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Budapest, 15 November 2022

# Training Course

## **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

6-11 February 2023

European Youth Centre Strasbourg

**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Deadline: 2 January 2023

## BACKGROUND

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe provides educational and financial support and expertise for quality international youth activities aiming to promote youth citizenship, youth mobility and the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This includes partnerships with youth organisations holding study sessions in the European Youth Centres and supporting youth-led activities through 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 to organise and take part in quality non-formal education activities based on its principles and to support young people to make use of the educational resources that have been created in partnership with young people.

The European Youth Foundation (EYF) is a fund established by the Council of Europe to provide financial and educational support for European youth activities. Currently, the Foundation supports around 150 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 the partner organisations and the Youth Department 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. Methodologically, study sessions are based on non-formal education.

The Youth Department has established a set of its 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, 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 is assured through the competences, ability and motivation of the organisers and the facilitators to plan and deliver a programme and methodology in line with non-formal education principles.

To support these young organisers, trainers and facilitators, different tools and training opportunities have been made available for youth organisations by the Youth Department. In 2022 [a training course](#) was organised specifically for organisers of study sessions and EYF-supported activities. This upcoming training course follows this practice.

## ABOUT THE TRAINING COURSE

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe works through partnerships in European activities with international and national youth organisations and networks. The training course will bring together young people who are trainers, facilitators or organisers 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. The training course will support these partnerships through a focus on the principles of non-formal education underlying the activities, provide a space to meet and exchange experiences and to learn about the priorities and approaches of the Youth Department.

The course will make use of the Youth Department [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. There will also be a chance for participants to meet staff of the Youth Department who support youth activities in different capacities.

Priority for participation will be given to candidates involved in the projects supported by the Youth Department in 2023; study sessions, international activities and annual work plans.

### **The aim of the training course is to:**

The training course aims at increasing the capacities of youth organisations to carry out international intercultural non-formal educational activities with a multiplying effect for their members.

### **Objectives:**

- To create a common understanding of the 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 connection to the mission of the Council of Europe
- To strengthen competences in using non-formal education with young people in international projects, including the key understanding, skills and attitudes required for running intercultural educational activities
- To get familiar with the relevant tools and manuals produced by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and reflect on their practical use in upcoming activities
- To reflect on and plan how to ensure quality non-formal education in future youth activities, including how to ensure that the training course has a multiplying effect
- To share best practices on implementation of study sessions and EYF supported international activities and annual work plans

## **PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY**

The content and methodology of the course are designed to make participants reflect on and experience non-formal education. 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. **Youth Department** tools and principles; the Manual for Facilitators, quality standards and the conditions applying to EYF activities and study sessions
3. **Multiplying and sharing** lessons learnt and best practices on non-formal education in youth activities.

## PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

### Profile of participants

Participants of the training course are expected to be:

- trainers, facilitators, or organisers of upcoming study sessions at the European Youth Centres or international activities receiving financial support of the EYF
- 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, colour, 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 2023 (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 Strasbourg 6 to 11 February 2023.

#### *Travel expenses*

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Strasbourg 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 Strasbourg on 5 February and depart on 12 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 Strasbourg. 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 EYCS 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.

#### *COVID protocol*

A special COVID protocol will be shared with participants upon selection. This includes rules and recommendations for a safe stay in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. All participants are expected to follow this protocol during the training course.

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

All candidates must apply online at <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

The Council of Europe will select up to 35 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  
**2 January 2023** 23:59 CET.