on and promoting the Council of Europe values and standards.

The European Youth Foundation is a fund established by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for youth-led activities and projects. Currently, the Foundation supports around 200 youth activities a year that are implemented by youth organisations or networks. The EYF supports local and international youth projects with a strong educational component, based on the principles of non-formal education, addressing societal challenges affecting young people, in line with the priorities of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

Study sessions are based on co-operation between youth organisations and the Council of Europe and hosted in one of the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest. They are international educational youth activities, lasting up to eight days, which bring together members of youth organisations or networks and experts for discussions on a specific subject leading to conclusions and ideas relevant to the priorities and programmes of the Council of Europe's youth sector and the youth organisations. The programme of study sessions contributes to the implementation of the [youth sector strategy 2030](#) and to bringing a youth perspective to the overall programme of the Council of Europe as agreed in the [Reykjavik Summit](#).

The Youth Department has established a set of [quality standards in non-formal education activities](#) that relate to the function of intercultural non-formal activities with young people in promoting the right to human rights education, democratic citizenship and youth participation, peace-building and intercultural dialogue. The quality standards concern context, partners, people, methods and different stages of the activity or project. The quality of youth activities depends on the competences, ability, motivation and capacity of the organisers and the facilitators to plan and deliver a programme and methodology in line with those criteria.

To support these young organisers and facilitators, different tools and training opportunities have been made available by the Council of Europe. In 2022 and in 2023, training courses were organised for facilitators and organisers of study sessions and EYF-supported activities. The training course in 2024 will build on these previous experiences and lessons learnt and take into account current developments in the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

## ABOUT THE TRAINING COURSE

The training course will bring together young people who are trainers, facilitators or team-members of non-formal education activities and are likely to be involved in upcoming study

sessions or international activities and annual work plans supported by the EYF. Priority will be given to participants who will be directly involved in activities planned for 2024.

The course will make use of the [Manual for Facilitators in Non-formal Education](#) to support participants in being able to use it directly in their work and in their organisations more broadly.

### **Aim**

To increase the capacities of youth organisations to carry out quality international intercultural non-formal educational activities with a multiplying effect for their members, and enabling young people to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

### **Objectives**

- To enable participants to understand and apply essential approaches and methodologies in non-formal education as applied in the European Youth Centres and by the European Youth Foundation, and to support the quality of activities and their contribution to the mission of the Council of Europe and of the youth sector in particular
- To support participants in understanding and integrating the policy standards and priorities of the Council of Europe, in particular its' youth sector, as reflected in the 2030 Strategy and the Reykjavik Declaration
- To strengthen participants' competences in using non-formal education with young people in international activities, including the key understanding, skills and attitudes required for running intercultural educational activities
- To support participants in using the relevant educational resources produced by the Council of Europe in the activities that they organise or facilitate
- To reflect on and plan how to ensure quality non-formal education in future youth activities, including how to ensure that they have a multiplying effect.

## **PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY**

The content and methodology of the course are designed to make participants reflect on and experience non-formal education in the context of activities carried out with the Youth Department. It will build on experiential learning, individual reflection, and exchange of practices among participants by using the participatory methods of learning, such as working groups and facilitated discussions.

The course will itself apply the quality standards in non-formal education produced by the Youth Department.

The programme of the course will focus on the following:

1. **Essentials of non-formal education:** facilitation, programme design, evaluation, learning theories and styles;
2. **Council of Europe** youth policy/work standards, guidelines and educational resources and approaches - and their translation in youth activities;
3. **Applying and multiplying** lessons learnt and best practices on non-formal education in youth activities, especially in the Youth Department context.

## **PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **Profile of participants**

The training course is organised for participants who:

- Will act as trainers, facilitators, or team-members of upcoming study sessions at the European Youth Centres or international activities/annual workplans receiving financial support of the EYF
- Are in a position to transfer the knowledge gained during the training to teams carrying out activities (study sessions, and international activities and annual work plans supported by the EYF) in the next years
- Have some previous experience with non-formal education methodology (as trainers, facilitators or participants) and motivation to develop their competences.

All participants should also:

- Be resident in a country [signatory](#) of the European Cultural Convention
- Be aged between 18 and 30
- Be committed to attend for the full duration of the course
- 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, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

The call is open to all interested applicants, but priority will be given to team members of upcoming activities in the year 2024 (planned or expected). Organisations wishing to nominate several applicants should state the internal priority between these applicants. This should be stated in a support letter by the organisation.

### **Financial and practical conditions of participation**

The training course will take place at the European Youth Centre in Budapest 29 January to 3 February 2024.

#### *Travel expenses*

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Participants are expected to travel to Budapest on 28 January and depart on 4 February to attend the full course.

#### *Accommodation*

Board and lodging for the residential training course will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Budapest. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form.

### *Enrolment fee*

An enrolment fee of 60 Euros is payable by each participant. This amount will be deducted from the amount to be reimbursed for travel expenses or paid at the EYCB during the training course.

### *Working languages*

English will be the working language of the training course. Participants are expected to be able to express themselves autonomously in English.

### **Application, procedure and selection of participants**

All candidates must apply [online](https://youthapplications.coe.int) at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

The Council of Europe will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. It will try as far as possible to respect the organisations' priorities, but also to ensure a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations, institutions and projects. A waiting list may be established.

Applicants will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list.

The application form must be submitted online before  
**10 December 2023** 23:59 CET.