



MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS
OF UKRAINE



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Strasbourg, 14 February 2025

VALUES-BASED YOUTH WORK IN WAR CONTEXTS

Training seminar on the access to quality youth work and non-formal education during the war and in the post-war period in Ukraine

2-6 June 2025

[European Youth Centre, Budapest](#)

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: 30 March 2025, 23:59 (CET)

This call is launched within the [Framework Programme](#) for cooperation in the field of Youth Policy between the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine for 2021-2025



CONTEXT

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine continues to have a devastating impact on Ukraine's youth sector. Since 24 February 2022, around 2 million young Ukrainians have been forced to seek refuge abroad, while over 2 million have become internally displaced persons. Fifty-one youth centres have been damaged or destroyed, and 70 youth facilities are currently located in temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Despite the challenges brought by the war, the Ukrainian government and civil society remain committed to the European path and the development of youth policy and youth work, integrating European approaches and practices. The Council of Europe Youth Sector is one of the reliable partners in this process, not only demonstrating solidarity but also providing practical support to youth policy and youth work stakeholders in Ukraine.

The Council of Europe Youth Department, together with the Ukrainian partners, decided to organise the training seminar to provide space for specialist working with young people of Ukraine to exchange practices and improve their competences to develop quality youth work and non-formal learning activities for and with young people of Ukraine.

The training seminar on the access to quality youth work and non-formal education during the war and in the post-war period in Ukraine will support Ukraine's youth sector on its path to EU membership by aligning youth work and non-formal education with European standards. It will strengthen youth work specialists' capacity to leverage rebuilding efforts, drawing on expertise from within and beyond Ukraine.

In developing the concept of the training seminar, the organisers relied on available evidence. The need for professional development among youth workers is highlighted in [a research on the needs and the state of activity of youth workers and prospects for the development of youth work during the war in Ukraine and in the post-war period](#). This research was conducted by the *Youth for Democracy in Ukraine* project and the Association of Youth Workers of Ukraine. Additionally, a study on [youth centers, spaces, and opportunities for young people](#), conducted by the sociological group *Rating* among young people, identified education and youth development as the primary mission of youth centers in Ukraine.

THE SEMINAR

The [Youth Department of the Council of Europe](#), in cooperation with the [Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine](#), is organising a training-seminar on the access to quality youth work and non-formal education during the war in Ukraine and in the post-war period. The seminar will take place from 2 to 6 June 2025 (working days) at the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#).

The seminar will equip up to 30 youth workers, representatives of youth centres, and specialists working with young people from Ukraine with tools to strengthen their capacity to develop and implement quality, values-based youth work and non-formal educational activities with and for young people in Ukraine in the context of the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine.

Objectives

- To analyse the current challenges and needs of youth workers, representatives of youth centres and specialists working with young people of Ukraine in providing youth work in the context of war.
- To share existing practices and expertise in youth work that respond to the emerging needs of young people from Ukraine.

- To enable participants to understand the Council of Europe's Youth Department approaches and standards in youth work and non-formal education and their application in the participants' current context.
- To strengthen participants' competences in using the Council of Europe's Youth Department approaches and standards to non-formal education in youth work.
- To share and discuss the results and expertise of the [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine](#) project.

Programme and methodology

The programme of the activity will be based on the principles and approaches of non-formal learning, building from the experiences and practices of the participants. It will feature the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)4 on youth work](#), educational resources, the [quality criteria in non-formal education](#) and [quality label for youth centres](#) of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

Key elements of the programme will include:

- Sharing and discussing realities of youth work and non-formal education with and for young people from Ukraine;
- Acquaintance with the standards and instruments of the Council of Europe and its Youth Department;
- Exploring the concepts and terms of a values-based approach to youth work;
- Quality-standards and principles and methodology of youth work and non-formal education in the Council of Europe;
- Exchanging practices of youth centres, spaces, and other youth infrastructure institutions working with and for young people, including in times of war, conflict or humanitarian crisis.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The seminar is design for participant who are:

1. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres, preferably with managerial responsibilities or involved in decision-making process, working with young people in Ukraine; or
2. Youth workers and representatives of youth centres from other Council of Europe [member states](#) working with young people from Ukraine, including from the [Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres network](#); or
3. Specialists experienced in working with and for young people in conflict, war or post-war context in member states of the Council of Europe.

All participants must also:

- be motivated to contribute their expertise;
- be able to take part in the working language of the activity (English).
- be able and committed to attending the entire activity in person;
- be interested in the topic and capable of advocating for improving youth work and non-formal education with and for young people of Ukraine in their communities.

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.

The working language is **English**.

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/> until **23:59 (CET), 30 March 2025**. The dedicated form is opened. The candidates who are using the platform for the first time are required additionally to create an account by the [link](#).

The organisers will select up to 30 participants on the basis of the profile outlined above. A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed whether their application has been accepted or rejected, and if they have been put on the waiting list, by **9 April 2025**.

ORGANISERS

The Council of Europe Youth Department is co-organising the activity with the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine within the [Framework Programme](#). The project "[Youth for Democracy in Ukraine](#): phase IV" contributes its expertise and resources to the activity.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Travel expenses

Travel expenses to and from Budapest will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. The participants will be informed in due time regarding travel procedures. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Security considerations. By applying to participate in this seminar, applicants from Ukraine acknowledge that they will be travelling within the territory of Ukraine and beyond. An additional travel insurance will be provided to all participants travelling from/to Ukraine for this specific activity by the Council of Europe, subject to the timely submission of the information requested by the Secretariat.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid by the Council of Europe at the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#) from **2 to 6 June 2025**. The venues are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please inform organisers and provide the necessary information in your application form.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions or are in need of further information, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Aranzhii, Programme Manager of the Education and Training Division of the Council of Europe Youth Department via anna.aranzhii@coe.int.

The focal point at the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine is Nataliia Radchuk, Head of International Cooperation and European Integration Department (natarad@ukr.net).

If you are interested in other training courses for youth workers, youth leaders and trainers that the Youth Department organises click [this link](#) or the [Project](#) website.

BACKGROUND

The long-standing co-operation of the Council of Europe and the authorities responsible for youth in Ukraine has continued with a five-year [Framework Programme for Cooperation in the field of Youth Policy](#), and a technical assistance project [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine](#), a part of the

[Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine for 2023-2026](#). It has helped Ukraine to develop a stronger and more inclusive youth policy for, by and with young people based on the values of human rights, democracy and rule of law. The outcomes of the co-operation with the Council of Europe Youth Sector laid the ground for Ukraine's reform efforts, in particular resulted with the Law of Ukraine «On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy» and the National Youth Strategy until 2030, in view of its EU integration. It has been recognised as relevant by the Ukrainian government, also when applying for the EU candidacy in 2022.

The Framework Programme foresees three main priorities of action:

- education for human rights and democratic citizenship (youth participation, democratic governance, human rights education, etc.)
- strengthening youth work policies and practices, supporting the recognition of youth worker as a profession (development of a qualification framework and a professional standard)
- improving the quality of youth work in youth centers, supporting the development of youth centers.

According to the Law of Ukraine “On the Basic Principles of Youth Policy,” youth policy aims to create conditions for the socialisation and integration of children and young people into society, ensuring their participation in these processes. To strengthen key areas of youth policy, particularly non-formal education and the training of youth work specialists, the government of Ukraine together with its partners launched and currently maintain the Youth Worker programme. This was also made possible with the expert and resource support of the [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine project](#).

[A meeting of the Management Committee](#) for the implementation of the [Framework Programme](#) was held on 3 October 2025 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. The meeting reviewed the state of implementation of co-operation activities which were adjusted after the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, as well as other initiatives of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe for Ukraine such as the European Youth Foundation [special call](#) to support young people from Ukraine and the [Youth for Democracy in Ukraine project](#).

In response to the current needs of young sector of Ukraine, the meeting of the Management Committee decided to organise the seminar on access to quality youth work and non-formal education during the war in Ukraine and in the post-war period at the [European Youth Centre in Budapest](#).

This activity is part of co-operation within the [Framework Programme](#) corresponds to the priorities of [the Youth for Democracy programme](#), as well as correlates strongly with the Council of Europe Action Plan “Resilience, Recover and Reconstruction” (2023-2026) and its project [“Youth for Democracy in Ukraine: phase IV”](#).